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A REVIEW OF ORIENTAL POLITICS, LITERATURE, FINANCE, &C.,

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THE NEAR EAST.

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May 7, 1915—October 29, 1915.

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UNIV. OF CALIFORNIA

THE NEAR EAST.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The progress of the operations at the Dardanelles formed the subject of a model *communiqué* issued jointly by the War Office and Admiralty last week. For the first time something in the nature of the picturesque details associated with "Eye-Witness'" reports was attempted in an official dispatch. The disembarkation of the troops, we are told, began before sunrise, and was carried out on six different beaches. As these places were distributed along some twenty-five miles of the coast, it says much for Turkish preparations under German instructions that at each point our forces should have met with vigorous opposition, finding the enemy "strongly entrenched in successive lines protected by barbed wire entanglements, in some places fifty yards wide and supported by artillery." To these obstacles were added wire entanglements under the sea, land mines and deep pits with spikes at the bottom. In these circumstances the success of the landing operations merits all the praise accorded to it by the Admiral. The movement was not carried out without heavy loss, and we must be prepared for further sacrifices before the goal of the Fleet and Expeditionary Force is reached.

The most difficult beach for the landing operations proved to be at Sedd-el-Bahr at the extreme point of the Gallipoli Peninsula, and it was not until an attack had been made on the enemy by another landing party operating from Cape Teke, that the pressure was sufficiently relieved to enable the troops who had gained the beach to advance. Sadd-el-Bahr itself still remained in the hands of the Turks. The following morning the attack on this position began, supported by fire from the naval guns. When in the early afternoon it was finally stormed it was found to be "a labyrinth of caves, mines, trenches, pits, and entanglements." By this time the British troops were firmly established at the apex of the Peninsula and a concerted advance could begin. The fighting in this theatre of the war is likely to be no less desperate than in any other. A later *communiqué* speaks of strong and determined attacks in mass against our positions, and it is clear that our advance to the neck of the Peninsula is only to be effected by breaking down a scientific and very determined defence.

The British position will be considerably improved if it is possible to close the Peninsula to Turkish reinforcements at Maidos, at the head of the Narrows. The fact that this town was bombarded by the Fleet and was reported to be in flames on April 29, together with the choice of the neighbourhood of Gaba Tepe as one of the landing places, points to some such intention on the part of the Allies. But the authorities do well to deal with the different phases of the operations only when completed. Some ten weeks have now elapsed since we started serious operations against the Dardanelles, and we are still at the very beginning of the task. If it is remembered that Maidos is only a fourth of the distance from the apex to the neck of the Peninsula, and that the Bulair lines will still find the Allied troops nearly two hundred miles from their objective, a clearer conception of the magnitude of the work in this theatre of the war will be obtained.

Of the progress of the French troops landed on the Asiatic side of the Straits we have but little information. At the outset they were subjected to furious counter-attacks, all of which were successfully repulsed. They had then advanced to the line of entrenchments along a ridge running from Thymbra to the Hill of Hissarlik, and had, according to the latest reports, nearly two thousand prisoners to their credit. The strength of the forces landed will determine their plan of campaign. Their primary object is to co-operate with the Allied Fleet in reducing the forts commanding the Straits up to the Narrows, and their main line of advance with this object in view would be along the road leading by way of Erenkeui to Chanak. But the configuration of the country may make this advance exceedingly difficult, unless the high ground well into the interior is also held.

The Russian Black Sea Fleet has continued its operations against the Bosphorus forts, and has been able to make good practice without, so far as is known, incurring any serious damage or losses itself. The Turks would naturally concentrate their main strength in guns and personnel at the Dardanelles; but they would also reserve their fire against the Russian ships in the hope of enticing them within closer range, or into the narrow waters of the Bosphorus. With the experience of the Allied Fleets before them the Russians are not likely to

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be misled by the inadequacy of the reply of the Turkish batteries. Their Fleet could not expect to accomplish anything by an unsupported advance within the Bosphorus. Its present activities, however, serve to divide the attention of the enemy, and will, no doubt, bear fruit in good time.

Both in the Caucasus and in Persia fresh encounters between the Russian and Turkish forces are reported. In view of the demands made upon the Turks elsewhere, it may be presumed that irregulars now constitute the bulk of their troops in these regions. The details of the fighting point rather to the courage of fanaticism than to the skilled handling which characterised the first Turkish advance across the frontier under German direction. After a series of skirmishes, brought about by the Russian measures to clear the Caucasus, a more serious engagement is reported in the Alashkert Valley, the possession of which was of importance to both sides. This time the Turks assumed the offensive, and, misled by the silence of the Russian artillery, advanced close to the Russian lines before they discovered their mistake. They suffered terrible losses, and the valley was left in the hands of the Russians.

The left of the Russian line in the Caucasus stretches into Persian territory. While the Turkish advance on Tabriz was checked and the invaders thrown back, the Russians have not yet been able to clear the country to the north-west of Lake Urmia of the enemy. Recently there has been renewed fighting in the Khoi and Dilman region, where after a three days' engagement the Russians opened a determined offensive against a Turkish corps under Khalil Bey, and completely defeated the enemy. The Turkish losses, so runs the official report, may be estimated by the fact that after the fighting more than 3,500 Turkish dead were found on the battlefield. This success, however, leaves the situation in the Kermanshah region, a considerable distance to the south, in the unsatisfactory state in which it was last reported. As the Persian Government ordered the Governor of Kermanshah to retire to order to avoid useless bloodshed, no effective resistance is likely to be offered to the Turkish force that is known to have crossed the frontier to the west of the town. The British Consul and members of the British Colony left Kermanshah some time ago and were reported to have reached Hamadan.

If information which reaches Russia from Ispahan is to be believed, the situation at Ispahan is on a par with that at Kermanshah. A fortnight ago it was stated that, in view of the inactivity of the local authorities and the support of the gendarmerie, the attitude of the Germans and Turks was becoming more provocative. The new German Consul, with the help of an army lieutenant, was said to be endeavouring to raise the *Jehad*, while a later message spoke of caravans laden with arms and gold arriving at Ispahan in the charge of German and Turkish officers. There is no lack of evidence of the abuse of Persian neutrality by the Germans and Turks, and some action has already been taken to check German activities in the country. The situation, however, cannot be normal until the Persian Government is given the support required to enable it to protect its own rights.

There would seem to be solid foundation for the belief that Italy's resolve to strike a blow on her own behalf in this war of the nations has at last been taken. The fact is sufficient to cause the most vigorous efforts on the part of Germany and Austria-Hungary to ward off the threatened blow, and we are witnessing these days negotiations in Rome of a most intensive character. Until the first shot is fired the possibility of an arrangement between Italy and Austria-Hungary cannot altogether be excluded; but nobody in Italy believes in it. The Germanic Powers, it may be inferred, having sown the wind are reaping the whirlwind. It will be difficult for them to convince Italy that any promises made to her now will be worth the paper they are written on, if victory should be theirs. No one would doubt for a moment that the first step taken by Germany and Austria-Hungary, if ever they had the opportunity, would be to settle scores with their late partner in the Triple Alliance. On the other hand, it is not likely that the Powers of the Triple Entente propose to guarantee Italy any concessions which she obtains from the enemy as the price of her neutrality. If she is set upon realising her national aspirations, she knows that she can only do so by throwing in her lot with the Entente.

It is unfortunate that Italy should have been made to appear in the light of a Power offering her support to the higher bidder of two sets of combatants. At the outbreak of war her position seemed clear. As a member of the Triple Alliance she found the *casus fœderis* unaffected by the war of aggression waged by the two Germanic Powers against the Triple Entente and its Allies. It is true that her national sympathies would never have prompted her to side against Great Britain; but she was able to fill the rôle of neutral with adequate impartiality. As the war progressed, however, it became apparent that the terms of peace must inevitably include great territorial changes in the map of Europe. To this prospect Italy could not remain indifferent. Through no fault of her own, circumstances had arisen that made it impossible for her to tolerate a situation to which even in the palmy days of the Triple Alliance she had never been reconciled. If Austria-Hungary, whether voluntarily or under compulsion, were going to make concessions to Slav opinion within her existing borders, similar concessions, Italy argued, would have to be accorded to Italian aspirations. The Italian Government had thus a clear basis of negotiations with Austria-Hungary, and she was not to blame if the moment for raising the question found her ex-Ally already at war. On the other hand, the fact of the existence of war in Europe made it inevitable that Italy's action should result in the two sets of combatants competing for her support. History, however, we feel confident will render her justice in this matter.

When all the facts are known, it will probably be found that Italy has other reasons for a breach with her late Allies than the refusal of Austria-Hungary to make concessions to the principle of nationality. Public opinion has been profoundly stirred by a grave incident in Tripoli. At a moment when an Italian force was advancing to give battle, most of the native troops, comprising the bulk of the force, deserted to the enemy. The Italian losses were heavy. The officer in command was amongst the wounded, while the total casualties among the Italian troops amounted to three hundred, including nineteen officers, and among the native troops to seven hundred. The treachery of the Libyan troops was due to a well-known Arab chief, and it is believed that the Italian Government possesses proof of Turkish complicity in the events leading up to the desertion.

If it should be proved that emissaries from the Turks were actually implicated in the intrigues which brought about this mishap to Italian arms, there should be little difficulty in showing that the machinations originated with the German authorities. It would not be the first time, moreover, that Italy has had to complain of Turco-

THE NEAR EAST.

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German intrigues in North Africa. Not the least of Germany's offences in this war of her creation is her treachery to the white man's cause. She has deliberately schemed in every possible part of the world to set natives against Europeans. It has been part of her scheme for waging war, and may be classed with the use of asphyxiating gases and the poisoning of wells. German treachery in this matter is one of the strongest arguments against her claim to the hegemony of the world. Not only has she disgraced civilization but she has proved that she has not even grasped the rudiments of it. To those who know anything of the natives of Africa, it was obvious that German intrigues among the Arab tribes must eventually prove as dangerous to Italy as to the British in Egypt. The event has shown that the Italians have been the first to suffer, and they have good reason to resent the criminal activities of their former Allies.

It is to be hoped that no misunderstanding will arise from any quasi-agreement under which Italy may decide to make common cause with the Entente and its Allies. That any formal convention should have been drawn up at this stage is unlikely; but the Italian Government will not have been tempted to take action before satisfying itself in one quarter or another with regard to the compensations that the Allies may be willing to accord. The possibility of a misunderstanding exists in any failure on the part of the latter to decide amongst themselves upon the extent to which Italian aspirations on the eastern coast of the Adriatic can be realised. Up to the present there has been no indication that an agreement on this point has been reached. In reply to a question on the subject in the Serbian Skupshtina M. Pasitch had to admit that he had no official information of the *pourparlers* between Italy and the Entente Powers. He contented himself with pious hopes that Italy would adhere to the principle of nationality, and would arrange her interests in the Adriatic in such a way that they would not entail difficult consequences either for Italians or for Slavs. All the same, M. Pasitch's words betrayed some fear lest everything should not be as satisfactory as he hoped.

In a letter to *The Times* Lord Cromer has called attention to the presence of a number of Turkish subjects in the concentration camps in this country, and points out that it must not necessarily be assumed that every Turkish subject is a hostile alien. A large number of Armenians, Syrians, Jews, etc., who are Turkish subjects will be warmly in sympathy with the cause of the Allies. Lord Cromer suggests that steps should be taken to investigate the question, in order that there may be discrimination made between those Turkish subjects who are properly subjected to some restraint and others in whose case no such restraint is required. The proposal is thoroughly in keeping with British traditions, and is one which has only to be made to win general support. There can be no reason to suppose that the Government will not be willing to act upon it. Prior to the publication of Lord Cromer's letter the subject had been raised incidentally by Lord Newton in the House of Lords' debate on the treatment of British prisoners in Germany. There must be a number of Levant Consular officials in Great Britain to-day who would be well qualified to carry out an inquiry with a view to liberating from the concentration camps those Turkish subjects who can adduce satisfactory evidence of their friendliness to the Allied cause.

Sic vos, non vobis might be a suitable heading for an article in the *Frankfurter Zeitung* on the progress made in the construction of the Baghdad Railway. The information given, however, if its accuracy can be taken for granted, is of interest. The most important tunnel, piercing the Taurus Mountains at Bilemedik, and 1,826 metres in length, has been bored, and is said to be approaching completion. In spite of the war, or, perhaps, because of it, the work has been pushed on with the greatest zeal. It is clear, adds the German organ, that the railway would be of invaluable assistance to the Turks in their advance against Egypt, and, it adds naïvely, "as a branch of the Mecca Railway across the Sinai Peninsula will be necessary for the transport of their heavy artillery, there will be plenty of time before this is done to complete the difficult mountain section of the Cilician railway." The sections opened to traffic within the last twelve months are the stretch of 160 kilometres between Baghdad and Samarra, and the 60 kilometres between the Euphrates Bridge and Tel el-Abiad, which came into use last February. Including the small branch line Adana-Mersina, which has been acquired by the Baghdad Railway Company, there are some 926 kilometres of line given over to traffic out of a total length of 2,190 kilometres from Konia to Basra. The *Frankfurter Zeitung* enumerates a number of branch lines for which plans have been made, and "which will be undertaken at a later date." It adds: "When these are all completed, there will be a German railway system in Asia Minor of 3,205 kilometres in length."

In opening the session of the Legislative Council of Cyprus last month the new High Commissioner delivered an interesting speech, which was notable for other features than the fact that it made no reference to the state of war with Turkey. From 1906 to 1911 Sir J. E. Clauson was Chief Secretary to the Government of Cyprus, and he was able to record the great advance that had taken place in the interval in measures furthering the general prosperity of the island. The period coincided with the High Commissionership of Sir Hamilton Goold-Adams. Consequently most of, if not all, the improvements, bore traces of his initiative. "Among his undertakings that have already been carried into effect," said the new High Commissioner, "may be mentioned the rapid expansion of the organisation of the Agricultural Department, the creation of an expert scientific staff equipped with modern means of research and experimental demonstration, the extension of agricultural instruction both technical and elementary, the vigorous campaigns against various agricultural pests, and the introduction of new and excellent blood into the equine and bovine stock of the island. Anti-malarial sanitation, railway extension, rural water supply schemes, and road re-construction have been taken in hand on a large scale, and have made rapid strides in this short period."

In the competition for the offensive at the opening of spring the Austro-German forces have secured a lead. With the help of poisonous gases, in flagrant contravention of the Hague Convention, the Germans succeeded in bending back a section of the Allied line north of Ypres, and their attack on the British position is still being pressed. In the eastern theatre the enemy began with an incursion into North-West Russia in the direction of Riga. Before the importance of the raid could be determined, the main effort of the Austro-German forces was shown to be directed against the Russian line east of Cracow. The German version of the fighting was the first to be published. It laid claim to a sweeping victory; but when all the facts are known, it will probably be proved that the enemy's exuberation was studiously exaggerated, with the intention, perhaps, to *imponiren* the States who are supposed to be on the point of abandoning their neutrality. The Russians have fallen back from the Dunajec River, but it remains to be seen whether the withdrawal will involve their position along the Carpathian ridge.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, April 25.

Trial and Execution of Sultan's Aggressor.

The trial of Mohammed Khalil, the Egyptian who attempted to shoot H.H. the Sultan on the 8th inst., was held this week. It took place at the Native Court of Appeal and started at ten o'clock on Monday morning, continuing with a brief interval for luncheon until seven oclock in the evening, when it was adjourned until the following morning at ten o'clock and ended at about one o'clock on that day. The special military court consisted of: Brigadier-General Frith (president), Lieut.-Colonel Lord Rochdale (who also carried out the duties of clerk), Lieut.-Colonel W. G. Heys, Major C. R. Pilkington, and Major A. F. Cronshaw. Mr. A. S. Preston was judge-advocate, the prosecutor was Major H. L. Knight, who was represented by Mr. G. E. Jeffes, and Mr. C. H. Perrott was counsel for the defence.

For such an important and unprecedented occasion the court-room presented an unusually quiet and sedate aspect, and there was none of that pomp that one might have expected to be associated with the holding of a military court in time of war. The chamber, which is in reality the Cairo Assize Court, is an almost square room, without any decoration, and reminds one, but for the dock, of a lecture-room. The bench, on a platform at one end, consisted of a plain desk-like table with a raised shelf in front. At this sat the five judges. To their left stood the witness-box; to their right sat the judge-advocate, clad in wig and gown. Near the latter was stationed the provost-marshal, and between the bench and the witness-box sat the subaltern in charge of the guard. A plain rail separated the platform from the well of the court, which had benches across it, and at the front of which sat, on the right, the prosecutor with his counsel and, on the left, the accused's counsel. On the left-hand side of the well, against the wall and close to the witness-box, was the dock.

All the military members of the court were, of course, in khaki, whilst the fact that the proceedings were under military law was further emphasised by the sight of British soldiers lining the walls of the chamber, with bayonets fixed. The trial did not appear to awaken amongst the general public as much interest as did other political trials in the recent past. Outside the building and in the corridors there was quite a small crowd, which was easily kept in order by police and a picket of British soldiers that was stationed there with fixed bayonets. Not all of those who had applied for tickets of admission to the trial put in an appearance. But if the general public was not excited by the occasion, it was not so with the higher officials, and amongst those present were the Prime Minister, Sir Milne Cheetham, Sir Ronald Graham, with whom was Sir Valentine Chirol, Mr. R. Storrs, Mr. R. W. Graves, the Procureur-General, and several members of the Mixed Courts.

After the judges and the judge-advocate and the interpreters had been sworn in and the president had read the order of the G.O.C. convening the court, the prisoner was brought in. Mohammed Khalil was decidedly unpleasing in appearance. He was short and sallow, with black eyes, dull in tone, and a black moustache, the long curled ends of which he repeatedly twirled. He was dressed in European style, with tarbush at an angle, and saluted the court as he took his stand in the dock. Once or twice during the proceedings he bent down to speak to his counsel's clerk, but beyond that and a smile during the evidence of Said Pasha Zulfikar and again when he made a remark to his guard and found they could not understand him, he appeared to take little interest in the proceedings, but gazed steadily in front of him with a very bored expression, frequently yawning quite openly. He presented a curious contrast to his escort—three brawny Lancashire lads, who sat with arms akimbo and watched him closely out of the corners of their eyes, the while they solemnly drank in all the evidence and speeches. Their facial expression was at times very amusing—one of them listened to the intricate medical evidence literally open-mouthed with interest and wonderment.

The indictment was to the effect that—

On and before Thursday, April 8, 1915, he maliciously, feloniously, and traitorously did compass, imagine, and devise to bring and put to death H.H. Sultan Hussein, the Ruler over Egypt under the protecting power of Great Britain, and the said treasonable, compassing imagination and device maliciously, feloniously, and traitorously did express and declare by certain overt acts and deeds—that is to say, that in order to fulfil perfectly and bring into effect his most evil and wicked design he did, on the said 8th day of April, 1915, in Abdin Street, Cairo, shoot at H.H. Sultan Hussein with a revolver with intent foully to murder His Highness, contrary to the duty of his allegiance, to the prejudice of good order, in contempt of the military control of Egypt, established by His Majesty's Government by the Proclamation of Martial Law on the 2nd day of November, 1914.

The Defence.

Mr. Perrott, for the defence, challenged the competence of the Court. He pleaded that the constitutional rule was that a civilian who was not and never had been connected with military service, and who was charged with an offence that can be tried and punished by civil courts actually sitting, cannot be brought before a military court, even when war is raging in the land. He pleaded that *a fortiori* this rule applied when no internal disturbance or invasion existed; and contended that this was the situation in Egypt, where the civil courts were still in operation. In support of his plea, Mr. Perrott cited many leading cases and the opinion of prominent authorities, but after considering the question in private for about twenty minutes the Court overruled the plea and the case proceeded.

The first and most important witness for the prosecution was Said Pasha Zulfikar, Grand Chamberlain to the Sultan, who was driving with his Highness at the time of the attempt. He testified to having seen the accused approaching with a bright-coloured object in his hands —some of the subsequent witnesses declared this object was a bunch of roses, in which the revolver was concealed—and to having warned the officer riding at his side to keep the man back. Before the officer could stop him the man had fired, and from the Pasha's evidence it was clear that the Sultan had had a very narrow escape. The other witnesses were the medico-legal expert, Dr. Hamilton, who examined the carriage, and the members of the body-guard and the policeman who took part in the arrest.

The only witnesses for the defence were Dr. Valentin and Dr. Warnock, who spoke in support of Mr. Perrott's plea of insanity. Both these experts maintained that Mohammed Khalil was suffering from a certain form of paranoia, and that he was mentally incapable of appreciating in a normal manner the moral character of his act. He was irresponsible, and was driven to commit his offence by a mental obsession which would cause him to repeat his act if he got the opportunity. The accused was asked if he had any statement to make, to which he replied that he appealed to British justice and to the laws of heaven and of man. After speeches by counsel for the defence and the prosecution and summing-up by the Judge-Advocate, the court retired, but returned after a short while. Some questions as to Mohammed Khalil's antecedents were then asked, and the hearing was closed, it being known by the fact that the accused was taken back to his cell that he had been found guilty.

In accordance with military practice, neither the verdict nor the sentence were made public until General Maxwell had confirmed them. This occurred on the day following, when orders were given to carry out the sentence of hanging. The execution took place on Saturday in the Native Court of Appeal Prison quite privately.

M. Venizelos in Cairo.

M. Venizelos, who arrived in Alexandria on Monday, and whose landing and drive to the house of his host, Mr. Anthony Benachi, were made the occasion for a display of enthusiasm on the part of the Hellenic colony such as has rarely if ever been witnessed in this country, spent the rest of the week in Cairo, as the guest of Mr. D. Casdagli. Another outburst of enthusiastic frenzy marked the ex-Premier's arrival in

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the capital, and he had the greatest difficulty in getting away to Kasr-el-Doubara. As it was, the pressure of the crowd was so great that his carriage broke down. The party had to get out, and tried to make its way to a motor-car that had fortunately been retained for emergencies. But once on terra firma the ex-Premier and his friends were literally mobbed by the enthusiastic crowd, who could not be persuaded to let the party through. The police were powerless to do anything, and it looked as if M. Venizelos would have to remain where he was indefinitely, when a *deus ex machina* appeared in the person of an Australian soldier, who, taking in the situation at a glance, started to push the crowd away, and who by dint of the exercise of herculean strength managed to clear a path for M. Venizelos and his companions!

The six days of his visit—he returned to Alexandria this morning—have been one ceaseless rush for the ex-Premier. A luncheon with the Sultan and one with the High Commissioner, a trip by steamer to the Barrage, a dinner at the French Agency, visits to practically every Greek institution and every Greek resident of note, the presentation of the diploma of honorary member of the Egyptian Institute, which the latter conferred on him, and a charity performance at the Kursaal are but a few of the items in the programme, which terminated with a brilliant reception at Mr. Casdagli's villa, and to which must be added an interminable number of visitors, who called daily on the ex-Premier, and were all received by him personally. The visit has, indeed, been a splendid success, and whilst part of that success is, of course, due to the assistance given by the enthusiastic general public, the fact that no hitch occurred is due entirely to the excellent measures taken by the Comité d'Organisation, at the head of which stood M. Ambroise Sinadino, who on such occasions always displays extraordinary energy and foresight. M. Venizelos told me that he was profoundly touched at the warm reception he had had from all elements of the population; Englishmen and Egyptians were just as prominent as Greeks in the demonstrations that burst upon the ex-Premier whenever he appeared in public, and it was the unanimity as well as the spontaneity of the welcome that made such a deep impression on him.

NEWS FROM THE SUDAN.

(From A Correspondent.)

Robes of Honour.

The presentation, by the Governor-General of the Sudan, of a Robe of Honour to a Sheikh of Dongola Province marks one of the rare but gratifying ceremonies that the Administration has been careful to maintain in its official relations with the native dignitaries of the country, and which are all the more valued on account of their infrequency. Sheikh Sherif Taha has long been distinguished for his intelligent and loyal support of the Government; he has spared no efforts to bring his people into line with the views of the Provincial Administration in relation to matters of communal and social reform. As Omda of the northern portion of the Khandak Mamuria, he has wielded exceptional influence. Nevertheless, with all his personal sympathy towards the spread of native education, the Sheikh has not been able to assist in the establishment of native schools, and the Khandak district remained for long the only one in the province in which a Government educational establishment was not to be found. Now, however, the building of two second-class Kuttab schools has been practically completed; and no doubt it has been in connection with this event that Sir Reginald Wingate has conferred upon the Sheikh of the northern portion of the Mamuria the much-coveted Robe of Honour.

The Robes of Honour conferred in the Sudan are divided into four classes—the Special Robe, the First Class, the Second Class, and the Third Class—and it is one of the latter category that Sheikh Taha has received. It is made of red cloth, with one pair rosettes only on the breast (the other classes have two or three pairs ; the garment is usually bestowed upon influential Omdas, Sheikhs, and others who have done good work for Government. With each Robe of Honour are presented a sword and a sling. Recommendations for the distinction must come through the Governors of Provinces, and in the case now under consideration the commendation to the Governor-General's favourable notice emanated from Colonel H. W. Jackson, the Governor of Dongola Province.

The number of names submitted must not exceed four in each province—that is to say, for two Religious Robes and two Robes of Honour, the presentations being made by the local head of the Administration. The granting of the robe is a purely personal matter, and after the recipient's death the robe must be returned (as are also such orders as the Garter, the Thistle, St. Michael and St. George, etc., which are conferred by the British Sovereign) to the Government. It must not be retained or worn by any member of the family or heir of the recipient; but the Brevet, which is issued in respect of each robe and signed by the Governor-General, may be kept by the family. Thus, all robes being granted for good service to Government, may, at any time, be withdrawn by the order of the Governor-General if the recipient should, in his opinion, cease to be worthy of the honour bestowed. Very few instances, however, are on record where the distinction, once conferred, has been revoked.

Two New Magistrates.

The usual and commendable procedure of testing the capabilities of British officials newly serving in the Sudan before conferring judical authority upon them has been pursued in the case of Mr. R. V. Bardsley and Mr. T. McNeill, both of whom have just been appointed Magistrates of the First Class under the Code of Criminal Procedure. Mr. Bardsley has seen about eighteen months' service as Third Inspector at Khartoum, and has evinced considerable aptitude in that capacity. He now receives his first important promotion in rather less than the ordinary time of probation. Mr. McNeill, on the other hand, who has served as Third Inspector in Wad Medani, in the Blue Nile Province, where he was well thought of by the ex-Governor, Lieut.-Colonel E. A. Dickenson, has had about two and a-half years' experience of Sudan official life. He is regarded as a rising official, very keen in the performance of his duties, and a competent Arabic scholar.

Some Other Appointments.

After fourteen years in the Sudan Government service, Mr. E. W. Drummond-Hay has been translated from the Sennar to the Berber Province, with official residence at El-Damer, as Senior Inspector. Between the joys of permanent residence in the town of Sennar and those of El-Damer there is but little to choose, both being equally unattractive. On the other hand, El-Damer has become a rapidly improving commercial centre, and has completely superseded Berber as the administration headquarters of the province. There should, therefore, be considerable scope for Mr. Drummond-Hay's undoubted ability as an organiser. The Berber Province is about to lose the services of Mr. R. E. H. Baily, who has been very active and much esteemed as Second Inspector in the distict of Shendi. Mr. Baily goes to Sennar, where he will occupy a similar position either at Singa or at Kurmuk.

Mr. J. G. Matthew, Senior Inspector of the Red Sea Province, has been transferred, as from March 15 last, to the Sennar Province, where he will occupy a similar position. His work on the Red Sea Littoral has been mainly in connection with the supervision of cotton cultivation and irrigation, and the substantial progress made at the Tokar Plantation, a Government enterprise, may be said to have been largely due to his attention and enterprise. Mr. Matthews entered the service of the Sudan Government in May, 1902, and it is considered not improbable that he may receive the next vacant Governorship, for which he has evinced many of those qualities which are deemed desirable in candidates for the post. During the occasional absence of Major C. E. Wilson, Governor of the Red Sea Province, Mr. Matthew has acted as *locum tenens*.

Mr. Matthew will change places with another civilian, Mr. S. A. Tippetts, who removes from Singa to Port Sudan. Mr. Tippetts has been almost as long in the Government service, there being but three months' difference in regard to the two officials' respective employment. It is to be hoped that some better accommodation at Singa will be found for the Senior Inspector of the Sennar Province, Mr. Matthew being a married man and accustomed to the enjoyment of a pleasant habitation of his own at Port Sudan when not living—as was often the case—in the agreeable residence of Major Wilson. The Senior Inspector's house at Singa is a very poor one, and it has long been the desire of the Administration to erect not only a suitable residence at Singa, but to find accommodation for two Inspectors at Sennar.

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CYPRUS NOTES

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cyprus, April 23.

The Legislative Council.

The Legislative Council was opened on the 13th inst. by his Excellency the High Commissioner, Sir John E. Clauson, K.C.M.G., C.V.O., with the usual ceremony. In consequence of the abnormal circumstances of the war, no indication of coming legislation was given, and it is probable that no fresh Bills will be submitted this session.

A Proclamation published in the official "Gazette" of the 19th inst. declares that, "by reason of the imminence of active service, it is necessary for the public service that the forces in Cyprus should be temporarily subject to the Army Act, as if they were on active service, for the period of three months from the date hereof."

Locusts and Mosquitoes.

A plague of locusts has invaded the island during the last week, coming from Syria. Some consternation has been caused among farmers, but from reports to hand no great damage has yet been done, and as the locusts have now about arrived at the egg-laying stage, it is hoped that their depredations this year will be slight. Steps are being taken by Government to control them, and to watch their movements with a view of ascertaining the places they select as breeding-grounds, and measures will be taken to destroy their eggs. Meanwhile Government is paying for their collection, and some three tons have so far been accounted for. Encampments, the marching of troops, heavy cannonading, and other of the accompaniments of war may have disturbed these creatures in their native haunts, and the invasion may thus be an indirect result of the struggle now proceeding on the opposite coast. Happy shall we be if no worse befall us!

A noticeable reduction for the time of year is observed in several localities in the number of mosquitoes. At Larnaca, which until recently was much afflicted with them, hardly a single mosquito is now met with. The draining and filling up of the St. Lazarus and Bamboula marshes, which has been so thoroughly carried out by the present District Commissioner, has largely contributed to this improvement, while the work done by the anti-malarial campaign, under the Medical Department, has further contributed to the extermination of these health-destroying insects.

Demand for Cyprus Wine.

Cyprus wine has undergone a sudden rise in price. It appears that the French soldiery in Egypt find it palatable! "When we are far from the lips that we love" we have but to "make love to the lips that are near"; and when sparkling Moselle is left behind, and, alas! may never again, perhaps, be tasted, we must turn our affections elsewhere and try to find solace in the strong, lusty Cypriot "Mavrokrasi" in place of the more delicate favourite at home. The fact is, at any rate, that the local stocks of wine, which since last vintage have been almost unsaleable, are now being realised at more than double the lamentable prices of a week or two ago. This is good news to those small people who depend so largely upon their vineyards and whose economic conditions has been very trying of late.

In this connection it is interesting to note what Lord Kitchener wrote in 1879 from Lefkonico Camp:—"The hill slopes grow vines in profusion, and these vineyards might be greatly extended. Many beautiful spots exist among the hills lying completely waste, grown over with scrub, hiding the old rock-cut wine presses that show where in ancient times there were once fruitful vineyards."

THE COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE OFFICE OF EGYPT,

23, Sharia Soliman Pasha, Cairo.

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FIGHTING THE BEDOUIN.

A correspondent sends us for publication a letter written (March 6) by an officer of Indian cavalry serving with the Persian Gulf Expeditionary Force. After referring to the difficulty of finding time to write letters the officer goes on to say:—

Especially has it become difficult during the last three weeks. The situation has become very much more a real one for us, and day and night we are going for the enemy. War in all its deadly earnestness is with us, and, as I say, the situation has developed greatly in the last week or two. At —— we were face to face with the Turkish infantry and Arabs in position, both of us being in extremely strong positions. In fact, it was more or less stalemate. Since last writing I have been transferred to other climes, this time on the edge of the Great Arabian Desert. The whole of my unit is here. To get here we had to ride eleven miles through a solid sheet of water up to our horses' girths. Now we are camped in large fortified positions on edge of the barren desert. In fact, we ourselves are in the desert: sand, sand, sand everywhere; a well or two here of brackish water, nothing else. As compared with the other place this might be 10,000 miles away. Owing to this sheet of water in our rear luxuries can't reach us, and our supply column confine themselves to strict necessaries. These are of the barest. Often men and horses, especially the latter, have to go without. Our poor horses find it very hard to drink the salty, brackish water, and are suffering a great deal. In fact, except that we are all well, this is absolutely the worst place on the earth. . . .

To-day we are elated with the news that the Dardanelles is being forced by the combined French and British Fleets. Good old Fleet, that ought to end the Turkish resistance! It is a rotten country to fight in really, in spite of its archæological interest. Our great complaint is that it is inhuman. We take prisoners and look after them, but we dare never leave wounded men lying on the ground, because the enemy, who now are wild desert Arabs, cut them in pieces. This wounded question worries one a great deal. It hampers our cavalry reconaissance work greatly. You see, we must move fast towards enemy in attack and away from him if in retreat. We are in touch with him daily. Especially is this wounded question a difficult one when we are hard pressed. Our opponents are now the wild desert horsemen, and they are very formidable, and simply come in hordes from nowhere. The Turks have turned these gentry on us, they themselves being in a position some twenty-five miles away from here. It is most interesting fighting, but most merciless. These wild Bedouin are perfect adepts at attacking from behind mirages, coming up in the thick of dust storms, and employing a thousand and one other stratagems. They really are marvellously bold and hardy chaps. A lot of us cavalry, two regiments and horse battery, went after them the other day. We saw nothing for hours and hours, when suddenly, like a whirlwind, from nowhere, rushed some 5,000 horsemen, and all but surrounded us. We fought a very stiff rearguard action for seven miles, keeping them off with well-regulated and directed rifle fire, and eventually got to our supporting infantry, who came out from camp to meet us. It was easily the stiffest fighting I have ever experienced in these parts. Our horse artillery at one time, near the end of the day, found itself in very heavy ground and could not gallop. That meant protecting it and general delay. We then had a very critical half-hour. The enemy pressed us very boldly, getting right in amongst some of our squadrons. Five officers were killed and two badly wounded in the two regiments. We saved the guns by a miracle. All the team were shot or fell exhausted; but only temporarily was there confusion. We reformed on the infantry and gave our pursuers "what for," killing, I think, several hundreds all told. I had one fine tussle with one brawny fellow. He kept on circling round me on a fine Arab horse, firing his revolver point blank at ten yards. He never hit me, though his shots whizzed by my head each time. I finally cut him down as he turned his attention to another officer. Another Arab rushed up full gallop and fired into my back, low down by my seat. He made a hole in my coat, that is all, and the bullet passed between my leg and saddle, not hurting me at all. The swine, when he saw he had missed, struck me in the back at the same time as he fired with his revolver. . . . The brute got away. One of our officers seized a lance from one of the men and stuck five of the enemy.

The five officers who were killed all died most gallantly. Poor ——, of this regiment, was killed trying to stem a rush on his Maxim. Both —— and —— were wounded, as far as we can ascertain, and were shot in cold blood on the ground. I did not see this, nor see them fall, being in another part of the field. Taking it all round, though, we took on about five times our numbers, we inflicted very severe loss on them, and eventually drove them completely off the field.

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NEWS FROM TURKEY.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Athens, April 24.

Issue of Notes.

The Ottoman Government have issued notes to the value of £T6,583,094, which, they say, is guaranteed by 150,000,000 francs in gold deposited with the Administration of the Public Debt. Whether this deposit really exists at the Public Debt, and how far the Government is justified in appropriating those funds for this purpose, is matter for speculation. The notes, the denomination of which is not mentioned, are declared legal currency, and anyone refusing to accept them will be subject to a fine of from one to fifteen liras and to one month's imprisonment. The notes will be redeemed six months after the conclusion of peace, and those not presented within five years from that date will be forfeited. Commenting upon this decision of the Government, the Turkish Press prides itself upon the ease with which the Ottoman Minister of Finance is able to raise funds!

Police and Spies Active.

The feeling of uneasiness has rather increased in Constantinople, the police and spies being more active and the censorship stricter than ever, and relief from this tension is anxiously awaited. An English lady in Kadikeui and an Englishman in Bebek, besides several others, have been summoned before the police in connection with letters received or sent, in which appeared vague phrases with the intention of conveying information that would not pass the censor.

Correspondents writing to Constantinople should be careful what they say, as the recipients of suspicious letters are subject to much annoyance and discomfort, to say the least, and even to the risk of being exiled. In view of these incidents, many residents have ceased writing to their friends and relatives rather than expose themselves to the risk of spending some time in a Turkish gaol. In these circumstances, the writer of this article will, in case of necessity, be pleased to reply, to the best of his ability, to any inquiries from friends or relatives in England in respect to members of the English community who have remained in Constantinople.*

The Turkish Government has abrogated the law passed a short time ago exempting American products from the payment of Customs duty.

At Smyrna.

The shortage of coal is being felt in the Smyrna district, and the railway companies have been obliged to curtail their services. The stock of petroleum there is almost exhausted.

It is confirmed that the two Ellerman liners, the "Assiout" and the "City of Khios," which were in Smyrna when the war broke out, have been sunk in the bay by the Turkish authorities.

The Dardanelles Operations.

With regard to the operations at the Dardanelles, bombardments of different positions appear to take place daily, and numerous transports carrying troops are reported to have been seen in the vicinity of the Dardanelles and in the Gulf of Saros, but the reported occupation of the town of Enos by the Allies is not correct.

Hakki Pasha has at last returned to Constantinople, and has had an audience of the Sultan.

The subscriptions towards the new Dreadnought to be built for the Turkish Navy are making good progress (says the *Tanin*), the population of Jerusalem having contributed £1,000. It is to be hoped that contributions will continue to pour in, as this would be quite a convenient fund for meeting some of Turkey's liabilities, say, for instance, for indemnifying those whose private residences have been requisitioned by the military authorities.

(From Our Correspondent lately at Beyrout.)

Cairo, April 24.

After completly cutting off Syria from the outside world, and prohibiting the departure and landing even of old men and women, the military authorities suddenly allowed about 300 passengers to leave from various Syrian ports for Egypt by the last Italian steamer. The majority of these passengers are subjects of neutral Powers, such as Italians, Greeks, and Americans, with a large percentage of Jews; but the existence of a sprinkling of native Syrians among the crowd has led to the suspicion that the Turkish authorities had a covert design in this sudden relaxation of the rules. The arrest of three passengers by the authorities at Alexandria on the charge of spying is thought to confirm this suspicion. The recent dastardly attempt on the life of Sultan Hussein Kamel may have been taken by the Turks to be the sign of smouldering disaffection, and considered by them as indicating a propitious moment for the diligent application of their now well-known method of underhand intrigue improved upon by their German masters. If it were at all possible for Jemal Pasha to be allowed into Egypt, if he could see the state of absolute calm that reigns here, and could note at the same time the military preparedness and organization, he would surely then counsel his colleagues to waste no more time, no more of the little money and men they have left, but to give the Egyptian question up as a forlorn cause.

The "Invasion of Egypt."

It seems to be practically certain now that the losses of the expeditionary force through hunger, thirst, and exhaustion have been appalling, and that very few have been able to return from the Sinaitic Desert. It is amusing to note the naiveté that the Turks are displaying in connection with the bogey of an attack on the Canal. A British subject, who has at last been allowed to leave Palestine, and has just arrived in Egypt, reports that before he left Jerusalem a Turkish officer called on him, ostensibly as a friend, and after asking whether he was leaving for Egypt, added that he himself had been there, and would be returning thither shortly. When he was asked whether he visited Cairo he said "No," but added significantly that he had been in Egypt a couple of months ago. The Englishman, taking the hint, inquired whether the Turks meant to repeat the attack on the Canal, and when; and the officer replied: "In four months at the outside, when we shall have completed our preparations." Then followed the visits of several other officers, who discussed the same subject and held the same silly language, the obvious intention being that the traveller should repeat all he had heard to the British authorities here, and thus "frighten" them into immobilizing a large force in Egypt. The idea of crossing the Sinaitic Desert in the burning month of August beats even the wild imaginings of a Don Quixote.

Another report has it that the Turkish authorities announce their intention of attacking Egypt in force next winter. One wonders whether they mean to divert public attention from the impending disaster and to pooh-pooh the attack of the Allied forces on the Dardanelles, in connection with which an incessant shower of announcements of Turkish victories and Allied disasters is rained on the public. Unfortunately for the Turks, the same game had been played by them in connection with the Tripolitan and Balkan Wars; and it is hard for them now to get the disillusioned public to believe them, even when they happen to tell the truth.

Oppression in Palestine.

As regards Palestine, the new arrivals tell the same tale of oppression, extortion, and misery in that ill-fated land. The vital necessaries of life cannot be lacking, since Syria, including Palestine, is an agricultural country that exports a fair surplus of its cereal production; but the complete stoppage of the economic machine has thrown thousands out of employment; hence a daily increasing army of beggars in the land. The special maltreatment to which the Jews have lately been subjected may be taken to indicate the complete passing of power into the hands of the Germans; for when the Donmeh Djavid and his clique were able to influence the whole Committee of Union and Progress, the Jews in the Empire generally received special support and marks of attention.

The Lebanon.

The position in the Lebanon has not materially changed. The Lebanese have not as yet been subjected to military service, as had been apprehended, and it is said that the Mutessarif is trying to carry on the civil administration of the province with every possible safeguard of its privileges. Of course, the Turks are in supreme military command.

THE DARDANELLES OPERATIONS.

Lord Charles Beresford's View.

Speaking last Saturday at a great recruiting demonstration at Portsmouth, Lord Charles Beresford said that the Dardanelles operations looked at present rather like a piece of amateur strategy. It was undertaken when the weather was known to be unfavourable, before the Army was ready and before the nets were got out to guard the ships against floating mines. This was a great mistake the Government had made, and at some future time an inquiry would have to be made as to its cause. At present we must all do our best to help the Government to get out of the consequences of this mistake. Now that we had entered upon the Dardanelles campaign, for every man and for every shell we had before we should want three in the future.

* The Editor will be pleased to receive and forward any communications intended for our Special Correspondent.

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SERBIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Nish, April 18.

King Peter's Movements.

King Peter, who has been spending some considerable time at various Serbian watering places, left Vranska Bad on the 14th and the following day arrived at Nish, where he was met at the railway station by the Cabinet Ministers, the members of Parliament, and the principal Government officials. His Majesty's health appeared to be greatly improved. From Nish he went on by train to Kragujevatz, and from there proceeded by motor-car to Topola, where, it appears, he intends to remain for a long time. In the meantime Prince Alexander continues to represent him.

Only once did King Peter break his cure, and that was when the country was in danger from the Austrian invasion, but when, through the King's energetic action, ill as he was, and through the bravery of the Serbian troops, defeat was turned into victory.

Precautions on the Frontier.

Bulgarian Komitajis are preparing for attacks on the Serbian frontier, and this being known to the Serbian authorities, the frontier guards have been strengthened and other military precautions have been taken to give the marauders and plunderers a warm reception. At the same time, according to the *Tribuna*, the Serbian Minister Plenipotentiary at Sofia has handed a note to the Bulgarian Government, requesting that any fresh attempts at incursions by bands into Serbian territory should be prevented.

It is known that the Bulgarian central Komitajis Committee, which directs its affairs from Sofia, wields considerable influence; and it is supposed to be in close touch with Austria-Hungary and Germany, and also with Turkey.

The State of Valievo.

The town of Valievo, from which all its inhabitants fled in December last, at the time of the Austrian invasion was almost entirely wrecked, and requires reconstruction. For this purpose the Government has voted a first credit of 250,000 frs. to aid the town in defraying the cost of the work which most urgently requires to be done.

Amongst the measures taken to combat the spread of the epidemic that has already deprived this country of many lives is the closing of all cafés and restaurants from 9 to 11 a.m., from 2 to 6 p.m, and at 9 p.m. for the night. This order has already been in force in Nish for several days, and it is also now in force at Belgrade, where there are comparatively few inhabitants at present.

Red Cross Workers.

There are now a great many Red Cross missions working in Servia, and besides these there are 130 British and French military doctors distributed over the country and inspecting the various hospitals and depôts, etc. Of the Red Cross missions there are:—

British: Lady Paget's, with 48 members at Uskub; another at Venjatchka Banja, Dr. Berry and 25 members; another at Uskub, under Mrs. Winbourn, with 46 members; and another at Uskub, under Dr. Barry, with 18 members. The British Red Cross, under Captain Bennet, with 40 members, and the Scottish Women's Hospital (40 members), at Kragujevatz. Another British mission is on the way, the first party of 19 members having landed at Salonika, and 30 more having sailed from Marseilles.

The Greek Red Cross, of King Constantine, consists of eight doctors, who have been sent to different towns.

Of the Russian Red Cross, the Princess Trubetskoi's party of 40 members is at Nish, and Madame Hartwig's, of 12 members, is at the same town. The Russian Benevolent, of 18 members, is at Kragujevatz.

Of American missions there are: Mrs. Thackara's, at Krustievatz, 2 doctors; Dr. Ryan's, at Belgrade, with 13 members; Dr. Butler, at Belgrade, with 18 members, and the Bohemian-American, at Uskub, under Dr. Frothingham.

SERBIA AND THE ADRIATIC.

We have received from the Serbian Press Bureau at Nish a telegram reporting a speech made by M. Pashitch, the Prime Minister, in the course of which he said:—

I believe that if Italy takes part in the war she will show her devotion to the principle of nationality, and will arrange her interests in the Adriatic in such a way as not to involve difficulties for us and for herself, and that her action will produce no discord between the Slavs and Italians. Only an accord between these two peoples can give satisfactory guarantees against the success of the German attempted thrust towards the Mediterranean. . . .

I believe that Italian statesmen will not fix their aim on the acquisition of a town more or less or any particular island, because they know that the strength of Italy will lie, not in any such town or island, but in harmonious relations with the Serbo-Croatian and Slovene peoples.

Commenting on this speech, the *Journal des Débats*, reviewing the reported claims of Italy to Adriatic regions in which 90 per cent. of the population is Slav, says:—

We cannot believe that Italy, founded on the principle of nationalities, desires to have on her hands populations unalterably hostile to annexation. It would be a political mistake of incalculable importance. Let people remember the peace of Campo Formio and Bonaparte's improvements.

British Farmers' Red Cross Fund.

Subscriptions are still urgently wanted to complete the second Serbian Hospital, which is being sent out, and should be sent to Room 5, Tower Bridge Flour Mills, Bermondsey, S.E. The funds now total £18,896 9s. 5d. The sum required from farmers is £100,000, so that it is still a "long, long way." We ask farmers throughout the country to respond to this charitable appeal.

Wounded Allies' Relief Committee.

The Northern Polytechnic Amateur Operatic Society is organising a concert in aid of the Wounded Allies Relief Committee (Sardinia House, Kingsway, W.C.), a body which has done exceedingly good work for our French and Belgian Allies, and is now extending its scope to Serbia and Montenegro. The date is fixed for the evening of May 15.

Agricultural Relief.

Lord Middleton presided last week over a well-attended meeting in York for the purpose of forming a Committee to make the necessary arrangements for securing the support of the agriculturists of the county for the fund being raised to assist our Allies in the restoration of agriculture in the devastated areas of their countries. It was announced that at the present time Serbia was the only country in which the Committee could give practical assistance. In that connection the Allies Committee had sent out a special representative whose mission is to superintend the distribution of seeds, etc., and also to investigate as far as possible the agricultural districts of Serbia and to report upon their needs. The meeting was unanimous in its desire to assist in this work, and several delegates reported that their societies had decided to contribute to the Fund. The address of the Fund is 16, Bedford Square.

Red Cross Nurses.

The Khedivial Mail steamship Saidieh (Captain J. R. Ryall) has arrived at Alexandria from Salonika, having taken out to that port from Liverpool eighty Red Cross nurses and fifty surgeons and doctors, units of different societies formed in England to aid the Serbian wounded and also to fight against that dreaded disease, typhus.

Lady Bathurst on Serbian Needs.

Lady Bathurst, opening a sale of goods in aid of the Serbian Red Cross work at Culkerton, Glos., on Wednesday, said she had helped in the nursing of wounded British soldiers, who had suffered horribly despite the excellent care and attention provided at the front. If British soldiers suffered so much, what must it be out in Serbia, where they had not only wounds, but fevers? In addition to a lack of materials and a dearth of nurses, they had typhus, spotted fever, and every horror to contend with. It was a good thing, therefore, for people to help the Serbian Red Cross Fund.

Lady Bathurst was in Red Cross uniform, having motored direct from her duties of nursing wounded soldiers at Cirencester.

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BULGARIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Sofia, April 20.

A Frontier Precaution.

In consequence of recent events in Macedonia large numbers of fugitives are collecting in the Rila district, and with the object of strengthening the forces entrusted with keeping order there, a class of reservists, nearly 2,000 men, has been called to the colours to reinforce the troops of the Seventh (the Rila) Division. This is purely a "policing" measure, and in well-informed circles it is received with approval.

King Ferdinand and the Students.

Last Saturday, after the students of the upper classes of the gymnasia had completed their rifle drill, they marched through the principal streets of the capital, carrying their rifles. As they were passing the Palace King Ferdinand, the Queen and the Crown Prince appeared at the entrance, and the King saluted the students, who responded with loud cheers. This little incident appears to have created an excellent impresson upon the citizens of Sofia.

Serbia and Bulgaria.

Although the Valandova incident is officially closed its memory still rankles, and the comments of the Serbian Press—which would surely be well advised to co-operate in endeavouring to eliminate all causes of friction—are regarded here as aggravating the trouble and making a Serbo-Bulgarian understanding impossible. It is noted, too, that the Serbian Minister in Paris, M. Vesnitch, has expressed the opinion that Bulgarian intervention in the war is not desirable. It is pointed out that this diplomatist is aware that Bulgarian participation would have hastened the coming of peace, and saved much loss of life; yet because Bulgaria ought to receive her rights from Serbia, the Serbians prefer that blood should flow while they wait for their own salvation. The Serbians (say Bulgarians) see that in the general confusion nobody remembers that they too have trampled on the principle of the sanctity of treaties—the principle for which the Entente Powers are fighting against Germany. The Serbians seem resolved to wait for the Entente to present them with Bosnia and Herzegovina without returning Macedonia to its rightful owner; and to obtain this result they are daily spreading false reports about attacks by Bulgarian *Komitajis*.

In this connection a Balkan diplomatist has, through the Russian journal *Retch*, pointed out that a Press campaign against Bulgaria is very undesirable, and even dangerous. The attacks in the Russian, French, and even the British Press, upon the Bulgarian Government and the Bulgarian people are, naturally, producing an extremely bad effect here. In the interests of the peace of the Balkans and of a good understanding between this country and the Triple Entente it is very desirable, says this diplomatist, that all these attacks against Bulgaria should promptly cease so that this country may join the Triple Entente Powers.

Holland's Late Charge d'Affaires.

The funeral took place last Saturday of M. V. D. Royards, Holland's Chargé d'Affaires here. It was attended by most of the diplomatic body, Cabinet Ministers, and representatives of the Palace; and a military band and two companies of infantry rendered military honours. A Serbian journal having intimated that M. Royards' death was not due to natural causes, but had been brought about by Russian agents, because he was a Germanophil, the (Serbian) ministerial *Samouprava* published the following statement:—

The Serbian Royal Legation at Sofia requests us to state that the reports spread by a Belgrade journal regarding the mysterious death of the Chargé d'Affaires of the Dutch Legation at Sofia, M. Royards, are pure inventions. M. Royards died a natural death.

ROUMANIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, April 18.

Control of Foreigners.

The application of the Law for the Control of Foreigners, to which I have alluded in previous letters, seems likely to produce some astonishing results. Already in the town of Craiova, which has 50,000 inhabitants, it turns out that 10,000 of them are foreigners. The majority of these aliens are included in the list of those entitled to exercise the franchise, and have, in fact, exercised that right for some years!

In this connection it may be of interest to note that the provisional figures regarding the population of this country show that it increased by 150,000 in 1914, that number being the balance of births over deaths. This represents an increase of 2 per cent. per annum, the highest figure yet reached by any European country.

A Roumanian Volunteer.

M. Victor Jonescu, nephew of M. Take Jonescu, is serving as a volunteer lieutenant in the 12th French Hussars. In a letter which he lately wrote to his uncle he says:—"My one trouble is to know what Roumania will do. Are there some fools who would hinder the realisation of her national ideals? We have arrived at a fateful moment, when we ought to regain Transylvania. Only cowards and those whose opinions have been bought can maintain the contrary."

The Poisonous Pruth.

There is a popular Roumanian ditty anent the River Pruth, which refers to it as "the river of ill-repute." No doubt this allusion is due to historical associations; but the title would seem to be applicable to-day, if the Russian military medical authorities are to be believed. For they have declared the river's waters to be infested by cholera microbes. The Roumanian sanitary authorities have, in fact, after careful tests, confirmed this report; and measures have been taken to prevent the riverside dwellers from drawing the waters for their use, as they have been accustomed to doing.

A Distinguished General.

The death has just taken place, at the age of seventy-five, of General Georges Anghelescu, one of Roumania's most distinguished soldiers. He took part in the war of Roumanian Independence and the war that secured Italian unity. During the campaign of 1877-78 he commanded—though only then a Colonel—the Third Division before Plevna; and after the reduction of the famous fortress he was promoted to Brigadier-General, thus becoming the youngest general in the Roumanian Army; for he was only thirty-eight years old at the time. After the war he was appointed Military Commander of the Dobruja; and in 1882 he accepted the portfolio of Minister of War in the Government formed by M. J. Bratiano. He fulfilled several missions of importance abroad at various times, and was more than once elected a senator. But of late years he had led a life of retirement, though he retained the presidency of the Society of Veteran Officers.

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P.C.B.

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MESHED LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Meshed, April 10.

Persians and the War.

On March 26 the Russians celebrated the fall of Przemysl by holding a religious service in the public square, followed by a parade of the First Semerechie (General Kolkopof's) Cossack Regiment, which is the regiment stationed in Khorasan. The celebration undoubtedly had a good effect on the ignorant native population, a large crowd of whom were present. They are strongly pro-German, and in their ignorance believe the many distorted reports and manufactured lies about the war which are printed by the Persian newspapers anywhere in Persia. As usual, wild reports are current in the bazaars, and one of the latest is that Germany has purchased the wheat of Persia for the coming three years (sometimes the report says for fifty years!) to be paid for in munitions of war, so that Persia can take a hand in the war.

But the vital interest of the Persians in the Great War is well illustrated by the following incident, which occurred a short time ago in a town of this province. About a hundred zealous followers of the Prophet sent a telegram to Teheran saying that they had seen the declaration of *jehad* (religious war) by the *mujtahids* (high ecclesiastics) of Nejef and Kerbelah, and were ready with their lives and property in the holy cause. One of them was asked why they sent the telegram, and he replied: "We heard that Hamadan had sent a telegram, and we were afraid that people would call us unbelievers unless we followed suit." He was then asked: "What about your lives and property?" and answered: "Nobody is likely to want our lives, and as for our property, why, each of us contributed two *shahies* (about one and a-half farthings) to the telegram, and that is all we shall do." I learned later on that they refused to pay the two *shahies* each, as they thought it was too much, and the "telegram" was sent by mail.

Austrian Prisoners' Views.

Six Austrians who were prisoners of war in Russia recently escaped and came to Meshed, and I understand that they have been interned by the Persian Government. The formality of internment was hardly necessary, so far as preventing them from getting back to the Austrian Army is concerned. They would hardly leave Persia during the war unless forced to do so. I am told by Persians that they tell of the great and unjust hardships they have endured at the front, and say they are sure that the Allies must win.

Hun Influence?

Murders occur frequently among the Persians. One of the most recent murders was that of a Babi mullah, who was shot in broad daylight in the bazaar. The criminals are not often brought to justice. About the time of this murder a photograph of about fifty men and boys appeared in secret circulation. From the placards some of them are holding, it purports to be a group of Babis or Bahais. Among them are an Austrian and a German who were in Meshed for some months in the summer of 1913 making scientific research in geology and archæology. In the photograph these two men are holding Babi placards. Was this an instance of Hun influence attempting to ingratiate itself with the Persians?

Internal Revenue Administration.

For some years the Belgians, who originally came to Persia to take charge of the Customs, have also had charge of the Internal Revenue. The Persian Government has now decided to return all the Belgians to the Department of Customs, and the Government itself intends to take charge of the Internal Revenue.

Europeans' Interests.

Easter has come and gone. It was celebrated by the usual services and festivities following. The Russians have a neat little church that holds about two hundred in connection with the club house of the Russian Military Club. They recently brought from Russia, and erected at the church, a chime of bells, which was rung for the first time on Easter Sunday.

Immediately following Easter Week polo was started by Captain H. Hay Thorburn, I.M.S., Assistant to the British Consul-General. The polo ground is a good one, situated about two miles outside of the Arc gate of the city. English, Russians, and members of the Indian escort attached to the British Consulate-General take part in the game. It is greatly enjoyed by the large company of ladies and gentlemen who gather at Captain Thorburn's "At Home" on the polo ground every Wednesday, as well as by a good many Persians.

A Question of Currency.

Sheep owners on the northern borders of Afghanistan are accustomed to market their flocks across the border in Russian Turkestan along the line of the Trans-Caspian Railway, and receive their pay in Persian krans, which they much prefer to any other form of money. But recently the use of Persian krans has been forbidden in Turkestan; so this year the sheep owners took their pay in Russian paper roubles, being told by the dealers that they could change them in Meshed and would receive six krans to the rouble. Some of these Afghans arrived in Meshed a few days ago with about a hundred thousand roubles, and were greatly disappointed to find that the price of the rouble had fallen and they could get only five krans or less to the rouble.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

British Prisoners in Turkey. April 29.

Replying to Sir J. D. Rees, who asked whether he had obtained any information regarding the treatment of prisoners taken by the Turks or interned in the Turkish Empire, Sir E. Grey said: "His Majesty's Government have no information as to the treatment of the crew of submarine E 15, and on April 23 requested the United States Ambassador to make inquiries as to the names of those taken prisoners, but have not yet received a reply. A certain number of merchant seamen are interned at Magnesia, near Smyrna. The United States Consul-General and the British Chaplain at that port are in touch with them, and the latter visits the prisoners once a week, who have received assistance from the American Red Cross Society."

Slatin Pasha. May 4.

Mr. Tennant informed Sir W. Bull that, according to the information in the possession of the War Office, Slatin Pasha was not serving in or with the Austrian Army. He could not say what his technical status as regarded the Sudan Army might be at the moment, but he was not, so far as he (Mr. Tennant) was aware, drawing any emoluments from Sudanese funds.

British Consuls in the Levant.

Answering Mr. James Mason with regard to the salaries paid to British Consuls, Sir Edward Grey (Foreign Secretary) stated that Consular service salaries in the Levant varied from £900 with house to £1,200, no account being taken of local allowances, which were only given to meet the extra cost of living at particular places, and which were not pensionable.

The Khalifate. May 5.

In reply to Colonel Yate, Mr. Primrose said his Majesty's Government were well aware of the feeling for the Khalifate entertained by Moslem communities. His Majesty's Government intended to respect this feeling in every way, and regarded the question of the Khalifate as one that solely concerned Moslems, and that must, therefore, be decided by Moslems themselves without interference.

British Prisoners in Turkey.

Mr. Peto asked the Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether his attention had been called to a report by the British chaplain at Smyrna relative to the treatment of officers and men of the s.s. City of Khios and Assiout, interned at Magnesia, which showed that these seamen were treated in a manner that compared favourably with the treatment of officers and men of the merchant service interned in the German camp at Ruhleben; and whether he would consider the advisability of intimating to the Turkish Government in advance through the good offices of the United States Ambassador that his Majesty's Government was prepared to reciprocate to the full any humanity shown to British military, naval, and civilian prisoners by similar or more considerate treatment of any Turkish prisoners that may fall into their hands.

Mr. Primrose: The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. We have every right to expect that British prisoners in the hands of the Ottoman Government will be treated with humanity and consideration, as we have already informed the Ottoman Government through the United States Ambassador that his Majesty's Government treat Turkish prisoners of war in the same humane way as they treat those of other nationalities.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

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

ITALIAN INTERVENTION—NOW OR NEVER

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—Your correspondent, Signor Arundel del Rê, is justified in asserting that Italian neutrality has, on the whole, proved of greater benefit to the Triple Entente than to its foes. Italy has compelled the hated Tedeschi to concentrate on her northern frontier large forces which would otherwise have been employed against Russia or Serbia; and the pressure of her fleet in the Adriatic has paralyzed the naval forces of Austria-Hungary. Although we Britons are duly grateful to Italy for the measure of indirect support she has accorded us, we are inclined, like Oliver Twist, to ask for "more." Remembering that Cavour secured the help of the Western Powers for his deep-laid schemes by joining forces with them in the Crimea, we feel convinced that if that great statesman were now in office his country would long since have thrown her sword into the scale against the enemies of our common civilization. Nor can we forget the heart-whole support given by the people of Great Britain to Garibaldi and his noble comrades during the *Risorgimento*. We hoped for much from a people bound to us by ties of ancient friendship.

St. Paul quoted a verse from Menander implying that evil communications corrupt good manners: we have an uneasy suspicion that Italy is infected with a measure of the selfishness displayed by the predominant partner in the defunct Triplice; that she has lost the idealism which is the most precious heritage of Latin races, and follows the bad example of Germany in severing herself from the European nexus. Hence, perhaps, the bargaining with both sides for material advantages which distresses her friends and seems unworthy of a great people. Italian statesmen may rest assured that the Germanic Powers will never satisfy her longings for expansion. Prince Bülow has affirmed that Trieste is "a lung which allows Germany to breathe," and its cession would indeed be the deathblow of the Hapsburg dynasty; nor is there the slightest probability that Austria-Hungary will cede an inch of the Adriatic coast. The negotiations which have dragged on for so many weary weeks are simply calculated to gain time, for the Wilhelmstrasse knows that a day's delay is of priceless value at this crisis. *Per contra*, the Triple Entente is willing, and will soon be able to satisfy all Italy's legitimate demands. She may annex the Trentino, Trieste, and Istria; may secure a footing in the Balkan Peninsula; perhaps obtain a rectification of her African frontiers. But all such concessions are conditional on speedy intervention. The Triple Entente has decided that Powers which have linked arms against the Germanic Empires shall alone have a voice in the resettlement of Europe which must follow the return of peace. For Italy it is a case of "now or never."—I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

F. H. S.

May 3.

SERBIA AND BULGARIA.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—I hope you will allow me to point out some inaccuracies in the letter of The O'Mahony in your issue of April 30. We both owe that to your readers who are interested to know the truth.

I am afraid it is getting somewhat tiring for your readers to hear the repetition of the Bulgarian and of the Serbian view concerning the Treaty of 1912. They must be already in a position to form their own judgment, comparing my own exposition of that view in your issue of April 9 with that of The O'Mahony in your last issue. But, really, the most important fact is this: The Treaty of 1912 does not exist any longer. Having attacked Serbia with all her forces, without formally declaring war, and having been defeated, Bulgaria herself had torn that treaty into shreds in June, 1913. If the treaties between two countries are not to be annulled by the wars between the two countries I do not see by what other means they can be annulled; and if the treaties, once concluded, could not be annulled even by war, then the treaties concluded many centuries ago would be legally valid to-day. But where should we be led by such a conception of the indestructibility of treaties? The present boundaries of the European States would have to revert to the conditions of original treaties of some centuries ago! It would be simply impossible, absurd, and ridiculous.

Probably perceiving himself that it is impossible to defend the Bulgarian thesis by the hypothesis of the indestructibility of the Treaty of 1912, The O'Mahony tries to transfer the discussion on quite a new platform, asserting, namely, that the Macedonians are by their sentiment Bulgars. The same assertion used to be made concerning the inhabitants of Nish and Pirot, before the Berlin Treaty incorporated those towns and their districts with Serbia. But nobody asserts it to-day (except The O'Mahony). From the scientific point of view that entire question stands differently. Between the Serbian and Bulgarian people exist—in regard to language and ethnography—certain transition territories or zones. One such zone is well known, as that of the so-called Shops, who live on the territory between the river Timok in Serbia and the river Iskra in Bulgaria. The other such zone is Macedonia. Concerning the first zone it is scientifically proved that the inhabitants of Western Bulgaria up to Iskra show in their language and other ethnographical features decidedly Serbian qualities and very little of the Bulgarian influence. That those inhabitants are really Serbs could be proved practically. The moment, in 1878, Nish and Pirot become incorporated with Serbia, their inhabitants showed themselves as good and as patriotic Serbs as the inhabitants of Shumadia, the centre of Serbia. It is a fact that the inhabitants of several districts of Western Bulgaria addressed petitions, with numerous signatures, to the Congress of Berlin, declaring that they were Serbs and wished to be united with Serbia. Especially was this the case with the inhabitants of Vidin, Bresnik, and Trn. We could have a good case if we chose to claim all the Western Bulgarians as Serbians.

Similar to the situation between Timok and Iskra is the situation in Macedonia. In the northern part of that country, up to Prilip, the ancient capital of the Serbian national hero, the Royal Prince Marko, the Serbian features in the language and ethnography are predominant. To the south of Prilip the Serbian and Bulgarian influences are so mixed that the best Slavist, Professor Yagich, declared (in the "Archives for the Slavonic Philology," Vol. XVII.) that that country forms the transition zone from the Serbian to the Bulgarian languages. Many learned Slavists—as, for instance, Professor Barbulescu, of the University of Jassy—assert that the Serbs, from the linguistical point of view, have at least as much right to claim Macedonia as their own as the Bulgars pretend to have. I do not know any English scientist acknowledged as an authority concerning the Slav languages and ethnography who asserts that the Macedonians are Bulgars. On the contrary, I know some of the English scientists who do not think so. Let me only mention the names of Sir Arthur Evans, Sir Charles Elliot, and Mr. Hogarth. Sir Charles Elliot, for instance, thinks that the Macedonian dialect is as much Serbian as Bulgarian, that those dialects are very fluctuating, and, as a rule, the establishment of the Serbian or Bulgarian school is sufficient to decide whether a village will speak Serbian or Bulgarian. I mentioned here only the non-Serbian scientists. The Serbian authorities on philology and ethnography assert that the Macedonian dialect is a Serbian dialect; that the Codex of Tsar Dushan and all the charters and State documents of the Middle Ages were written in that same language.

The O'Mahony mentions the numbers of churches, schools, teachers, and priests whom the Bulgars had in Macedonia before the war of 1912. I do not say that the Bulgars had not had more of those institutions and professionals than we Serbs had in Macedonia, only I say The O'Mahony's numbers are not exact, and that they are rather exaggerated. Anyhow, in no case could the nationality of the people be proved by such numbers. Up to 1870 the Serbs had many more churches and schools in Macedonia than the Bulgars, but when, in 1876, Serbia declared war on Turkey, the Turks closed all the Serbian churches and schools in Macedonia, and sent away or imprisoned the Serbian teachers. And besides that, by the efforts and insistence of Russian diplomacy, the Bulgars obtained their own ecclesiastical autonomy by the creation of the Bulgarian Exarchate in 1879. The immediate object of the Exarchate was to wrest away from the Greeks and Serbs as many churches as possible, to create Bulgarian dioceses in Macedonia, to introduce Bulgarian priests and teachers and establish Bulgarian schools. Through an untiring ecclesiastical and scholastical propaganda through some thirty-five years, supported in the last time by the bloody propaganda of the Bulgarian Komitajis, who were murdering Serbian priests and teachers and terrorising Serbian villages, an artificial Bulgarism has been created in Macedonia, more especially in the towns.

Of course, it is quite natural that Serbia could not keep up and support this artificially created Bulgarism in Macedonia after she conquered that province. Macedonians are to-day as rapidly and as cheerfully rejoining the Serbians as the inhabitants of Nish and Pirot did, having really never been Bulgars, but Serbs. This is very well known in Bulgaria, and hence the Bulgarian irritability and nervousness, the frequent incursions of Komitajis into Serbian Macedonia, and the forcible transportation of the Macedonian villagers into Bulgaria. That is an intentionally prepared bluff, destined for the uninformed

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Englishmen, but not for the Serbs, who know well why the Bulgarians are doing all that.

As a proof that the Macedonians are Bulgars, The O'Mahony brings forward the statement that there are now so many refugees from Macedonia in Bulgaria. No doubt there are to be found in Bulgaria refugees from Macedonia. They are of three different categories: one is composed of the Bulgarian propagandists and Komitajis, who naturally left Macedonia after the Serbians conquered that country; but many of the priests and teachers have remained, having expressed themselves willing to be the loyal subjects of Serbia. The second category of so-called refugees is composed of Macedonians, whom the Komitajis have by force carried away to Bulgaria. And last, there is a category composed of military deserters, because Macedonians, while under the Turkish rule, were not called up to serve in the army, and now they are required by law to do so. Not only are there military deserters from Macedonia to be found in Bulgaria, but also in Greece, and deserters from Greek Macedonia in Serbia, too. The so-called "Macedonian refugees" in Bulgaria have gone over, not from motives and reasons of nationality, but from reasons which I have just stated.

At the end of this letter I wish you to let me express my following convictions: probably no one does such a harm to the true interests of the Balkan nations as one-sided friends, because they look on every question only from one side; are acquainted with the interests and arguments of only one side, and, as the partisans of that one side, forget that for the sake of an impartial judgment the other side also ought to be heard. Especially with the Bulgars, their one-sided friends succeed only in inflaming the passions and developing impossible desires. They are really only exciting and sustaining the discords between the Balkan nations. They prevent the Balkan nations from coming to a reasonable understanding amongst themseves, although clearly such an understanding is required by their own great and vital interests. Fortunately, the real scientists, who know well the languages and the ethnography of the Balkan nations, do not do so.—I am, sir, etc.,

D. JANITSCH.

London, W., May 4.

THE KHALIFATE.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—I regret to find that the writer of your leader on the Khalifate in last week's issue of THE NEAR EAST was misled by Lord Cromer's statement that the Khalif's existence and independence were a religious necessity for the validity of Moslems' prayer. I do not know who misled Lord Cromer into making such a statement, which is entirely without foundation, because no learned Moslem would truthfully tell him such an absurd thing, historically and dogmatically wrong!

Allow me to say for the benefit of your readers that neither the existence nor the independence of the Khalif is sacred to Mohammedans, and much less are they necessary for dogmatic Islam. My letter on this subject in your issue of November 20 last deals fully with the foolish claim of the Sultan to this dignity, which is not his, nor anyone else's, unless bestowed by a regular council of chosen Moslems, and then it can never be hereditary, nor possess any religious virtue, this latter aspect being done away with after the death of the Fourth Khalif Ali, first cousin (not nephew, as your leader says) to the Prophet, and the last of the Moslems' bright beacons.

On the whole, I feel that a subject like this, requiring special knowledge, cannot be profitably discussed in the Press, especially for giving advice to his Majesty's Government, and the Aga Khan, the one of all Moslems I know whom I should like to hear on the controversy, will not, I am sure, speak his mind in public.—I am, etc.,

ALEXANDER SEFI.

Cricklewood, May 5, 1915.

THE BRITISH HOSPITAL, PORT SAID.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—At a time when so many soldiers from various parts of the Empire are in Egypt and war operations are in progress in the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus, it is more than ever necessary and fitting that the good work being done at the British Hospital at Port Said should receive a share of public consideration and support. In this belief I ask you kindly to read the following statement.

In 1886 a hospital was established at Port Said, largely by the efforts of the late Lady Strangford, and with the help of the shipping companies it has done a great work, having treated thousands of cases of illness in sailors and passengers going to and from the East. But it is now quite inadequate to meet the growing needs; and, further, a number of cases from the transports and the Fleet have already been treated, and it is anticipated that many more will follow.

Long before the war broke out Lord Kitchener paid a visit to the hospital, and in a letter dated February, 1912, he wrote:—

> The structure, which accommodates forty patients, is of wood, roofed with iron, and was designed merely as a temporary hospital. It has now stood for over twenty-five years, and at the present time shows such signs of decay that the Committee is taking steps towards building a hospital of a permanent character, and one better suited to the growing needs of Port Said.
>
> My visit to the hospital convinced me that such action on the part of the Committee was imperative, and I am fully prepared to support in every way the efforts now being made to raise the necessary funds.

After much serious deliberation the Committee decided, in the spring of 1914, to erect a durable building of the most approved type. The Egyptian Government gave £1,000 and granted a free site in a most suitable position facing the sea; the Suez Canal Company gave £1,000; and with donations from various sources the fund has now reached a total of £11,000.

The shell of the main building and the out-buildings are quite completed, and with an additional £10,000 the hospital could soon be finished and thoroughly equipped. In asking for this amount the Committee wish to urge the strong claims which the hospital has on the generosity of the public:—(1) The immediate necessity to provide further accommodation for those soldiers and sailors wounded in fighting the Empire's battles near by; and (2) the advantages of a permanent British hospital at Port Said, which will always be available for sailors, soldiers, and passengers going to and coming from Australasia and the East.

The general argument is strengthened when we consider that Egypt is now a Protectorate under the British Government.

Although there are other appeals before the public, the Committee feel strongly that every possible effort should be made to complete this hospital without delay, and I beg most earnestly to commend this appeal to your generosity.—Yours, etc.,

ARTHUR STANLEY, Chairman.

April 30, 1915.

[The Hon. Treasurer and Secretary of the fund being raised is Mr. H. Favarger, F.S.A., F.R.I.B.A., 2, Balfour Place, Park Lane, London, W.]

EXCAVATIONS IN CYPRUS.

At the Royal Society's rooms on Tuesday last (Dr. Walter Leaf presiding), Professor J. Linton Myres read a paper before the Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies on "Excavations in Cyprus, made in 1913, in behalf of the Cyprus Museum." He began by paying a warm tribute to the Island Government for having provided funds for the purposes of research. The excavations were undertaken by himself in the autumn of 1913, with the assistance of Mr. Menelaos Markides, the keeper of the Cyprus Museum, and Mr. L. H. D. Buxton, B.A., of Exeter College, Oxford. It was expected they would come upon human remains, and Mr. Buxton's object was to study them, making comparative measurements with their workmen and the people in the villages. Measurements of two thousand persons had in fact been taken and recorded, thus commencing the scientific study of the population of a very interesting corner of the ancient and modern world. Two widely different human types, both non-Mediterranean, had been found among the remains, and both types were represented in the island to-day.

The first site excavated was near the village of Levkoniko, in the Famagusta district, where some large statues had recently been found by the villagers. A small rural sanctuary was cleared, containing a remarkable deposit of stone sculptures, representing all periods of workmanship from the seventh century B.C. to the Græco-Roman period, and almost unique for the brilliant preservation of its painted surfaces. At Enkomi, near Salamis, tombs were opened in the necropolis, whence the British Museum obtained a fine series of late Minoan antiquities. But this site is now nearly exhausted; only two tombs were found intact, and the results of the operations here were mainly topographical. At Lampousa, near Papethos, on the north coast, where important Byzantine treasures have been found at various times, a small area of the site was completely cleared and found to have been deeply quarried and quite rebuilt in the Roman period. Objects, however, were found in the débris of Hellenic and even of late Bronze Age styles.

Between Lapethos and the sea an unusually rich series of tombs of early and middle Bronze Age, quite undisturbed, yielded many bronze implements, a large quantity of typical pottery, and a remarkable type of conventionalised figurines. It was possible, for the first time, to determine the mode of interment, and the physical characters of the population, which was already a mixture of "Mediterranean" and "Alpine" types. At Larnaca a complete section of the Bamboula Hill provided the first stratified series of Cypriote pottery, and important guidance for the topography and history of ancient Kition.

The objects found in these excavations are in the Cyprus Museum; a full report will be published shortly.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

Subscribers to "THE NEAR EAST" who have left the Ottoman Dominions recently will oblige by notifying the Manager of their new address as early as possible, so that the supply of the paper should not be unduly interrupted.

"THE NEAR EAST" has largely increased its circulation in the United Kingdom since the war, and the Management is convinced that there are many people still who would be glad to know of its existence. Specimen copies will be forwarded post free if the names and addresses of friends are sent to the Manager, at 16-17, Devonshire Square, E.C.

BOOKS ON THE NEAR EAST.

A list of recent books on the Near East will be found on the inside front cover of each issue of "The Near East." Readers can obtain these or any other publication, either new or second-hand copies, from the Book Department, 16-17, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1915.	1915.		1333. Jumada II.	5675.
May	April			Iyar
7	24	Friday	22	23
8	25	Saturday	23	24
9	26	Sunday	24	25
10	27	Monday	25	26
11	28	Tuesday	26	27
12	29	Wednesday	27	28
13	30	Thursday	28	29

Lord Kitchener was received by Queen Alexandra at Marlborough House last week.

Field-Marshal Sir Evelyn Wood, V.C., was present at the private view of the Royal Academy last week.

Messrs. E. and H. Alban, sons of H. B. M.'s Consul in Cairo, have both received commissions in the Artillery, and are shortly leaving for France.

Prince Paul Kara-Georgevitch of Serbia arrived in London on Wednesday from the Continent.

Amongst the latest gifts received by the Church Army for its gift parcels to British military and civilian prisoners of war interned in Germany is a parcel of shirts made by English ladies in Constantinople.

Our Belgrade Correspondent informs us that Prince Arsène, brother of King Peter of Serbia, has been awarded the Order of St. Vladimir by the Tsar of Russia. Prince Arsène is serving in the Russian Army, in which he holds the rank of Major-General and Commander of the Second Cavalry Division.

General Sir Reginald and Lady Wingate have recently been staying at Erkowit, to which station the offices of the Governor-General are transferred from time to time owing to the hot season in the Sudan. His Excellency was accompanied by Miralai Symes Bey, Miralai Rees-Mogg Bey, and other members of his staff.

A telegram of Wednesday's date from Marseilles to the *Petit Journal*, says: "Prince George Karageorgevitch, who came to France for the sake of his health, has left for Serbia."

Sir J. Roper Parkington, Consul-General for Montenegro, has been confined to his room at Claridge's Hotel for several days owing to a severe attack of influenza.

The Rt. Hon. Lord Reay, K.T., P.C., will preside at the anniversary meeting of the Royal Asiatic Society, to be held at 22, Albemarle Street next Tuesday afternoon, at 4 o'clock.

The Roumanian Minister called on Sir Edward Grey at the Foreign Office on Monday afternoon and spent some time with him.

The second Serbian unit of the Scottish Women's Hospitals, which was on its way to Kragujevatz, by way of Salonika, has been stopped at Malta, the Governor having requisitioned it for immediate service to nurse our own British troops.

Dr. Alice Hutchison, who left Cardiff for Salonika on April 20 in charge of 42 other members of the unit and a fully-equipped laboratory, has telegraphed from Malta to the headquarters in Great Britain of the Scottish Women's Hospitals:—"Consequent upon urgent necessity, Governor of Malta desires services of our unit one week or more. Writing details."

The Greek Minister and Mme. Gennadius left the Legation on Saturday for Folkestone.

Next Friday (May 14), at 8 p.m., a concert will be given at the Town Hall, Wandsworth, in aid of the Serbian Relief Fund. The concert is under the patronage of the Bishop of London, the Mayor of Wandsworth, and Sir Henry Kimber, and Mr. Charles Coborn is among the artists who will appear.

Our Sofia Correspondent writes, under date of April 20:—The First Secretary of the British Legation here, Mr. G. H. Fitzmaurice, C.B., and the Military Attaché, Colonel Napier, went last week to Dedeagatch, and visited vessels of the British Fleet operating against the Dardanelles. They returned here on Sunday, accompanying Lady Bax-Ironside, wife of the British Minister, who returned from England.

The Russian Minister, M. Savinsky, left yesterday on a motor journey to Samakov, Dobritza, and the new territories on the Serbo-Bulgarian frontier.

Baron de Giers passed through Sofia on Wednesday on his way to take up his new post as Russian Ambassador at Rome. He was greeted at the station by a representative of the Bulgarian Government.

Our Bucharest Correspondent writes (April 18):—Queen Elizabeth has lost a true friend, and one of many years' standing, in Mme. Olga Mavrogheni, who has passed away at Curtea del Argesh, near the gracious lady whom she had served faithfully for forty years as Grand Mistress of the Court. Born sixty years ago, Mme. Mavrogheni was the daughter of M. Coslin Cabargi and the great aunt of King Milan of Serbia. Her husband, M. Pierre Mavrogheni, was a statesman of reputation and the first Roumanian Minister of Finance. She herself was a woman of great artistic taste, deeply read, and of a most lively intelligence.

Reuter's correspondent in Amsterdam reports that "a telegram from Constantinople announces the death of Prince Sabah ed-Din (? Salah ed-Din), son of the Sultan Murad." Apparently this telegram refers to Prince Mehmed Salah ed-Din, eldest son of Sultan Murad V., who was born in Constantinople on February 2, 1861.

The marriage arranged between the Hon. Geoffrey Howard, M.P., and the Hon. Christian Methuen will take place quietly to-morrow, the 15th inst., in Henry VII.'s Chapel, Westminster.

Miss Ethel Wemyss Gore, daughter of Colonel and Mrs. W. S. Muir, of De Vere Gardens, London, who was married to Mr. N. W. Smith-Carrington at the Brompton Oratory last week, is a cousin of Sir Reginald Wingate.

In a letter dated April 23 a Cyprus correspondent writes:—"Mr C. B. Wodehouse, Commissioner of Larnaca, and Mrs. Wodehouse and Miss Armine Wodehouse are leaving this week for England."

Miss McInnes left Egypt for England by the P. and O. s.s. "Mongolia."

Captain Guy B. Pears, Royal Engineers, who was recently wounded somewhat severely near Neuve Chapelle, is a son of Sir Edwin Pears, and is well known to many of our readers both in Constantinople and in Egypt. He had, in fact, been serving in Egypt for two years when, at the end of last October, he was sent on to France. He holds the army qualifications for Turkish interpreter and the preliminary certificate for Arabic. He was wounded on April 16 by a sniper while on night work, after going safely through the thick of the fight at Neuve Chapelle, and he is now at Millbank Hospital, where, we are glad to learn, he is making satisfactory progress.

We are pleased to learn that the wound received by Mr. G. Goschen, while serving with the 3rd Grenadier Guards, in which regiment he holds a commission, is not so serious as was at first feared. Mr. Goschen, who was assistant private secretary to the Financial Adviser in Cairo, left Egypt to join the British forces in October last, but had the misfortune to be wounded and captured in his first engagement. The danger of partial paralysis, which was once feared, is now over, and although not yet completely cured, the patient is making good progress towards recovery in Hanover.

According to private information received in Athens from Constantinople, the British Vice-Consul, Mr. C. E. S. Palmer, who is one of the prisoners from the British submarine, is being detained in a separate prison, and will be tried by court-martial on the charge that he had no business on board the submarine and was therefore a spy. This is doubtless a pin-prick due to German advisers. Mr. Palmer is a lieutenant in the Royal Naval Reserve.

Mr. Harry Vere has received a temporary commission as a Lieut.-Commander in the Navy, and left last week to join one of the principal battleships now engaged off the Dardanelles.

Major A. G. Cowan, to whom the bronze medal of the Royal Humane Society was voted in recognition of his gallantry in going to the assistance of a Subadar of his regiment at great risk to his own life during a bathing parade at Hong Kong last year, was presented with the medal at a parade of troops at the Suez Canal last month.

The Rev. and Mrs. P. Smith and Miss Bradford and Miss Dight, of the American Mission in the Sudan, left Khartoum on April 16 for Egypt, whence they will proceed to the United States on furlough.

The Bucharest correspondent of the *Morning Post* reports that representatives in the Senate and Chamber of the Conservative Party have signed a memorial to M. Marghiloman asking him to resign the leadership of the party on the ground that his attitude—which is Austrophil—is not in harmony with national politics.

Lieut.-Colonel H. L. Reed, V.C., who is reported wounded in the fighting round Ypres, served during the Balkan war as military attaché with the Turks.

Lieut.-Colonel Hubert Carington Smith, 2nd Hampshire Regiment, who is reported killed in action during the fighting at the Dardanelles (under date of April 29), had seen service in the Sudan and took part in the battle of Omdurman. He also served in the Aden hinterland campaign, in South Africa, and in Mauritius. He was twice mentioned in despatches for his services in the Nile Expedition, and received the Order of the Mejidia and the Egyptian medal with clasp.

Lieut.-Colonel Richard A. Rooth, 1st Royal Dublin Fusiliers, who has also been killed in action while serving with the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, had also seen service in the Aden hinterland in 1903.

Yet another officer who served in the Aden operations in 1903, and is now reported killed in action in the Dardanelles landing, is Major C. T. W. Grimshaw, of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers.

Major-General A. E. Sandbach, C.B., D.S.O., reported wounded with the Expeditionary Force, has seen much service in the Nile Valley. He served in the Egyptian War of 1882, and was present at the battle of Tel el-Kebir; in the Sudan campaign of 1885; and with the Nile Expedition of 1898. He has served altogether in nine campaigns, has been mentioned in despatches on several occasions, and holds very many medals and decorations.

Major Harry D. Palmer, who is reported wounded at the Dardanelles, is on the Reserve List of the Royal Marine Light Infantry. In February, 1900, he was seconded for service with the Egyptian Army, afterwards serving as assistant adjutant-general. In 1905 he became Financial Secretary to the Headquarters Staff of the Egyptian Army. Two years later he received from the then Khedive the Imperial Ottoman Order of the Mejidia. He retired in February, 1910, when he was permitted to accept a civil appointment in Egypt.

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The death took place on April 29, at Waverley, Ashburton, Devon, of Mr. Claude Delaval Cobham, C.M.G., a former Commissioner of Larnaca, Cyprus. He was born in June, 1842, and was educated at Rugby and University College, Oxford. In 1878 he was appointed Assistant Commissioner at Larnaca, and became Commissioner the following year, retaining the post till 1907. He edited a valuable bibliography of Cyprus, and translated several Turkish and Italian works.

The death is reported, on April 30, at St. Jacques, Guernsey, of Mr. Wilfrid Hocart Bishop, A.M.I.C.E., late of the Sudan Government Service. Mr. Bishop, who was the younger son of Mr. Julius Bishop, was thirty-four years old.

General R. B. Kirchhoffer, late of the Royal Marine Light Infantry, who died in a nursing home in London last week, served with the Egyptian expedition, 1882, and took part in the operations in the Suez Canal, the occupation of Ismailia, and the bombardment of Nefiche, and was with the naval brigade at the action of Tel-el-Mahuta. He held the medal and the bronze star of this campaign.

The death occurred suddenly, in London, last week of Surgeon-General Aylmer Martin Crofts, C.I.E., at the age of sixty-one. He was with the Egyptian expedition in 1882 at the battle of Tel-el-Kebir and the action at Kassasin, and was awarded the medal with clasp and the Khedive's Star.

Under date of April 10, our Meshed Correspondent writes:—On March 25 M. Jean Bijoff, Controller of the Banque des Comptes, died, and two days later was buried in the Russian Cemetery, just outside the Arc Gate of the city. A large concourse of people attended the funeral. M. Bijoff had arrived in Meshed only a few days before his death.

Captain George Gordon Hilton, 2nd Battalion King's Own Scottish Borderers, who was recently wounded in France, won his commission in 1900, after eight years' service as a non-commissioned officer. He served in the Nile expedition of 1898, and was wounded at Atbara. He was also in action at Khartoum, where his gallantry won for him the medal for distinguished conduct in the field.

Captain A. H. P. Cruickshank, 34th Sikh Pioneers, who is reported to have died of wounds received in action near Ypres on April 27, will be remembered by some of our readers as having made a journey from Bunder Abbas to Shiraz, of which an account appeared in the *Geographical Journal* of February, 1908.

Mr. B. F. E. Keeling, Director of the Physical Service in the Ministry of Public Works, Egypt, and Mr. Amell, of the same service, have both obtained commissions in the Royal Engineers.

Commandant Charles Boniteau, whose death is announced from the front in France, was one of our best known Franco-Egyptians. The Commandant had only received his promotion from the rank of captain a few weeks ago, and he had also been mentioned in dispatches for gallantry in the field. His Commanding General was present at his death-bed, and in his last moments decorated him with the Cross of the Legion of Honour.

Another Anglo-Frenchman whose name appears in the recent casualty lists is Mr. Jean Neuville, who was killed in the trenches of the Argonne. He was a son of M. and Madame Neuville, of the Société des Sucreries d'Egypte, and is the second of their sons to have fallen in the present war.

Mr. P. W. Gardner, formerly of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Cairo, has received a commission in a Highland regiment.

Mr. A. T. Cull, who was formerly agent of the Imperial Ottoman Bank at Minia, Egypt, has been granted a commission as Second Lieutenant in the 3rd Seaforth Highlanders.

Mr. Percy Stout, the Rugby International footballer, and his brother, Mr. F. M. Stout, who have been in Egypt for some years past, are shortly leaving for the front in France.

Mr. John Ward, M.P., who has been gazetted Lieutenant-Colonel of the 19th Battalion (2nd Public Works Pioneers) of the Middlesex Regiment, which he founded, served as a private through the last Sudan campaign.

The engagement is announced between Norman Bentwich, of Lincoln's Inn and the Ministry of Justice, Cairo, elder son of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Bentwich, of 21, Cavendish Road West, N.W., and Carmelcourt, Birchington, and Helen Caroline (Mamie), younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur E. Franklin, of 35, Porchester Terrace, W., and Chartridge, Chesham.

At a meeting held recently of the members of the Khedivial Club, Alexandria, it was decided to change the name of the club from "Cercle Khédivial" to "Sultan Hussein Club."

The Hon. B. Sackville West is now acting as interpreter, attached to the staff of Admiral Wemyss, with the rank of 2nd Lieutenant R.N.V.R., and is serving at the Dardanelles.

Kaimakam R. A. M. Russell Bey, of the Sudan Government, has retired from the Government service.

Mr. Wickham Steed lectured in Paris on Monday on "England: Diplomacy Before the War."

The Cyprus *Gazette* of April 9 contains a list of subbscriptions to the Red Cross Funds received from Larnaca, amounting to £131 2s. 6d. The total received to date is £593 7s. 5d.

A lady correspondent writes from Cairo, April 25:—The visit of M. Venizelos to Cairo was fittingly brought to a close last evening by a brilliant reception given in his honour by Mr. D. Casdagli at his villa in Kasr-el-Doubara. A few of the principal British, Allied, and Greek residents, and of the Egyptian notables had been invited to meet and bid farewell to the celebrated statesman, who was to leave on the following day for Alexandria, en route for Cyprus. The guests were received by the host, assisted by M. Verenekis, the Greek Consul-General, and by M. Ambroise Sinadino, who introduced them to M. Venizelos.

By about eleven o'clock most of the guests had arrived. Those present included H.E. Said Pasha Zulfikar and Khairy Bey, representing H.H. the Sultan, Prince Fuad, Rushdi Pasha, Adli Pasha Yeghen, Midhat Pasha, Nubar Pasha, the French Agent and Mme. and Mlle. Defrance, the Russian Agent, the Belgian Minister, the Greek Minister and Mme. Xydakis, Count de Serionne; while the English residents present were Lady Maxwell, Prince Alexander of Battenberg—who has just taken up his post as extra A.D.C. to General Maxwell—the Marquis of Anglesea, Lady Cheetham, Col. and Mrs. Herbert, Capt. and Mrs. Kenny, Mr. and Mrs. F. T. Rowlatt, and Mr. and Mrs. Sydney Merton. Later in the evening came Sir Milne Cheetham, who conveyed the regrets of Sir Henry McMahon, who was detained at the British Chamber of Commerce banquet, Sir Ronald Graham, Lieut.-General Sir John Maxwell, Lord Edward Cecil, Mr. P. Storrs, Harvey Pasha, Mr. Walford, and the Hon. John Cecil.

The evening started with a slight *contretemps* in that the electric light suddenly went out. Fortunately there was forthcoming a plentiful supply of candles, and in point of fact the incident rather than spoiling greatly enhanced the scene, for the subdued light added somewhat to the pleasant effect produced by the pretty gowns of the women. In the Byzantine room especially, where the orchestra was stationed, the *coup d'œil* was particularly artistic, and if the organiser of the evening had cudgelled his brains to produce a pleasing effect he could not have succeeded better. However, when the current was switched on again we were able to wander through the various rooms and admire their handsome decorations; and it was not till past one o'clock that we took our leave of our host and of his honoured guest, who by that time had captivated everyone. When we looked on that kindly face and noticed the quiet simplicity of his speech and manner, we found it hard to realise that here before us stood "the only great statesman that modern Greece has produced," the man who is said to be endowed with an iron will and who can sway multitudes by his eloquence. Yet one felt the fascination of his personality and realized how it is that this simple, quiet-spoken man has such influence over his fellow-countrymen. And having met the ex-Premier it is easy to enter into the feelings of our Greek fellow residents and to sympathise with them in the positive worship with which they regard him.

A correspondent writes:—

A large and fashionable audience greeted Mr. Oliver Bainbridge at the Guildhall, Bath, on Saturday last, when he gave an illustrated lecture on "Bulgaria and the Czar Ferdinand." The Mayor of Bath presided. Mr. Bainbridge gave a highly interesting account of the origin of the Bulgars and the history of the ancient Bulgarian Empires as well as Bulgaria of to-day and her able ruler. The proceeds of the lecture were handed to H.S.H. Prince Riedelski, President of the Polish Committee, by Mr. Bainbridge, as a token of his sympathy with the Poles, whose sufferings, he said, "were terrible beyond the possibilities of language."

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, etc.

The Cyprus *Gazette* of April 23 announces that Mr. W. A. Bowring, Treasurer, is granted three months' vacation leave and four months' and one day half-pay leave from April 10.

The same *Gazette* contains the notifications that the High Commissioner has been pleased to appoint Mr. John Cyril Douglas Fenn, Acting Treasurer, and to be a member of the Executive Council of the Island from April 10.

El Kaimakam R. E. M. Russell Bey, Sudan Government, and El Bimbashi H. W. K. Bruce, 11th Sudanese, have been struck off the strength of the Egyptian Army.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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

BIRTH.

BINNS.—On May 5, at 20, South Hill Park Gardens, Hampstead, N.W., to Mr. and Mrs. W. Hylton Binns—a daughter.

MARRIAGE.

WRIGHT—HOGARTH.—At Wallace Green Church, Berwick-on-Tweed, on 30th ult., by Rev. Geo. M. Fairweather, M.A., Alexander M. Wright, of Baghdad, Arabia, to Maggie Swan, only daughter of George Hogarth, Edrington Castle, Berwick-on-Tweed.

DEATH.

PARKER.—On April 20, at Heliopolis Hospital, Egypt, from pneumonia, Kenneth Alexander (2nd Australian Light Horse), the elder dearly-beloved son of the Rev. and Mrs. H. Bradbery Parker, of Carshalton, aged 29. Australian papers, please copy.

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OBITUARY.

LIEUT.-COLONEL C. H. M. DOUGHTY-WYLIE, C.B., C.M.G.

On the long list of casualties in the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force reported under date of April 29 the name of Lieut.-Colonel Charles Hosham Montagu Doughty-Wylie, C.B., C.M.G., will at once strike the eye of any one who has followed events in the Near East in recent years. His acquaintance with that part of the world was a long and intimate one, and at the time he met his death he was serving on the staff of General Sir Ian Hamilton.

The elder son of Mr. H. M. Doughty, of Theberton Hall, he was educated at Winchester and Sandhurst, and on receiving his commission he joined the Royal Welch Fusiliers. He first saw service in India with the Black Mountain Expedition of 1891, and went through the Chitral campaign in 1895. Next he served in Malta and in Crete, and then joined the Egyptian Army, with which he served during 1898 and 1899. As brigade major he took part in the battles of Omdurman and El Gedid, and he was twice mentioned in despatches, and received the Sudan medal, the Egyptian medal with three clasps, and the Order of the Medjidia. After service in South Africa, and raising a corps of mounted infantry at Tientsin, he was next employed as special service officer in Somaliland, under Sir Charles Egerton, for which he received the medal.

In 1906 he was appointed Military Consul at Konia and later at Messina. Prior to this, however, in what may be described as one of the quiet times in his singularly full and active life, he had (1904) married, his bride being a daughter of the late Mr. John Wylie, of Westcliff Hall, Hants, and the widow of Lieutenant Adams, I.M.S., and at this time he added the name of Wylie to his surname.

His services in Turkey were great, and performed at a time when much attention was drawn to that country by the massacre of Armenians at Adana. During that terrible time Major Doughty-Wylie by his courageous conduct, especially by his readiness to accept responsibility, undoubtedly saved thousands of lives; while his wife also earned the gratitude of the people by her heroic conduct and example and her care for the sufferers. The Consul practically took charge of the city at this time, and his services were recognised by the bestowal upon him of the C.M.G.

At the end of 1909 he was appointed Consul at Adis Abeba, where once more he rendered his country good service, and more than once acted as Chargé d'Affaires for considerable periods. Having obtained an extension of leave from Abyssinia in 1912, he was, with the consent of the Government, appointed Director-in-Chief of the Red Cross units working in Turkey during the Balkan War. He remained at Constantinople till May, 1913, and on leaving was presented by the Sultan with the second class of the Order of the Medjidieh. Mrs. Doughty-Wylie, who had been superintending the nursing staff, also received a high Turkish decoration. In 1913 Colonel Doughty-Wylie served as British representative on the International Commission appointed to delimit the Southern Frontier of Albania, of which Commission he was elected president. His services were rewarded by a Companionship of the Bath. He was quite recently appointed to the General Staff.

*** *The Directory of the present addresses of residents in Turkey who have left the country in consequence of the War will be published in our issue of next week.*

"ST. GEORGE OF MERRY ENGLAND," by Canon Parfit. This interesting account of our Patron Saint is an inspiration to patriotism. Price 2½d., post free. J. and E. M., Church House, Westminster, S.W.

The partnership formerly existing between Messrs. Joseph Cohen, Jacques Eskenazi, and N. Babani having been dissolved, the Han Halil shop of JOSEPH COHEN is now in the same road, near the Arch Way, Cairo, entrance from the Mousky. Friends and customers are respectfully requested to visit the new shop when visiting the Bazaar, where they will find a rich assortment of carpets, embroideries, etc., etc.—Advt.

ROLL OF HONOUR.

British Subjects from Turkey in H.M.'s Forces.

ASHE, Lance-Corp. R., R.E.
ATKINSON, Bombardier G. M., 266th Battery, 85th Brigade, R.F.A. Colchester.
ATKINSON, Gunner T., "A" Co. Royal Field Artillery.
BAKER, Lieut. A. Warden, 7th Royal Scots Fusiliers.
BARRON, Lance-Corporal J. B., First Canadian Contingent (formerly of the St. George's Boys' School, Jerusalem).
BINNS, Rifleman Edward, 8th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
BINNS, Bombardier Harold H. (49,567), Battery Office, 84th Reserve Battery, R.F.A., 6b Reserve Brigade, Piershill Barracks, Edinburgh.
BINNS, Lieut. C. E., R.M. (Interpreter to Mediterranean Forces).
BOLTON, Alfred, Naval Brigade.
BOND, Private H. C., 7th (Reserve) City of London Regt.
BOND, Gladwyn J. T., Inns of Court O.T.C.
BOND, Trooper S. (1779), Royal Horse Guards.
BOND, Corporal R., Royal Field Artillery, Durlston House, Park Road, Swanage.
BORRELL, Rifleman Alfred, 8th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
BOWMAN, Private Henry J., R.A.M.C., Duke of York's Barracks, Chelsea.
BROOKS, Corporal G., Royal Field Artillery, Swanage.
CASTELL, Rifleman Henry, 8th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
CAUCHI, Act. Corporal Henry (6113), 19th Service Battalion, C Company, Royal Fusiliers, Epsom, Surrey.
CLIFTON, Capt. Ernest H., Durham Light Infantry.
COLES, Dr. D. A., R.A.M.C. (formerly of the English Hospital, Haifa).
COLLEY, Trooper Isaac E., Royal Horse Guards.
CRAWFORD, Private James, 7th (Reserve) City of London Regiment.
CUMBERBATCH, Lieut. A. Noël, 9th East Yorkshire Regiment, Fulford Barracks, York.
CUMBERBATCH, 2nd Lieut. H. D., 9th Batt. the Buffs.
CUMBERBATCH, Lieut. and Adjutant R. C., 15th Batt. Rifle Brigade.
CUMING, Bombardier A. C., 262nd Battery R.F.A., 84th Brigade, Colchester.
DAVIDSON, Bombardier C. T., 266th Battery, 85th Brigade, R.F.A., Colchester.
ELLIOTT, Eric C., Inns of Court O.T.C., Berkhampstead.
EPPSTEIN, Lieut. W. R., Durham Light Infantry.
FAULKNER, Lieut. M., Admiralty House, Malta.
FROMANT, Private F., Grenadier Guards.
GALLIA, Rifleman M., 7th (S) Batt. Rifle Brigade.
GOODACRE, Miss C., Red Cross, Shoreham.
GOUT, Lieut. Charles L. 4th (R) King's Own Yorkshire L.I., Drill Hall, Bank Street, Wakefield.
GOUT, Rifleman Evelyn, 8th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
GOUT, Rifleman Richard, 8th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
HADKINSON, Rifleman Vivian, 8th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
HIGGS, Private J., 6th Dragoon Guards.
HOLTON, Alfred, Naval Brigade.
HOLTON, Trooper John, Essex Yeomanry.
HOYLAND, 2nd Lieut., H.A.D. (Interpreter to the Mediterranean Forces).
IRELAND, Private D. J. (3346), 15th County of London Regiment.
JACKSON, Rifleman Edward, 8th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
KERR, Miss E., Army Nursing Corps, France.
KEYSER, Lieut. A.G., 8th Batt. King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry.
KEYSER, 2nd Lieut. R. N., 10th Batt. East Lancashire Regiment.
KEYSER, 2nd Lieut. Henry, 2/10th Batt. Middlesex Regiment.
KEYSER, 2nd Lieut. J. C., 2/9th Batt. (D.C.O.) Middlesex Regiment.
LA FONTAINE, Rifleman Fred., 8th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
LA FONTAINE, Lance-Corporal Hugh, 7th (Res.) City of London Regiment.
LA FONTAINE, Sub-Lieut. J. S., Royal Naval Division, Crystal Palace, S.E.
LANDER, 2nd Lieut. Arthur.
LORIMER, Private D., Army Service Corps, Aldershot.
MICHEU, Bombardier C. G., Royal Field Artillery.
MOORE, Miss K. M., St. John of Jerusalem, France.
MORRISON, J., O.T.C., Inns of Court.
MORTON, Private Stanley, 2nd Sportsman's Battalion.
MOSS, 2nd Lieut., Public Schools Battalion.
MUNRO, 2nd Lieut. J. G., 4th Scottish Rifles, Fort Matilda, Greenock.
NOWILL, Private Sidney, 7th (Res.) City of London Regiment.
PARKER, Trooper G., Royal Horse Guards.
PATERSON, Lieut. Alexander, R.A.M.C., 3rd Batt. Black Watch, Nigg, Rosshire, N.B.
PEACOCK, Sapper Frank, R.E.
PENGELLEY, Sapper Walter, R.E.
RAMSAY, Corporal F. R. F., 14th Service Batt. Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.
REES, Trooper R. (1709), Squadron D (in Egypt), Herts Yeomanry, c.o. G.P.O., Southampton.
ROBINSON, Lance-Corporal J. E., Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment (formerly of the C.M.S. College, Jerusalem).
RICE, Rifleman Cecil, 8th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
ROUTH, 2nd Lieut. C., 3rd/8th (D.C.O.) Middlesex Regiment.
SACKVILLE-WEST, 2nd Lieut. Hon. B., R.N.V.R.
SEAGER, Lieut. John Owen, Public Schools Batt., 16th Middlesex Regiment, Woldingham.
SHAW, 2nd Lieut. T., R.E.
SIMMONS, Gunner H. C. (56,799), No. 123, Heavy Battery R.G.A., Woolwich, S.E.
STOCK, Lieut. H. W., Royal Marines. (Serving abroad.)
SUNDERLAND, Interpreter (at the front).
THOMPSON, Lieut. Harold H., R.N.V.R.
THOMPSON, Commander W. A., R.N.V.R., H.M.S. "Egmont."
THWAITES, Dr. H., R.A.M.C., Wareham.
TRENTER, Trooper T., Household Cavalry.
VAN LENNEP, Private E., 2nd Sportsman's Battalion.
VEDOVA, Rifleman Eghbert, 8th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
VEDOVA, Rifleman Lionel, 8th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
VERE, Lieut.-Commander Harry, R.N.
WARREN, Act.-Corporal R. M., 7th (S.) Batt. Rifle Brigade, Guadeloupe Barracks, Bordon Camp, Hants.
WHEATLEY, Miss, Sister Q.A.I.M.N.S.R., No. 8 Casualty Clearing Station, British Expeditionary Force.
WHEELER, Lieut. P. F. C. d'Erf, 1st Dorset Regiment.
WHITTALL, Captain G., 1st Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry.
WHITTALL, 2nd Lieut. Arthur, 7th (Res.) City of London Regiment.
WHITTALL, Lieut. Hugh, Royal Marines. (Serving abroad.)
WHITTALL, Private Kenneth, 10th Batt. Royal Fusiliers, Colchester.
WHITTALL, Private Roland, 10th Batt. Royal Fusiliers, Colchester.
WHITTALL, Rifleman Walter, 8th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.

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FRIDAY, MAY 7, 1915.

ISLAM'S FALSE FRIEND.

"May His Majesty the Sultan and the three hundred million Mohammedans who revere him as their Khalif rest assured that the German Emperor is their friend for all time." If the words of the famous toast given by the Emperor William II. at Damascus on November 8, 1898, are still recalled in the Ottoman Empire, they must sound strangely to-day in Turkish ears. To the first-named recipient of perpetual Imperial favours a decade sufficed to prove the value of German friendship. But Abdul Hamid had little cause for complaint. At a time when Europe was incensed by the Armenian massacres and the interminable troubles of Macedonia the German Emperor stepped out of the concert of the Powers and gave his support to the "Assassin of Europe." For the next ten years the Sultan was safe from the inconvenient pressure that a united front on the part of the Powers entailed for him. It mattered little to him that in the meantime the German Emperor was exacting the price of his friendship at the expense of Turkey. Security abroad had the additional advantage of leaving him free to work his own will at home, so that the arrangement with his German friend worked doubly well. What Abdul Hamid overlooked was that, as the concessions which he gave so freely came to maturity, they must inevitably prove of more importance to Germany than the donor. The Young Turks resolved to regard the Sultan as neither a friend nor their ruler, and he was left in the seclusion of his prison residence, while the German Emperor transferred his friendship to those who were able to forward Germany's designs in Abdul Hamid's stead. For a moment, it is true, Germany seemed to have been so closely identified with the Hamidian régime that she shared in Turkey much of the odium attaching to it. In the first ecstacy of constitutional liberty the Turks turned instinctively to the nation of liberal traditions, and there can be little doubt that, if our diplomatic cards had been well played, Great Britain might have done much to steer Young Turkey through troublous seas to a harbour of safety and prosperity. But, as if from fear that any such action on our part would give rise to misunderstandings, we stood deliberately on one side and left the Turks to work out their own salvation. The task was beyond their unaided strength. Help was needed, and Germany saw her opportunity, not, as the event proved, to give the wise counsel that would have welded the Ottoman nation into a prosperous whole, but to point the way by which in Germany's interests the whips of Abdul Hamid could be replaced by the scorpions of the Committee of Union and Progress. The effect of that advice was early shown when the policy adopted by the Turkish Government, under German prompting or connivance, led to a coalition of the Balkan States and the loss of Turkey's Macedonian provinces.

The suddenness with which the echo of the Damascus toast had died away in Abdul Hamid's case and the bankruptcy of German advice in regard to Macedonian affairs must have dissipated Germany's influence in Turkey, if it had not been for the personal hold obtained over the Ottoman Government. At first neither the plea of friendship nor the pretence of furthering her own interests availed to drag a free Turkey into the war on Germany's side. The Turks, in common with Italy and other nations, proclaimed their neutrality, and in the three months that elapsed before the unprovoked attack on Russia was made nothing had happened to hold out to them the prospect of any advantage to be derived from pitting themselves against the Triple Entente. It was left to German gold in Constantinople to effect what reason and sentiment rebelled against. This, then, was the meaning for Turkey of the German Emperor's friendship. With a cynical and brutal disregard of the interests of the Ottoman Empire, he contrived through the venality of a Constantinople clique to plunge the country into a war from which in the most favourable circumstances it stands to gain nothing. While the German Army was marching on Paris there was no question of Turkish participation in the war. Only when the Germans were denied their swift and easy victory was it necessary to look around for others to pull the chestnuts out of the fire for them. In spite of blandishments and threats every other neutral nation has had the sense to refuse to come to Germany's rescue. Turkey alone has taken the fatal step. There can be little in the course of a six-months' campaign to make her feel satisfied with her decision. In three corners of her wide dominions she is reduced to inactivity, while she has to watch those whom she deliberately made her enemies advancing slowly but steadily against Constantinople, and she turns in vain for further assistance to her German ally. The end is not yet; but in spite of the great strength of the Dardanelles there can be few of those in authority in Turkey who do not see clearly to-day that German friendship has brought disaster upon their country.

When Turkey was drawn into the German net the Emperor, as we have seen, hoped to make subservient to his purpose not merely the twenty million subjects of the Sultan, but also the remainder of the three hundred millions who recognised in him the spiritual head of the Moslem world. However fanciful the idea, there was method in the Emperor's intentions. Turkey was to provide the means of German expansion in peace time; in war she was to sacrifice herself for her ally's interests. For the attainment of this plan it was all to the good if others could be persuaded to sacrifice themselves in the same cause with Turkey. Between Abdul Hamid and the Emperor William II. there was at least an exchange of services rendered, although the former must have a shrewd idea to-day as to the side on which the credit balance rests. In appealing to Islam the German Emperor, possessing not a single Moslem subject, merely sought to flatter it into his service. German friendship had nothing to offer Islam; but great store was set upon what Islam might do for Germany. It was in keeping with this cynical attitude that the German Emperor and his agents set about their task. With the lowest estimate of Moslem intelligence they have schemed to embroil the world of Islam in a war with which it has nothing to do, and the methods employed have invariably displayed supreme contempt for the Moslem faith. The report that the Emperor William has become a convert to Islam has been assiduously circulated, and, there is reason to suppose, has found wide credence among uneducated Moslems. Moreover, the statement has been improved upon by references to the destruction of cathedrals and churches in France as proof positive of the convert's zeal against Christianity. The alleged conversion to Islam is by no means confined to the Emperor, but plays a regular part in German intrigues in all Mohammedan countries. A recent instance is reported from Ispahan. In this case the *soi-disant* convert had sought recognition from the Persian Government as German Consul, and it was only when he was confronted with the mosque ceremony that his self-confidence failed him and the fraud was exposed. When Germans do not hesitate to treat the faith of Islam in this way, they have selected a strange means of showing their friendship to Mohammedans. We know that to the Moslem world the war between Great Britain and Turkey is in the nature of a stumbling block; but it will do well to suspend judgment, until it is better able to weigh all the facts, and not be led away by the pretence of friendship on the part of those who have schemed to bring Islam into contempt and the Ottoman Empire to ruin.

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TERRITORIALS IN CYPRUS.

By Margaret Bovill.

The Manchester Territorials came to Cyprus in October, some 500 of them. The island was then a portion of the Ottoman Empire. England had not yet declared war on Turkey. From Constantinople still came specious protestations of friendship that mingled strangely with the angry murmur of the war mob.

The detachment sent to Nicosia passed through the bazaar on its way to camp, and crossed the Konak square, watched intently by big, long-bearded Turks, by eager, loquacious Greeks, by groups of silent English men and women. At the head of the company marched a tall subaltern, whose set face betrayed the strain of self-consciousness. Behind him came file after file of little men, with here and there the stalwart figure of a countryman, mechanics, tailors, 'bus-conductors, navvies—men of varied occupations from the manufacturing centres of the North, bred in murky towns where the struggle of industrial life presses hardly and the siren's scream deafens. Yet their ears had been swift to hear the call to arms; they volunteered for Imperial service. Quickly they marched by, and the bazaar resumed its normal aspect—bargaining, smoking, wrangling. In the cafés, Greek and Turk alike agreed that the new English soldiers were small. For the rest—God knows. They shrugged their shoulders.

The camp lay on a broad plateau overlooking the capital and surrounding country. Zinc-roofed huts stood there—huts which had sheltered Indian troops when at the Treaty of Berlin thirty-six years ago England undertook to administer Cyprus. For weeks the Manchesters had lived under canvas, not knowing the morrow's destiny. At home they had lived under canvas that dripped; then there came a brief interregnum of rough tossings, of anxious moments, at sea; in Egypt there was more canvas, scorched, bone-dry with heat; all day from the desert sand blew, gritting food, clouding the drinking water, and treacherously creeping into hair and eyes. These bare huts set on a hill-top were by comparison sheer luxury. Presently from chimneys long cold issued a friendly smoke; stir and bustle, hoarse words of command, the sound of laughter, disturbed lizards grown hoary in solitude.

In the times of peace Cyprus is garrisoned by a company of Regulars quartered at the seaport of Limassol. Atkins does not come often to Nicosia, and the natives besieged the camp, drawn there by curiosity, attracted, also, by a dim sense that here was an echo of the European Inferno. Dumbly they stared at the "little men," who stared back at them, or attempted a few words of Arabic picked up during their brief stay in Egypt.

"Imshi!" cried one quick-witted youngster, a jockey by profession, but the stolid Cypriote looked blank.

"'E thinks yer talkin' English, sonny; tell the 'blimy 'eathen some more!"

The jockey did.

Vendors of oranges, Turkish delight, charms against the Evil Eyes, shyly produced their wares. Good-humoured bargains were concluded, but the strange coinage was a stumbling-block, "for as soon as a've learned what tha' English shillun cooms to in won country, a've to unlearn it in tha' next."

"Thee'll never find a mon as con teech thee maake it goo further," said a fellow Lancastrian.

The Cypriotes smiled in sympathy at the merriment that greeted the witticism, and, squatting on their haunches, waited patiently to observe fresh ways of the strange soldiers.

But the Manchesters had not come to idle, and when the Nicosia pack of hounds streamed across country, the riders saw khaki uniforms hidden in gullies, in mimic ambush. At the rifle-range day after day the men shot at a vanishing target. Their health improved; dry, invigorating air, wind, and sunshine tanned their faces. It was a new and a better life. Some contemptuous pity was given to "old Bill," who had scoffed at "Terriers" and foreign parts. He was now trudging daily to the works what time grim dawn suffused each dreary street. One of the results of the war may be that men who have been content to stay at home will be content no longer, while their listening children will hear of unexploited spaces, the gorgeous beckonings of a veiled and scented East, learning that the Empire is wider than a tenement.

On the fifth of November proclamations were issued that a state of war existed between Great Britain and Turkey; an official *Gazette* announced that His Most Gracious Britannic Majesty ruled over Cyprus. The island stirred slightly, and regained its poise when the Chief Cadi headed a deputation to Government House that pledged the loyalty of the Cypriote Turk.

Marching orders came suddenly.

The ordered trimness of the camp was disturbed with baggage. Dogs sniffed mournfully at their adopted masters' kit-bags, or stretched themselves unreproved across cherished seedlings of cypress and pine which the men had planted in their leisure hours. There were gardens, too, scratched in the sandy soil, and outlined by white-washed stones. *Kultur* might learn something from them.

A smoking concert was given by the company on the night before it sailed. Beneath a faded Union Jack sat in a semi-circle men in khaki with one more adventurous spirit in sailor dress, who, turning, displayed his trousers' patched and airy seat. A lad in breeches and striped shirt with a flamboyant red tie, winked at the audience as he sang:

I'll never work, you bet yer life;
It gives me too much pain.
She says to me, my luvin' wife:
"You'd better get out in the rain."

The piano jingled into a rattling hornpipe, and the sailor danced until the boards creaked. Heel and toe, toe and heel, cross-legged and bent, then with a spring from right to left, his white teeth flashed. The applause deafened when a melancholy corporal sang dejectedly of "the home where mother dwells," and an intermittent fire of wit in broadest Lancashire was tossed from man to man. But there were ladies in the front seats, civilians in evening dress, of whose sensibilities the censor was aware, with the result that gaps occurred in the repartee, most delicately obvious conclusions to many verses.

"We will now 'ave a quarter of an hour's interval for refreshment—*and* beer," the master of the ceremonies concluded, and the curtain went slowly down, but stuck halfway, revealing a tangle of legs dancing a wild can-can..

The room was thick with smoke when it rolled up, and empty beer-glasses stood by each chair. The contents of one overturned glass trickled across the stage, as the owner wept with loud sobs into a handkerchief. Cat-calls shrilled from the back. A note of dare-devil merriment sounded. In "Tipperary" the singers rocked from side to side, and their comrades rocked also as they shouted the chorus. The movement penetrated into those chairs where the black coats sat. They rocked, too, but stopped abruptly when "Are we down-hearted?" was drawled to the tune of "Sun of my soul!" Officials are not used to sudden shocks. Shouts and cheers followed, cheers for those who had been good to them, for the donors of the beer, for the Commissioner's farewell speech. In the riot of joviality and amid the curling tobacco-wreaths, they sang "God Save the King."

The Manchesters marched out of Nicosia with their band playing and the drummer beating a double tattoo. Minarets glinted in the sunshine; a Muezzin called the faithful to worship from the Gothic pile of St. Sophia, once a Latin cathedral. Past gardens burgeoning into spring, past great-bellied daturas hanging in perfumed whiteness, on through the crumbling ramparts into the bazaar that is for ever restless, splashed with crude colour of crimson and orange and pink, on they marched.

Round the station a crowd stirred impatiently. A special ran in, bringing the Malta Regiment of Militia, the relieving force. The natives pressed against the barrier as the train stopped, and dark, lithe men with soldierly swiftness lined up on the platform; an officer wheeled them smartly round, and they fell back and stood at ease. "The sweetest girl I know" sounded faintly, then clearer and clearer as zaptiehs on half-broken horses dashed ahead. "Varda! Varda!" (make room) they cried, until a way was cleared, and the 8th Ardwick Battalion of Manchesters marched down the centre and halted outside the station entrance. English-women and children mingled in the confusion, and pretty girls came to wave farewell and speed them on their way. A minute boy watched a group of men playing with a card-

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board demon that had been a prominent feature of the smoking concert. He stepped forward.

"Are you downhearted?" he asked them. They roared with amusement, and the demon was placed in his hands.

Meanwhile, the Maltese looked curiously at the Manchesters, and each detachment wondered what the other was like. At a word of command the latter bundled into the train. "Good-bye, old chap!" one shouted to a reverend Turk watching them imperturbably from the barrier, "you've got something to *be* sorry for now"; and "Go-o-d-by-e Nic-o-sia," they chanted as the train curved round a bend, and the carriages hummed with laughter. That night a big sea ran, beneath a full moon, and the Territorials were swept to the side of the ship in boats that rose on the waves' crests, or dived into the hollows between.

In the misty dawn like a huge ghost the transport vanished.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE PITH OF THE BAHAI MOVEMENT.*

Hope springs eternal in the human breast; throughout the ages mankind has eagerly anticipated the advent of a Being who shall redress social injustices and bring peace to a distracted world. Christians await their Master's second coming; Jews look for the Messiah; Moslems, for the Mahdi; Buddhists predict a re-incarnation of Siddharta; Hindus that of Krishna. The Messianic dream materialised at Adrianople about sixty-five years ago, when a Persian exile named Baha'u'llah stood forth as "He whom God will make manifest"; and invited the monarchs of Europe to join him in establishing a universal religion and world-wide peace. His mission did not commend itself to the Sultan, who banished him to Acca, in Palestine. There he dwelt for twenty-four years, the recognised head of Bahais in three continents. The aim of his numerous devotional treatises is to fuse the vital elements of every creed into a body of belief which shall fulfil and complete them. On Baha'u'llah's death, which occurred in 1892, his mantle fell on a son, Abdul Baha by name, who continued his task of linking Bahais in bonds of affection. He suffered long imprisonment at the hands of Sultan Abdul Hamid; but regained liberty during the Young Turks' revolution. Four years later he visited Western Europe, and was received with attention everywhere, although he spoke no language but Persian. His discourses, as delivered in London and Paris, are recorded in "Talks by Abdul Baha," and it is rather surprising that a work whose burden is universal peace should appear in a second edition while the world re-echoes the din of arms.

Abdul Baha does not pose as the founder of a new religion, nor will his followers swell the number of jarring sects, whose mutual hatred is, perhaps, the greatest obstacle in the path of human progress. His delightful "Talks" took place in Parisian studios, in Pastor Wagner's "Foyer de l'âme" and at the meeting-place of the French Theosophical Society. Londoners flocked to hear him at private residences; several clergymen lent him their pulpits; and he was even allowed to hold forth at the Friends' headquarters in St. Martin's Lane. This unpretending record of his teachings may be searched in vain for ἔπεα πτερόεντα—winged words which open up a vista of novel and startling speculation. But all who yearn for closer union with things of the spirit will find solace in his discourses. At no epoch in the world-history was there greater need of self-renunciation, self-sacrifice, and brotherly love. F. H. S.

NEAR EAST BOOK NOTES.

One of the Oxford Pamphlets, issued by Milford, is "Rumania: Her History and Politics," by D. Mitrany. The price is fourpence.

Mr. Heinemann has published lately "Pictures in the Land of Temples," a volume of lithographs made by Mr. Joseph Pennell in Greece in 1913. It includes also Mr. Pennell's notes, and its price is 5s. net.

A quite recent publication of the British Museum is "Bronze Reliefs from the Gates of Shalmanezer, King of Assyria, B.C. 860-25." Edited by Dr. L. W. King, it contains some eighty plates in collotype, showing the bronze bands that ornamented the gates of Shalmanezer's palace.

The April "Bulletin" of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts contains the first part of Dr. Reisner's description of his excavating work in Egypt.

Readers who are acquainted with Italian will find in "Origine ed Evoluzione Storica delle Nazioni Balcaniche," by Angelo Pernice (Milan, Hoepli, 6.50 lire). Professor Pernice deals at some length with the diplomatic side of the late Balkan wars, and is of opinion that, so long as the Balkan Question remains unanswered, there can be no settled peace in Europe. He takes a quite hopeful view of Albania, which he would like to see placed under Italian protection.

Messrs. George Allen and Unwin have published "The War and the Balkans," by Mr. Noel Buxton, M.P., and Mr. Charles Roden Buxton. The price of the book is 2s. 6d. net.

*"Talks by Abdul Baha." Second Edition, with additions. (London: Bell and Sons. 1915. Price 2s. net.)

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The Great War: Some Deeper Issues. By W. Tudor-Pole; with a Foreword by Stephen Graham. (G. Bell and Sons. 2s. net.)

Rabindranath Tagore. By Ernest Rhys. (Macmillan and Co. 5s. net.)

THE TURKS IN ASIA MINOR.

On Monday last Sir Edwin Pears lectured at University College on the Turks in Asia Minor. The Acting Vice-Chancellor of the University, Sir Alfred Pearce Gould, presided, and introduced the lecturer as a distinguished graduate of the University.

Sir Edwin Pears said that Central Asia was anciently occupied by great numbers of people of various races who were all spoken of as Turks. They were all nomads, and, even so, were a remarkably fluid population; for they were not associated into tribes or clans, but a man could pass almost at will out of one social group and into another. As to their religion in those early days, whatever it was it sat lightly upon them. Having accepted it, they believed it without ever taking the slightest trouble to investigate. From the fifth or sixth century onwards to the tenth or eleventh, they were probably mostly Buddhists, while a great Christian Church that has now almost disappeared, the Nestorian, had its missions amongst them. At various times a period of exceptional drought or some other cause would set this fluid human mass moving, sometimes towards China, but more often towards the West. In the eighth, ninth, and tenth centuries the Turks made their appearance in Asia Minor, and in the eleventh the Seljukian Turks established themselves in Iconium, now called Konia. These were men of a kindly disposition and artistic perception, who mixed freely with the Greek-speaking population around them, and who had left behind them works of art of great beauty. The Ottoman Turks, who came later, were on an altogether lower plane of civilization, and under their rule the roads of Justinian, the cities and the commerce of Asia Minor had decayed. Streams of Turks had continued to trickle in until the fifteenth, sixteenth, and seventeenth centuries, after which they dwindled more and more, and finally ceased altogether about 1860.

The nomadic Turks were all good fighting men, and in the early days every Turk was a soldier, as was, indeed, the case to-day. But one of the early Sultans, influenced by a fanatical Mullah, had exercised his rights as a conqueror over the subject Christian population by taking the sons of Christian parents to be forcibly converted to Islam and brought up as his soldiers. Thus was established the famous Corps of Janissaries, which for centuries exerted much the same influence within the Turkish Empire as the Prætorian Guards had done within that of ancient Rome. They had deposed Sultans pretty much at their pleasure, until at length, in the early part of the last century, Mahmud the Second had had them all massacred.

SERBIAN FRATERNITY AND CONSTANCY.

On Friday last Miss A. Christitch delivered an address on "Serbian Ideals" at University College, London, Dr. Gregory Foster (Provost of the University) presiding.

The Chairman, in introducing the lecturer, said that she was the only native of Serbia who was a graduate of London University.

Miss Christitch said that the Serbian ideal above all was fraternity. Serbian valour was largely an outcome of this fraternal instinct, for it united and compacted the Serbian army. A Serb never deserted his comrade in the hour of need. The language reflected this fraternal sentiment, for a relationship which in English would be designated a more or less distant cousinship was in Serbian called "being brother by the aunt," or whatever the intervening relative might be. Etiquette required that a woman inquiring at a hospital about her wounded husband and brother must ask about the brother first. If a Serb had a brother dangerously ill he was not supposed to be seen in public and if death followed he was supposed to pay daily visits to the grave for ten days. To the Serb imagination the most beautiful picture was that of the nine brothers who had gone forth to die together at the battle of Kossovo. At that battle, fought in 1389, the Serbian army had challenged a much larger army of Turks; it had been destroyed, but the spirit of the people had lived on during five centuries of fighting until the opportunity came to re-establish an independent Serbian kingdom. One result of the fraternal spirit was that if the men liable to military service of a district were called up the other men also offered themselves. Thus Valievo, which in the recent wars was only required to provide the 13th Regiment, had also provided Regiments 13a, 13b, and 13c.

Another Serbian ideal was constancy. Every clause of the treaty made with the Turks after Kossovo was fulfilled. When the Turks were attacked by Tamerlane in Asia Minor they called on the Serbs, in accordance with this treaty, to come to their assistance, and the Serbs went, not for the sake of the Turks, but for the sake of their plighted word.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

I wonder if Hajji Mohammed Wilhelm, as the Constantinople Press informs us the German Emperor is in future to be known, ever realizes that he is contravening all the generally accepted usages of Moslem warfare by his ruthless destruction of churches and clergy in France and Belgium? Christian churches may have been destroyed and their priests done to death at the hands of a fanatical mob from time to time, but no great Mohammedan war lord of the past flouted the injunction of the Khalif Omar as Hajji Mohammed Wilhelm has done. Respect was shown to all places of worship, and their priests were safe at least from death when the Moslem hordes flocked in. Even the Mahdi and his Khalifa spared the priests and sisters at Khartoum. But Wilhelm is made of sterner stuff, and has no room for such paltry distinctions in his code of war.

***

In a letter I have received this week from a Persian Gulf correspondent there is a quaint story about the ex-Vali of Busreh. Some little time before war broke out between ourselves and the Turks H.M.S. Odin was, as you doubtless remember, lying in the Karun, and her presence there afforded considerable satisfaction to our fellow-countrymen at Busreh and Mohammerah. But that satisfaction was nowise shared by the Turkish authorities at Busreh, and the Vali presently wrote to the acting British Consul politely requesting him to have this objectionable vessel removed. The Consul replied that the disposition of his Majesty's ships was rather outside his province, or words to that effect, and begged to remain the Vali's most obedient servant. But before this reply reached his Excellency, it chanced that the Odin departed suddenly; and the Vali, flattering himself that her move was really made in deference to his wishes, promptly sent off another note conveying his best thanks to the Consul. His feelings the next day, when he discovered that the Odin had been replaced by the Espiegle, a similar vessel, but more heavily armed, may perhaps be more readily imagined than described.

***

I have never heard the Montenegrin National Anthem, but I have heard the story of how it was first played in this country, when King (then Prince) Nicholas visited Queen Victoria. The Queen, it will be recalled, met Prince Nicholas in the south of France, and, taking a sincere liking to him, promptly invited him to pay her a visit at Windsor Castle. The Prince accepted, and in due course set out on his journey. Then, at the last minute, when the final touches were being given to the programme for his reception, it was suddenly discovered that not a single copy of the Montenegrin National Anthem was to be obtained in this country for love or money. Consternation! Telegraphic instructions to the British representative to procure copies instanter and to see that they reached England ahead of the Prince, whom he was accompanying. These instructions reached the harassed diplomat just as the Prince and he were starting on their journey. More consternation! More telegrams—this time to Vienna and Paris. Fortunately, success attended enterprise, and copies of the much-sought-after music were procured at last. Fortunately, too, Prince Nicholas broke his journey for twenty-four hours—and the Queen's Messenger who had been despatched with the precious score did not. Result: on his landing on British soil the ears of the Prince were greeted by his own National Anthem; on arrival in London he heard it again; and on reaching Windsor it greeted him a third time. He was frankly and unaffectedly delighted; so was his gracious hostess. And I fancy that the special representative who had been at such pains to secure the score was not a little relieved when he heard the martial strains and was assured that the music had arrived safely and been mastered by the bandsmen in time!

***

I hear from a friend who has recently returned from Egypt that although the hotels lament the fact of war—I am writing of the subject from a mercenary point of view—the dragomans and general dealers have thriven exceedingly during the past season The Australian and New Zealand contingents arrived with unexpectedly large sums of money to spend, and apparently they spent it without stint. At first, too, the street trader found the members of these forces particularly easy to swindle; they had not been forewarned as are the majority of tourists. But, as usually happens in such cases, the swindling confraternity overdid itself, and for the last few weeks it has found it more easy to overcharge a Scotsman than either an Australian or a New Zealander. It appears that the limit was reached when some enterprising merchants filled beer bottles with sea water and rushed to sell them at the stations on the Port Said line, being always careful to deliver the goods only as the train swung into motion. I had a similar experience in the Sudan once myself, but there at least the vendor had the decency to supply me with cold tea that was quite drinkable.

I see that there is a German spy at large in Egypt, and that he has been honoured by the placing of a reward of £40 upon his head. This is a large sum to pay for a German in the present flooded state of the market, but he happens to be rather a valuable specimen and is a Baron to boot—Baron Otto von Gunponburgh, a lieutenant in the German Army, and a man who numbers Sheikh Shawish among his friends. Truly, he is heavily burthened. He changed his name, however, during the Tripolitan War and became "Abdul Karim Bey," of the Turkish Army, and now, a master of many languages, he has returned to Egypt to renew old acquaintanceships and to spy out the secrets of our new Protectorate. Sooner or later he is certain to be caught, and when he is shot the few natives who have befriended him will shrug their shoulders, and, placing all responsibility for his untimely end with the Deity, will refer to the dead man as *magnoon*, or wanting in sanity.

***

But at least it must be said that he is a brave man. The work of a spy is always hazardous, and especially is this the case in Egypt. There is, to the spy, always the danger of hidden thoughts and sympathies lying concealed beneath the impenetrable mask of Oriental courtesy which characterises the persons with whom he has to deal. It is impossible for him to be sure of his man unless he has publicly committed himself, and then he usually ceases to be of any value. The love of intrigue is the heart of the Orient. What might be considered black treachery in Europe may very possibly be regarded merely as evidence of high diplomatic skill in the East; and so I do not imagine that this German gentleman will have a particularly tranquil time in Egypt. Even now he may be expounding his plans to some seeming sympathizer whom he has marked down as a useful tool. And, listening with suave attention, it is quite possible that the said tool is merely biding his time, waiting for the most convenient and effective moment to hand his companion over to the authorities.

CORSAIR.

"THE RIGHT TO KILL."

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

All old residents of Constantinople, and especially those who are familiar with "L'homme qui assassina," will enjoy seeing "The Right to Kill," which was successfully produced at His Majesty's Theatre on Tuesday night. Those expecting much local colour will be disappointed, the scenes being confined to garden scenes, at night, and interiors, whilst only two Turks, Mehmed Pasha and Atik Ali, appear in the cast. Mehmed Pasha especially, admirably interpreted by Mr. Bourchier, is a charming gentleman of the old school, now rather rare in Turkey, and is perhaps the most convincing character of the play—a very life-like touch is introduced by his sitting cross-legged on the sofa the moment the formal guests leave the room. Mr. Bourchier, however, is a little uncertain in making his "temenna," which is sometimes a graceful motion of both his hands and sometimes indeed with his left hand only! The tassel of his fez has a tendency to become more Egyptian than Turkish by slipping to the side, and our old landmarks, the "Sweet Waters," become the "waters of sweetness" for no appreciable reason. Perhaps this is supposed to have a more Oriental flavour. The Marquis de Sevigné begs the Pasha to smoke his "hookah," which seems to be the stage equivalent for narghileh. The interiors, the windows of which allow us no view of the Bosphorus or Constantinople, unfortunately have a dash of the Moorish about them, and one cannot help feeling that the gallant French military attaché and the wife of the Director of the Public Debt had been inspired by some rooms at the Pera Palace Hotel or the "Musée Oriental" of M. Pardo. Sir Archibald Falkland has apparently introduced pig-sticking into Asia Minor in place of the less exciting form of destroying boars, namely, by shooting them, which is, or was till quite recently, in vogue in the environs of Constantinople. All this is, however, by the way, and does not in the least detract from the interest of the play, which is well acted in all its characters, but only serves to show how difficult it is to get true local colour, especially in a play the scene of which is laid in a place which to the great majority of stage-managers must be a *terra incognita*.

Sir Herbert Tree is to be congratulated on his production, and no doubt many readers of THE NEAR EAST will enjoy returning for a few hours to the place which is, or has been, a happy home to many of us.

BRITISH REFUGEES IN ATHENS.

The attention of ex-British residents of Constantinople at present in Athens is drawn to the fact that "The Near East" is on sale every week at M. Th. Vafiades' Bookstore where subscriptions are also received.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Greek Crisis.

In the *Contemporary Review* (May), Prof. R. M. Burrows has an interesting article on "Venizelos and the Greek Crisis." He considers it not unfair that popular opinion throughout Europe should go to Mr. Venizelos' credit for the Greek Renaissance. He thinks also that the Greek nation will see eye to eye with him regarding the prizes which may yet fall to her lot as the result of her timely intervention on the side of the Allies. We quote from a paragraph which follows a general explanation of the territories which might be expected to fall to Greece in such a case:—

It is not improbable, therefore, that the present Greek Government will, before the coming election, declare for intervention, and that it will dissociate its policy from that of Venizèlos only on the grounds that it has tried to make better terms for Greece. This view is based, not only on the exasperating negotiations about Lemnos, but on the tenour of a Government communiqué which was published on March 27. In it the Government argued that the right moment for intervention had not yet come, and that it differed from its predecessor only in so far as it was more careful to avoid certain dangers that immediate action threatened.

The commercial advantages which Greece is reaping as the fruit of her present neutrality, Mr. Burrows regards as a factor of considerable weight against precipitate intervention; on the other hand, the possibilities of an expanded and powerful empire as the result of war are too attractive to be disregarded. After dealing with the incidents which led up to the rupture between King Constantine and Mr. Venizelos, the writer adds:—

It is early to talk of reconciliation, and it may be necessary that much should happen before such a thing becomes practical politics. In the meantime, it is improbable that the new Government will succeed in getting better terms from the Allies than Venizèlos would have done. It is doubtful whether it will even persuade the electorate that it has done so.

The Bulgarian Manifesto.

In commenting upon the manifesto of the "so-called Nationalist Party of Bulgaria," *Truth* uses very emphatic language in the paragraph from which we quote:—

The gentleman who penned this ingenious document had better understand that Great Britain and her Allies are not out to bargain with any small State that comes along, but to accomplish the purpose for which they took up arms, and which they intend to accomplish with or without the help of Bulgaria, or any other neutral State.

The writer considers it to be waste of time to talk about the *post bellum* distribution of territory, but adds that "the principle of nationality, not of force, will be the guiding star which will lead to settlement," when the war is over.

Balkan Territorial Ambition.

The success of Germany's carefully laid plans to foment and take advantage of jealousies and dissensions among the Balkan States is regarded by Sir Alfred Sharpe, who contributes an article on "Problems in the Near East" to the *Nineteenth Century* (April), as being one of the most striking points in connection with the present war. He considers that Turkey has already served the German purpose in diverting both British and Russian troops from the central theatre of war. Proceeding to deal with the territorial ambitions of the Balkan States, Sir Alfred regards the Bulgarian demand that Serbia should hand over the territory agreed upon in the treaty of 1912 as unreasonable, although he anticipates that the expansion of the latter country after the present war will be on a scale that will enable her to act with generosity towards her neighbour in regard to at least a part of these lands. He also considers that Bulgaria, "provided that her action is such as in the opinion of the Entente Powers entitles her to consideration," may also acquire Adrianople and Turkish territory down to the Enos-Midia line.

In any case it is clear that Bulgaria, provided she does not make another *faux pas*, will, after the war, on one side and the other become a larger State than she now is.

The writer considers it possible that Serbia and Montenegro may amalgamate after the death of King Nicholas, and will profit by a slice of Dalmatia, which will give them a seaboard with excellent harbours. The fulfilment of Roumanian aspirations, which include the incorporation of Transylvania in her dominions, is, in Sir Alfred's opinion, almost entirely dependent upon her future attitude in the war. Greece he places upon a different footing from the other Balkan States because "she has no prospect of increasing her dominions in Europe [except by the occupation of the southernmost strip of Albania (Epirus)]."

By acting, however, in harmony with the Entente, and in view of territorial additions to the other States, she thinks that in a general rearrangement of Balkan questions she has a right to consideration. . . . .

Of all the Balkan States Serbia is the one which deserves first consideration. In the face of enormous difficulties she has not only held out single-handed against the attacks of Austria, but has actually on two occasions inflicted crushing defeats on the armies of that Power. She has afforded great assistance to the Triple Entente, has kept some portion of the armies of Austria occupied on her borders, and by holding out against them has prevented Germany and Austria from obtaining possession of the line of railway from Vienna to Constantinople.

An Empire Sold to the Germans.

The Dedeagatch correspondent of *La Petit Marseilles* recently contributed to his paper an article under the above heading. According to the writer of this article nearly all the higher commands and appointments in Constantinople are in the hands of the Germans, who are openly arrogant in dealing with their Turkish subordinates. Almost complete dominion is held over these unfortunate people by an elaborate and ceaseless campaign of lying:—

The war and its vicissitudes are presented as an uninterrupted series of German and Turkish victories. The people do not believe in the latter. . . . On the other hand, they are firmly convinced of the triumph of the Germans in Europe. They rely on this success to repair and compensate them for their own defeats when the final reckoning comes. And this hope contributes not a little, together with their incurable apathy, to their tolerating the presence of the Germans.

The writer expresses his belief that the real sympathies of the Turkish people are by no means with their allies, but with the French and English. Numerous French merchants still remain in Constantinople and prosecute their business much as usual.

Articles to Note.

"Roumania and the War.—I.," by R. T. C., in the *British Review* (May).

"The Middle East," by Sidney Low, in the *Edinburgh Review*.

"Across Asia Minor on Foot.—IV.," by W. J. C., in *Blackwood's Magazine* (May).

"Forcing the Dardanelles," by H. E. Bywater, in *The Navy* (May).

"Bulgaria and Entente Diplomacy," by Dr. E. J. Dillon; "Roumania's Attitude and Future," by Politicus; and "East and West: A New Line of Cleavage," by James Davenport Whelpley, in the *Fortnightly Review* (May).

"Bulgaria and Her Queen," by Ernestine Evans, in the *Lady's Pictorial* (May 1).

"Constantinople and the Bosphorus," by Sydney C. N. Goodman, B.A. (illustrated), in the *Sunday at Home* (May).

"The Approaches to Smyrna," by Arthur Crawshay, and "An Expedition up the White Nile," II., by H. W. Seton-Karr, in *The Field* (May 1).

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
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There is little news from Turkey this week, but the *Morning Post's* Berne correspondent, wiring on Wednesday to his paper, gave the following rather interesting information, which I reproduce, without, however, vouching for its accuracy:—"Dr. Helfferich, the German Financial Secretary, is endeavouring to tide Turkey over her financial difficulties. He has arranged that the Turkish Government shall pay £6,000,000 in gold into the reserve lodged with the management of the Ottoman Debt, and shall issue paper money amounting to £T6,583,094, which will have the force of legal currency for all payments. These notes will be honoured on presentation in Constantinople six months after the conclusion of peace. I am informed that the gold reserve is largely fictitious."

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Commenting on Mr. J. G. Peel's letter on "Egyptian Cotton Exports," reproduced in last week's issue of THE NEAR EAST, I urged the necessity for the immediate prohibition of cotton exports to countries likely to re-export them to enemy countries. I am pleased to see that the Egyptian Government has lost no time in doing so, news having come through from Alexandria on Friday that the Government had stopped all exports of cotton to Italy and Switzerland.

***

A further danger resulting from exports from Egypt concerns onions, and I quote in this connection from a letter published recently in the *Egyptian Gazette*. There is good reason to believe (says the writer) that "since direct shipment of Egyptian onions to Italy and thence to Switzerland has been stopped, the demand of enemy countries for Egyptian onions is being satisfied by shipping these products to Holland from Alexandria. There is no guarantee required at Amsterdam or Rotterdam, and, moreover, it is understood that quantities of onions are being shipped from Alexandria to Marseilles to be transhipped to Italy or by rail to Switzerland with the purpose of disposing of them in Germany and Austria. Recently a letter was received at Alexandria from Trieste to the effect that a firm, exporting onions from Egypt to Italy, had sent 600 bags to Trieste by way of Italy. The onions fetched very high prices in Austria." The only remedy for this, suggests the writer (and I am inclined to agree) is that the authorities in Egypt must "exact a guarantee for all exports of onions to any other country except England, since it is not known whether France exacts a guarantee for exports going to Switzerland."

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The *Egyptian Gazette* announces that a delegation representing members of the British Chamber of Commerce of Egypt engaged in the import trade has been received by the President of the Mixed Court of Appeal on the subject of the deposit of £E12 required by the Courts from a creditor instituting bankruptcy proceedings. Replying to the matter recently, I pointed out that the trade's complaint against the deposit was that it deterred creditors from having recourse to justice, and, on the other hand, encouraged small debtors in the evasion of their liabilities, thus constituting an obstacle to trade. I understand that the President of the Mixed Tribunals has courteously promised to take the views of the Chamber into consideration and place them before his colleagues.

***

I have previously referred to the activities shown by Russian business men to increase their country's trade with Egypt. The latest step, I read, is a request from the Export Chamber of Petrograd, which has been instituted by Imperial Decree, to the Cairo "Committee for the Development of Russian Commerce" for the arrangement of a programme of mutual collaboration in the extension of commercial relations between Russia and Egypt, as both the Cairo and Petrograd bodies work on very similar lines. To further this object the Petrograd Export Chamber has forwarded to the Cairo committee lists of all the banks and produce exporters of Russia. Those desiring further information on the matter can address the secretary of the Cairo committee, whose offices are at No. 30, Maison Parvis, Sharia Doubbreh.

***

It will be remembered that on February 5 we reproduced the invitation for tenders issued by the Government of Cyprus for the transport of mails by mail-coaches between the towns of Nicosia and Larnaca. The tenders were not to reach the President of Tender Board later than March 8. The latest copy of the *Cyprus Gazette* to hand (April 9) repeats the invitation, the closing date having been put off to April 28. At the time I was rather pessimistic about the scheme as a commercial undertaking, but urged the necessity, even if at a pecuniary loss to the Exchequer, of the mail service with a view to the rapid development of our new island. I am not surprised, therefore, to see that the first invitation did not receive satisfactory attention from possible tenderers. On the other hand, the new tender has been issued in a modified form—that is to say, the tenderer can no longer offer for "a rate per mile in accordance with the number of miles run," but must restrict his offer to "a fixed sum per mensem or annum." This, certainly, does not improve matters. Incidentally, I again hope that the Cyprus Motor Transport and Development Company will come to a satisfactory understanding with the Government with a view to the maintenance and improvement of the service already established.

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We have always taken up a strong attitude on the question concerning the improvement of our Consular service, and I shall therefore reproduce this week some extracts from a strong article on the subject contained in the current number of *Electrical Industries*. The writer, after the usual grumble against the apathy and indifference of British Consuls and commercial attachés, says: "A conversation which I enjoyed the other day threw light on a phase of the Consular service which is not familiar. Ineffective British Consuls have more than a negative effect on British trade; they have a positive effect on the trade of rival countries. My informant is a man who has visited almost every civilised country in connection with a leading British industry. He always, as a matter of patriotic duty, called upon the British Consul first and sought from him the information needed to help him on his way. He never got it. Then he went to the American Consul or the German Consul and was always received with open arms. He found these men thoroughly posted on all the facts relating to the business world, and he also found them perfectly ready to talk to him about the opportunities for doing trade. At the same time they were very energetic in making him talk about his trade, and we may be sure that they got from him the equivalent of their courtesy and their assistance. It is distinctly humiliating that, in regions as remote from each other in every way as Italy and Mexico, a British trader should be obliged to resort to foreign Consuls for the help that our officials are paid to give him. But most striking of all is the difference in type between the ordinary British Consul and the men selected by other Governments to represent them abroad. British Consuls seem to exist in a refrigerator; foreign Consuls were hospitable to the extent of inviting him to their clubs and introducing him to the leading men of business in the town. It is quite evident that the whole question of the British Consular service will have to be approached from a novel point of view."

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Messrs. Raphael Tuck and Sons, whose name is a household word throughout the Near East, and who have been able, in spite of the most active competition on the part of German manufacturers to build up and maintain a market in the Balkans and Turkey (exactly a year ago I met their travelling representative in Belgrade, and he spoke most hopefully of the business outlook), have now had their branch business in Germany sequestered by the Huns. This is on a par with the sequestration in Turkey of the Constantinople Telephone Company, and we can now see where the Turks acquired their kultural methods. It appears that soon after the outbreak of the war the Berlin branch of Messrs. Raphael Tuck and Sons, which was in a most flourishing state—important sums being due to the house at the time for customers throughout Germany and Austria—was taken over by the German Government, and an official administrator placed in charge. Shortly afterwards violent attacks directed against the firm appeared in a leading Berlin journal, calling upon the German public to boycott the art productions of this well-known British house, and similar articles were published in some 200 journals throughout the German Empire, these attacks finally culminating in the sequestration of the business by the authorities.

COMMENTATOR.

Bank Rate 5 per cent. (Aug. 8, 1914.)

SETTLING DAYS.

STOCKS AND SHARES.

In Mining Shares the next carry-over is May 10.

Continuation Day.	Ticket Day.	Pay Day.
Tues., May 11.	Wed., May 12.	Thurs., May 13

NEAR EASTERN EXCHANGES.

On the dates given the rate of exchange ruling in the undermentioned centres on London was:—

ALEXANDRIA.....	May 6....	97¼ p.t.
BUCHAREST	Mar. 13 ..	20 frs., in equivalent of 30 lei.
SOFIA.....	April 13..	33·00—34·50 leva.

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Germany in Asia Minor.

Concessions and Intrigues.

More than a year ago the *Frankfürter Zeitung* pointed out how necessary it was for Germany to keep open her land trade routes to Asia Minor, not merely because of the food supplies coming from the wheatfields there and in the Balkans, but on account of the immense supplies of raw material which Germany was destined to secure when the Baghdad Railway was in proper working order. The hint does not appear to have been properly appreciated by the other European Governments, who did not recognise that the moneys derived by the German bankers from Asia Minor investments were actually paid in the form of commodities, and that the interruption of trade routes meant the stoppage of interest. Although France, England, Germany, and Russia have made large financial investments in Asia Minor, it remains true that the greatest interests there are German. Whether they will still be German after the war is another matter, but an examination of the present position may well throw some light on what we should prepare to expect. When the Franco-German war had led to the new unity of the German Empire it was towards Asia Minor that German capitalists and diplomatists directed their attention. The campaign for the economic absorption of Turkey-in-Asia and Persia was not carried on at haphazard. The Government was interested in the matter, and when has the German Government acted without a plan? The Baghdad Railway scheme was the first great concession secured from Abdul Hamid, for without railways, as everybody concerned realized, other concessions were useless; but the results of the traditional German "ohne Hast, ohne Rast" policy were wonderful. The first concession was for power to exploit the line from Haidar Pasha (opposite Constantinople, on the Asiatic side) to Ismid, granted to a group of German financiers in 1888.

Baghdad Concession.

This railway was hardly sixty miles long, and it covered an important tract of country. It had its uses, for there was no other railway in the district. But the Germans were determined to make the most of it, so they formed the Anatolian Railway Company, and obtained the financial support of the Deutsche Bank. This enabled them to call upon the advice of its director, Herr Arthur von Gwinner, whose financial astuteness is almost proverbial. Instead of advancing the money the bank acted the part of a broker, got the money from the public, and charged the usual commission for its trouble. Five years later, in 1893, the Anatolian Railway Company secured a further authorization to extend the line from Ismid to Konia. This was completed in 1896, and formed the first long stretch of the Baghdad Railway. The railway did not pay, but it was not expected to pay. And the German financiers believed, with every justification, that they could induce the Turkish Government to make good the deficiencies of the railway in this respect. In 1898, two years after the completion of the first section of railway, the Kaiser visited Constantinople and various parts of Syria. He announced himself grandiloquently as the Protector of Islam, insinuated himself into the good graces of Abdul Hamid, and with due delicacy proposed the extension of the railway to the Persian Gulf.

Convention of 1903.

Not many official records exist regarding these interviews, but it was soon evident that the Kaiser had not spoken in vain. Various plans were submitted to the Deutsche Bank. Some men whose names are more prominent now than they were then put forward their different points of view, which were subsequently embodied in the Baghdad Railway Convention of 1903—there are so many of these Conventions, important and otherwise, that they have to be distinguished by dates. Emil von Rathenau, of the General Electric Company, had something to say on the question of traction and water power. Arthur Ballin was interested in steamship services. Arthur von Gwinner, on behalf of syndicates in which his bank had an interest, gave careful consideration to mines, as did also the multi-millionaire ironmaster, the Carnegie of Germany, August von Thyssen. Surveys were carried out in Asia Minor in 1899, a preliminary Convention was signed in January, 1902, and the revised Convention was signed on March 5, 1903. This document registered the Imperial Ottoman Baghdad Railway Company. In consideration of the granting of the concession the Deutsche Bank had arranged for a new Turkish loan, and on the same day as the Convention was signed the German bankers signed their contract for the first series of the Ottoman 4 per cent. loan. Second and third series were issued in June, 1908, jointly with the signing of a further Convention. Three additional Conventions were signed in March, 1911, and a yet further Convention was under discussion in Berlin when the war broke out.

Kilometric Guarantees.

Let us see what the German concessionaires received in return for their loans. First and foremost, they effectively guaranteed themselves against financial loss resulting from the mere working of the railways. The Turkish Government had to agree to the "kilometric guarantee"—i.e., the Porte made itself responsible for the payment of working expenses on the basis of 4,500 frs. per kilometre. If the receipts fell short of that amount the balance was made up by the Turkish Treasury. Secondly, the original concession developed into a huge network of lines. The main Baghdad line was, of course, from Konia to the Persian Gulf, although its beginning was the original line from Haidar Pasha to Ismid. It had attached to it a number of branch lines, which absorbed practically every district of importance in Upper Syria, Mesopotamia, and areas even further west. There was a branch from Aleppo to Orfa; from Baghdad to Khanikin, on the Persian frontier, bordering on the Russian sphere of influence; a branch from Marach, another to Aintab, another to Erbil; a line from El Badj to Hit; and several lines connecting the main systems with the Mediterranean at Tripoli-in-Syria. But the suggestions of shipowners and others had not been forgotten.

In order that these suggestions might be carried into effect, the Baghdad Railway Company was empowered to dig harbours at Baghdad, Busreh, and Alexandria; and these harbours it was to provide "with all the installations necessary for the landing of ships at the quays, and for the embarking, disembarking, and storage of goods." It was to establish steamship services on the Tigris and the Euphrates; it was to exploit the mines within a radius of twenty kilometers from the railway line; it was to exploit the forests; it was to build warehouses which the public might use—for a consideration; it was to build electric power-houses and to utilise the water-power; it was to have the monopoly of brick and tile works in the whole region. Is it to be wondered at that Marshal von der Goltz said in a public speech in the spring of 1911 that "up to the end of his reign Abdul Hamid wished to see the Germans colonizing Asia Minor"?

Intrigues.

It is not necessary to enter into the financial intrigues connected with all these concessions, though their history would make agreeable reading. There were bewildering issues of bonds. At the beginning the Anatolian Railway Company preferred risking other people's money (did not even Dumas say, "Les affaires, c'est bien simple, c'est l'argent d'autrui"?) to risking its own. This policy was given up after 1902, and it was sought to calm the growing anxiety of English, French, and Russian financiers by offering them representation on the board of the company, in accordance with a few of their political interests. No satisfactory scheme was evolved, however, for the company always arranged the basis of representation by making German interests predominant—as was only natural.

Russia strove to protect herself, and hardly succeeded, by the Potsdam Agreement (1910). France and England, to use the euphemistic language of diplomacy, consolidated their interests—that is to say, they had one or two small railway concessions in the south of Smyrna and in Palestine, and they secured joint renewals of the leases. A French group, represented by the Perrier Bank, secured a concession for a railway from Smyrna to the Dardanelles in 1913; this was the only effective counterblast to the German designs on the Levant. In February, 1914, the Deutsche Bank, representing German interests, and the Banque Impériale Ottomane, representing French interests, reached an informal agreement with respect to railway and other financial questions in Asia Minor; but the formal Governmental ratifications which were to follow do not appear to have been exchanged. England, in the following month, entered into the agreement relative to the petroleum fields in Mesopotamia. Italy, much to the disgust of the senior partner in the Triple Alliance, had already secured (September, 1913) an important railway concession from the Porte. This was for a line from the coast town of Adalia to Buldur, through the Taurus district, the Lake of Taurus, so to speak, being thrown in. The German Government made its views on this matter known through the Berlin financial organ which it frequently uses, the *Boersen-Courier*. An article in the issue of September 21, 1913, coldly welcomed Italy's participation in Asia Minor railways, with the underlying threat that she had better work hand in glove with Berlin. It was not regarded as politically advantageous to Germany that so important a Mediterranean Power as Italy should be represented in Asia Minor by a railway, and the Anglo-Turkish negotiations, of which we heard in June and July last, were intended, in Berlin, to merge subsequently into parallel negotiations between Turkey and Germany on the one hand and Italy on the other. The events of the last week in July put a stop to that; but one cannot help speculating as to what might have been the fate of the Baghdad Railway and of international relationships, if representatives of the Powers interested had discussed its financial plans at leisure.

SUYD HOSSAIN.

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Jaffa Orange Trade.

Shippers and Brokers.

In connection with the article published last week on the above subject, the following further particulars have been received from a correspondent who is in touch with merchants directly interested in the question:—

"Among the economic losses resulting from the war to British shipping and trade interests in Syria, that represented by the Jaffa orange business is no doubt, as a single item, the largest. The total production this year is estimated at about one and three-quarter million boxes of the average size, viz., about 60 kilos. About half of this considerable total used to be shipped in normal times to foreign markets, such as Trieste, Marseilles, Egypt, and some North Continental ports, but principally to Odessa and Constantinople; while the other half used to be shipped to the U.K., with Liverpool as the chief distributing centre.

"If Jaffa had been a less exposed roadstead, the landing of a British force, sufficient to hold its own, might have been possibly contemplated at the beginning of the orange campaign, say some time in November; because, apart from military and political advantages, the economic advantage might have been a factor sufficiently important to have determined such an action. For, the protection of the crop would have led to the shipment of practically the whole of it to England; and, considering the high freights ruling, the amount of British shipping, insurance, and trade interests therein involved might have been represented by no less than about a quarter of a million pounds. A further economic advantage might have been derived from the consolidation of the position of the British shipping lines at Jaffa, and indirectly in the whole of Syria. These lines have, through outside competition (where German hands could be traced), been sustaining considerable losses, and have seen their former strong grip on this trade perceptibly relaxing. By saving a crop worth over half-a-million sterling, the British shipping combine might have been able to conclude with the grateful shippers mutually profitable freight arrangements, excluding outside competition for several years to come. But military considerations, determined perhaps in a way by the peculiar position of the Jaffa port, militated against such an otherwise eminently desirable consummation, and the Jaffa shippers have had to make the best of a bad case.

Shipping Difficulties.

"It must be owned that, so far as the political attitude of the belligerent countries involved is concerned, the orange shippers have been specially favoured. For, not only have the British authorities licensed the importation of Jaffa oranges (of course, on the condition that the proceeds of the sales would be retained till the termination of the war), but the Turkish authorities have also taken an equally indulgent attitude, and actually connived at the shipment of the fruit to enemy countries, by not requiring the usual deposit which is reimbursable only on the production of a certificate proving the goods to have been landed at a neutral port. Unfortunately, however, the want of shipping facilities has not allowed of full advantage being taken of such official leniency.

"The only means of sea communication since the war began have been two Italian postal lines, one running weekly and the other fortnightly. By the steamers of these two lines—they have a limited cargo capacity—odd shipments of oranges have been made to Ottoman ports and some neutral Black Sea ports through Dedeagatch. Important shipments might have been made to England, via Alexandria, had it not been for the rather intransigeant attitude of both the fruit brokers and shipowners. The latter, in view of the increased cost of shipping and the boom in freights, quoted prohibitive rates payable in advance; while the former would not grant the usual advance. This deadlock was responsible for the loss of a great part of the crop, especially as the fruit of the younger trees has to be plucked early in the season.

"Finally, however, the small consignments that reached the British market fetched record prices, with the result that both shipowners and fruit-brokers modified their attitude. The former reduced their rates, while the latter conceded an advance sufficient to cover both freight and expenses. Simultaneously, the military authorities in Egypt conceded certain licenses for the importation of Jaffa oranges on the same condition as that imposed by the Home Government, viz., the retention of the proceeds till the war is over.

"It is estimated that about half of the crop is still available, and as the bulk of the fruit lies on old trees which may not suffer from late plucking, the campaign, which, in normal times, used to close about the middle of April, may now be extended till the beginning of May."

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CONSTANTINOPLE AND THE DARDANELLES.

To the Editor of the NEAR EAST.

Sir,—Dardanelles! Constantinople! Two words which for many months past have appeared daily in almost every newspaper throughout the civilized world—a fact which not only emphasizes the importance of the gigantic operation which the Allied Fleets have in hand, but likewise demonstrates the almost breathless anxiety with which everyone awaits the successful result of the grand expedition, and upon which (one might almost say) depends the final issue of this terrible war.

Many have already written with regard to Constantinople and its ultimate fate. Is it to be Russianised or internationalised? Will it lose its importance as a commercial centre? etc., etc. In fact, some writers have long since decided these questions from their own particular point of view.

In February last, Sir Edward Grey, in reply to a question respecting Russia's aspiration permanently to occupy Constantinople, said:—"The precise form in which it (the fate of Constantinople) will be realized will, no doubt, be settled in the terms of peace."

The *Financial Times* of March 4 said:—"The ultimate ownership of Constantinople—in which Russia and Bulgaria are also vitally interested—can safely be left for settlement after the war." Many similar references might be quoted, but to do so would be to take up too much of your valuable space. I will therefore limit myself to reminding all those interested in this question that our leading statesmen have repeatedly said: England is fighting for right and liberty, to crush militarism, and to obtain a peace which will be everlasting. Such being the case, the question of the disposal of Constantinople, upon which greatly depends the *continuation of peace*, must be very carefully considered and the opinions and feelings of the interested parties be consulted—viz., the Turks, the Bulgars, and the two and a-half million inhabitants of the city, divided as they are into Turks, Europeans, Jews, Armenians, etc. So also must the opinions of the inhabitants of the villages on the shores of the Marmora be considered. They are all interested, and would, to a man, vote for the internationalisation of the city. How often, for many years passed, has one not heard the cry:—"If Constantinople were only an international port and the Bosphorus and Dardanelles free and open, how happy should we be, free from all political cares, troubles, and intrigues"? How often has not this same remark been repeated since the war broke out? All this should be borne in mind by our statesmen. Otherwise, supposing Constantinople to be placed in the hands of any single power—the object we are to-day sacrificing so much for—"an everlasting peace" will be defeated and the City of Minarets will remain a bone of contention.

In conclusion, if I may venture to say so, I consider our statesmen must not leave the question of the permanent occupation or future of Constantinople for discussion "in terms of peace" or for "settlement after the war." No, their minds must be made up beforehand (perhaps they have already done so). The whole matter must be carefully studied before any conference takes place, and when the time comes the victorious Allies must have a cut and dried scheme ready to put forward, which, besides Constantinople, should include Salonica, Cavalla, Macedonia, the Ægean Islands, etc., etc. The scheme selected must be approved by all, and we must be prepared, in case of opposition, to impose its acceptance on all the interested parties. In this way only can we be assured of peace in the Near East. In other words, a free Bosphorus, Dardanelles, and Constantinople under international control is what is required.—I am, yours, etc.,

PROGNOSIS.

Bulgaria, April 21, 1915.

BRITISH SEAMEN IN TURKEY.

The Board of Trade have forwarded to the Imperial Merchant Service Guild a report from the American Ambassador, with a list of British seamen from the ships "City of Khios" and "Assiout," now interned at Magnesia, in Asia Minor. The report is as follows:—

With regard to the third British ship detained at Smyrna, the "Billiter," of Malta, Mr. Page is informed by the American Embassy in Constantinople that she had a crew exclusively composed of Greek subjects who were paid off and sent to Greece after the seizure of the vessel.

The American Ambassador in Constantinople has also informed Mr. Page that all three ships, the "City of Khios," the "Assiout," and the "Billiter" have recently been sunk by the Turkish authorities in the channel leading to Smyrna Harbour. The Ambassador in Constantinople further states that he has not so far learnt of any merchant seamen or fishermen from British ships being detained in Turkey other than those mentioned in the list of merchant seamen and fishermen so detained which his Majesty's Government transmitted to Mr. Morgenthau in January last.

The list of seventy-two interned seamen is appended:—

"City of Khios."—V. E. Lazzolo, Captain; C. Roberts, Chief Mate; H. M. Blake, First Mate; H. Litton, Second Mate; C. Short, Carpenter; H. R. Moody, Boatswain; H. Murray, A.B.; T. Maloney, A.B.; J. Sheridan, A.B.; J. Berry, A.B.; H. Jones, O.S.; H. Foyne, O.S.; A. Ross, Chief Eng.; J. A. Dargie, 2nd Eng.; H. F. Pieling, 3rd Eng.; A. Bradshaw, 4th Eng.; A. Gates, Fireman; T. Gallagher, Fireman; G. Simpson, Fireman; H. Leonard, Fireman; E. Purdy, Fireman; E. Leahey, Trimmer; D. Douras, Trimmer; J. McKenna, Trimmer; A. E. Jones, Ch. Steward; J. Lloyd, 2nd Steward; J. Beale, Asst. Steward; T. Rowson, Asst. Steward; E. Bentley, Asst. Steward; H. Milligan, Asst. Steward; D. Lasker, Asst. Steward; H. Bird, Mess Steward; J. Mills, Ch. Ship's Cook; H. Dawn, 2nd Ship's Cook and Baker; J. Shere, A.B.; F. Brend, A.B.; A. Brown, Sailor; B. Bakiyekewitz, Fireman and Trimmer; C. Graham, Fireman and Trimmer; F. Foord, Fireman and Trimmer; J. Cousins, A.B.; M. Walsh, Fireman and Trimmer; F. Pizzotti, Scullion; James Kelly, A.B.

"Assiout."—E. Allen, Captain; R. Marshall, Chief Mate; W. P. Sykes, First Mate; T. S. Mason, Second Mate; W. Craner, Carpenter; J. Gregory, Boatswain; C. Cawsey, Lamptrimmer; J. Dalziel, A.B.; A. McKinnon, A.B.; R. McNeil, A.B.; D. McVicar, A.B.; T. O'Callaghan, Sailor; E. Cosidine, Sailor; T. Thomson, Chief Engineer; G. Brownlees, Second Engineer; R. D. Drysdale, Third Engineer; W. Blair, Donkeyman; John Kelly, Storekeeper; John Boyd, Fireman; J. Meechan, Fireman; G. Morrison, Steward; A. Lamb, Asst. Steward; W. H. Hutton, Ship's Cook; A. Hutton, Asst. Cook; F. Sutherland, Mess Room Steward; A. Gentles, Fireman; F. Gallocher, Fireman; D. Degiorgis, Fireman.

Other British subjects detained as prisoners of war at Magnesia, Turkey, are: G. Reade, in charge of motor-boat belonging to S. Lafontaine, Smyrna; and A. Youtman, in charge of sailing-boat belonging to H. Girand, Smyrna.

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Trade Notes.

Egypt.

The Egyptian *Journal Officiel* for April 1 contains certain tariff valuations for hides, skins, sesame, flax, wool, ivory, wax, onions, eggs, cotton seed oil, caustic soda, and various other products exported from Egypt, which are to remain in operation from April 1 to June 30, 1915. The same issue also contains an export valuation tariff for the month of April for cotton, cotton seed, lentils, maize, barley, and other articles. The list of valuations may be seen by British traders interested on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

The *Journal Officiel* for April 6 contains the following valuation tariff for use in assessing import duties on rough white marble of all kinds, which came into force on April 7, 1915, and is to remain in operation until July 6, 1915, or until denunciation:—

Description.	Valuation per 1,000 kilogs. £E.
Marble, rough white—	
Slabs and pieces	4·000
Squares	3·350

The Board of Trade have received a revised valuation tariff for use in assessing duties on certain metals imported into Egypt, which came into force on April 1, and is to remain in operation until May 31, 1915, or until denunciation. The tariff is published in the current issue of the *Board of Trade Journal* (April 29, page 303).

Malta.

The Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade has received a collection of samples from Malta, which includes cheap cutlery and sash tools (both of the cheapest variety), hanging and table lamps, and a triple-wick oil-stove of a somewhat unusual pattern. The last-mentioned article should be of interest to United Kingdom firms manufacturing this class of goods. All the samples mentioned are on view at the Foreign Samples Section of the Commercial Intelligence Branch, 32, Cheapside, London, E.C.

Roumania.

H.M. Consul-General at Galatz reports that at the beginning of 1914 there was every promise of a record season of commercial activity on the Danube. The outbreak of the war, however, in conjunction with the inimical attitude of the Ottoman Government, produced an immediate effect on navigation, while the subsequent closing of the Dardanelles resulted in the complete cessation of all but local trade.

The total tonnage of vessels clearing from the Danube during 1914 amounted to 1,356,090 tons, as compared with 1,742,907 tons for 1913, and with 1,974,465 tons, the average for the last five years, a decrease of 386,817 and 618,375 tons, respectively. British tonnage amounted to 461,810 tons, and was responsible for 34 per cent. of the total tonnage. The percentage of vessels which made use of Sulina for loading operations in preference to up-river ports again showed a slight increase.

The quantity of cereals exported through Sulina during 1914 amounted to 1,750,195 tons, as compared with 2,326,468 tons in 1913.

Morocco.

The following are extracts from the annual report of H.M. Consul-General at Tangier, shortly to be published:—

The construction of military railways has been pushed on, and orders were recently given that the line from Casablanca to Fez, by Rabat, Kenitra and Mequinez, should be thrown open to the public under certain restrictions, the transport of goods being also permitted (see page 837 of the *Board of Trade Journal* of March 25). This will tend to divert the import trade of Fez and Mequinez from Tangier and Laraiche to Kenitra, as goods sent by that route will reach their destination very much quicker and at a fraction of the cost of transport by camel or mule. Work is also proceeding on the Casablanca-Marrakesh line, which, however, will not be completed for some time.

The line from Oudja to Taza and Fez will be pushed forward as soon as the pacification of the neighbouring tribes has been accomplished. The construction of roads has been actively proceeded with in the French zone, and also between Laraiche and Alcazar. At first existing tracks were improved so as to be made possible for wheeled traffic in dry weather, but regular macadamised roads are now being constructed connecting the ports with each other, and with Fez, Mequinez, and Marrakesh. Some 250 miles of such roads have already been completed.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of an Order of the Resident-General of the French zone, dated March 19 and published in the *Bulletin Officiel* on March 22, containing a list of the articles, the exportation and re-exportation (in process of transit, trans-shipment, or under the "temporary exportation" *régime*) of which is prohibited. The list is published in the current issue of the *Board of Trade Journal* (April 29, page 322).

Bulgaria.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of a complete list of the articles the exportation of which is prohibited. The full list is published in the *Board of Trade Journal* of the 29th ult., page 321.

EGYPTIAN TRADE DURING MARCH.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, April 20.

The Egyptian Customs returns for the month of March have just been published and show a continuation in the decline of imports already noticeable during the preceding months. Exports, which in February showed a welcome increase, as compared with a regular monthly decrease since the outbreak of the war, have reverted to their former tendency, but happily the drop is only a small one.

The figures are: Imports £E1,332,390 against £E2,414,627, and exports £E2,703,708 against £E2,878,106 during March last year. The decrease in the former is £E1,082,237, and in the latter £E174,398, whilst the diminution since the beginning of the year has been £E3,470,770 and £E1,038,892, respectively.

Imports from the British Empire fell from £E988,940 to £E816,689, and those from France dropped by 65 per cent. to £E64,140, whilst Italy showed a diminution of £E45,304, and Russia one of £E55,774. Germany and her Allies figure for only the amounts withdrawn from bond into which the goods had been placed before the war or for the consignments shipped from neutral ports. It is interesting to note that the United States, Brazil and Greece all have increased their sales to Egypt by amounts varying from 100 per cent. to 150 per cent., and that the last-named country now stands second in importance among the importing nations.

Under exports, whilst Germany, Austria, Turkey (excepting a small amount shipped to Busreh), Belgium, Montenegro, and Roumania do not figure, the share of France has fallen during the month by £E79,547 and that of Russia by £E108,085. On the other hand, the Empire purchased £E129,177 more, whilst Spain increased by £E26,266, Greece by £E71,347 (last March £E6,753), Italy by £E104,416, and last but by no means least Switzerland by £E230,590 (last March that country took only £E67,329). It is noteworthy that practically the whole of the purchases in this country made by the United States, Spain, Japan, and Switzerland was cotton.

The effect of the fall in cotton prices can be seen from the fact that although during the month 66,824 cantars more were exported the value of cotton exports fell by £E575,187. Since the beginning of the year cotton seed exports have increased by 243,588 ardebs, and those of cotton by 569,169 cantars, but the total decrease in value has been £E1,892,061. To compensate, the price of eggs and onions has risen, as has also the export of both these products, whilst an almost phenomenal impetus has been given to the sugar industry by the good prices that this article commands abroad at the present moment.

During March exports of eggs increased by £E61,395, of onions by £E66,271, of cereals by £E95,411, of sugar by £E75,899, and of gold and silver bars, etc., by £E84,357. It may be interesting to note that of the sugar exports £E31,679 went to Morocco, £E21,737 to India, and £E4,977 to British Possessions in the East.

The following variations in the imports took place. Frozen meat increased by £E78,977—practically all from Australia—coffee by £E38,226—mostly from Brazil—and coal by £E15,600. Skins and leather goods decreased by £E38,974, cereals by £E223,513, spirits by £E29,144, construction wood by £E51,696, cotton tissues by £E335,330, and worked iron and steel by £E277,854. It should be noted that the rise in value of the coal imports is entirely due to the increase in freights, as the quantity brought in last month was 67,761 tons less than that imported in March, 1914.

Specie imports amounted to £E71 against £E69,963 last March, and exports to £E12,874 as against £E825,990. Again, Turkey appears for a large amount, but there is no explanatory note to indicate why this export has been allowed. Cigarettes continue to show a falling off, due for the most part to the closing of the German and Austrian markets. The decrease since January 1 has been 38 tons, value £E30,581.

The new table of trade between Egypt and the Sudan shows imports from the latter amounting to £E39,724, and exports from Egypt of £E71,077. Imports include gum £E2,657 (mostly in transit), cereals £E10,517, and cattle £E5,221; exports comprise refined sugar £E15,591, common soap £E1,909, and cotton tissues £E18,597. Owing to the difficulty in securing freightage from Port Sudan and the high rates ruling when space is even available, it is being found more convenient, as well as cheaper, to send Sudan produce in transit viâ either Halfa or Suez for shipment to the foreign markets from Egyptian ports.

PALESTINE AND THE WAR.

On April 20 an Italian steamer arrived in Alexandria from Jaffa, Haiffa and Beyrout with about 300 passengers, of whom seventy were Jews, mostly coming from Jerusalem. These people are fugitives from Palestine and are flying to America and Australia, having decided to abandon Palestine for ever, although they have been in many cases settled there for many years. A representative of the *Egyptian Gazette* interviewed a number of these people. They stated that the financial and economical situation of Palestine was terrible. Flour of the worst description cost 80 frs. the sack. Sugar and petroleum are unprocurable. But sometimes on the rare occasions when a tin of petroleum can be got it costs 50 frs. Potatoes are at 3 frs. a rotl, whereas in ordinary times a rotl costs half a franc (eight Metallics). All money has disappeared from ordinary transactions. Even with the money transmitted from Constantinople owing to American charity food costs so much that it cannot be procured.

The fugitives said that there had been cases of death from starvation at Jerusalem. The city is very tranquil. There are some soldiers quartered at Jerusalem, and about twelve hundred soldiers are at the Jewish colony of Richon-le-Zion, where they have to be fed at the expense of the colony. The awful state of ruin has been accentuated by the devastations of the locusts, which have arrived in huge swarms in southern Palestine. The Government has ordered all males, from fourteen years of age and upwards to be enrolled in order to kill and collect the locusts.

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Cotton Prices Since the War.

American v. Egyptian.

By Professor Todd.

In the crisis through which the cotton trade has recently been passing it is interesting to notice how the relative prices of different kinds of cotton have been affected. A detailed examination of the prices quoted in the Liverpool Cotton Association's Weekly circular brings out the fact that the most important varieties may be classified roughly into three groups. (1) There is first of all a group of four, namely, West African, Pernam (Brazilian), Peru Smooth, and East African, the prices of which follow that of American Middling with remarkable regularity. These five may, therefore, be called the American group. (2) Indian cotton follows American fairly closely on the whole, but with occasional tendencies to take a more or less independent course. So it is with Egyptian, taking Fully Good Fair Upper and Brown and Fine Jannovich as typical of the lower and higher grades of that group. (3) Sea Island and Florida seem to be very largely independent of the movements of American, and their prices change much less frequently, the quotations often remaining unchanged for weeks or even months on end. The same applies to Rough Peruvian in a still more marked degree. These tendencies may be very clearly shown by calculating the prices of the different varieties as percentages of the price of American Middling, and the following table shows the result of such a calculation on the first Friday of each month since the beginning of the season 1913-14 :—

PRICES ON FIRST FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH.

Date.	Actual Price.	Percentages on American Middling.										
	American	Indian.	West African	Pernam	East African	Peru Smooth	Peru Rough.	Egyptian. Upper.	Egyptian. Brown.	Egyptian. Jannovich.	Florida	Sea Island.
1913.	Middling.	No. 1 Good Oomra.	Middling.	Fair.	G. F.	G. F.	G. F.	F. G. F.	F. G. F.	Fine.	Fancy	Fine.
Sept. 5 ..	7·35	81	93	101	106	109	112	132	137	158	167	220
Oct. 3....	7·87	80	93	101	104	108	109	126	132	152	150	200
Nov. 7 ..	7·51	83	96	102	106	109	120	131	136	158	160	220
Dec. 5 ..	7·33	84	97	102	107	108	122	132	139	162	164	215
1914.												
Jan. 9....	6·91	85	97	104	108	109	126	132	141	164	170	210
Feb. 6 ..	6·96	81	95	102	106	108	126	126	135	160	168	186
March 6	6·99	78	95	102	106	108	125	119	127	155	182	193
April 3 ..	7·26	77	96	101	106	108	120	117	125	154	176	186
May 1 ..	7·26	77	96	101	106	108	117	116	124	154	172	186
June 3 ..	7·73	69	96	101	106	108	111	114	122	148	162	174
July 3....	7·46	69	97	103	109	110	115	113	121	150	168	182
War.												
Aug. 7 ..	6·50	73	97	106	114	116	130	118	128	160	192	208
Sept. 4 ..	6·20	71	95	108	113	116	137	122	131	165	185	202
Oct. 2....	5·30	78	94	111	115	119	146	129	143	188	212	235
Nov. 6 ..	4·64	85	91	112	118	118	183	123	151	205	231	252
Dec. 4 ..	4·35	87	92	110	119	117	195	133	155	221	253	300
Jan. 8 ..	4·71	82	93	109	119	117	180	121	134	202	233	276
Feb. 5 ..	5·09	82	96	110	120	114	167	117	131	187	216	255
March 5	4·99	80	96	110	121	112	175	128	138	195	250	270
April 9 ..	5·52	70	96	109	120	111	163	136	144	196	225	245

In the case of Egyptian, it is possible to compare the figures given in the table, with the previous records over a long period. Thus, the average of the seasons' prices of F.G.F. Brown, for the last twenty-five years has been almost 40 per cent. above that of American Middling; so that the price during 1913-14 was very much below the average, especially from March to July. The premium of only 21 per cent. on July 3, for example, is lower than the season's average premium in any year since 1893-94. This was probably due to the unexpectedly large Egyptian crop of 1913, which, unlike so many of its recent predecessors, promised badly and turned out well.

Coming now to the effect of the war, the position may be summed up in this way, that when in the last week of July the price of American began its furious descent, it took with it the other four varieties of the American group, but the second and third groups displayed their characteristic reluctance to follow American to extremes. Thus, Indian fell much more slowly than American, but when American turned in December, Indian was again slow to follow, so that it did not quite maintain the relative level it had reached.

Egyptian since the war has fluctuated in a rather striking way. Following American slowly, it widened out the distance between, until in the end of November the premium of F.G.F. Brown stood at nearly 60 per cent.; but when American turned, Egyptian continued to fall and then remained steady at bottom prices for five weeks, while American was climbing rapidly, with the result that the Egyptian premium fell below 30 per cent. in January. How far this movement was due to the extreme restrictive measures adopted by the Egyptian Government, and the subsequent collapse of these measures, it is not easy to say; but the recent rise of Egyptian again in comparison with American is easily accounted for by the expectation of a relatively small Egyptian crop, due to the depredations of the pink boll worm, as compared with the record figures of the American crop.

Upper Egyptian for a time showed a tendency to keep closer to the American group than its own. Thus on November 6 its premium over American, which during the season of 1913-14 had only been from five to nine points behind that of Brown, fell to twenty-eight points behind. This difference, however, soon disappeared when the extraordinary premium of Brown began to tail off, and now there are again only eight points of difference between the premiums. It is noticeable, however, that on February 5, 1915, the price of F.G.F. Upper Egyptian was actually below that of G.F. East African.

Jannovich, on the other hand, actually outpaced Brown in the rise of its premium over American, showing even greater resisting power to the downward drag, with the result that from October to January, its quotation was more than double the basis price of American. Abbassi and Sakel followed a similar course, but Abbassi, which during 1913-14 was distinctly below Jannovich, has gradually closed up on the latter, till now the prices quoted are the same.

To complete the examination of the fine cottons, it may be noted that Florida and Sea Island maintained their usual independence of the detailed movements of American prices, though they could not withstand the general tendency to lower levels; but they recovered more quickly than the lower grades, and in February got right back to the prices at which they stood before the war. But the most striking movement, or rather lack of movement, is shown by Rough Peruvian. It maintained an absolutely steady quotation from the third week of July to the end of February, and now stands actually a little higher than it did before the war. This, of course, resulted in a tremendous premium over American, and the extraordinary change in the relative positions of Rough Peruvian and Brown Egyptian, there being during December a difference of more than 2d. per pound in favour of the former. This high value is probably due to the suitability of Rough Peruvian for mixing with wool.

These movements of relative values suggest one comment which is of special interest in view of the pessimistic tone of the Egyptian Financial Adviser's recent Budget Note. The value of good cotton has shown a very remarkable power of resistance to an overwhelming combination of depressing conditions, including a world war and the largest American crop on record. It is, of course, easy to be wise after the event, but the truth is that the Egyptian Government were rather precipitate in their cotton measures; and they will be making the same mistake again if they rush into proposals for new taxation or reduction of productive expenditure under the impression that Egyptian cotton is no longer a profitable crop – and the most profitable crop that Egypt can grow.

WHEAT FROM EGYPT.

The current *Bulletin of the Imperial Institute* contains an article on "Wheat from Egypt," which is interesting reading at the present moment, in view of the discussion anent cereal cultivation within the Empire. The article states that a considerable amount of wheat is grown as a winter crop in Egypt for home consumption, but only small quantities are at present exported. In 1912-13 the total area under wheat amounted to 1,305,600 feddans, or about 17 per cent. of the total land under cultivation. This area is about equally divided between Upper and Lower Egypt, and now that the cotton area has been limited to 1,000,000 acres as a war measure, a large amount of land in both sections of the country is available for cereal cultivation. It is hoped that this extension of activities in wheat growing will be successful in rendering the country itself practically independent of outside supplies and in providing a surplus which can be profitably exported.

The Imperial Institute has conducted an analysis of four samples of Egyptian wheat with a view to ascertaining their suitability for export to this country. The first three wheats, which were stated to be of Indian origin, were described as follows:—1. Hindi wheat, similar to Muzaffarnaggar Indian wheat. 2. Hindi wheat "Saidi." 3. Hindi wheat "Beheri." The three samples were submitted to commercial experts in London, who were asked for an opinion as to whether similar wheats would be suitable for the British market, and if so what their probable value would be. They furnished the following report on the samples:—No. 1. This is somewhat similar to the "Delhi" wheat which is shipped from Karachi, and would be worth about 51s. per quarter of 492 lbs. No. 2. A wheat of good colour, but rough, thick-skinned, starchy and lacking strength; weaker than No. 1, and worth about 49s. 6d. per 492 lbs. No 3. A large berried, but very rough, wheat, thick-skinned, starchy and lacking strength. It would be worth about 48s. per 492 lbs.

It was stated that the "Saidi" and "Beheri" wheats are not unknown to London corn factors and millers, having been exported from Egypt some twenty-five to thirty years ago in considerable quantities under the names of "Saidi" and "Beira" wheats. All three wheats would be quite suitable for the English market, and consignments of similar character would be saleable at prices dependent upon the current market values. The fourth sample represented a type known as "Gawi," which is in much favour in parts of Upper Egypt, owing to its power of resisting the hot "Khamseen" winds of March and April. It is believed in London to be of Algerian origin. The experts in London stated that this wheat would not be suitable for the British markets. It resembled in character the hard Bombay wheats which are used for the manufacture of marcaroni, and it would find much better markets at Mediterranean or Adriatic ports than in the United Kingdom.

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Egyptian Railways and the War.

Under the above title the current issue of the *Railway Gazette* publishes the following interesting article:—

The Egyptian State Railways have been playing a very prominent part in connection with recent events in Egypt. The British Government decided that as, in accordance with the Suez Canal Convention, the canal ports of Suez and Port Said were neutral, no more troops should be landed at them than were necessary to secure the safety of these places. All other troops brought into Egypt —British Territorials, Australians, Tasmanians, New Zealanders, men from Ceylon, etc.—have been landed at the Mediterranean port of Alexandria, which has also been used for the reception of wounded Indians from France. On the Egyptian State Railways has fallen the work of the transporting of these troops, consisting of many thousands in number, and their baggage to their various destinations, either up to the Suez Canal or to the various garrison towns of Cairo, Zagazig, etc. In addition to the men, of course, have been the thousand and one items of traffic which accompany an army—artillery, wireless telegraphy installations, field and base hospitals, fodder, stores and munitions of war generally. The strain has undoubtedly been great, but the work has been carried out from start to finish without a hitch, under the continuous personal supervision of Colonel Sir George Macauley, K.C.M.G., R.E., the general manager; Major Blakeney, R.E., deputy manager; and Captain Hall, R.E., traffic manager.

The Defence of the Canal.

It is, however, in connection with the defence of the Suez Canal against the Ottoman-cum-German attack that the State Railways of Egypt have played the most important part. The line in this area takes a T-shaped form, the extremities being based at each end of the canal, upon Port Said on the Mediterranean side and Suez on the Red Sea side. The total length of this cross of the T is 172 km. Situated almost centrally is Ismailia (which is 77 km. from Port Said, 91 km. from Suez, and 95 km. from Port Tewfik or Suez Docks), the junction where the line forming the tail of the T takes off, and, running viâ the celebrated battlefield of Tel-El-Kebir, and Zagazig and Benha, gives communication with the chief city of Egypt—viz., Cairo, which is 161 km. from Ismailia, 238 km. from Port Said, and 256 km. from Suez Docks. From Cairo to Zagazig—82 km. —the line is double; thence to Ismailia—79 km.—it is single, and also all along the canal bank. Along this single line of railway, served by another single line from the base established at Zagazig to Ismailia, the successful British defence of Egypt was based. Until within recent years the line from Port Said to Ismailia was a narrow-gauge (75 cm.) one, the property of, and operated by, the Suez Canal Company. Subsequently it was purchased by the Government of Egypt and converted to the standard Egyptian gauge—4 ft. 8½ ins. Even when the present great war started, however, the crossing places in the single line all along the canal were few and far between. This was speedily remedied, however, and some loops, each capable of accommodating a train of maximum length, were put in by the State railway engineers in almost record time. The result of this was that not only was the administration able to handle all military traffic expeditiously and without congestion, but the ordinary passenger time-table has been worked to without a hitch, and even public goods traffic has only been stopped once for one day—that upon which the Turkish attack (and débâcle) actually took place.

The Railway Workshops.

For weeks before the fight the workshops of the State railways at Boulac, Cairo, had been working day and night on military requirements. Hundreds of iron bedsteads for the use of the troops were turned out, and three or four completely equipped hospital trains form a portion of the work these shops have been responsible for under the direction of Mr. R. G. Peckitt, the chief mechanical engineer.

Throughout the period preceding the attack, and for some days afterwards, the more important stations were directly in charge of European railway officers specially deputed from other parts of Egypt for the purpose. Luckily, the Turkish bombardment was so ineffectual that the railway escaped practically without injury.

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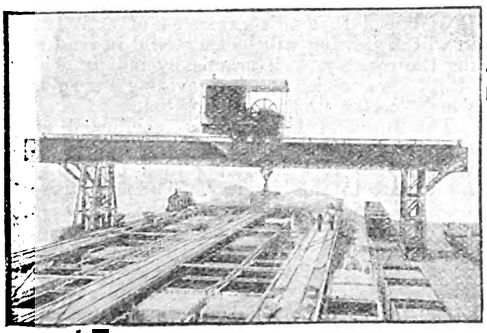

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Engineering Notes.

A Small Pumping Plant.

The time is approaching when Oriental agriculturists and gardeners become anxious about water and the available means for irrigation during the hot season. All kinds of mechanical pumps are used, and all the worn-out and disabled horses, donkeys, and oxen become valuable assets for the time being, as long as they can turn round the water-lifting mill. Having this in mind, one could not help wondering what would have been the feelings of such agriculturists and gardeners if they had been present at a recent test of a little pumping plant which, for private estate work, farm, and general use, is most serviceable. The plant consists of a 1½ b.h.p. oil engine and a simple form of plunger pump, driven by machine-cut gearing, the whole being mounted on a cast-iron bed-plate. The drive is so arranged that, should the pump not be required in action, the gear shaft may be thrown out of operation, when the engine can be used for other purposes. The engine is of an enlarged open-top water jacket type, without the usual separate water tank, and means are provided by a small screw-down valve and piping for automatically adding water to the engine cylinder jacket, when necessary on long and heavy loads. Capable of delivering 1,100 gallons of water per hour to a height of over 100 ft., the engine consumes about 1¼ pints of petrol in that time; thus the cost of fuel for such duty may be roughly estimated at about twopence per hour. In the event of the plant being requisitioned for fire extinguishing purposes, it will throw 1,100 gallons through a suitable fire nozzle to a height of 30 ft. With the pumping gear out of action, this plant is very serviceable for driving barn machinery, a small flour mill, or thrashing machine, as well as for electric lighting purposes. Thus this little plant can be profitably employed all the year round.

A Semi-Bituminous Suction Gas Plant.

The suction gas plant, as a power producer, is very much in favour throughout the East, and its use is particularly noticeable in places where anthracite, coke, or charcoal are easily procured at a reasonable price. Many plants of Continental or American construction for burning wood, as well as anthracite or charcoal, have been introduced, but, as in most places even the wood is expensive, there are still many and extensive regions in the East where this simple and useful power-producer has not yet been introduced for that reason. A semi-bituminous suction gas plant, therefore, of quite a recent design will be of interest to those who are prevented from using the ordinary suction gas plant owing to the cost of the fuel. This new plant is designed for the purpose of gasifying any fuel of a semi-bituminous nature, such as wood blocks, chippings, sawdust, and wood refuse generally, peat, lignite, waste vegetable products, and spent tan. Working on reasonably dry wood the consumption has, it is said, been as low as 2 lbs. per b.h.p. per hour, whilst with sawdust as fuel the consumption averaged 3.5 lbs. per b.h.p. per hour. It is significant that spent tan containing as much as 50 per cent. of moisture can be utilised without previous treatment in this generator. No leakage of gas is possible whilst the plant is at work, neither is smoke observable, and its simplicity of working and reliability are features that have been highly commended by those for whom such plants have recently been installed. The producer, operating on the suction principle, delivers clean gas regulated to suit the demand, no gasholder being required, for the production of gas automatically responds to the requirements of the engine, and ceases when the demand stops. Should it at any time be necessary to employ anthracite, coke, or charcoal owing to a shortage of waste products, such fuels may be at once employed without any modification or stoppage of the plant. The cleaning arrangements are such as to ensure undisturbed running of the engine; the water consumption is quite moderate, the space occupied is limited, and, assuming that the fire is alight from the previous day's run, the producer can be in operation within ten minutes of the arrival of the attendant. Considering that lignite is cheap and easily procured in almost all places in the Near East, and that waste vegetable products and spent tan are thrown away, this new plant will be found a most suitable and economical power-producer for that region.

A New P. and O. Steamer.

The new steamship "Kalyan" has been completed for the Peninsula and Oriental Company at the yard of Messrs. Cammell, Laird and Company, Birkenhead; and is programmed to begin her maiden voyage on June 5, when she will leave London for Bombay with the Indian mail. This vessel is the last to be delivered of the new class of 9,000-ton passenger steamers, known as the "K" class, designed more especially to reinforce the P. and O. Company's services to Calcutta and to the Straits, China, and Japan. Notable features of these steamers are the great breadth and length of their sheltered promenade decks and the comfort and simple elegance of their public rooms. The main dining saloon which is fitted with restaurant tables is situated forward on the spar deck and extends through the width of the ship, being lighted from the sides and forward end by sixteen large windows or port-holes. On the hurricane deck above are the first-class music and smoking saloons; the "Marconi room," and a limited number of first-class deck-cabins. Accommodation is provided on the hurricane and spar decks for seventy-nine first and sixty-eight second-class passengers in cabins, the majority of which are outside or port-hole cabins for one or two persons only. Most of the cabins are furnished with wardrobes, writing-tables, etc.; and the free provision in each cabin of an electric ventilating fan and the attachment to every bed of a movable reading lamp are conveniences which will be appreciated.

ROUMANIAN RAILWAY NEWS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, April 18.

The work on the Toulcea-Constantza railway which had been abandoned for the time being is to be taken up actively again. Thirty kilometres of the line are already completed, and the rest is to be finished in the shortest possible period.

M. Al. Perietzeanu, director of traffic on the Roumanian State Railways, has returned from Salonica and Sofia, after having completed the arrangements with the Greek and Bulgarian Governments for the regular transport of merchandise destined for Roumania and discharged in the port of Salonica. Both Governments have accorded every possible facility for the passage of all goods for Roumania.

One hundred and fifty trucks and ten locomotives of the Roumanian State Railways have been sent to Salonica to aid in the transport. Daily ten Roumanian trucks at least will leave Salonica.

The intended route viâ Serbia to Prahovo has been abandoned, the difficulties of transporting by the narrow gauge line between Nish and that port presenting far too many difficulties. The route now decided on is Salonica-Sofia-Sistor, where the goods will be transported across the Danube by lighter and reloaded on Roumanian trucks at Zimnitza, the Roumanian railhead opposite Sistor.

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"THE TIMES" ENGINEERING SUPPLEMENT.

We publish this week further extracts from *The Times* Engineering Supplement dealing with the reports for 1914 of some leading British engineering firms who are well-known in the Near East:—

J. Tylor and Sons.

Messrs. J. Tylor and Sons report that business increased considerably during last year. Since the outbreak of war their accommodation has been taxed to the utmost, and although the size of the works was greatly increased in 1914 further extensions are contemplated to meet the increased demands for their manufactures. The capacity of the engine department manufacturing petrol and paraffin engines has been more than doubled, and plant of the most modern type installed. They have just completed a 200 h.p. four-cycle, single acting, high speed "V" type engine, having eight cylinders each 7 ins. in bore by 8 ins. in stroke, for the Thomas Transmission Company for use in a petrol electric rail coach on the New Zealand State Railways; and the mechanical portion of the transmission gear was also manufactured by them.

N.P. Pump Bucket Company

This firm state that on the whole the war has not affected their business; in fact, the last three months of the old year were by far the best they have had in the matter of sales. During the year they received many orders for home, colonial, and foreign use for their pump buckets in all makes of pumps from 2 to 25 ins. diameter. They are conducting experiments at present with leather and composition rings suitable for hydraulic work and for dealing with acids, oils, etc., as although the rings now used will stand any temperature they are affected by the above-named agents.

ROUMANIA'S OIL EXPORTS.

A correspondent writes to the *Daily Express* to call attention to the fact that Roumania, which recently borrowed £5,000,000 from Great Britain is exporting large quantities of oil into Germany and Austria. "With the exception of 594 tons divided between Serbia and Switzerland," he points out, "the whole of Roumania's exports of refined oil in the month ending March 13 (the latest returns to hand) were destined for the enemies of the Allies, thus:—

Austria-Hungary	.....	14,813 tons
Germany	.....	9,587 ,,
Bulgaria	.....	2,114 ,,
Turkey	.....	1,761 ,,

"These figures are not only up to the average before the war, but are unusually heavy.

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Near East Markets.

COTTON MARKET.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Liverpool, Thursday Night.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report:—

Egyptian Spot.—The demand continues very limited, and the business reported is only moderate, prices being weak throughout and quotations reduced 50 points for good and below Nubari, and 40 points for other growths, while above good in all descriptions are reduced 30 points. Sales are estimated at 2,300 bales, against 2,000 bales last week.

Manchester Trade.—During the past week the tone of the market is not improved, and notwithstanding steady decline in price of cotton, little confidence in present level prices is displayed as yet. There is also at the moment considerable unrest apparent amongst workers. A demand for war bonus is already causing trouble in spinning sections. Cloth.—Impossible to find any particular outlet that can be described as satisfactory. Manufacturers, as a body, report a poor week's turnover, and prices have declined in sympathy with cotton. Attention of the Near East is centred on progress of war in the Dardanelles.

ZEIDAB COTTON.

The latest cotton figures from Zeidab, says the *Egyptian Gazette* of the 23rd ult., are 8,540 kantars from the company's land and 1,215 from native land. Of the samples sent by the company for valuation the American fetched practically the same price as the Ashmuni. It is not known whether this is due to the demand or to deterioration of the Ashmuni seed which had already been reported.

Three "Kholis" have arrived from Egypt, and preparations are being made for extensive ploughing and distribution of cotton seed, all Zeidabi American. It is estimated that about 1,700 sakias will grow cotton this year. In this connection it is much to be hoped that an agricultural inspector will be available shortly to replace Mr. MacDonald.

SUDAN GRASS OR GARAWA.

Mr. R. Hewison, Assistant Director of Agriculture, Khartoum, publishes a letter in the *Field* on the above fodder plant, in connection with its increased cultivation in the United States and the possibilities of its cultivation in England. The following are some extracts:—

The grass in question is a native of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, and in the catalogue of Sudan flowering plants compiled by Mr. Broun, late Director of Woods and Forests, Sudan Government, the following description of it is given: "Andropogon halepensis Brot; Arabic name Addar or Arda (wild variety), Garawa (cultivated variety). Tall grass cultivated for fodder. The seeds are eaten in times of scarcity. When wild it grows to a height of 12ft., and is found in damp localities along the river banks or edges of pools." The American authorities have given it another botanical name, Holcus sorghum, since its introduction into the United States, but it is not known on what grounds this change in nomenclature has been made. As a fodder crop it is grown to a limited extent and always under irrigation in Egypt and the Sudan, and it would have undoubtedly attained greater importance in these countries but for the existence of other crops particularly suited to the agricultural and climatic conditions prevailing there. In Egypt, no forage crop can really compete with "bersim," the Egyptian clover, Trifolium Alexandrinum. In the Sudan the growing of crops specially for forage is practically confined to Government farms and those others which contract for the supply of green forage to the army. For the latter purpose "garawa" is a favourite crop. The native cultivator in the Sudan depends for his fodder to a certain extent upon the natural grasses of the country, but chiefly upon the stalks and leaves of "dura" (Sorghum vulgare), the staple grain crop of the country, and the haulms of "lubia (Dolichos lablab), a valuable leguminous crop grown on irrigated land, and also on banks and islands flooded by the annual rise of the Nile. But for these reasons the merits of garawa would be more widely known, as it is undoubtedly a forage crop of great value.

Although the cultivated variety does not attain to the height given above as that reached by the wild grass, it is a quick grower and a prolific yielder under favourable conditions. On good land and with sufficient moisture a crop of 10 to 12 tons per acre of green forage can be produced in about one hundred days, while a second cutting of from a half to two-thirds of this amount will be obtained some two and a half months later. The crop appears to have had a great initial success in the United States, and although it is not possible to say whether it would similarly succeed in England, it would appear to be well worth a trial in that country.

The following notes regarding the cultivation of this grass on irrigated land may be of interest. When a good seed bed has been secured by the thorough cultivation of the soil, the land is divided off into small plots in chequer board fashion for convenience of irrigation. Each plot is thus surrounded by small banks, which check the flow of water over the surface of the soil and ensure an equal distribution all over the field. The size and shape of these plots, known as "hods," vary to a certain extent according to the levels of the surface of the land, but on well levelled fields they run about 25 to 35 square yards in area. The seed is usually sown by hand. Shallow holes some 6 ins. apart each way are made with the heavy hoe which is such a feature of Egyptian agricultural practice, and a few seeds dropped into each and lightly covered with fine soil. After sowing, water is admitted into each of these plots until the soil has received a thorough soaking without being over-flooded. Care is necessary in giving this first irrigation, for if water is allowed to flow into the plot too quickly the seed may be washed out of the surface soil and left stranded on the surrounding banks or crowded to one side of the plot. As the crop is a quick grower and soon provides a dense shade, no after cultivation is required, all that is necessary being the supply of irrigation water at suitable intervals. The frequency of watering required varies with the soil and the climate. In the Sudan a watering every twelve days is usually required. Cutting is generally done with a small sickle knife; the scythe is practically unknown in the Sudan, although it is used to a certain extent in Egypt for cutting bersim, while mowing machines are curiosities confined to a few large estates under European management or influence.

PRODUCE REPORT.

London, May 6.

Currants.

The market continues strong for all qualities and ordinary medium and good parcels must be quoted dearer. No arrivals have taken place this past week; and only one steamer is afloat due this or early next week. No further shipment is likely to take place until the middle of this month.

In Liverpool the demand has continued active, and the stocks are much reduced. Medium grades at 27s. 6d. to 29s. were mostly inquired for, and the selection remaining is very restricted. Provincial is scarce, and the last sales made showed an advance in price of 6d. per cwt. The supply available is insufficient for requirements, without prospects of further arrivals for at least three weeks.

Sultanas.

Another cargo of Smyrna is close at hand. With a good assortment of all qualities the demand has greatly improved, and nearly all qualities are now selling freely, the only exception being the finest. Cretan sultanas are difficult of sale, but, nevertheless, worth attention on account of price.

In the Liverpool market what remains of the 15,000 boxes ex "Roma" is moving at 1s. per cwt. advance, and after these are disposed of there will be practically nothing available. Small consignments of Afghanistan fruit have come to hand and sold at 53s. to 54s., which is an improvement on previous sales. There is very little prospect of any further important supplies of this origin.

Figs.

Naturals are steady, without much demand. A few skeletons are selling at full prices. In Liverpool market bags of naturals are wanted.

Dates.

There is a good demand at firm prices, but Khadrawies are very short.

Seeds.

Linseed is rather firmer; London-Calcutta, spot and April-May, 55s. 3d. Rapeseed remains firm; Cawnpore, brown, April-May, 51s. 6d.; Guzerat pure, ditto, 55s. Cottonseed is very firm and sparingly offered. London Egyptian spot, April £8 5s., May £8 12s. 6d. per ton. Rangoon beans are steady at the recent advance, 72s. landed being now asked, with quotations for forward shipments firmer.

Oils.

Linseed oil: The market continues weak, and prices show a further market decline. On the spot pipes £31 10s.; barrels £32, month £31 10s., May, £31 5s. Rape oil is quiet but firm. Ordinary brown on the spot, naked £38 15s. to £39 nominal. Cotton oil has further improved in value. Crude, on the spot, pipes, £31 5s. to £31 10s., May-June £32; refined, on the spot, pale, pipes £33 10s.; sweet, barrels £36 to £38.

Egyptian Cotton Cake.

Only a very limited quantity is available in store, for which there are free buyers at £6 5s., but for April shipment holders would be willing to accept £6 2s. 6d. ex ship, at which there is a fair amount of business passing, whilst English are without alteration at £6 5s. to £6 7s. 6d. and Bombay £5 15s. per ton.

Locust Beans.

The market is firm and dearer owing to scarcity. Whole is quoted £7 10s., and kibbled £8 5s.

Egyptian Onions.

Egyptian supplies continue satisfactory, and sound bright parcels meet with a good inquiry at full rates; damaged, however, are moving at low figures.

Gums.

The market is rather quiet, with very little doing. Arabic, Turkey sorts are quoted 40s. to 50s. East India, common to fine, 32s. 6d. to 37s. 6d. Camboge, 31s. to 260s.; mastic, 4s. 6d. to 5s.; myrrh, good to fine, 96s. to 100s. cwt. Tragacanth, first 560s. to 910s.; low to good sorts, 90s. to 130s.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

In the House of Commons on Tuesday, Sir J. D. Rees asked the Under-Secretary for India whether during recent events in South-Western Persia any injury had been done to the Anglo-Persian Oil Company's pipeline or to its refinery at Abadan. Mr. Roberts replied that the company's pipe-line has been cut, but no damage has been done to the refinery or works.

A Constantinople telegram received in Amsterdam announces the opening of the great bridge over the Euphrates on the Baghdad line.

A further consignment of 100 bags of Egyptian onions has been sent from Alexdria to the Vegetable Products Committee in England as "a gift from Egypt for the British Fleet in the North Sea."

A wire from Bucharest states that a fire has broken out in the refining works of the Romana, causing damage to the extent of about £40,000.

Messrs. the Vacuum Oil Company, Cairo, were the successful tenderers recently to the Egyptian War Office for the supply of petroleum.

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Engineering Prospects in Turkey.

The Engineer published on April 16 and April 23 two well-informed articles on "Engineering Prospects in Turkey," from which we reproduce the following extracts:—

While the demand for new constructional work of practically every description will assert itself immediately after the war—destined to replace the terrible wastage that has occurred and which is bound yet to occur—there is no part of the world likely to open up greater opportunities for the engineer than the Near East.

Released from the necessity of supplying the Government with endless supplies of munitions of war, with their machinery again devoted to the output of constructive instead of destructive material, the factories of Great Britain will hum and vibrate with activity to the benefit of all alike—to the profit of the master and to the rich reward of the industrious operator. Pray that no deadlock may occur to mar or diminish the mutual benefits which here await but the reaping; that England may become again the workshop of the world and her workers its industrial saviours.

In considering this unique industrial situation I propose to examine here but one section of a widespread—an almost limitless—sphere of operations—the Near East, and more particularly that portion of it known as the Ottoman Empire.

British Enterprise.

The only important British enterprises in Turkey at the commencement of the war consisted of the National Bank of Turkey, even then upon its trial; British capital invested in the Quay Company; the Telephone Company; the construction of ports entrusted to British capital; the irrigation of Mesopotamia; and the convention for the reorganisation of the Ottoman Dockyards and the construction of a dock at Ismid by the Vickers-Armstrong group, in addition to the rebuilding of the repair yards of the Chirket-i-Hairié S.S. Company and the supply of entirely British machinery throughout. It was almost decided that British co-operation should likewise be invited in the rearrangement and re-equipment of the repair yards of the Mahsoossé Company. Additionally, orders had been given out to several prominent British firms of shipbuilders, such as R. and W. Hawthorn, Leslie and Co., of Newcastle-on-Tyne, for two steamers; and to the Fairfield Shipbuilding and Engineering Company, Limited, of Glasgow, for one steamer; the price in each case being fixed at £22,000. These undertakings seemed to complete the share of British firms in the great industrial development that was then taking place, but in which Germany claimed the greater share.

Here it would almost appear as if Providence, marvellously and mercifully watching over British interests and condoning British supineness, had interposed on her behalf. Just at the time that Germany had practically ousted British engineering from Turkey, when one by one both British-held and French-held concessions were falling into Teutonic hands, by fair means or foul, came the imminent collapse of Turkey, and the consequent confusion of all the many well-laid schemes of her Teutonic ally and mentor. If the dénouement favours us more than we deserve it is none the less welcome upon that account.

It is not at all improbable that, as one result of the seizure of Constantinople by the Allied Fleet, an event which no one doubts will happen, the straits of the Dardanelles with the seas of Marmora and Bosphorus will be thrown open to the commerce of the whole world, and Constantinople become a great free open port for all nations. Such an arrangement would not only put an end to all chance of arousing jealousy upon the part of any one among the Allies but would prove an advantage to all countries; it would likewise stimulate the commercial development of the territory occupied by the neighbouring States of Bulgaria, Serbia, Roumania, and Montenegro. The Dardanelles would be as free to the world's commerce as is the Suez Canal. Constantinople forms almost the geographical centre of three Continents—Europe, Africa and Asia, and were a progressive government but established there, it might become the clearing house for the great commerce continually taking place between these three Continents.

The total amount of trade carried on annually between Great Britain and Turkey has hitherto represented something considerably over £14,000,000 or £15,000,000; of this £9,000,000 have been in exports from this country, and £5,000,000 in imports from Turkey. There has been, on balance, a substantial decline since 1910, with various fluctuations of both imports and exports; this can be readily understood when the almost continuous state of unrest prevailing throughout the Ottoman Empire is taken into consideration. British trade with Turkey suffered a heavy blow when, in the month of March, 1913, the combined Liverpool liners, as well as the Hull (Wilson) steamers, suspended their regular services to the Levant. At the same time some of the railway companies in England refused to carry to Liverpool cargo marked "Constantinople." These facts, in conjunction with the stolid indifference shown by the British Government about our Ottoman trade relations, had a remarkably bad effect upon matters of commercial importance in Turkey, and our industrial position there was becoming steadily worse.

Chamber of Commerce in Turkey.

It is but two years ago that the British Chamber of Commerce in Turkey passed the following resolution: "That in view of the tremendous and successful efforts of our commercial rivals (meaning Germany), owing to their up-to-date and well-organised and diplomatic and consular system to protect and promote the interests of their trades and their enterprises in Eastern countries, such as Turkey, it is incumbent upon his Majesty's Government to take into serious consideration a change in its present diplomatic and consular system in its relation to British trade, and to improve and adapt it to modern exigencies." And having delivered itself of this wise pronouncement, the Constantinople Chamber calmly sat down and awaited the result. It proved a purely negative one, as anybody knowing the British Government might very well have expected. Meanwhile, British traders themselves did nothing towards effecting "a change" or "to improve and adapt themselves to modern exigencies." Impartial critics and observers are perfectly cognisant of the fact that British manufacturers have done nothing, whereas German and other manufacturers have done everything to secure for themselves the markets of the Balkans and Asia Minor, their systematic efforts to win having succeeded, while the incredible ineptitude of their British "competitors" quite naturally assisted them.

An enterprise for which contracts will be awarded in due course is that of lighting by electricity the Princes' Islands, near Constantinople. The Princes' Islands are four in number—Prinkipo, Halki, Antigoni and Proti. Had not the Germans induced Turkey to enter into the *mêlée*, this enterprise would have been begun last year, and the contract would doubtless have been secured by some German firm. Specifications had already been prepared, and applications for particulars had actually been invited *pro forma* by the Prefecture of Constantinople. One of the clauses insisted upon by the Turkish Minister of Public Works was that the successful contractor should furnish all benevolent institutions with a full service of light and power free of charge, while a fixed annuity was to be paid to the Prefecture. The concessionaire, on the other hand, was to be permitted to charge consumers—compelled by a special law to become so—whatever he pleased, a typical example of Ottoman governmental morality!

Constantinople Telephone Co.

It may not be out of place to detail here some of the many drawbacks and difficulties which foreign engineering concerns have had to meet and surmount in connection with past concessions held under the Turkish Government. It will be remembered that about the end of 1911 a company known as the Constantinople Telephone Company (Société Anonyme Ottomane des Téléphones de Constantinople) was formed in London, and invited subscriptions to the amount of some £300,000 from the British public. The money, or the greater part of it, was subscribed, but almost from the beginning trouble and disappointment were met with by the management in Turkey. Notwithstanding the able advice and valuable assistance available—the board possessed some three or four directors, who were serving upon the boards of other concerns of a similar character, namely Mr. Stanley J. Goddard, Superintendent of the National Telephone Company, Limited; Mr. D. Sinclaire, general manager of the British Insulated and Helsby Cables, Limited; Mr. David Smith, of the United River Plate Telephonic Company, Limited; and M. E. Thurnauer, Administrator of the French Thomson-Houston Company—little could be done for a long time to overcome the numerous obstacles thrown in the company's path. Messrs. Frank Gill and W. W. Cook, two distinguished engineers who were in charge of the engineering department of the National Telephone Company, had estimated that when 10,000 stations had been connected up at Constantinople, which they believed could have been accomplished within four years from the inauguration of the service, the profits should be substantial and sufficient "to pay a dividend of at least 7½ per cent." By the month of April, 1913, however, the company had only 26 kiloms. of cable in position, but practically the whole of the underground piping had been laid. It had encountered serious inconvenience by delay in securing material which, unfortunately, had been placed upon the list of contraband of war. While the Ottoman authorities did little to help the company, the British Government actually refused to interfere. It might, however, easily have done so, since at that time the relations between Great Britain and Turkey were normal, and thus some of the company's constructional material might have been released from embargo. Early in March of last year, however, the company, in spite of the adverse conditions referred to, succeeded in putting Constantinople and its numerous and distant suburbs into telephonic communication. It had laid its submarine cables across the Golden Horn, thus connecting the two continents, Europe and Asia, by telephone for the first time, while another cable had been laid from Constantinople to Princes' Islands, in the Sea of Marmora. Altogether, over 46,200 kiloms. of submarine, underground, or overhead lines were laid. Three large exchanges were established—at Pera, Stamboul and Kadikeni, an important suburb while about a dozen minor stations were distributed along either bank of the Bosphorus and Marmora, along the Asiatic coast, from Pasha Baghtsche to the Gulf of Ismid, and along the European coast from Büyükderé to San Stefano. Only 10 per cent. of the staff employed were Europeans, and these, by a decree of April 5 last, were dismissed and replaced by Hungarians. Counsellor Eugen Redl, an Austrian, has assumed control of the English-owned telephone company, while another Hungarian engineer, named Alexander Ledecki, is in charge of the telegraphs.

Sir John Jackson.

Among the most heavy sufferers from the war with Turkey is the firm of Sir John Jackson (Turkey), Limited; for some years it has been carrying on vast irrigation works in Mesopotamia, more particularly at the Hindieh Barrage, where things had been prospering quite satisfactorily. A smaller subsidiary company had been formed to handle this last-named enterprise the more effectively; the first undertaking was to construct a jetty at the port of Salif, on the Red Sea, for the Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt. This jetty was intended to be of reinforced concrete. Other projects included harbour construction at Somsoun and Trebizond, on the Black Sea, as mentioned briefly in the *Engineer* of March 26.

Already concessions have been granted for the installation of electric light and power, a railway electric system, and the water canalisation of the important city of Somsoun. Likewise tenders will be invited for the construction of the port of Heracles.

It was decided, as far back as 1913, to construct waterworks at Trebizond, and tenders

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are invited to this end by the Municipality. The date first mentioned for the reception of such tenders was June 14, but was subsequently altered to October 13. The length of the canalisation to the town is some 22 kiloms.

Harbours.

In connection with the important port of Alexandretta, it had long been determined to improve the harbour, so that the branch line of railway linking up that port might have every opportunity of justifying its construction. The contracting firm is French—La Société du Port de Haidar Pacha. The survey was completed as far back as 1912. The wall, of which only a portion has been finished, will be 3,000 metres long, the enclosed harbour having a length of 1,800 m., with a maximum depth of 10 m., while the entrance will be 180 m. wide. The design, however, embraces a much wider scope; in fact, it allows for a second and larger quay on the outside, which would have a length of 4 kiloms. In addition to the dock and wharf structures, there are to be eight coal warehouses, each measuring 40 by 10 m., with a total capacity of 120,000 tons, built upon the outer quay; and seven warehouses on the shore dock for the storage of merchandise, each to measure 20 by 35 m. A new custom house and an administration building for the port company and several other edifices are also called for. An immense output of dredging will be necessary; part of this has already been carried out by means of a German dredger which was purchased in September of 1913—it should have been delivered in the preceding June, but the Teutonic manufacturers were unable to comply with the terms of their contract, and escaped without the imposition of any kind of penalty.

A harbour at Cozlan—a place of some importance situated at a distance of three kilometres from, and to the west of, Zongouldak—is an enterprise in French hands, but it is questionable whether it will now see completion. The original concession was granted by the Ottoman Government as long ago as March 5, 1912. the concessionaire being given the option, under equal conditions, to construct a railway connecting the Kilimli mines with the sea.

It is possible that one of the earliest enterprises undertaken by foreign capital in the "New Turkey," will be the construction of the dock at Ismid, to which reference has already been made, by the Vickers, Armstrong and Co. group. Another equally distinguished firm, Schneider and Co., was about to undertake a number of harbour improvements on behalf of the Ottoman Government It was, however, violently and successfully opposed by German interests, and nothing came of the negotiations, notwithstanding the fact that elaborate plans had been prepared at considerable expense.

At the time that the Vickers, Armstrong group obtained from the Turkish Government the concession for the reorganisation and working of all the Turkish dockyards and arsenals for a period of thirty years, it was supposed that an excellent piece of enterprise had been secured. And, indeed, so it would have proved but for the prevailing condition of things. The British group represented by the Vickers, Armstrong interests seemed to be on the high road to prosperity when the collapse came, and this notwithstanding the long-withstood and persistent opposition from Teutonic quarters. In future this will be eliminated, and it is possible that the British firms concerned will be able to pursue the even tenour of their way without further trouble or interruption.

Had political events in Turkey taken a different and less sinister form there would have been by now under construction, and carried a long way towards completion, a line of railway leading from the Dardanelles to Smyrna—two places very much in the public eye at present. This railway would have to be provided with a branch to Kara Bigha, which also has figured in recent military dispatches. The line starting from the Dardanelles would have touched at Aivodjik, Edremid, Bourhanié, Aüvalik, Dikili, and Ali-aghe, with a terminus at Karchi-Yaka (Smyrna). The concession, which was granted to the French company, La Société des Entreprises l'Omnium, authorised the entire undertaking, including the erection of quays at the Dardanelles. The railway line would have been between 450 and 500 kiloms. in length. but was to enjoy no kilometric guarantee.

Railways.

One of the most important concessions obtained by the German interests from the Turkish authorities was that for constructing the Bayazid-Chichli electric railway—an underground scheme having great possibilities. Originally this enterprise was to have been French, the idea having arisen with an important group of Paris financiers, who were quite prepared and able to carry it through. But with the fall of the ministry which had favoured it, and the entrance into power of a new pro-German Public Works Minister, French interests were overthrown, and the German group—represented by Herr Huguénin, director of the Anatolian and Baghdad railways—gained the victory. This railway, which may now be de-Germanised and become a conjoint Franco-British enterprise, would run from Sultan Bayazid on to the heights of Stamboul, to Pancaldi, above Pera, crossing the Golden Horn on a bridge to be built not far from the new Galata Bridge. From Pancaldi the main line would be continued to Chichli. A secondary line would extend from Bayazid to Yeni-Capon, on the Sea of Marmora, while other branches would follow the shore of the Golden Horn to Eycoub and the shore of the Bosphorus to Dolmabagtché.

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Company Notes.

Deutsche Orientbank.

A writer in the *Egyptian Gazette*, referring to the appointment of a controller to the Deutsche Orientbank, says:—"Obviously his first duty was to see that all available funds of the establishment were put forward to meet the demands of the depositors. This, I understand, has been done. It would appear to me, however, that a further duty which devolved upon the controller was to see that this institution, long regarded by the natives of this country as the standard-bearer of German propaganda in Egypt, was no longer allowed to carry on for political motives an apparently ordinary banking business, but should be restricted to the liquidation of affairs actually in existence at the outbreak of war. Such is not, however, the view apparently taken by the controller, for I am given to understand that the institution is undertaking new business, receiving deposits and loaning money, and this at a time when all the other banking establishments in the country are acting with extreme caution. At first sight it would appear incompatible with British ideas of fair-play to interfere with the Deutsche Orientbank, so long as it apparently conformed to the laws and ordinances, and especially as it has paid off the depositors to whom it was indebted at the outbreak of war. But, sir, under the cloak of ordinary banking business, political propaganda, inimical to Great Britain and her allies, is assuredly being carried on."

Oilfields Finance Corporation.

In the Court of Appeal, on Tuesday, Lords Justices Pickford and Warrington heard an appeal by the Consolidated Electrical Company, Limited, from an order of Mr. Justice Astbury, directing that a petition to wind up the Oilfields Finance Corporation, Limited, should stand over until the termination of the war or until further order. Mr. Gore-Browne, K.C., and Mr. Harold Simmonds appeared for the appellant company; Mr. Tomlin, K.C., and Mr. D. M. Hogg for the Oilfields Finance Corporation.

Mr. Gore-Browne said the petition of the Consolidated Electrical Company was supported by the Bibi-Eybat Oil Company, Limited, to each of which companies the Oilfields Finance Corporation owed £25,000. There were substantially only two other creditors—viz., the Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields, Limited, which was a creditor for £25,000, and the Bank, which was a creditor for £6,000, but took no part in the petition. The Oilfields Finance Corporation promoted the Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields and received £240,000 in fully paid shares. For the purposes of its business the Oilfields Finance Corporation borrowed £25,000 from the Consolidated Electrical Company, and a like sum from the Bibi-Eybat Oil Company. The connection between the Oilfields Finance Corporation and the Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields was very intimate. Not only did the Oilfields Finance Corporation hold 240,000 shares in the Roumanian company, but four of its directors were directors of the Roumanian company, which did practically whatever was asked of it by the other.

Lord Justice Pickford, in giving judgment, said it had been decided that the emergency legislation with regard to non-enforcement of judgments did not apply to winding-up proceedings. Therefore the Court was not hampered by that legislation in this case. The Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields had opposed this petition, probably in a great measure because it thought that winding-up might have the effect of putting its shares on the market. Mr. Justice Astbury thought the petition should stand over, in great measure apparently because he thought the debtor company had made a fair offer. The Consolidated Electrical Company argued that Mr. Justice Astbury had no right to attend to the wish of a minority of creditors. Section 145 of the Companies Act governed this. In that section he saw nothing which limited the attention of the Court to the wishes of the majority, but he thought it clear that the reasons given by a minority for not making a winding-up order should only be acted on in exceptional circumstances. It was a matter of discretion, no doubt, but it was important to notice that in their case the discretion had been exercised in a way in which, so far as the Court knew, it had never been exercised before. In this case also it seemed to him that, so far from there being an overwhelming case and giving effect to the wishes of the minority of the creditors, there was only a weak case. He did not say that the Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields was a creature of the Oilfields Finance Corporation or that the respondent company could do what it liked with it. He did not say that, and he saw no reason for believing it, but the Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields was not in an entirely independent position. The respondent company had considerable influence in its councils, and the two were closely related. That weakened its position as opponents to the order, and he thought that its opposition ought not to deprive the petitioning creditor of the right he would otherwise have as against the company. A winding-up order ought to be made. The liquidator would have ample powers to see that no injustice was done to any creditor.

Lord Justice Warrington concurred.

The appeal was accordingly allowed and the usual order made.

National Bank of Egypt.

The *Financial Times*, commenting on the report for the year 1914, says that it is of particular interest as revealing the extent to which the arrangement for financing the cotton crop by means of notes in place of gold was taken advantage of. "At December 31 the outstanding notes of the National Bank amounted to £8,250,000, as compared with £2,700,000 at the corresponding date of 1913. Against this was held £4,331,800 in gold and £3,918,100 in securities. Included among the securities were £2,410,200 Treasury bonds of the Egyptian Government and £585,000 in British Exchequer bonds, and of the gold £650,000 is deposited at the Bank of England. It will thus be gathered that the means adopted for avoiding the usual autumn shipment of gold to Egypt have proved successful."

Anglo-Egyptian Vallora.

Under the above title a company was registered on April 21 with a capital of £25,000 in £1 shares (10,000 six per cent. preference). The object of the company is to take over the cigarette manufacturing businesses lately carried on as the Anglo-Egyptian Tobacco Syndicate and Vallora, at 58, Pall Mall, S.W., and 13, Ganton Street, Regent Street, W., respectively. The minimum subscription is 500 shares. The offices are at 16-17, Pall Mall, S.W.

Aboukir Company.

The report of the Aboukir Company, Ltd., for 1914 states that the unsatisfactory result of the year's working was due entirely to the war and to the unprecedented low Nile of 1913, the effect of which was not fully felt until 1914. There were no sales during the year. Reclamation was retarded owing to scarcity of water. The rent roll for three Aboukir divisions and Bourlos Estate for 1914 totalled £E31,677. This shows a considerable reduction on the figures of the previous year, partly due to the reduction in area let, but chiefly to the reduction in rents owing to the land having been re-let on a one-third rotation. The cotton crop was below the average in yield. The damage done by insect pests was less severe, but the scarcity of summer water caused considerable damage.

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The price obtained was £2 18s. per kantar, as against £4 12s. 4d. last year. Arrears of instalments due by purchasers on December 31 last amounted to £11,693, of which £1,184 has since been paid. The profit and loss account shows a credit balance of £631, which, added to £3,513 brought forward, makes £4,144, of which £4,000 has been transferred to a reserve fund and the balance of £144 is carried forward.

Mr. Arthur W. Ballance, presiding at the annual general meeting of the Aboukir Company on April 30, said the unsatisfactory result of the year's working was due to the entirely unprecedented state of the Nile in 1913, the effect of which was not fully felt until 1914. The Nile had not been in such a condition for 150 years, and agriculture had been much affected. The war, too, paralysed business in town and country. Further, they experienced great difficulty in the disposal of their cotton crop, most of which went to the Continent. Ultimately they secured £2 15s. per cantar against £4 12s. 4d. last year. As to the future, they had to meet one drawback, but this, he thought, might prove an advantage to the land. The Government proposed a new method of cultivation, to reduce the area devoted to cotton to one-third, whilst the remaining two-thirds would be utilised for wheat, oats, and barley. The report was adopted.

THE FINANCES OF EGYPT.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, April 1.

The State accounts up to the end of February, that have just been published, show that the estimate made in my note on the January statement as to the final figures will not be far from the actual mark. The revenue for the eleven months amounts to £E14,223,717, as against £E16,427,977 for the same period in the previous year, and the expenditure to £E15,452,952, compared with £E16,593,673 on February 28, 1914. That is to say that there is a total diminution of £E2,204,260 in revenue and a total reduction of £E1,140,727 in expenditure. As compared with the previous corresponding eleven months the deficit is £E1,229,235 and £E1,063,533 more than it was at this date last year.

February, nevertheless, has been an excellent month, and the falling off in revenue, although still apparent, has this month been the lowest since the war, as the following table shows :—

	£E.
Diminution of revenue in August	261,857
" " September	347,399
" " October	837,112
" " November	438,173
" " December	315,509
" " January	104,178
" " February	39,119

Thus the revenue has come appreciably nearer to normal, and those who pinned their faith on the recuperative power of the country and on its hidden resources are seeing their confidence justified.

The chief factor in the recovery of the revenues during February was the land tax, of which £E116,142 more was collected than in February, 1914, and which is but £E219,573 below the budgetary estimate, and but £E81,513 below the amount collected at the end of the previous February.

On the other hand, all the remaining heads of revenue show decreases on the month's collections. Customs receipts are down a further £E67,716; tobacco dues, £E22,956; port dues, £E73,853; legal fees, £E31,900; and railway receipts, £E31,651.

COMPANY RESULTS, &c

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields.—Gemsah production for week, nil (last week, 107 tons). Hurgada production for week, 163 tons (last week, 318 tons).

Bank of Roumania.—The directors recommend a dividend of 6s. per share, free of English income-tax, for the year ended December 31 last.

Bulgarian Four and a-Half per Cent. Gold Loan, 1907.—The list is published of 665 bonds drawn in Sofia on December 31, 1914, for repayment at par.

Bulgarian Five per Cent. Gold Loan, 1902.—The list is published of 865 bonds drawn in Sofia on February 13 for repayment at par.

Egyptian Delta Light Railways.—Receipts for the ten days ended April 10 amount to £E3,940, as against £E2,205 for the corresponding period of last year.

Imperial Government of Persia Five per Cent. Sterling Loan of 1911.—The coupons due May 15 will be paid on and after that date at the Imperial Bank of Persia.

Khedivial Mail Steamship and Graving Dock Company.—Notice is given that on the 31st inst. a dividend at the rate of 5½ per cent. per annum on the cumulative preference shares, less income-tax, for the six months to June 30, 1914, will be paid at the bank of Glyn, Mills, Currie and Co., London, and at the Imperial Ottoman Bank, Alexandria.

Land and Mortgage Company of Egypt.—The debenture interest coupons and the debenture bonds (drawn for redemption), due on the 15th inst., will be paid by Messrs. Barclay and Co., Ltd., 54, Lombard Street, E.C., on and after that date.

GREEK DEBT.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders issues the following information compiled from figures published by the International Financial Commission at Athens with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek Debt from January 1 to 31, 1915 (New Style: January 14 to February 13, 1915) :—

—		Monopolies, Tobacco, Stamps, Stamped Paper, Naxos Emery.	Piræus Customs.
		Drachmæ.	Drachmæ.
Gross Receipts, Jan.,	1915	4,413,745·71	2,151,537·50
Do. do. do	1914	4,441,964·21	2,366,075·66
Estimated Receipts for 1 month (Law of Control)		2,408,333·33	891,666·67
Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 1 month	1915	+ 2,005,412·38	+1,259,870·83
	1914	+ 2,033,630·88	+1,474,408·99

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

NATIONAL BANK OF ROUMANIA.

BALANCE-SHEET, APRIL 28/10, 1915.

Assets.			
Metallic reserve	Gold (specie)	155,196,660	
	,, (bars)	140,000	
	Foreign bills payable in gold	69,726,311	225,062,971
Silver and other coins			733,466
Roumanian and foreign bills			224,984,658
Advances against Government securities		29,496,700	
On current account	49,691,500		
Unused balance ..	24,316,776	25,374,724	54,871,424
Loan of 15 millions to the State			11,273,958
Loan to Government on 4 per cent. Treasury Bonds (1914)			171,610,667
Bank's capital invested in Government stock			11,545,075
Reserve invested in Government stock			16,523,277
Reserve, depreciation of buildings, furniture and printing machinery			3,970,781
Premises			6,733,989
Furniture and printing machinery			1,096,439
General expenses			863,691
Government and other securities deposited			130,178,966
Four per Cent. Gold Treasury Bonds as security for loan to State			200,000,000
Securities held against advances or temporarily lodged			164,349,626
Current accounts			23,432,421
Security accounts			22,792,970
Sundry accounts			27,653,764
Total Lei			1,297,678,143

Liabilities.	
Capital	12,000,000
Reserve	39,500,365
Reserve, depreciation of buildings, furniture and printing machinery	5,740,096
Notes in circulation	624,676,162
Profit and loss account	4,132,090
Current accounts and drafts at sight	51,810,831
Securities, etc., held on account of customers	494,528,592
Sundry accounts	65,290,007
Total Lei	1,297,678,143

Bank Rate, 6 per cent.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE	Mean Price. July 27.	Min. Price. Mar. 20.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	—	90
Do. 5 % Gold Loan, 1902	—	—	—
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907	82	—	—
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909	80	—	65
City of Alexandria 5%, 1909	99	—	90½
City of Constantinople 4% Bnds	96	—	—
Egypt. Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan	93½	87½	87½
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	85	89½xd
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	88	78	78
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82½	73½	78½
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	80½	75	75½
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	52	57
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	52	56
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	45	49
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	40	46½
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	52	55½
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	—	52
Do. 4 % Rails. Loan, 1902	77	—	70
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	94	—	95
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	—	79½
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	91	—	81
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £60p.	92	—	—
Servian 4 % Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855	103	97	—
Do. 4 %, 1891	94½	—	86
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	—	79½
Do. 4 % Loan, 1902	82½	—	—
Do. 4 % Unified	79	—	59½
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	65½	—	52
Do. 4 %, 1909	69	—	—
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	—	3⅝xd
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	—	7
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.	80	—	78½
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red.	83	—	79½
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	—	10⅝
Bank of Abyssinia	½	—	—
Bank of Athens	£2	—	—
Bank of Roumania	8½	—	—
Eastern Bank	5	—	85/9
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅞	—	6⅛
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	—	—
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅞	—	72/6
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	—	—
National Bank of Egypt	13½	—	12⅜
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½% C.P.	8	—	6½
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8½	—	6⅜
Do. do. 5 % Debs., Red.	98	—	95
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I.	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88½	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17½	—	13½
Do. do. 6 % Cum. Pref.	22	—	16½
Do. do. 4 % 1st Deb.	87	—	62½
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb.	101	—	70
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	90	—	—
Do. do. 3 % Bonds	61	—	—
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	—	1/16
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	—	95
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	¼	—	—
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	—	2⅛
Do. Do. Def.	¼	—	—
Béhéra Co.	8½	—	7⅜
Do. Pref.	4⅜	—	4
Daira Sanieh	2/2	—	1/9
Do. Def.	⅜	—	⅛
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	9/-	—	7/1½
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tst.	98	—	—
Do and Foreign Trust	5/-	—	4/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	—	1⅛
,, ,, Founders	¼	—	—
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—	—
Do. 5 % Debs. Red.	—	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	9⅜	—	8½
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	—	91½
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	—	⅜
Sidi Salem Co.	⅛	—	⅛
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	—	¼
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	—	1/3
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	—	11⅞
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt	97	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	—	—
Egyptian Hotels	1½	—	—
Do. 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—	—
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅜	—	1⅜
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	99½	—	99
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	⅛	—	14/3
Do. 5 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	96	—	98
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	—	10/-
Do. do. Prefs.	3⅜	—	3½
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt.	90	—	—
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (fr. 500)	£179½	—	£—
Upper Egypt Hotels	2½	—	—

OIL.	Price on July 30.	May 5–15.
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	⅜	15/3
Anglo-Persian	22/1½	21/9
Cyprus Oil Trust	2/3	2/3
European Oilfields	4/9	4/3
Roumanian	20/-	18/-

PARIS BOURSE.

	Jan. 4.	May 5–15.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane	—	470
Canal de Suez	4050	4375
Credit Foncier Egyptien	639	—
Turkish Unified 4%	61.50	64.70
Egyptian Unified 4%	87.75	90xd
Serbian, 1895	—	65.60

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 210.—Vol. IX. FRIDAY, MAY 14, 1915.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Detailed accounts of the splendid feat of arms which enabled our troops to establish themselves on the Gallipoli Peninsula have now been published, and the story has sent a thrill of pride through the British Empire. The fact that more than a fortnight has elapsed since a British line was drawn across the southern end of the Peninsula without any further information of its progress being given only serves to enhance the significance of that feat. Throughout this period the troops have been subjected to a series of fierce attacks. The enemy had decided that a landing could never take place, and when he was confronted with the achievement of the impossible he set himself to recover at any cost the ground he had lost. In the face of these attacks we have been able to do little more than hold our own. The Turks and their German task-masters must be allowed to exhaust themselves as much as possible in the first frenzy of their disappointment. We shall do well to look for no rapid advance, but to hope that our position will be consolidated to the utmost and the ground for an advance so carefully prepared that, when it comes, it will be carried out with the minimum sacrifice of life.

While tributes are being paid to the gallantry of the British troops—Australians, New Zealanders, and the men of the 29th and Naval Divisions, together with the Fleet that showed no less heroism in its invaluable co-operation—we must not overlook the part played by our French Allies. In accepting the task of landing at Kum Kale they knew that they would be missing much of, if not all, the limelight. But this fact does not diminish the value of their operations, nor was it allowed to affect the courage and thoroughness with which the difficult operation was carried out. The French landing was a signal success. We know now that the movement was in the nature of a feint, and was not intended to herald an advance along the Asiatic coast of the Dardanelles. It achieved its object completely, while a large number of Turkish prisoners were taken to boot. The French troops have since been recalled, and are now in line with the British forces at the southern end of the Gallipoli Peninsula.

Owing to the ill-health of General d'Amade, there has been a change in the command of the French Expeditionary Force. General Gouraud, known as the "Lion of the Argonne" for his audacious and successful conduct of the war in that region, succeeds to the post. The fact that the French command is now in the hands of the youngest officer of his rank in the French Army and one who has earned distinction in this war shows the importance which the Allies attach to the successful conclusion of the operations at the Dardanelles. When the Germans were trying to persuade the Turks that they had nothing to fear from any attempt to force the Straits, they laid stress on the point that the French at least were not likely to spare much in the way of numbers or the personnel of the higher commands for the enterprise. The appointment of Sir Ian Hamilton and that of General Gouraud, backed as they have been by the magnificent valour of the troops under their command, must constitute yet another of those German miscalculations for which the Turks will one day demand a reckoning.

The loss of the Australian submarine AE2, which the Turks claim to have sunk while the vessel was trying to enter the Sea of Marmora, is evidence that the Allied Fleets have not allowed the landing forces to monopolise the whole of the initiative in the joint operations against the Dardanelles. According to a report from Constantinople, the town had been alarmed by the news that a British submarine had entered the Sea of Marmora. The reference is to E14, which is credited with having sunk two Turkish gunboats and a transport. Against these successes, however, we have to deplore the loss of H.M.S. "Goliath," torpedoed during the night of May 12. The nature of the operations on land and sea ought to be such that it will be impossible for the official reports to deal with the different phases until each is completed. Every effort will have to be made to avoid the condition of stalemate that opposing lines of trenches are apt to produce. The struggle should, therefore, resolve itself largely into one of wits between the higher commands on both sides. In this we can have every confidence that the Allies, reinforced as they have been by General Gouraud, will not be at a disadvantage.

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The "Quadruple Attente" is still intact, but even Germany would seem to have despaired of holding Italy any longer to her neutrality. Direct threats have now succeeded to the campaign of cajolery and misrepresentation. The Emperor William himself leads the way, and while he is seeking to influence King Victor Emmanuel, Germans in less exalted walks of life have been trying to put the fear of the Hun into the rank and file of the Italians. The spectacle is most instructive, for the policy of intimidation practised in Italy explains the part intended to be played in the conduct of the war by the outrages actually perpetrated in the theatre of operations. Incidentally such a policy simplifies for the Italians their transition from the position of allies to enemies. Germany's attitude towards Italy from the day when the latter insisted upon observing neutrality has called for far more of President Wilson's detachment from the affairs of this mundane world than is associated with the Italian character. The Italian Government's sense of responsibility has enabled it to maintain a correct attitude, while its preparations for war were being matured; but the extension of Germany's bullying methods from the secret channels of diplomacy to the street and to Italian private life has completed the breach begun by the policy for which Germany stands execrated by the opinion of the whole world.

It is commonly supposed that the delay from day to day in Italy's declaration of war is due to her desire to discover a suitable *casus belli*. We are more inclined to believe that other considerations are at work, for the failure of the negotiations with Austria-Hungary must offer a more satisfactory reason for fighting on behalf of the Italian population across her borders than the presence of Turkish officers among the Arabs in Tripoli. If the Italian Government finds it necessary to delay much longer, the danger of the Germanic Powers striking the first blow may arise. Feeling runs high both in Germany and Austria-Hungary against the Italians, and *Punch* is not far wrong in his analysis of the situation, when he depicts the German Emperor substituting "Italien" for "England" in the notorious phrase "Gott strafe England."

In a letter in this issue our Serbian Correspondent refers to the feeling of disappointment, akin to dismay, that the news of an understanding between Italy and the Triple Entente with regard to the Italian claims on the east coast of the Adriatic has aroused in Serbia. The intelligence need cause no surprise. If the dismay is shared in official circles, we are merely experiencing a trait in the Balkan character which found expression in the second Balkan War. No Balkan State is likely to display any readiness to surrender voluntarily any of the territory it holds or to abate its claims in any particular out of consideration for its own interests or those of the Balkans as a whole. This feature of the Balkan situation emphasizes the necessity for enforcing a cut-and-dried settlement of the entire Balkan question over the heads of the individual States. So long as territorial adjustments are left to be made on the initiative of the Governments which may have to surrender ground, there will always be reasons for discovering that the territory concerned is absolutely vital to the well-being of the nation. On the other hand, if Serbia were reminded that it owes its continued existence even within its present boundaries to Russia's action in drawing the sword on her behalf, she may make a virtue of necessity and acquiesce with relatively good grace in the decisions of the Triple Entente.

We have no wish to prejudice the case against Serbia in regard to Dalmatia. Both the Serbian and the Italian claims are assured of powerful support, and the task of the Powers of the Triple Entente will be to arrive at an equitable decision after careful consideration of all the circumstances. When that decision is communicated to the rival claimants, it may well be that the fears of possible injustice now shared by both will be shown equally to lack foundation. In this connection we may quote without further comment two expressions of opinion on this subject. At a recent meeting of the Balkan Committee the following resolution was passed:—"That the Balkan Committee, while welcoming the possible adhesion of Italy to the Allied cause on the basis of the completion of Italian national unity, and in virtue of the principle of nationality, to which the British Government is definitely pledged, urgently hopes that in any agreement between the Entente Powers and Italy due regard will be shown for the vital interests of our Serbian Ally, and, above all, of the Serbo-Croat population, to whom the Dalmatian coast belongs by right of race, language, geography, and economic interests; and, convinced that no antagonism of interests, whether military, linguistic, or economic, exists between the Adriatic peoples, the Committee earnestly desires that the Governments of the Triple Entente will use their endeavours to promote a lasting agreement between the kingdom of Italy and the Southern Slavs."

On behalf of the Italian claims a lance has been couched in an altogether unexpected quarter. The *Bourse Gazette* of Petrograd publishes an article, to which the correspondent of the *Morning Post* calls attention, from the pen of Count Perovsky-Petrovo-Solovovo, who, on the strength of other writings, must be acquitted of uncritical bias towards Italy. In the *Bourse Gazette* Count Perovsky-Petrovo-Solovovo admits that it is regrettable that the Slavs should be called upon to pay Italy's price with territory occupied by Slavs, and insists that the utmost care must be taken that nothing is surrendered without absolute necessity; but he finds several reasons why an abstract principle should not be allowed to stand in the way of the practical settlement of any political problem. He treats the question from an essentially matter-of-fact standpoint. "Let us certainly save Dalmatia from Italian rule, if possible; but if we cannot otherwise secure the adherence of Italy, and thereby the more speedily end the war, let us not hesitate to sacrifice the Dalmatians, Slavs though they be. To the Serbians let us say frankly, as to friends, 'We acknowledge to the full all that your most gallant armies have accomplished in the common cause. . . . But, after all, this great war . . . was entered upon for your sake. . . . Do not, then, throw any obstacles in the way of your Allies, who are seeking to quench the world-conflagration started for your sakes. . . . Remember that life is made up of compromises. Do not create for your friends of to-day another series of questions on the analogy of the Macedonian trouble.'"

Such troubles as Greece is encountering at the present moment are of her own making. We hear of frequent Cabinet Councils, and the Government Press is encouraged to familiarise the public with the possibility of ultimate intervention. But it is safe to suppose that the Gounaris Cabinet has not yet been able to make up its mind on the subject of intervention or continued neutrality. From what is known of the policy of the Triple Entente, there will be little chance of obstacles being placed in Greece's way, if she cares to perform her share in ridding Europe of the incubus of German militarism. A more virile diplomacy would have told the Hellenic Government that, as it refused to give its help when that help was needed, the occasion for its co-operation had passed. But, thanks to the friendliness of Great Britain, Greece will escape this rebuff. There remains King Constantine's attitude, which is not likely to have adjusted itself the more to public opinion after the discovery that both a military and political clique can be made subservient to the Court's German sympathies. That Greece's decision is still to be regarded as being in the balance may be inferred from the fact that the German Emperor has felt impelled to send a telegram to his sister, Queen Sophie. The contents of this have been communicated to a Greek newspaper. "Our final victory is certain. Woe to those who still dare to draw the sword against me," is the significant message which prefaces the Imperial "compliments to Tino." Geographical considerations prevent the enumeration to Greece of the specific Hunnish outrages that the German Emperor's enemies in neighbouring countries have to expect, but the same policy of intimidation is there. It proves that confidence in high places in Germany is on the wane.

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ATHENS LETTER.

ATHENS, May 2.

Negotiations with the Entente Powers.

A fortnight ago I reported that the negotiations entered upon by the Greek Government with the Entente Powers had little chance of success, chiefly because of the excessive guarantees demanded by Greece against any attack from Bulgaria.

The Ministerial Press has been busy explaining what these guarantees should be, and in demonstrating that they were quite indispensable to Greece. Thus the *Nea Himera* declared that the Government would be quite willing to participate in the war if the Entente Powers would adopt the following plan—which doubtless was dictated by the General Staff:—The Greek troops in conjunction with the Allies, instead of landing on the Gallipoli Peninsula, to make Salonika their starting point, and to proceed through Thrace, thus obliging Bulgaria either to join in their march upon Constantinople, or to declare herself definitely in favour of Turkey. This, said the *Nea Himera*, would be the only way to assure Greece against an attack from Bulgaria. Needless to say this absurd plan could never be accepted by the Entente Powers, involving as it does a virtual attack upon Bulgaria. Besides, the landing of the Allied troops on the Gallipoli Peninsula was already arranged for. Then the Gounaris Cabinet insisted upon another *sine qua non*, that the alliance of Greece with the Entente Powers should be as for a period of at least ten years after the war, so as to give Greece time to reorganise her forces. According to the Ministerialist papers this condition was the more important to Greece, as Serbia informed the Allies that if Bulgaria attacked Greece after the war was over, she (Serbia) would not be in a position to fulfil her obligations as an ally of Greece, her resources being completely exhausted, and she, therefore, put in a plea for a similar guarantee of protection after the war. It is clear that such a condition as that proposed by Greece is by no means easy to accept, and the Powers have so far not made any reply. It is said that they have been using further efforts to induce Bulgaria to define her position, and that they may possibly be awaiting the result of these before replying to Greece.

In these circumstances, the Gounaris Cabinet, knowing that the negotiations are likely to take some time, has decided to proceed with the elections—the first duty indeed of a Cabinet formed from a minority in the Chamber, succeeding a Cabinet which was supported by the majority.

The Dissolution of the Chamber.

The Royal Decree dissolving the Chamber was published yesterday. The day fixed for the elections is June 13, and for the convocation of the new Chamber July 20. Thus the people will have an opportunity of expressing their opinion on the foreign policy of M. Venizelos and of the Gounaris Cabinet. According to the Ministerialist journals another consideration which determined the dissolution was the opinion expressed in competent circles that the operations against the Dardanelles would probably be prolonged, and that there might still be time for Greece to intervene at a moment when her assistance was more needed than ever, in which case her conditions would be the more readily accepted. For, even if these operations were completely successful, the Allies might still want the help of Greece to subjugate the Turkish troops which, fleeing from Thrace and Constantinople, would take refuge in Asia Minor. "Greece greatly regrets," says the Ministerialist Press, "that she is unable to take part in the struggle, but until the problem of her own security has been solved, she is not in a position to move." "We know," writes the *Nea Himera*, "that the Entente Powers would like to see the reconstitution of the Balkan Alliance, so that they might make use of it not only during the war, but afterwards; and, as Greek Macedonia is the only inducement which Bulgaria would accept, it is clear that the Powers will not in the meantime give any guarantee to Greece for the possession of that territory. On the other hand, if Bulgaria were to seize this region while Greece was engaged in fighting with the Allies, or afterwards, when she was too much weakened to resist, the Entente Powers would not interfere. Thus Macedonia would be lost to Greece without any compensating accession of territory in Asia Minor; for it is clear that the Entente Powers cannot guarantee to Greece the possession of territory which they are not yet sure of conquering."

Following this line of argument the *Nea Himera* goes so far as to express the absurd conviction that if M. Venizelos were returned to power at the coming elections he would no longer dare to take part in the Dardanelles operations, as he suggested when he thought that the forcing of the Straits would be quickly achieved.

Another Ministerialist journal with an Anglophobe tendency, which has always maintained that Great Britain would never consent to give Crete to Greece because she wanted it herself, now writes that the Entente Powers, and, above all, Great Britain, thinking only of their own interests, are trying to force Greece into the war, regardless of the dangers that she would run. "But," it says, "Greece does not intend to run the risk of sharing the fate of Belgium."

Such is the language of the Ministerialist newspapers. I should add, however, that they are only in a small minority, and the Athens daily Press with the largest circulation is almost exclusively Venizelist. The Venizelist organs deplore the attitude of the Government, which, they say, is forfeiting the confidence of the Powers that are her natural protectors. It condemns as monstrous the conditions imposed by the Gounaris Cabinet to guard against an imaginary danger, and declares that the Government's action has brought Greece under the suspicion of being Germanophil. "There was no point," says the *Patris*, "in opening negotiations when it had already been decided to observe a neutrality favourable to Germany."

The Coming Elections.

The dissolution of the Chamber was accompanied by the following semi-official declarations made in the *Nea Himera* of to-day:—

"The foreign affairs of the country will not be neglected on account of the elections. If, in the interval before the elections take place, the foreign situation should so change as to force Greece to abandon her neutrality, the elections would be regarded as a minor consideration, which should have no influence whatever upon the decisions or the measures taken to meet the situation. The dissolution must not, therefore, be taken as an indication that the Government persists in a neutral policy, nor would the fact of there being no Chamber prevent the participation of Greece in the war, should the occasion arise. War could be declared and the meeting of the new Chamber awaited in order to proclaim the state of siege as demanded by the Constitution. Those who believe that the Government's programme is one of inaction are in error. On the contrary, Greece would have no reason to avoid a war against Turkey under certain conditions. But until her position is secured Greece is obliged to remain neutral, even if Italy and Roumania both take action. The negotiations between Greece and the Entente still continue, and it remains to be seen whether a basis of agreement satisfactory to both sides can be found."

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The electoral campaign promises to be a keen and bitter one. The President of the Council and almost all the other Ministers are to make tours of the provinces, especially in Macedonia. So far as one can judge at present, the Venizelist party is likely to have a large majority.

M. Venizelos in Egypt.

The splendid reception accorded to M. Venizelos in Egypt and the many manifestations of sympathy shown to him, not only by the Greeks, but also by the Sultan and by the Egyptians themselves, have made a great impression upon people here, and have done much to extend his popularity and the confidence felt in him. A wealthy Greek citizen has placed a sum of 500,000 frs. at his disposal for the foundation of a faculty of political science at Athens.

Census of the New Provinces.

The recent census taken in the new provinces of Greece shows the following figures:—Macedonia, 1,194,902 inhabitants; Epirus, 245,618; Crete, 336,151; Ægean Islands, 324,343, making a total of 2,101,014 inhabitants added to the population of Greece, thanks to the policy of M. Venizelos. This raises the total number of the inhabitants of Greece to almost five millions.

NEWS FROM TURKEY.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Athens, May 2.

The Situation in Constantinople.

No authentic news has come through from Constantinople yet as to what effect the recent operations at the Dardanelles have had on the people and on the authorities. As usual, the Turkish official *communiqués* conceal the truth by making absolutely false statements, and, according to them, the Expeditionary Force has been entirely driven into the sea.

A wholesale arrest of about 3,000 of the better-class Armenians has taken place, and they are being exiled to Asia Minor, but no particulars have been received as to the reasons for the arrests beyond the statement that they were conspiring against the Committee of Union and Progress. Amongst those arrested is the Editor of the *Sabah*.

It is reported that the German Embassy were making preparations to proceed to Konia. With the exception of the German s.s. General, which is alongside the Galata Quay, all steamers have been taken inside the Golden Horn.

The Turkish Fleet.

The Turgud Reis has apparently reappeared on the scene, and was inside the Bosphorus, ineffectively firing on the Russian fleet, when the latter was attacking the forts. The Goeben is still at Stenia Bay, trying to stop the leak which she sprang during her last trip to the Black Sea. An accident took place in the workshops at Stenia through the explosion of a motor, and many Germans were killed. The Russian fleet appears to be keeping the Turkish warships inside the Bosphorus, and it is reported they have sunk one torpedo boat, damaged two others, and also sunk a steamer inside Buyukdere Bay.

The Dardanelles Operations.

The crew of Submarine E15, which was wrecked in the Dardanelles, arrived in Constantinople on the 22nd and were taken to the War Office.

Reliable information, save that given in the official *communiqués*, as to what is going on at the Dardanelles is almost unobtainable here, and it is useless to reproduce the fictitious news which is published daily in the Greek Press. Numerous Turkish prisoners have, however, arrived at Mudros, including some German officers. The latter were sent on to Malta, and the Turks are being kept on the island. Amongst the wounded Turks are some soldiers who had been shot by German officers.

Last Thursday six transports arrived in Constantinople conveying wounded soldiers from the Dardanelles, the estimated number being about eight thousand.

The inhabitants of the Gallipoli Peninsula, who are largely Greeks, have flocked to Constantinople. Many Italian families are leaving the city.

(From a Correspondent.)

Humbugging Constantinople.

The latest news from Constantinople, dated April 24, and received from an absolutely trustworthy source, depicts the condition of the capital as outwardly quiet, and although there are no visible signs of the real feelings of the population, there is no doubt that the arrival of the Allies is being anxiously awaited not only by the Christians but by a large section of the Turkish inhabitants, and there seems to be every probability that a hearty welcome will be accorded to the relieving forces when they reach their destination.

Notwithstanding the lies with which the population is daily fed and the severe censorship exercised, news leaks through, and now little confidence is placed in the reported Turkish and German victories, and the people realize that they have been duped; but owing to the fact that Enver Pasha and his German partners still control the army, no concerted action against the present régime is possible. So extensive is the system of spying that one dare not express an adverse opinion of the powers that be for the moment, even to one's best friend. All must preserve a discreet silence, or simulate joy over the wonderful exploits of the Turkish Army in the Gallipoli Peninsula and elsewhere.

The town of Konia has been beflagged times without number since the attack on the Straits began. This city being a centre of Mohammedanism, the Government hoped by this means to arouse a spirit of fanaticism which would extend to the neighbouring districts, where the people are grossly ignorant. Constantinople has also been decked with flags, and the Christians compelled to display bunting on all their shops and dwelling-houses. The British officers and men captured when our submarine was lost at the Dardanelles, and Mr. Palmer, who was recently Consul at Chanak, have been paraded through the streets, wearing fezzes without tassels, and clothed in grey military cloaks such as are worn by the soldiers in the Turkish Army. Six of them were in carriages evidently suffering from wounds, and the rest marched behind. It is said that in other respects the prisoners are well treated.

Food is plentiful in the city, but other necessaries, such as clothing, are very scarce and expensive.

Recruiting is proceeding at a great pace, and few men are left in the city and surrounding villages. All the recruits are being employed on the roads, as it would be of little use to drill them at this late hour, and good roads are of more consequence than raw recruits, there being only one single line of railway from the capital to the point at which the troops would have to detrain, which would probably be Lule Burgas.

Helping the Huns.

The report that Germany was short of copper and other metals seems to be fully confirmed, as the Turks are collecting all the pots and pans upon which they can lay their hands, and are forwarding them to Germany. Perhaps it is well to state that every household in Turkey possesses numbers of copper cooking utensils. Wheat is also being sent to Germany, but the supply cannot be very great, owing to local requirements.

The Bosphorus Bombardment.

The Russians have been bombarding the forts at the entrance of the Bosphorus, and several of the beautiful summer residences and gardens at Boyoukdereh have been damaged. This town is situated at a distance of about ten miles from the entrance. Some shells are said to have reached even the village of Yenikeui, which is from two to three miles further down the Straits.

The general impression is that the days of the Ottoman Empire are numbered, and only Enver and his satellites profess to believe that they are able to defeat the Allies; but, judging from remarks made by some of the subjects of the Dual Alliance now in the Turkish capital, they have little faith in the ability of the Turks to cope with our forces by land and sea.

Shortage of Guns.

All the guns which had been placed on the island of Prinkipo and at San Stefano and other places have been removed, and it is presumed that they were sent to the Dardanelles to strengthen the position there. The inference to be drawn from this is that the Germans cannot supply any more. It is also reported that no mines exist either in the Lower Bosphorus or in the Sea of Marmora.

Many incidents in the East and in the West point to the gradual attenuation of the German and Austrian forces. The barefaced lies circulated regarding victories over the Russians in the Carpathians, and the infamous methods of warfare adopted in the West, tend to confirm the opinion that the Huns are desperate and at the end of their resources, notwithstanding the bombastic utterances of the Kaiser.

BRITISH REFUGEES IN ATHENS.

The attention of ex-British residents of Constantinople at present in Athens is drawn to the fact that "The Near East" is on sale every week at M. Th. Vafiades' Bookstore, where subscriptions are also received.

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BULGARIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Sofia, April 27.

A New Greco-Serbian Convention.

As a result of the Valandova incident Serbia and Greece have come to an understanding for reciprocal defence of their frontiers against Bulgaria; but it is not regarded here as having any particular significance. Competent judges, indeed, consider it not as constituting a new fact in the relations of the two countries, but rather as a confirmation of that policy which they have observed towards Bulgaria since the Balkan War. After the Valandova incident they have, apparently, considered it necessary to accentuate this policy. It is not admitted here, however, that this new Greco-Serbian understanding may have for a basis the cession of Serbian territory to Greece, for both Greece and Serbia are well aware that such cession would not be suffered by this country. The Bulgarian Prime Minister has lately made it quite clear to the Serbian Minister here and to the Ministers of the Triple Entente that any arrangement between Serbia and Greece for ceding Serbian territory in Macedonia to Greece would be regarded as a *casus belli* by Bulgaria.

King Ferdinand and the Entente.

Although the present ruler of Bulgaria has since his accession to the throne given many proofs of his desire to consolidate good relations between this country and Russia, the Russian Government has persistently mistrusted him and ascribed to him the inspiration of all Russophobe tendencies in Bulgaria. Neither the personal sacrifice that he made upon the altar of reconciliation with Russia in allowing his first son, the Crown Prince Boris, to change his Catholic religion and pass into the Orthodox Church, nor his signing of the Serbo-Bulgarian Treaty of 1912, which provided for Bulgaria helping Serbia with 300,000 troops in case of war against Austria, was considered sufficient to gain for him the confidence and favour of Russian diplomacy. In order to show the care he takes to avoid doing anything that might be legitimately regarded as a cause of offence by Russia, I may mention a fact which I have lately learned from a most trustworthy source. In 1913, after the signing of the Treaty of London, owing to the very strained relations between Serbia and Bulgaria, the Tsar of Russia sent identical telegrams to King Peter and King Ferdinand, urging them to avoid a conflict and to settle their differences by resorting to Petrograd for his arbitration. King Ferdinand thereon summoned his Cabinet Ministers in Council to draw up a reply to this telegram. After a prolonged debate, Dr. Daneff, then Prime Minister, was instructed to draft the reply, and King Ferdinand made Dr. Daneff himself write this out and sign it. This done, his Majesty put the telegram in his pocket, and subsequently showed it to M. Malinoff, leader of the Democratic party, and asked his opinion on it. M. Malinoff finding it too sharp in its tone, the King requested him to modify it; which he did, signing the modification. Then King Ferdinand consulted M. Nekludoff, the Russian Minister at Sofia, showed him the copy of the telegram as modified, and, only after obtaining his approval, signed it and forwarded it to the Tsar.

During his twenty-five years' reign King Ferdinand has always sought to promote and foster in the nation the feeling of lasting gratitude towards Russia. Notwithstanding the wrong done to Bulgaria by the Treaty of Bucharest, he has not changed his feelings; and now, in this great European conflagration, when the right moment comes, it will be found that he will be at the head of the Bulgarian Army aiding Russia and her Allies to bring the great war to a speedy conclusion.

The Murder of Sandansky.

Last Friday, whilst travelling alone from the village of Perin to the town of Nevrokop, Jani Sandansky, the well-known Macedonian revolutionary leader, was ambushed and murdered. The murderers have not yet been caught; but it is generally supposed that the murder is an act of revenge for the assassination of the great Macedonian revolutionary leader Boris Saraveff (December 11, 1907). Sandansky was distinguished by the part he played in the revolution, planned at Salonika, in 1908, when, at the head of his forces, he marched to Constantinople with the troops of Mahmoud Skevket Pasha and dethroned Sultan Abdul Hamid. Before this he had captured the American missionary, Miss Stone, and only released her when the Turkish Government paid him a ransom of £T10,000.

Eye-witnesses relate how the famous band-leader caused panic in the rear of the Greek Army during the second Balkan War, when the Greeks had reached the Kresna Pass. With a band of 150 men he betook himself to the Greek Headquarters at Levunovo, and, in disguise, made his way amongst the troops. His plan was to capture King Constantine; and twice he sent off couriers to ask for military help, but this was not forthcoming.

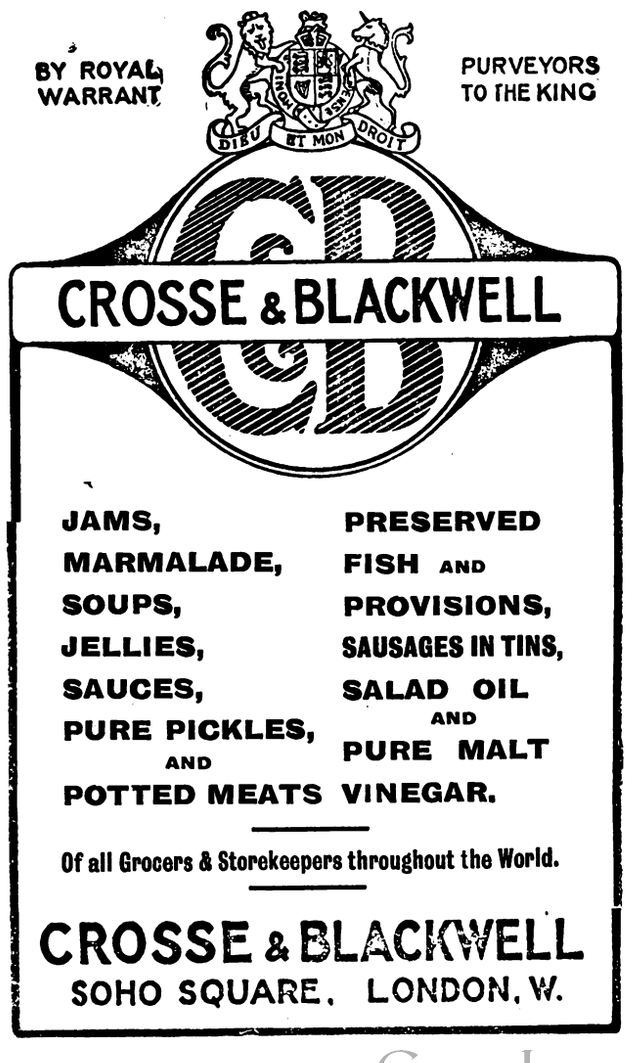
BULGARIA AND THE ENTENTE.

We are indebted to a correspondent for permission to publish the following extracts from a letter recently received from Bulgaria, which, we are informed, may be regarded as representing the views of men highly placed and well fitted to estimate correctly Bulgarian public opinion:—

There is no change yet in the attitude of Bulgaria. If it is correct that the Enos-Media line has been offered to her, it is not likely that she would agree to this for the moment. What she wants, and this must be well known to the Entente Powers, is the actual surrender of Monastir and Kavalla, with the adjoining districts. If this cannot be done now, she demands some solid guarantee that it will be done after the war is over.

England is the only country that she trusts. The suspicions entertained regarding Russia, even by the strongest sympathisers with the Entente, are ineradicable. France is looked upon with more favour, but her support of Greece is disliked. Were it not that Russia gave Bulgaria her independence, there is little doubt that by this time she would have thrown in her lot with Germany.

It is to be hoped that some amicable arrangement will be made; but I would remark that, although what I have written represents the feelings of the majority to-day, the appearance of the Allied fleets at Constantinople may entirely change their attitude, and they may then be prepared to accept the best terms obtainable under the altered circumstances.



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SERBIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Nish, April 24.

Relations with Bulgaria.

The accounts of the incident at Strumitza as given officially by the Serbian authorities and by the Bulgarian authorities are not in accord.

It must be admitted that the Mussulmans resident in Serbian Macedonia are discontented because they are put on the same footing as the Christian population of those districts, and since the outbreak of the war with Turkey have not enjoyed the privileges they expected, but to which they no longer have any right. On the other hand, there has been no revolt among the Serbian Macedonian population as represented by the Bulgarians, neither among the Mussulman nor the Christian inhabitants of those districts; but equally certain is it that Bulgarian agents have been endeavouring to raise a revolt in Macedonia by utilising the Mussulman discontent and by a lavish expenditure of money and by imposing on the credulity of the people. Some Mussulmans may have voluntarily left their homes with the invading bands of *Komitajis* when they recrossed the frontier to return to Bulgaria, but there can be little doubt that the majority of the Mussulmans going into Bulgaria with these bands were forced to do so against their will. It also seems certain that the Bulgarians tried to incite the Christians to revolt, but there was actually no revolt of any sort.

The Serbian *Tribuna* announces that the Russian Minister at Sofia is visiting the new Serbo-Bulgarian frontier; and that he went by order of his Government, and will especially examine those places where the Bulgarian bands made incursions into the newly annexed Serbian territory. "And," adds the paper, "the Bulgarians tried to put difficulties in his way, and the semi-official Press attacks the Russian Minister, saying he undertook this journey without asking permission from the Bulgarian Government."

The public in Serbia are at a loss to know what are Bulgaria's intentions, and some persons are not at all easy in their minds.

The *Tribuna* to-day publishes sensational news. It says:—

After the nomination of General Boyadjieff as Chief of the Bulgarian General Staff, news was received in Nish of military preparations having been commenced, and that two nights ago bonfires were noticed on all the heights on the Bulgaro-Serbian frontier. Cattle were seen being driven away, and at the same time firing of guns and ringing of bells was heard.

The Adriatic Question.

The Serbian and Russian Press have been writing very much concerning Italy's claims to compensation as the price of her neutrality.

The claims to Albania and Dalmatia make the Serbian people uneasy, lest, after all, Serbia may not obtain in either of these countries the increase of territory and the seaport that is considered so necessary for the development of her commerce and industry.

The polemic between the Russian and the Italian Press concerning Dalmatia seems now to have diminished, and it is said that Italy intends to take Serbia's requirements into consideration. But the Serbian Press refers frequently to the subject. The *Politika* makes lengthy remarks on Prof. Miliukoff's communications in the Russian *Retch* on the unofficial relations between Serbia and Italy, and accuses the writer of being a Russian partisan of Bulgaria, who finds it advisable to satisfy Russia's special interest in the reconciliation of Serbia and Bulgaria, and that Serbia should cede to Bulgaria the whole of Macedonia, as if Macedonia fell into Serbia's lap like a ripe pear.

Prof. Miliukoff considers that with the enlargement of the Serbo-Croat State the necessity of passing through a foreign land to Salonika vanishes, and that it was this necessity that made Serbia determined that this country should be in contact with Greece; but that the port of Salonika will no more have the same importance.

France and Serbia.

Demetrius, Archbishop of Belgrade and Metropolitan of the Kingdom of Serbia, head of the Serbian Church, has sent the following telegram to the Cardinal head of the Catholic Church in France:—

In these important days, when the name of the Serbian people is mentioned in French schools with sympathy—Serbians who defended Christendom in Europe for centuries against the Moslem invasion from the south, just as they prevented a similar invasion from the west—I hasten, as Chief of the Serbian Church, to express to your Eminence, and through you to the whole congregation, my feeling of joy and gratitude.

The Serbian Church, which, through the help of the Serbian schools, prepared the Serbian people for the defence of holy justice, and which in future, with still more power and with the help of their Catholic brothers, Serbs, Croats, and Slavs, will defend Christianity, prays your Eminence, as head of the French Catholic Church, to unite with us in thought and in prayer to the Almighty for the triumph of the Franco-Serbian ideal.

Australian Help for Serbia.

From the far distant British colonies kindness and generosity is shown to Serbia in her troubles and difficulties. The merchants of Sydney (Australia) have sent the following gifts to Serbia:—150 sacks flour, 50 cases biscuits, 50 cases tinned meat, 50 cases butter, 50 cases plum jam, 50 cases syrups, etc., etc.

In the beginning of May new modern hospitals will be built in Uskub, Monastir, and Pristina.

The Montenegrin General Mitar Martinovitch, sent on a special mission, recently arrived at Nish, and after interviews with the Prime Minister and Minister of War left for Russia.

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THE LATE COL. DOUGHTY WYLIE.

An Appreciation.

The notice which appeared last week in The Near East was enough to show how great a loss his country has suffered in the death of Colonel Doughty Wylie, but there is no recognition of services, however generous it may be, which can lessen the sorrow of his friends. To them, deeds well and gallantly done, applauded and honoured, were characteristic manifestations of his fearlessness and wisdom; it was the man himself who claimed their love and honour; it is he whom they mourn. With all his eager participation in life, his vivid interest in his work—whether it were the work which he loved best, that of the soldier, or the work of the diplomatist, to which he brought a rare skill in handling and in reconciling rival jealousies—there was in him much more than vitality or the power that wins to the goal. One who knew him well said that he lived so much in the other world that death could bring no change to him. It was to that detachment from the mortal coil that he owed his finest qualities; it was that which gave him his keen insight into the heart of things. Not only men and women knew the worth of his sympathy; races and peoples had felt it. He understood the helpless nations of the East as few have understood them. He would never despair of them; it was part of his confidence in human striving towards the light, the serene light of well-doing and contentment, on which his eyes were fastened. The secret of his influence lay in his unshakable conviction that beauty must reign, good conquer. Through the horrors of massacre at Adana he preserved it. His letters at that time were like some eternal judgment, wherein pity took the place of condemnation. And when the Balkan War had sounded the knell of Turkey, it was still with hope as well as with compassion that he turned to the alleviation of suffering in Constantinople. His sole desire during the months in which he led the Southern Albanian Commission was to spare a peasantry whose untaught virtues eclipsed for him their native violence, and in Abyssinia it was his dream to guard and strengthen a feeble race against the rapacity of Western ambition. The work he leaves undone some other hand may finish, building upon the strong foundations which he laid. Such completion would satisfy him, for no man sought less than he his own renown. His untarnished reputation will shine in the memory of those who knew him. He lived to witness the splendid achievement at Gallipoli which he had helped to carry out; he died in the glory of battle, in the flush of a great adventure. His life could send

"a challenge to its end,
And when it came, say 'Welcome, friend.'"

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ALBANIAN AFFAIRS.

(From Our Correspondent Formerly at Valona.)

Sofia, April 17.

The Future of Albania.

It seems certain that Essad Pasha must sooner or later leave Durazzo, or else must die fighting. What will happen then? It is said that the majority of the rebels will rally to the loyalists of Scutari, and that they will recognize a Central Provisional Government while waiting for the return of Prince William, or failing him, of some other ruler; though the return of the Prince would be preferred. Already the Club de Scutari has addressed a memorial to the consuls there of the six Great Powers, requesting them to break off relations with Essad and to lend their support to the Provisional Government (or rather, the Commission, as it is styled at present) of Scutari.

The *Independance Albanaise* published yesterday the text of this memorial, in which reference is made to the facilities granted by Italy to Essad, at whose disposition she has placed a torpedo boat. This refers to a torpedo boat in which Essad sends his creatures to San Giovanni di Medua and to Alessio, in order to stir up trouble in those regions and to isolate Scutari completely. Fortunately his attempts have been fruitless.

It is much to be desired that the Powers would take the trouble to come to an agreement regarding Albanian affairs after the departure of Essad; that they would sink their rivalries, and lend their support to a single Government, truly national and able to satisfy the desires of the people. It is worth recalling that these very rebels who to-day appear so well-disposed to the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy were formerly favoured by the three Entente Powers and Italy; that even Colonel Phillips, the British Governor of Scutari, was the friend of the reactionaries who did not wish for a European ruler, but hankered after an Ottoman prince. Thus we see how dangerous it is to toy with the fate of a primitive people, to rouse their religious fanaticism. Just now it is precisely the Entente Powers and Italy who are making the loudest outcry; and it would have been they who would have suffered from the reaction if the Nationalist and Loyalist party had not smothered their resentment and directed—though from a distance—a counter current.

Italy's Intentions.

However, nobody can say what Italy will be up to. At Valona, Captain Castoldi, the guiding spirit of Italian action, is preparing a company of Anti-Greek volunteers, nominally destined to march against Greece and regain possession of Epirus. As a measure of retaliation Greece has revived the comedy of its Holy Legions, which caused so much suffering in the early half of 1914. But if the Greek Holy Legions are a comedy, so are the Castoldi volunteers; and without a doubt Italy is seeking to make a diversion, in order to mask her intentions regarding Valona, and to fool the Albanians with hopes of recapturing Epirus with their own forces—when Epirus was occupied ("provisionally") by Greece, with the connivance of Italy!

"A State of Siege."

If Durazzo is a town besieged, Valona is even more so. The Italian authorities permit no one to leave or enter the place; all communication with the interior is cut off, so is that overseas; there is a state of siege, and a state of espionage and mistrust which recalls the blackest days of the ex-Sultan Abdul Hamid.

In my last letter I mentioned the case of Mr. Telford Erickson, the American missionary, and his Albanian colleague, M. G. Tsilka. After waiting more than a month at Bari, they were unable to obtain permission to embark for Valona or Durazzo, whence they wished to go into the interior to distribute help amongst the unhappy refugess from Epirus who had fled from the Greek atrocities.

The Agence Grecque has issued a denial of the report I sent you of the massacre of eighty Albanian families at Voskop, near Kortcha. As this report had also appeared in the *Independance Albanaise*, that journal published in its issue of the 15th inst. a reply, saying: "There is nothing surprising in this denial. To deny first, to boast afterwards, is the method of all cowards lacking in moral sense."

EGYPT PROMOTION ASSOCIATION.

A general meeting of the above association was held at the Continental Hotel, Cairo, last month. It was unanimously agreed that it would be advisable to suspend the putting into operation of various advertising and other schemes which had formerly been decided upon until there was more possibility of benefiting by them than there could be under the present conditions of warfare. The committee prepared a letter of condolence which will be sent to the widow and near relatives of the late Viscomte Bertrand de Gironde, who was formerly secretary of the Association, and was accidentally killed while on active service in France last November. A further meeting will be held at the conclusion of the war, when a plan of future activities will be decided upon.

ARMENIAN NEWS.

(From a Correspondent.)

The Situation in Erzeroum.

A private letter received from Constantinople describes the misery prevailing at present in Erzeroum, the great fortress in Turkish Armenia, where Turks have now re-formed their three Army Corps (9th, 10th, 11th) since the defeat they suffered at Sarikamish and Ardahan in January. The Russian Black Sea Fleet seems to have succeeded in cutting all communication by sea with the Turkish capital. At Erzeroum the Turks are reported to lack ammunition. They are also running short of the stores and foodstuffs which they so ruthlessly commandeered from the people without any payment whatever. The military authorities are now compelling householders in the town to entertain soldiers stationed there for a week in each month. Typhus and spotted fever have been making havoc among their ranks. A German doctor in Erzeroum has stated that at least forty to fifty soldiers die every day in the town alone.

The authorities have expelled the peasants of fifteen Armenian villages in the vicinity of the town in order to turn their dirty hovels into hospitals. The unfortunate peasants have been crowding the streets of Erzeroum, where they fall victims in great numbers to epidemics and exposure.

In Zeitun.

Some time in February British and French warships landed contingents of bluejackets at Alexandretta and Mersina and destroyed the railway lines in those parts and the German wireless station in the first-named place. Some Armenian and Greek peasants of the neighbourhood climbed the hills to watch these interesting operations, and amused themselves in a quite innocent manner. After the withdrawal of the landing parties, Turks arrived on the spot and ill-treated these unoffending Christians on the accusation that they had given information to the enemy by flashlights (*sic*) in daytime!

The Armenians in the highlands of Zeitun have been in open rebellion against the Turks almost from the beginning of the Turkish war. Entrenched in their inaccessible mountains and hills, they have refused to answer the Turkish call to arms. Now it seems that they are opening their doors as some sort of safe refuge for all Christian deserters from the Turkish Army. Thousands of Armenians from the plains, moreover, have gone to swells the ranks of the rebels in Zeitun. Two months ago their number was reckoned to be 20,000 by the *Novoye Vremya* of Petrograd, and there seems to be sufficient ground to suppose that they have since increased.

"Armenian Days" in Petrograd.

March 20, 21, 22 were Armenian days in Petrograd. A strong committee consisting of well-known persons in Petrograd, under the presidency of Count Tolstoy, the Mayor, published appeals in the papers inviting the people of the Russian capital to help the Armenian refugees from Turkey and Persia, who had been massacred and robbed for showing sympathy towards and helping the Russian Army during its recent invasion of Turkey. Large placards bearing stirring appeals were posted over the walls of the public buildings and in the main thoroughfares, asking for contributions on behalf of the Armenian sufferers from the war. Postcards, bearing in the middle a cross, the symbol of martyrdom, and an inscription of "Petrograd to the Armenians," were sold during the three days by Russian, Polish, and Armenian ladies on behalf of the funds. Meetings were held and many speeches were made by well-known members of the Duma to explain the past history and the culture of the Armenians. In spite of the inclemency of the weather in Petrograd during those three days, the result is reported to be satisfactory.

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P.C.B.

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SERBIA AND ITALY.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Nish, April 29.

A short time ago Serbians were impatiently awaiting the hour when Italy, Roumania, and Greece would enter into action, but suddenly a change has come over them: the news circulated here that the Triple Entente has been negotiating with Italy, and that the latter claims North Dalmatia with Spalato, has produced a revulsion of feeling. One frequently hears such remarks as, "It would be better for us that Dalmatia should remain under Austria than that it should go to Italy, for if Italy obtains Dalmatia our hopes are irrevocably lost, but if it remained under Austria we could always count on getting it at some time annexed to Serbia."

Serbian aspirations apparently go farther than the Triple Entente reckoned on. On the west Serbia desires Dalmatia with free access to the Adriatic Sea, claims Bosnia and Herzegovina, and is disinclined to renounce Macedonia, or would only cede a part of Macedonia on receiving suitable compensation. The future grouping of the Eastern Countries, Serbians urge, is intended to be in accordance with the nationalities, and if the Triple Entente keeps its word, and carries out the declared plan, Serbia will be enlarged to the fullest extent, and receive all those territories it lays claim to.

It will be remembered that before the war between Serbia and Bulgaria broke out the Serbian Government was most desirous of coming to terms with Bulgaria, but there was a strong objection on the part of the Military party to any concessions being made, and to this must be added Bulgarian rashness and misjudgment, which ruined the proposed diplomatic action. To-day the power of the military party here is undiminished, and makes itself felt. From remarks heard, it would seem as if the Serbians think that their Government should have been consulted in some way before making large concessions to Italy for its active support or neutrality. It is difficult to conceive how this idea could be promulgated, unless it be thought here that the Powers were insufficiently acquainted with facts concerning nationalities, which information the Serbian Government conceives itself to be in the best position to furnish.

Those who are dissatisfied for the reasons set out above adopted the expedient of getting a member of Parliament, one of the supporters of the Government, to put a question in the House which would be answered by M. Pashitch, Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs. His reply was looked forward to with great interest by those who knew what would take place. The speech of the Prime Minister, however, does not give us any new information; it is simply a vehicle for making Serbia's voice heard, and shows the impatience, if not the uneasiness, of the country. The following is an account of what occurred. At the sitting of the Skupshtina on April 27, the deputy M. Draja Pavlovitch addressed the following question to the Minister of Foreign Affairs:—

In the foreign Press and in the Serbian Press it is persistently reported that an early intervention of Italy will take place. This intervention is connected with certain compensations. These compensations are of a nature that would be to the detriment of the Serbian-Croatian-Slav peoples. I ask the Minister of Foreign Affairs, who is also Prime Minister, to inform us how much truth there is in these rumours.

M. Pashitch replied:—

I can only at the moment reply as follows to M. Pavlovitch's question. It is true that from various sides rumours are circulated about the *pourparlers* between Italy and the Triple Entente Powers. Before this, rumours likewise circulated as to *pourparlers* between Italy and Germany and Austria as to the concessions that Italy should obtain if she remains neutral until the end and inclines towards Germany and Austria, and since then that Italy will take part with the Triple Entente Powers in solving the questions which are the order of the day.

These rumours, which come from different sides, are not confirmed up to the present moment, and therefore we cannot know how far they are true or not. It often happens that false rumours are sent forth with the simple object of giving rise to a discussion in order to be able to ascertain the dispositions and opinions in certain quarters.

For the moment I cannot give full credit to these reports, and I cannot believe that they are well-founded, because I think Italy does not desire to abandon the principle of nationality, a principle to which she is indebted for her unity. I do not think that she will abandon this principle at the precise moment when divers national questions are being elucidated. Italy, as I have said, has been united on the basis of the principle of nationality. Now I can also say that the Italian political social sciences established also the rule that a State which has founded its unity on the basis of a principle should preserve this principle to the last, because, if abandoned, it abandons also the basis on which it stands.

I think if Italy goes into action it will go on the side of the Triple Entente; that it will only inspire the principle that it will so arrange her Adriatic interests that no difficulties will ensue either for her or for us, and there will result no discord between the Slavs, Serbs, Croats, Slavonians, and the Italians. Only the accord of these two peoples can give sufficient guarantee to assure that the German pressure forward towards the Mediterranean shall not be successful.

Also, I cannot put any faith in these reports because I know that in Italy there are great and prudent statesmen who are able to esteem how friendship and accord between the nations, the Serbian-Croatian-Slavonian people and Italy can only be to the advantage of the one and the other State, of the one and the other people, can only create closer intercourse, a more developed commerce and greater friendship between the two peoples. For these reasons, gentlemen, I think the politicians and statesmen of Italy would not aim at obtaining one town more or less, one or other special island, because they would know beforehand that the strength of Italy does not repose in that town or that island, but in the accord of the Serbian-Croatian-Slavonian people and Italy.

This accord will assure a long peace not only between us, but in the whole of Europe, and will accomplish the object which this great war has in view. That is why I cannot as yet put any faith in the rumours which have reached us, and I beg of you to be patient and not to be uneasy until we know the true state of things, and then we shall have time to speak about it and to form our opinions about it.

It is now said that the Prime Minister intends to leave for Petrograd very shortly. It was, in fact, expected that he would start to-night, but his departure has been delayed. The object of the visit is not made public, but events speak for themselves.

M. Supoli, an Austrian subject and deputy, who is of Croat or Serbian nationality, is on a visit here. He has made a tour of the principal European capitals with a political object, and doubtless his revelations or statements are of interest, as he is fêted and is a lion of the day in official and political circles.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

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

SERBIA AND BULGARIA.

To the Editor of The Near East.

Sir,—Perhaps you would allow me a few lines in reply to the letter of M. Janitsch in your issue of May 7.

He states that the Bulgarians, by their unprovoked attack on their allies, tore the treaty of 1912 into shreds. Might I remind him that as early as November, 1912, the Serbians themselves were making every effort to get the treaty abrogated, and were using every diplomatic lever at Petrograd to obtain not only the "zone contestée," but also lands beyond, which they had previously bound themselves not to claim? General Savoff's Order (June 15-29), "in order that our failure to reply to the attacks by the Serbians should not react upon the morals of our men," etc., *followed* the proclamation of King Peter bidding his Army move against the Bulgarians, as far as it is possible to judge now. After the first Bulgarian attack, Savoff sent three *parlementaires* to the Serbian camp to apologise for the incident, and these were detained as prisoners by Prince Alexander, a proof that the Serbs considered that they were at war.

In May, 1913, a meeting took place in a railway carriage on the Monastir line between the Greek and Serbian staffs. If the plan of campaign were here directed against *Turkey*, why were no *Bulgarian* envoys invited to be present? I consider this meeting as direct evidence that the two Allies were meditating at some future date an attack on the Bulgarians.

While the Bulgars were around Adrianople, the Serbs were busily engaged in setting up Serbian Governments in Veles, Istip, Bitolia, etc., just as if those towns were within the sphere assigned to them. Exarchist bishops were "molested," to put it mildly, and the invaders scarcely gave the impression of being loyal and disinterested allies.

General Savoff's order was a gross blunder, as he probably realises himself; and the Bulgarians are not masters in finesse. But it is scarcely fair to charge them with the sole responsibility for the second Balkan war.

In his letter of April 9, to The Near East, M. Janitsch makes the astounding statement that the main Turkish offensive was directed against the Serbians. The army of Zekki Pasha, which was defeated at Kumanovo, numbered at the most 90,000 men. The army under Hassan Taxim, defeated by the Greeks at Sarandoporon, numbered perhaps 45,000; and

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the same number fought at Yenidje Bitolji and Janina. In Thrace, Abdulla and Nazim Pashas, admittedly the *best* Turkish generals, had over 200,000 opposed to the Bulgarians at Lule Burgas, while Cherif, in Adrianople, had at least 70,000 more. It is absurd to suppose that the Turks, who cared little for Macedonia, would have denuded their home provinces of troops to send them against the Serbs and Greeks, whose display in 1885 and 1897 did not make their friends very hopeful as to their success. All the world anticipated that the *Bulgarians* would cover themselves with glory; but the great surprise and pleasure of the Western Powers was the wonderful series of triumphs gained by the soldiers of Crown Princes Alexander and Constantine.

As to the nationality of Macedonia, let M. Janitsch consult M. Brancoff's "Macedonia" (1905), when even in *Kazas* so dear to Serbian sentiment as Kumanovo and Uskub, there was a "Bulgarophone" majority. Veles, Istip, Kotchana, Radovitza, Prilep, Palanka, Ochrida, and Bitolia may contain a *few* Serb villages, but the Bulgars had a majority of about nine to one. Except in predominantly Serb parts as Pristina and the Sanjak, those districts in Western Macedonia, which are not Greek or Bulgar, are Albanian. Prizrend, Ipek, Jacovo, Dibra are almost entirely Albanian, even if under Dushan they were Serb. See the maps attached to the Carnegie Report and Mr. Hogarth's work, "The Nearer East."

I can say nothing as to Widdin and the Timok valley being "Serbophone," but the treaty of San Stefano, while it neglected Greek interests, gave to Bulgaria, not only the whole of Macedonia, as far south as Kastoria, but the provinces of Pirot and Slivnitza in modern Serbia. In the Middle Ages Macedonia was in Bulgarian hands about three centuries; in Serbian possession only some thirty years in the fourteenth century.

There *may* have been more Serb schools than Bulgar in 1870, but M. Brancoff's work is most illuminating about these "schools." Some of the Greek and Serb schools had no pupils at all, and of what use are schools and churches when they are unattended? In some "Bulgarophone" villages there were, I believe, only Greek schools. And the villages had, *faute de mieux*, to attend them. Can M. Janitsch give any date when there were more Serb *school children* than Bulgarian in Macedonia?

Serbia lost ground in Macedonia from 1878 to 1908 from two reasons: first, a lack of prevision in her rulers, who set their faces against an understanding with Bulgaria; and, secondly, because she was employed in an irredentist campaign against Austria in the Bosnian provinces, a reasonable claim enough. M. Janitsch, however, speaks of Serb schools being closed down by the Turks. Is he not aware that in the reign of Sultan Achmet V. (I consider Abdul Hamid I. and II. as Achmet or Ahmed IV. and V., as there is no real difference between Hamid and Achmet; and Abdul is only a prefix), that wily potentate closed down Bulgarian bishoprics, and showered favours on their Serbian rivals (1902-1909)?

As a subject of an allied and friendly Government, and as a sincere admirer of Serbian genius and bravery, I will pass over briefly Serbia's methods in her new provinces. But even her friends cannot admit that she has added to her laurels in this direction. Valondova incidents do not spring from a loyal and contented population. *Komitajis* are, no doubt, wonderful folk, but they cannot cause a widespread revolt against a popular and enlightened government. There is, I believe, a Macedonian legion fighting for the Austrians. Is it devotion to the Hapsburg cause that inspires them??

If Serbia wishes to play the part of the Piedmont of the Balkans and achieve the unity of her race, let her honestly set her own house in order, and do her duty to the Macedonians. Let her remember that whereas she attacked Bulgaria in 1885 without any cause, Bulgaria magnanimously stayed *her* hand and forebore to attack her last December, when she would not have been able to resist. Yet the Nish Press continues to assail Bulgaria (not without response, it is true), when Serbia must know that such actions are not to her advantage, nor to that of her allies. We need, to shorten this war against the outlaws who sunk the Lusitania and have filled Europe with horror at their wickedness, the co-operation of Roumania, Greece and Bulgaria. Serbia holds the key to their intervention. Let her admit the justice of the Bulgarian claims to the lands as laid down in the treaty, keeping the "zone contestée" for herself, and the Serbian armies in the near future will enter Serajevo and Agram, as they entered Adrianople, in the company of their Bulgarian brethren. Every hour wasted in Macedonia means an hour added to the Austrian power in Bosnia. That Serbia may play the nobler part, and by timely concessions achieve her union is the earnest hope of

KENNETH H. LEDWARD, F.R.G.S.

Clifton Hill, N.W.
May 10, 1915.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

Subscribers to "THE NEAR EAST" who have left the Ottoman Dominions recently will oblige by notifying the Manager of their new address as early as possible, so that the supply of the paper should not be unduly interrupted.

"THE NEAR EAST" has largely increased its circulation in the United Kingdom since the war, and the Management is convinced that there are many people still who would be glad to know of its existence. Specimen copies will be forwarded post free if the names and addresses of friends are sent to the Manager, at 16-17, Devonshire Square, E.C.

THE WORLD'S DEBT TO CONSTANTINOPLE.

LECTURE BY SIR EDWIN PEARS.

Speaking on Monday last at University College, London, on "What Constantinople Has Done for the World," Sir Edwin Pears said that Constantine made the city strong, and for over a thousand years it was the bulwark of Europe against Asia. The military progress made by Islam in the century immediately following the death of the Prophet was unexampled in the history of the world. The whole of North Africa was conquered, the Straits of Gibraltar crossed, and the inhabitants of Spain subjugated or driven into the north-west corner of their country before the battle of Tours in 732 stayed the advance in the westerly direction; but in the east no such advance was made. The Arabs had from the first aspired to be the masters of New Rome, and Mohammed's standard bearer counted himself happy that in his old age he was able to lead an army to its gates. In 673 he sat down before the city and besieged it for five years—but failed. In 717 another army, this time of 380,000 men, assisted by a fleet of 1,800 ships, had commenced a siege which lasted seven years, but this failed also. This defeat of the Islamic army was of much greater importance that that which took place a few years later at Tours, for the victory of Charles Martel was won over a wing of an army operating at a great distance from its base; but at Constantinople the great bulk of the army was making its effort. Yenghis Khan and Tamerlane were among the other twenty-one assailants who had tried to take Constantinople, and failed, before at length the Ottoman Turks succeeded in 1453. This long continued resistance to invasion from Asia was a great service rendered to the world.

Another important service was in connection with Christian theology. The Nicene creed, after being drafted at Nicæa, and having some clauses added at Chalcedon, was at Constantinople put into the shape in which it still exists. It marked a phase in a long struggle between Europe, with its tendency to polytheism, and Asia Minor, which was always monotheistic. To have given to Christianity a creed which had lasted unchanged through so many centuries was another great achievement.

In respect to commerce also the city had played a great part. Previously to the voyage of Vasca da Gama, the merchandise of India had reached Europe across the Syrian desert. Justinian, completing the work of Constantine, had succeeded in directing this trade through Constantinople; and his bridges could be found and the main lines of his roads traced in Asia Minor to the present day.

In another direction Justinian was even more famous than as a road maker and bridge builder. When we spoke of the law of Rome we meant the new Rome of Constantine, not the older city by the Tiber. Roman Law had played an enormous part in the history of civilisation, for Napoleonic and other codes were adaptations, sometimes with very little change, of the laws of Justinian.

Another great service that Constantinople had rendered to the world was in giving it new principles of architecture. At the time of its foundation the country abounded in temples, but as a rule Christians would have nothing to do with these because of their pagan associations. The Byzantine style of architecture had been developed, a style the most characteristic feature of which was that it gave more attention to the interior than to the exterior of a building. The best known example, St. Mark's, at Venice, departed from this rule, for to improve its outside appearance the domes had been heightened, and it had been adorned with pinnacles, but to the Byzantine churches as they might yet be seen at Constantinople none of these external aids had been given, and they remained perfect in their engineering and in their symmetry.

Another great gift to the world was in connection with art A genuine renaissance in Byzantine art had commenced about 1220 at Nicæa, and had come into the full flower of its springtime in Constantinople somewhere about 1300 or 1320. Some of the pictures in mosaics that had remained from that period were so beautiful that a distinguished society in London about fifty years ago refused to reproduce them on the ground that they were far too beautiful to be Byzantine.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE WAR AND THE BALKANS.*

The war is proving a supreme test of national character. Realization, late in the day, of what is before them, leads the Germans to throw off the mask of civilization, and to appear as savages revelling in every devilish contrivance that modern science has to offer. German methods of warfare have no attraction for the British race, even as reprisals. The story of the effects of poisonous gases on our heroic troops, the sinking of the "Lusitania," make the average Briton clench his teeth and vow that hereafter Germans shall, so far as he is concerned, be divided into two groups—the decent-minded, who will be too ashamed of their nation to look the world in the face, and those of a different character to whom no Briton will ever bring himself to speak. That, too, would be the attitude of the British race, if it were a single articulate entity. But it is not. It comprises financial and commercial interests, and these, it is to be feared, will, as soon as the war is over, act as "blacklegs" in the boycott, social, political, and economic, that ought to be enforced upon Germany for a generation.

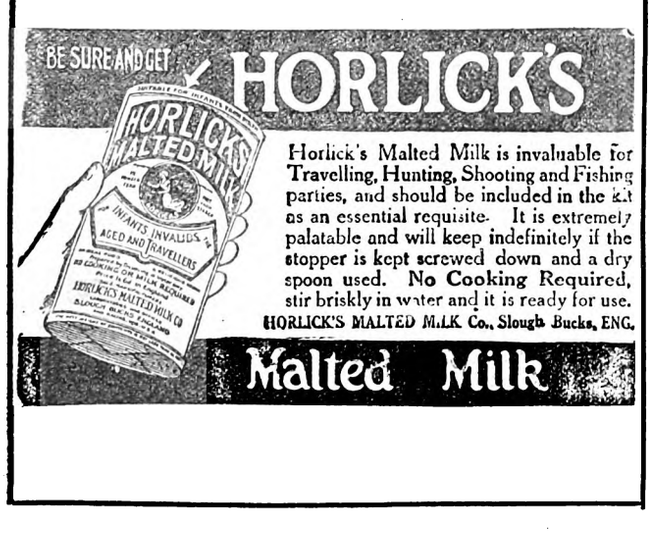
Instead of bringing about the adoption of German methods of warfare, the stress of war in Great Britain begets in a number of people who in normal times are expected to be opposed to all war a keen anxiety to rope in as many belligerents as possible in the present struggle. A fact which tends to prove that man—at least the Englishman—is a fighter at heart, and that the pacifist school was a pose on a par with the tonsorial fashions affected by our youth in pre-war days.

When the British Government, according to the revelations of M. Venizelos, offered Greece virtually as much of Asia Minor as she cared to ask for, the first instinct of the man in the street was that too great a bid was being made for Greek co-operation in the war. But the policy of obtaining assistance at any price seems to have come to stay. Mr. Noel Buxton, M.P., and Mr. C. R. Buxton support it wholeheartedly in this volume. Their main contention, indeed, is that the Government has not yet given the policy a sufficiently wide application. Our authors have wisely realized that Bulgaria is responsible for the paralysis of the Balkan armies at the present moment, and they have set themselves the task of pointing out how that paralysis can be cured. For them it is not enough that Bulgaria should adopt an attitude of honest and strict neutrality, in contradistinction to the suspect type hitherto adopted, but they wish to see her attacking the Turks on the side of the Allies.

The Allies are waging war in the cause of humanity. It is only natural, therefore, that they should wish to have the active support of every nation who stands to gain directly from their victory. To this end we ought to endeavour to remove any obstacle in the way of any country's co-operation. But there is a wide gulf fixed between such an endeavour and any steps which encourage the belief that the Allies are absolutely dependent on any given nation's support. The tour of orientation recently undertaken by Mr. N. Buxton and Mr. C. R. Buxton in the Balkans, we fear, was unjustly exploited as an effort on the part of Great Britain to sue for Bulgarian support. This small volume, in which they sum up succinctly the situation in the Near East, serves to place their attitude in a truer perspective. They contend, and very rightly, that the active support of the Balkans can be had by the Allies if they will only go the right way about to obtain it. The same contention has been urged repeatedly in the columns of THE NEAR EAST, and in this book the authors direct their arguments to the proper quarter—the British people and the British Government. There is no need to labour *chez* Bulgarians and Greeks our anxiety that they should come to our help. If the Government had chosen to adopt a policy in keeping with the interests of the Allies and of the Balkans as a whole, it would have drawn up a declaration stating explicitly the intentions of the Triple Entente in regard to two possible attitudes of the Balkan States—strict neutrality or active co-operation. The conditions could have been accepted or declined by the States concerned, and they would have known exactly the position in which they were likely to be placed at the end of the war.

Mr. Noel Buxton and Mr. C. R. Buxton point out what the Allies' terms ought to be and the dangers of a policy of drift. The brief sketches of conditions in the different countries which lead up to their conclusions give the reader a clear and dispassionate idea of some of the causes which have hitherto condemned to inactivity armies amounting to more than a million men.

* "The War and the Balkans." By Noel Buxton, M.P., and Charles Roden Buxton. (George Allen and Unwin, Ltd. Price 2s. 6d. net.).



BOOK RECEIVED.

The World's Cotton Crops. By John A. Todd, B.L., Professor of Economics, University College, Nottingham; formerly of the Khedivial School of Law, Cairo. Illustrations and Maps. (A. and C. Black. 10s. net.)

ITALY AND SERBIA.

At a meeting of the Balkan Committee, held at the House of Commons on May 6, with Sir Edward Boyle in the chair, after an address by Dr. Seton Watson on Slav interests in Dalmatia, the following resolution was proposed by Sir Arthur Evans and passed:—

"That the Balkan Committee, while welcoming the possible adhesion of Italy to the Allied cause on the basis of the completion of Italian national unity, and in virtue of the principle of nationality, to which the British Government is definitely pledged, urgently hopes that in any agreement between the Entente Powers and Italy due regard will be shown for the vital interests of our Serbian ally, and, above all, of the Serbo-Croat population, to whom the Dalmatian coast belongs by right of race, language, geography, and economic interests; and, convinced that no antagonism of interests, whether military, linguistic, or economic, exists between the Adriatic peoples, the Committee earnestly desires that the Governments of the Triple Entente will use their endeavours to promote a lasting agreement between the kingdom of Italy and the Southern Slavs."

THE VETERANS' CLUB.

All well-devised schemes which aim at providing comfort and help for the men who are fighting the battles of our Empire deserve very active support as well as sympathy. Many of those who are giving their services in so many parts of the world, including the Near East, have returned wounded and maimed, and many thousands more will be added to the lists. No institution now in existence deserves more hearty support than the Veterans' Club, founded a few years ago by Major Arthur Haggard. The club affords a meeting and a resting place for men leaving the Army and Navy, much as the Union Jack Club does for Service men. It has done, and is doing, excellent work in many directions. It has been thanked for its services by the War Office. Over 2,000 of its members have rejoined the Colours. It has furnished nearly 200 ex.-n.c. officers to act as instructors to our new armies. The roll of honour grows daily.

But the present premises, near Bedford Row, are no longer suitable, and Major Haggard and those who work with him consider that the time has come to interest the public throughout the Empire in the institution; that it should be established on a more permanent basis; and that a building worthy of the nation and Empire may be provided in a more suitable situation. We hope that some of our readers may be disposed to help this movement for the social welfare of our gallant soldiers and sailors. Subscription to the Veterans' Club Association has been fixed at a minimum of 2s. 6d. All donations will be thankfully received.

The movement has the strong support of the Duke of Bedford, Major E. Rhodes (brother of Cecil Rhodes), Lord Charles Beresford, Admiral Sir E. Fremantle, Lord Dundonald, Mr. Rudyard Kipling, Sir Rider Haggard, Mr. J. A. Malcolm, and many well-known persons. The offices are at 47, Bedford Row, and Mr. Geoffrey J. Leggett is the secretary, to whom contributions should be sent.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Any newsagent or bookstall in the United Kingdom can supply copies of "THE NEAR EAST," which are on sale early on Friday morning. Should any difficulty be experienced in obtaining the paper, the Manager would be glad to receive a post card giving particulars, and he will take steps to rectify the matter.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

A month ago I put forward a suggestion regarding the future of Constantinople which seemed to me to have much to commend it to favour: to wit, that America should be invited to hold the city—and, of course, both waterways giving access to it—in trust for the world. At the same time I expressed the opinion that the Americans themselves would probably be the only people who would raise any real difficulties over the adoption of such a scheme; and I still believe that if it were put forward as a serious proposition it would meet with hearty approval from far more countries than any other plan that has yet been proposed. But I gather from the *Independent* (New York) of May 3, a copy of which I have just received, that my hopes of seeing Uncle Sam step into the breach are not very likely to be fulfilled.

***

After giving the gist of my proposals, the *Independent* observes:—

> He is quite right in supposing that America will not be eager to proffer her aid in solving the problem that has involved the world in war. It is only a few years since we responded to a similar appeal from this quarter and sent Morgan Shuster to straighten out the finances of Persia. He was altogether too successful, and just when it seemed that he was about to restore financial and political independence to Persia he was removed by the joint action of Russia and Great Britain.

That sounds painfully definite; and I believe that the *Independent*, which is one of the most representative American journals, is voicing the opinion of the average American who takes any interest in the politics of the Old World. Nevertheless, I would point out that the case I put forward and the case of Persia's Financial Adviser are not quite on a par. If America consented to act as guardian of Constantinople she would do so with the authority, and at the urgent request, not of two Powers, but of a majority of them at any rate; and she could stipulate for terms and guarantees of the most binding description. Moreover, she would show herself a friend of Peace, ready to make substantial sacrifices for the good of the world. So once more (with King Henry V.) I venture to cry:

"Unto the breach, dear friends!"

If my appeal leaves Uncle Sam—pardon the change of person: it is necessary!—cold, he will probably reply (but *not* with King Henry):

"Not in these breeches."

But I shall have done *my* best!

***

Tempus fugit—as we were frequently informed in our young days; but it is usually supposed that a prison is not the most suitable place to convince one of the truth of the saying. This, however, does not appear to be the opinion of some member of the staff of a certain ha'penny paper, which last Friday evening published an article with a double-column heading:—

18 Days in a Turkish Prison.

This article was continued on the back page, but under the heading:—

18 Months in a Turkish Prison.

Presumably, whoever was responsible for the second heading was convinced that the dreadful experiences of the writer of the article could not have been crowded into "18 days." Or was he indulging a taste for metaphor?

***

If all the refugees who have fled from Syria and Palestine into Egypt were as ingenious and enterprising as certain Jews of whom the *Jewish World* tells us, we should not hear of these poor people constituting a "problem" for their hosts. Quite the reverse! The immigrants referred to "are salting, according to Russian methods, the small fish of the Nile, with the result that excellent smoked sardines are now being sold at the rate of four for the piastre. These small fish have careered peacefully in the waters of the Nile for ages. Now—well the war has affected them, too!" That tickles me—as the trout remarked just before the Wykehamist flicked him out of the Itchen. But the *Jewish World* ought to be careful how it talks—or writes—about "smoked sardines," or it will be having one of the trade defence associations inquiring what it means by it.

***

A marriage broker of Cairo who sued a Moslem couple in the courts of Egypt for £25, as her fee for having united them in marriage, has received a shock which will be felt by every marriage broker in the land. Her claim was dismissed and she had, in addition, to listen to the recitation of a somewhat lengthy finding, in which the court detailed its reasons for having found against the plaintiff. Without recounting them here, I may say that their moral tone was excellent, and the whole matter, put into a nutshell, was that, while bringing persons together with the idea of an ultimate marriage was a good and proper thing to do, it lost all its virtue should it be done purely for the purpose of personal gain. I quite endorse the ethics of this finding, but feel rather sorry for the broker nevertheless. She had a contract after all, and a contract which had, one would have imagined, become legalized by many years of custom. This form of business is so very common in Egypt. On the other hand, I believe it is conducted principally when the contracting parties are Christians, and that perhaps accounts for the finding in this case.

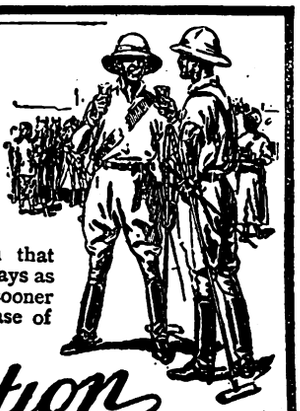
***

One man of my acquaintance is still regretting his precipitancy in refusing the mediations of a marriage broker when he was in Egypt. The broker in this case was a man, and he approached my friend, who was poor but of good family, on behalf of a young Levantine widow of great wealth but no family to speak of. His suggestions were repulsed with the greatest indignation. My friend would listen to no details when he once discovered what was in the wind. A few months later he was returning to England on leave, and travelled by the Messageries boat. On board he was at once attracted by the appearance of a remarkably beautiful girl of about twenty, who was travelling in state, accompanied by a retinue of servants. His chagrin may be better imagined than described when he found that this girl was the widow he had so indignantly refused, and that she was journeying to Marseilles to join a husband introduced by the same broker who had first approached him.

***

An Englishman who returned from Turkey on the outbreak of war tells the following story, illustrative of the differences between the Turks, the Greeks, and the Jews, who, he says, can never trust one another or live in harmony. The story is, he adds, very well-known in Turkey; but I have never heard it before, and it may amuse some of my readers. A Turk, a Greek, and a Jew, then, were crossing the Bosphorus one stormy day in a distinctly rotten wherry—emblematic, one supposes, of the Turkish "Ship of State"—and very soon they all began to have doubts whether they would ever reach the shore in safety. Alarm did not improve the tempers of the Turk and the Greek, who began to cast ferocious glances at the Jew, and to throw out hints about the wherry being overladen. The Jew, however, kept his wits about him. "See, gentlemen," said he, "it is no good becoming excited! Let us think of something pleasant. To amuse ourselves let us discuss what we should best like to see." "There is wisdom in that," agreed the Turk. "For my part, I should like nothing better than to see a really good row in Stambul, with all True Believers armed and making mincemeat of the *Roumis* and the *Yahudis!*" At once the Greek fired up. "I, too, should like to see a fight," said he. "But I should like to see the ignorant Turks driven back to their desert homes, and the city of Constantine once more in the hands of its lawful possessors, the Hellenes, as it assuredly will be one day, and that not far distant!" Thereupon followed a furious wrangle between Turk and Greek. But, presently, just as they were nearing shore after all, one of them remembered that the Jew had not been asked for his opinion. "Well, what do you say?" he asked. "Oh!" replied the Jew, suavely, "I say nothing. I've been too busy praying that you two may kill one another, and that this accursed boat may afterward reach the shore safely."

Corsair.



"Rattlin' good game, old man. What?"

"Yes! An' a rattlin' good wind-up with a 'burra' peg of Perfection."

"I thought you'd like it. It's the only whisky I've drunk since I've been out. Jove, man! It's the finest spirit ever bottled. Never reminds you that you've got a liver, and it's always as welcome as promotion. I'd sooner a peg o' Perfection than a case of any other."

Perfection

Sole Proprietors:
D. & J. McCALLUM, Edinburgh, Scotland.
Resident Agent for India and the East:
F. W. BARLOW, 8, Dharamtollah Street, Calcutta.

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1915.	1915.		1333. Jumada II.	5675.
May	May			Sivan.
14	1	Friday	29 Rejeb.	1
15	2	Saturday.....	1	2
16	3	Sunday	2	3
17	4	Monday	3	4
18	5	Tuesday	4	5
19	6	Wednesday	5	6
20	7	Thursday	6	7

Sunday, being May 3, Old Style, is the birthday of H.H. Prince Paul of Montenegro, second son of Prince Mirko, who was born at Podgoritza in 1910.

Monday is the birthday of H.R.H. Princess Arthur of Connaught.

Wednesday is the birthday of H.I.M. the Tsar of Russia.

An announcement in the *Gazette* notifies that, by the King's command, all celebrations of his Majesty's birthday, both at home and abroad, with the sole exception of the flying of flags, will be dispensed with this year, owing to the war.

It is officially announced that the Sultan of Egypt will proceed to Alexandria for the summer in the latter half of this month.

M. Misu, the Roumanian Minister, and Madame Misu have returned to London from Oxford.

Lady Howard de Walden, who has been in Egypt for some time, has returned to Seaford House, Belgrave Square.

Lady Ninian Crichton-Stuart left 43, Bryanston Square on Tuesday morning for House of Falkland, Fifeshire.

News has been received that Sub-Lieutenant Lord Loughborough, R.N.V.R., Armoured Car Division, is doing well in hospital at Cairo. He was wounded in the Dardanelles operations.

An engagement is announced between Lieutenant Arthur Cottrell, Royal Field Artillery, B.E.F., eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Cottrell, of Athens, Greece, and Mary Barbara, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Nicoll, of Burntwood House, near Winchester.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Michael Palairet, Second Secretary in his Majesty's Diplomatic Service, younger son of the late Captain Palairet, 9th Lancers, and Mary de Vere, daughter of Major Herbert Studd, Coldstream Guards, and of Mrs. Herbert Studd, of Issercleran, County Galway.

The engagement is announced between Ernst Matthaei, Egyptian Civil Service, Cairo, son of the late Ernst Matthaei, of 22, The Boltons, South Kensington, and Louise Henriette Matthaei, of 113, Clifton Hill, N.W., and Edith, daughter of the late Mr. T. Lucas and Mrs. Lucas, of Woemleighton, Leamington.

HOME SCHOOL
for Boys whose Parents are abroad. :: Ages 7 to 14.
Entire Charge. Trained Nurse. Qualified Resident Master.
Boys prepared for Public Schools and Royal Navy.
Terms and Prospectus from
Miss Thomson, The Hall, Bexhill-on-Sea.

Last Friday, at St. George's Church, Newcastle-on-Tyne, the marriage was solemnized of Second Lieutenant Gavin Knox Walker, Northumbrian Division, R.E., only son of the late Mr. James Walker, of Constantinople and Enfield, and Miss Constance Mary Dickinson, youngest daughter of Mr. Charles Rougier, of Newcastle-on-Tyne. The Rev. Canon Gough, Vicar of Newcastle, officiated, assisted by the Rev. Canon Boot, Vicar of St. George's.

Among the list of first-class passengers rescued from the s.s. Lusitania we are glad to observe the name of Mr. James Baker, formerly of Constantinople, a director of the Oriental Carpet Manufacturers.

Mr. Pappadopouli, another director of the Oriental Carpet Manufacturers, and his wife, were also on the Lusitania, and the former was unfortunately among the victims of the German outrage. His wife, who was saved after being in the water three hours, is now in London.

Two other victims of the Lusitania disaster were Mrs. Bourke, of Winnipeg, and Miss Ella Wadds Lawrence, who were on their way from America to serve with the Serbian Red Cross.

Lord Methuen writes from the Palace, Malta, appealing for newspapers, books, games, and gramophones for the use of the large base hospital now being formed in Malta.

Mrs. Arthur Hoare, Trull House, near Tetbury, announces that the net result of the sale of plants and other articles opened at Trull House on Wednesday by Countess Bathurst was over £200, in aid of the Serbian Red Cross Fund.

Cambridge proposes to confer the degree of Doctor of Divinity *honoris causa* on the Rev. Claude H. W. Johns, Litt.D., Master of St. Catharine's College, *ex officio* Canon of Norwich, and a well-known Assyriologist.

Mr. Josiah Wedgwood, M.P., has been wounded in the fighting at the Dardanelles.

Miss Charters, late headmistress of the English High School for Girls in Constantinople, has become one of the partners in a large boarding school at Harrogate.

The Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Giffen, of the American Mission in the Sudan, have returned to Khartoum after a year's absence in America.

Mr. Norman Petrides, a son of the late Mr. D. N. Petrides, of West Hill, Sydenham, is, we learn, on his way from Cyprus to England with the intention of joining the Army. This, we believe, will make the third arrival from Cyprus for the purpose in question.

Our Special Correspondent in Athens informs us that Dr. Mizzi, having at last obtained permission to leave Constantinople, has arrived in Athens.

From the same source we learn that Mr. Albert Simmons had also left, and had proceeded to Marseilles.

General Gouraud, who succeeds General d'Amade in command of the French Expeditionary Corps at the Dardanelles, saw fighting in the Sudan in 1896.

Mrs. Parker, sister of Earl Kitchener, presided at an important conference on clubs for soldiers' and sailors' relatives at the Mansion House on Wednesday.

Mr. C. J. Moss, of the staff of the Imperial Ottoman Bank in Turkey, who has been at Sandhurst, has received his commission as 2nd Lieutenant in the Suffolk Regiment.

Mr. Noel Hayes, also of the I.O.B., has been gazetted 2nd lieutenant, Post Office Rifles.

Yet another member of the staff of the I.O.B., Mr. Alexander Park, of the Manchester office, has joined the army, his unit being the 6th Manchesters.

News was received in London on Tuesday that Mr. A. F. Wilding, the famous lawn tennis player, had been killed in action in the Dardanelles operations. He joined the Royal Marines last September, and had served at Dunkirk and at Antwerp. Quite recently it was announced that he had been promoted to captain. He was a keen motor-cyclist, and on one occasion rode from London to Constantinople.

Lieut.-Colonel Robert Seymour Vandeleur, C.M.G., commanding the 2nd Battalion Seaforth Highlanders, who is reported wounded, entered the army in 1889. He was promoted to the rank of captain in 1893, and in the same year was dangerously wounded at the battle of Atbara. He was mentioned in despatches on this occasion, and again for services in India, when he also received the brevet of lieut.-colonel, and attained full rank in September last. The Order of St. Michael and St. George was conferred upon him in February for services in the present campaign.

Major Kenneth Wyndham Arbuthnot, 2nd Seaforth Highlanders, who served in the Nile Expedition of '98, and was present at the Battle of Omdurman, was last week officially reported as "believed killed" while serving with the Expeditionary Force.

Captain Eric Seymour Stephenson, D.S.O., Gloucestershire Regiment, attached to the Egyptian Army, is reported as having died of wounds received while serving with the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force. He had been employed with the Egyptian Army since April, 1906, and he held the Egyptian medal with clasp for services in the Sudan in 1908.

Second Lieutenant Charles William Peel, 2nd Battalion Royal Dublin Fusiliers, who is reported killed in action near St. Julien between April 23 and May 1, was the youngest son of the late Mr. William Felton Peel, of Alexandria, Egypt, and of Mrs. Peel, the White House, Hartfield. He was appointed to a commission on August 15 last year.

The death was announced last week of Colonel Andrew Murray, D.S.O., at the age of seventy-seven. He served in the Egyptian War of 1882, and received the medal with clasp, the Fourth Class of the Osmania, and the Khedive's star. He entered the Army in 1858 and retired in 1894.

Major-General Cosmo George Gordon died on the 5th inst. at Culdrain, Gartley, Aberdeenshire, in his sixty-seventh year. He received his first commission in the Royal Marines in June, 1867, and reached the rank of colonel commandant in April, 1903. He retired in April, 1906, with the hon. rank of major-general. He was with the Sudan Expedition in 1884-5, taking part in the defence of Suakin, the actions of Haskeen and Tofrek, and at the burning of Tamai. He had the medal with two clasps and the bronze star.

Amongst the appointments officially notified as made by the Admiralty on Monday we notice the following:—"Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve: Mr. H. C. Lukach granted a temporary commission as lieutenant and appointed to the 'Egmont,' additional, to date February 25." This appears to be a somewhat belated announcement, as our Cyprus Correspondent reported several weeks ago that Mr. Lukach had returned to the island and resumed his duties.

The death is announced from Sofia of Professor Yaroslav Vesin, formerly Professor at the Fine Arts School in Sofia and military painter to the King and War Ministry. Vesin was of Czech origin, and had been a naturalised Bulgarian for fifteen years.

The following telegram from His Majesty King Nicholas of Montenegro was received last week by Lady Roper Parkington, Hon. Treasurer of the Montenegrin Red Cross and Relief Fund:—"The help which your honourable Committee has already dispatched, and the arrival of the urgently needed medical stores and clothing for the wounded sol-

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diers and poverty-stricken families, is welcome evidence of the cordial response made to your appeal by the noble and generous British nation. The gratitude of my brave soldiers and their families, who at this trying moment are receiving your valued gifts, is offered to your nation, at once a friend and ally, and for which Montenegro has always felt the greatest sympathy and sincere admiration. I beg, Madam, that you and the very distinguished members of your Committee will accept my best thanks, and pray also express my acknowledgements to the generous donors to the Fund.—Nicholas."

Dr. Isabel Ormiston, Chief Medical Inspector of Schools to the Government of Tasmania, and Mrs. Patton Bethune, who were sent by the Wounded Allies Relief Committee as a Sanitary Commission to Montenegro, have arrived at Cettinje safely after an adventurous journey. They report that the Montenegrin Government sends an urgent request for a self-supporting hospital unit, accompanied by vaccin, disinfectants, and destructors, to combat the typhus epidemic in Ipek and the surrounding country. The Wounded Allies Relief Committee is proceeding to equip and despatch a suitable unit.

Among the many interesting items in an exhibition of regimental plate and trophies, opened on Monday afternoon by Princess Christian at the show-rooms of the Goldsmiths and Silversmiths' Company (112, Regent Street), is a silver model of a Nile boat belonging to the 1st Battalion of the Royal Irish Regiment. This trophy was purchased with a prize of £100 offered by Lord Wolseley during the Sudan campaign of 1885, to the first regiment coming up the Nile to Debbeh in boats. In forwarding the prize Lord Wolseley wrote:—"Being an Irishman myself, it is very gratifying to me to feel that my small prize has been carried off by my own countrymen."

Readers who desire to assist the central fund for the despatch of campaign comforts to the officers and men of the Mechanical Transport Columns of the Army Service Corps (which fund is now charged with supplying "extras" to a personnel in France and Turkey of some 20,000), should forward their subscriptions to the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. E. Shrapnell-Smith, 7, Rosebery Avenue, London.

Major Maclure, 26, Dennington Park Road, West Hampstead, appeals for subscriptions towards defraying the cost of supplying First Aid Instructions leaflets to troops at the front. They have already been sent free to over 200 regiments. These leaflets are being used by Indian troops in the Persian Gulf, having been translated into and printed in Hindustani by an officer in India. "Subscriptions," says Major Maclure, "are urgently wanted to carry on this work, as little or no instruction is given to the officers and men how to help themselves, and consequently great loss of life is incurred."

Mr. Charles Sims, R.W.S., A.R.A., has generously presented to the Wounded Allies' Relief Committee the gold medal for oil painting awarded to him by the Carnegie Art Institute at the International Exhibition, Pittsburg, U.S.A. (1912). Mr. Sims originally intended that the medal, of which the actual gold is worth some fifty pounds, should be melted down. The committee, however, is confident that some art collector will welcome the opportunity of acquiring the medal as it stands. Applications to see it should be addressed to Miss Lambert, Wounded Allies' Relief Committee, Sardinia House, Kingsway, W.C.

In response to the appeal made by the Women's Emergency Corps that odd lengths of wool should be knitted up into 12-in. squares to be made into blankets for Serbia, considerably over 10,000 such squares have been received, and already 500 blankets have been despatched. The blankets are warm, light, easily washed, and attractive in appearance. More squares are wanted, as the need of the Serbian hospitals is great. All parcels should be addressed to the Knitting Department, Women's Emergency Corps, 8, York Place, Baker Street, London.

Our Bulgarian Correspondent writes (April 27):—

Last Saturday the death took place of Colonel Stephen Nikoloff of the Bulgarian Army. A native of Prilep (Macedonia), he devoted all his service to the liberation of his country, first from the Turkish and latterly from the Greek and Serbian yoke. He was Vice-President of the Macedo-Adrianopolitan Societies and a member of the executive committee of the Macedonian charitable societies. He was universally loved and respected for his personal bravery and high integrity of character. In him the Macedonian Organisation loses its most worthy leader.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, etc.

It is officially announced that his Highness the Sultan has been pleased to approve of the following promotions and transfers in the Egyptian Army, from the dates stated:—

Kaimakam (temporary Miralai) C. E. Palmer Bey, D.S.O., Commandant of Artillery and Director of Ordnance, to be Miralai. April 11.

Kaimakam (temporary Miralai) F. U. Carr Bey, Principal Veterinary Officer, to be Miralai. March 15.

Kaimakam (temporary Miralai) F. Burges Bey, Sudan Government, to be Miralai. March 15.

Bimbashi (temporary Kaimakam) D. S. B. Thomson, Sudan Government, to be Kaimakam. February 21.

Bimbashi (temporary Kaimakam) E. H. Ross, Sudan Government, to be Kaimakam. February 22.

Bimbashi C. W. Spinks, Artillery, to be Kaimakam. March 10.

Bimbashi R. C. P. Blyth, Sudan Government, to be Kaimakam. February 21.

Bimbashi C. A Barker, 1st Battalion, to be Kaimakam. March 1.

The following officers are granted the temporary rank of Lewa, to date April 11:—

Miralai E. C. Midwinter Bey, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., Sudan Government.

Miralai M. R. Kennedy Bey, C.M.G., D.S.O., Sudan Government.

Miralai C. E. Palmer Bey, D.S.O., Commandant of Artillery and Director of Ordnance.

The following officers are granted temporary rank of Miralai, to date April 11:—

Kaimakam M. H. Logan Bey, Commandant Sobat-Pibor district.

Kaimakam N. W. Gardner Bey, Officer Commanding Arab Battalion.

The following transfers are approved, from dates stated:—

Bimbashi C. W. Spinks, Sudan Government, to Artillery. March 1.

Bimbashi C. A. Barker, Arab Battalion, to 1st Battalion.

The following appointments are approved from dates stated:—

Kaimakam T. G. Anderson Bey, Second in Command, Artillery, to be Assistant Adjutant-General. March 1.

Kaimakam C. W. Spinks Bey, Artillery, to be Second in Command, Artillery. March 1.

Kaimakam C. A. Barker Bey, 1st Battalion, to be Officer Commanding 1st Battalion.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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

BIRTH.

DOWSON.—On May 8, at 11, Sunderland Terrace, Bayswater, the wife of Ernest M. Dowson, Director-General of the Survey Department, Egypt, of a son.

DEATH.

COGHLAN.—On the 7th inst., at Water Lane House, Stroud, Elisabeth Anne Agathe, widow of E. W. Coghlan, late Judge in the International Courts, Cairo, Egypt.

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FRIDAY, MAY 14, 1915.

THE BATTLE OF THE BEACHES.

Only when the war is over will it be possible to determine the actual military bearing of the forcing of the Dardanelles on the course of the great struggle. But whether these operations prove to be the turning-point in the long campaign or continue to be associated with a minor theatre of war, they have won for themselves from the heroic deeds connected with them a niche in the Temple of Fame, of which history is not likely to deprive them. The landing of British troops on the Gallipoli Peninsula was a magnificent feat of arms. It showed that in spite of the notable progress made in the destructiveness of engines of war, and in spite of the advantages which modern science gives to the defenders of a position, the human element is in the last resort the deciding factor. Nothing had been overlooked in the preparations for the defence. In the foreground a maze of trenches and a network of barbed wire; behind these skilfully concealed gun positions, some of them holes excavated in the side of the cliffs from which maxims rained their deadly hail of bullets on the beach below, others more elaborate emplacements inshore, and away on the other side of the Peninsula the frowning forts, from which the heaviest guns in their bomb-proof shelters were still formidable, in spite of the bombardment to which they had been subjected by the long-range fire from the Allied Fleets. But in the end it was the dash and the indomitable courage of the British troops that won the day. Advancing in boats into the storm of bullets and shrapnel, they gained the beach; here large numbers fell, but the survivors pressed on, until the moment came for the charge into the enemy's trenches. On the Turkish side everything had been provided for, save this irresistible attack. Now that the first lines of defence have been captured, it is realised that the Turks and their German masters made no idle boast when they claimed that Gallipoli Peninsula was impregnable. It was, as far as human ingenuity and the resources of science could make it; and these, let it be remembered, were backed by the traditional bravery of the Turks.

No brief summary can do justice to the operations of April 25 and succeeding days, during which the British troops established a firm hold on Gallipoli Peninsula. Landings were effected on six separate beaches, and at each point success was only achieved by the devoted heroism and self-sacrifice of officers and men. To the Australians and New Zealanders had been assigned the beach just north of Gaba Tepe, on the opposite side of the Peninsula to Maidos, at the head of the Narrows. The attempt to land the first boat-loads unobserved before daylight miscarried. A party of the enemy was entrenched on the beach, and as the boats approached, a terrible fusillade from rifles and from a maxim was poured into them. Without waiting for the boats to ground, the Australians waded ashore, and, forming a rough line, charged the Turks at the point of the bayonet. The trench captured, they found themselves confronted with an almost perpendicular cliff, covered with thick shrubbery. Half-way up this the enemy had another trench strongly held, from which they directed a terrible fire on the troops below and on the boats pulling back to the destroyers for the second landing party. On and up went our men, and this trench, too, was taken, the occupants being bayonetted or running away. Now the Australians had gained the high ground above, only to find it so broken that, in order to hold it, they must needs press on against the Turks, who had every advantage of cover, until they had driven them far enough back from the edge of the cliffs. Meanwhile the troops of the 29th Division were being landed at five points on the tongue of the Peninsula. In every case but one the Turks were found strongly entrenched to challenge the landing; and where the shore was reached without opposition the advance inland found the Turks in such a strong position that it became necessary to re-embark this landing-party. These joint operations depended for their complete success on the simultaneous advance on the part of each contingent. On one beach, however, the position of the enemy proved to be one of the most formidable which troops have ever attempted to take, even under normal conditions; for men landing from boats it might well have been regarded as impregnable. In order to provide the maximum cover until the last moment an armoured transport with two thousand men on board was run ashore. But the water was too deep to allow of men wading, and they had to make their way over a steam hopper and lighters and across planks before the shore could be gained. Under the hail of rifle, maxim and pom-pom fire to which these landing operations were subjected, no troops could live, and with the exception of two hundred, who made the first fatal attempt, the men remained throughout the day on the stranded transport. After nightfall the Turks allowed them to land without firing a shot. Thus they, too, gained a foothold on shore, and in the course of the next few days, in spite of the most fearless attacks on the part of the enemy, were able to join hands with the other landing parties and gradually advance the British line across the southern end of the Gallipoli Peninsula.

The task before our troops is still a heavy one, but they know, and the Turks know as well, that the difficulties can no longer be regarded as insuperable. Of the confidence that their own exploits will have inspired in them there can be no doubt. In ordinary circumstances we should hesitate to infer that the failure of the enemy to make good his boasts of the impregnability of his defences would result in any corresponding degree of despondency. But the circumstances are not ordinary. Unless the Turks choose to disgrace themselves in imitation of the Germans by violating all the canons of modern warfare, our quarrel is not with the Turkish nation, but with a small clique in Constantinople, which has sold itself and its country's welfare for German gold. The Turks, as a whole, too, we would fain believe, feel something of the unreality of the position in which they find themselves, and, when the promises made to them of an easy victory have been belied, will quickly lose heart in the business. Thus the despair of the defenders may be proportionate to the confidence of the invaders. The resolve to continue the defence, however, will be enforced by the Turco-German militarist group. If the latter could be honest with themselves they would have to admit that nothing has been more calculated to rouse their chagrin than the contemplation of the shipwreck of their fondest hopes in the composition of the British force which has earned for itself undying glory on the peninsula of Gallipoli. They had been taught to believe that the loosely-knit British Empire would never stand the strain of a severe war. They have lived to see the component parts more closely welded together by joint sacrifice than ever it has been before. If they stop to compare the deeds of the Australians and New Zealanders with the attitude of the subjects of the Ottoman Empire pressed unwillingly into service, in spite of the appeal to their religious fanaticism, they must feel that there is, after all, something in a system of government. The evils of the Turkish system have proved the undoing of the Ottoman Empire. In seeking to destroy that system we are fighting more on Turkey's behalf than against her. Least of all is the war between the Triple Entente and Turkey a crusade, as some publicists have thoughtlessly averred. The wrong-headedness of her Government has ranged Turkey against the Allies, but while the latter must fight the war to a finish, they would welcome any effort on Turkey's part to secure better terms of peace by detaching herself, before it is too late, from Germany and Austria-Hungary.

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IMPRESSIONS OF EGYPT.

(By a Member of the Australian Imperial Force.)

We are in Egypt—in a land shrouded in mystery. Our impressions are at once numerous and confused. As representatives of the youngest of nations we have been transported over thousands of miles of ocean and set down amid the immortal ruins of the oldest of civilisations. As the mere babes of modern life, we have been left to moralise on the hoary wonders of a bygone age. The old and the new are thus strangely contrasted. In such circumstances it is easy to understand that impressions of Egypt formed by an Australian are quite likely to be very different from those formed by representatives of older countries. Denied all intermediate association, we are whirled into the vortex of th , old world like wondering spectators rather than old familiar friends.

There are lands whose antiquity probably rivals that of Egypt. Peru, China, Mexico, and India were all old in the arts and sciences of peace and war when the nations of Europe began to arise, but Egypt is of particular interest to us, if only for the reason that it is the land from which Moses led the Israelites into Canaan. The suburb of Heliopolis, known in Scripture as the City of On, was probably contemporaneous with Moses. The ancient city of Memphis, for 4,000 years the capital of Ancient Egypt, had long been depopulated and in ruins before the arrival of the Romans. Everywhere are evidences of an age at whose remoteness we can only guess.

Our First Contact with Egypt.

From Hell's Gate to the Suez we had seen of Egypt nothing but interminable tracts of sand, bounded sometimes by desolate rocky coasts. Sand, sand, sand, hills of it, mountains of it, seemed with ever-increasing height to stretch out into the interior. Would we ever see some place on which man might thrive and live in comfort? From Suez, again, to Port Said was ever the same unending wilderness; but, as foretastes of what might be expected, at frequent intervals along the Canal were dotted those fertile oases around which are clustered the stations of the Suez Canal Company. No one but must wonder at the gigantic feat of engineering of that genius of France, de Lesseps; yet when one had travelled a few miles in the Canal familiarity overcame wonder, and there was left to delight us these lovely stations, the lakes, and the town of Ismailia.

At Port Said our awakening really commenced. Here we were at one of the most cosmopolitan cities of the world. Here East suddenly seemed to meet West. It was a place of all nations, yet it was a place of no particular nation. It appeared as if all Europe had vied in sending of its peoples, and all the Near East competed in outnumbering them. Such a babel of tongues was an experience not previously encountered by many of those who formed part of the Australian Imperial Force. But Port Said, though perhaps in a greater degree, is only typical of the rest of Egypt. Some of its buildings were creditable; but it must be said that one was not sorry to get away from the smoky grime, the squalor and the reputed wickedness. Our run from Port Said to Alexandria did not contain much of interest.

The distant lights of Rosetta and Damietta among clusters of what appeared to be palms told us that we were in the precincts of a fertile land, but not till we came to Alexandria were we really at the beginning of our adventures. What memories Alexandria conjures up in our minds: the foundation of the city by Alexander the Great, marking the final overthrow of Phoenician influence and the supplanting of it by the Greek; the flight hither, after he had been defeated by Julius Cæsar at Pharsalia, of Caius Gnaeus Pompeius; his treacherous murder here while landing; the short Alexandrine War; the murder of Ptolemy and the intrigues of Cleopatra.

From Alexandria to Cairo.

The tract of territory between Alexandria and Cairo was a revelation in irrigation. We have our own Barren Jack and the reclaimed lands of the Murrumbidgee and the Murray, but they seem in comparison with this but puny works. Mile after mile of rich level country clothed in the native verdure and intertwined with interminable canal systems, tell how the mighty Nile has been held in subjection, harnessed and turned to the service of man by converting a barren desert into one of the most fertile plains in the world.

Here, again, is a strange mixture of East and West. The modern canal system is quite evidently the product of European brains, while the methods of agriculture are the same as those used in the East for thousands of years. The Persian water-wheel driven by an ox or camel, the oxen yoked to the crude old ploughs, the overburdened ass, are a strange contrast to the engineering feats that have made their use in these parts possible.

Cairo.

We are at last at Cairo, and are almost bewildered by the variety of our surroundings. At Port Said and Alexandria it was only given to us to observe from a distance; but at Cairo we had our first chance of going among the populace and judging of them at close quarters.

What a strange mixture of races Cairo contains! It would appear to be the common property of all Europe, and at the same time of the Arabs. Here for the first time we are brought face to face with extremes of luxury and of poverty, of extravagant splendour and of loathsome filth. In Australia we practically do not know what poverty means. We live under the care of an ever-vigilant Health Department, and the smells of Cairo would not be possible in Sydney or Melbourne. But here in Cairo all is different, and we are apt to regard with disgust the evidences of unwholesomeness that surround us. At the same time we cannot but admire the magnificent hotels and mansions of the city and some of the suburbs. We have nothing in Australia to compare with Shepheard's Hotel or some of the mansions of Heliopolis. The city contains a thousand architectural features all novel to us, and from observation of which we might reasonably profit.

Amongst the higher class Egyptians we cannot but notice traces of a dignity which remind us that they are the remote descendants of an ancient and cultured people; but of the lower class Arabs and the fellaheen of the fields we had better say little, lest we offend. They appear to us dirty and immoral, and we would sooner be out of their presence. But we have to remember that we are judging by our own standard of morality and religion a people living by another standard and according to the teachings of a different Prophet. It behoves us then to be tolerant, to observe quietly, to form our own inward opinions, and to make allowances.

TURKISH REPRISALS.

A correspondent writes:—

While the great war is progressing little has been known of the cruel reprisals of the Turks upon the hapless Christians in Persia. Although Persia was a neutral country, Turkish troops led by German officers invaded and took Tabriz and Urumiah. The former was speedily retaken by Russian troops, but the town and surrounding country of Urumiah are still in the hands of the Turks and Kurds. News comes from the American missionary, Dr. Shedd, whose college was attacked and himself wounded. He says that fifty Nestorian villages have been plundered and then burned. Among them Geogtapa, the home and orphanage of the late well-known Deacon Abraham, after a fierce defence of three days, has been completely destroyed and its inhabitants massacred. Gulpashon endeavoured by large bribes to propitiate the enemy, but when the money was secured 500 of its young men were seized and taken to Urumiah. Large numbers of Nestorians had taken refuge in the American Mission, but even the American flag was not respected. The Russian bishop and two other pastors who had sheltered there were taken, were exposed to every insult possible, and, after being dragged naked through the streets, were hanged. The Christian portion of Urumiah city has been destroyed. Thousands fled to Tiflis, a fourteen days' journey, on foot. A vast number of Nestorians are homeless and starving.

The Nestorian Mission has telegraphed £200 to be distributed to the sufferers, but more is needed to prevent the extermination of this noble people.

Contributions can be sent to Miss Barclay, 9, Tranton Road, Bermondsey, S.E., Honorary Secretary of the Nestorian Mission.

In connection with the above, the following extracts from a statement issued by Reuter's Agency this week is of much interest:—

A letter, dated Tabriz, April 8, says that the following despatch sent by special messenger had been received there from Dr. Shedd, chief of the American Mission at Urumiah: "All Christian villages plundered and burned. One thousand killed. Two thousand dead from disease. One hundred persons killed in last ten days. Our lives are in danger. Help is needed at once. Total Turks in Urumiah 200. They have no guns, and stay only to kill Christians. Help at once."

Extracts from a report sent by the Russian Vice-Consul at Salmas give a shocking account of cold-blooded murders, outrages on girls, destruction of villages and desecration of the Holy Scriptures both at Urumiah and at Salmas. . . . At Gulpashan, on the orders of the Turkish Consul, the town was plundered and burned.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Roumania's Attitude.

For the moment speculation regarding the attitude of Roumania is overshadowed by the passage of events in Italy, but the question is nevertheless of vital interest, and nowhere have we seen it so plainly and exhaustively dealt with as in the article which "Politicus" contributes to the *Fortnightly Review* (May). In his opening sentences he shows that to the personal and traditional factors we must look for the reasons which for so long held Roumania beneath the influence of the central empires after the declaration of war. On the one hand, the King was bound to Germany by ties of birth and blood, on the other there was the carefully inoculated tradition of centuries, which taught the Roumanians that Russia was their most implacable and dangerous foe.

Considering Roumania a valuable ally against Russia, Germany and Austria-Hungary unceasingly strove to strengthen their hold over the country and to direct its foreign policy. Bucharest became one of the most important centres of German and Austrian diplomacy, and the ablest German and Austrian diplomats were sent to that important post.

So thorough had been the teaching of these diplomats that even the treachery of Austria-Hungary, who sided with Bulgaria against Roumania after the Balkan War, though it brought the secret treaty between the two countries to an end, was only just sufficient to restrain the country from following its king's desire and plunging into war against Russia when the present hostilities began. The tradition of Russian enmity was too strong to be quickly overthrown. But in the sentences we quote the writer shows how it came at last to be disproved:—

Recent events have completely changed Roumania's position. Apparently Russia, France and England are in full agreement as to the future of Constantinople. France and England, which in the past have prevented Russia reaching that coveted town, seem to be willing that Russia's historic aspirations should at last be fulfilled. It is obvious that as soon as Russia occupies Constantinople, with the consent of the leading European Powers, Roumania need no longer fear a Russian invasion made with the object of seizing Constantinople.

Roumania, too, sees her way to free access to the Mediterranean under the Russian occupation of Constantinople. Her wheat and other produce have been repeatedly held up by the closing of the waterways by Turkey. The problem which Roumania has to solve is the creation of a greater Roumania on the basis of nationality. At present the population of 14,000,000 is scattered—3,500,000 live in Austria-Hungary. The latter country has persistently oppressed her Roumanian subjects, and has thrown every possible obstacle in the path of their development. "Politicus" concludes in the following words:—

Roumania stands at the parting of the ways. The next few weeks will probably decide Roumania's future. No one helps those who refuse to help themselves.

Palestine and Egypt.

Writing in the *United Service Magazine* (May), Lieutenant-General F. H. Tyrrell contributes an interesting article under the heading of "Egypt Under the Khedivial Dynasty." The major part of the article is, of course, purely historical, but General Tyrrell in his concluding sentences makes the following observations regarding Syria and Palestine, countries about the destinies of which there is considerable speculation at the present time:—

So, after all his apparent failure, Muhammad Ali has become sixty years after his death, the founder of a royal dynasty. And perhaps his other project of adding the crowns of Syria and Palestine to that of Egypt may prove not so far from realisation. The two countries have often been politically united. . . . . Muhammad Ali once more united Syria with Egypt under one sceptre, only to have them again separated by the interference of European Powers acting under the spell of their old shibboleth, "the integrity of the Ottoman Empire." One of these Powers was Great Britain; it is possible that she may now see her way to a reversal of that policy.

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The Rev. Canon Hitchen, in the *Contemporary Review* (May), after dealing with the history and present condition of Palestine, also turns to the question of annexation:—

It is hard to know what will be the future of Palestine. If France, the traditional supporter abroad of the Latin Church, were to annex it the Russians might resent it. On the other hand, the Latins would not welcome a Russian annexation. On the whole, one supposes that Latin and Orthodox, Moslem and Jew, would prefer a British annexation rather than any other. But no nation would like to see Palestine annexed by someone else. One is forced to believe that there are only three alternatives, Palestine must be either annexed by us, governed by an international council, or handed over to the Jews.

He is very strongly in favour of the first alternative.

The Khalifate.

In an article on the above subject in the *New Age* (May 6) Mr. Syud Hossain welcomes the assertions made by Lord Crewe and other responsible Englishmen, that the future of the Khalifate was a matter for the Moslem world to decide. But he apparently considers that there is still a tendency to over-emphasise the fact that there has been a break in the direct line of holders of the title. It appears that in 1908, Mr. Syud Hossain had occasion to deal with the same subject in reply to an assertion then made by Sir George Birdwood. We quote from the text of his article written at that time, and which he reproduces now. It was published in the *Englishman*, Calcutta (September 8, 1908):—

Whether or not the Sultan of Turkey is the Caliph of Islam is a question which is not to be disposed by any *obiter dicta;* the party most interested in the matter are the Mohamedans themselves, and they have, all the world over, duly and formally recognised the Sultan of Turkey as their Caliph. In Morocco, Egypt, Afghanistan, India and China, he is universally venerated as the Caliph, and his name is mentioned in the public "Khutba" every Friday in every mosque in Islamdom.

Autonomy for Armenia.

In the *Asiatic Review* (May) Mr. F. R. Scatcherd has an interesting article on "Armenia's True Interests and Sympathies in the Great War." The writer does not consider that full recognition has been accorded to the past services of Armenia, and especially at the present moment, he complains of what he denotes a "conspiracy of silence" in her regard. According to Mr. Scatcherd there are now about 130,000 Armenian soldiers actually fighting on behalf of the Allies, the greater number of them included in the Russian armies. He complains that Armenian interests have almost invariably been sacrificed by Great Britain for those of Turkey, and claims that the time has now come when full justice may be done to a plucky and long-suffering people. The political considerations which in former times of peace have constituted the chief difficulties in the way of securing liberty for Armenia have disappeared with the entry of Turkey into the war. "What, then," asks the writer, "can England and her Allies do for Armenia? What does Armenia herself desire?"

An appeal to the leading Armenians in London has elicited this unanimous statement. They all agree in the belief that the only permanent solution of the Armenian question lies in the granting of some form of Home Rule, some form of autonomy to Armenia, either under the guarantee of the Powers, or of the Entente Powers, or of one of them.

According to statistics quoted by Mr. Scatcherd, the population of the six provinces of Turkish Armenia is shown to include 38.9 per cent. Armenians. The Turks come next with 25.4 per cent., while the Kurds are 16.3 per cent. of the total population. The remainder is made up of six other races, which are represented in neglible numbers. Supported by these figures the writer considers that we can now do no less than bestow upon Armenia some form of autonomy which will ensure her a free and prosperous future.

Articles to Note.

"Russia at War—and After," in the *World's Work* (May).

"Roumania, Land of Heroes and Poets," by Guio Bellincioni, in *Foreign Opinion* (May 5).

"Impressions in Austria-Hungary," by R. S. Nolan, in the *Nineteenth Century* (May).

"The Lebanon and the War," by Douglas Carruthers (illustrated), in the *Field* (May 8).

"Italy and Dalmatia" (a letter, from Sir A. Evans), in the *Manchester Guardian* (May 13).

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Lady Raines	1	0	0
Mrs. Harford	2	0	0
Mrs. Scott Murray	1	1	0
Dowager Marchioness of Bute	10	0	0
Mrs. Benson Kennedy	0	10	0
Messrs. Watkinson and Son	5	0	0
Messrs. B. Cohen and Sons	2	2	0
Miss James	1	0	0
Mrs. Alfred Barker	2	0	0
Miss Julia Barker	0	10	0
Mrs. C. Tower	1	1	0
H. C. Norman, Esq.	5	0	0
M. Whitehead, Esq.	1	1	0
Mrs. Mabel G. Scaife.	1	1	0
Mrs. Helen J. Deedes.	1	0	0
Rev. Canon J. T. Parfit	0	10	0
Messrs. The British Portland Cement Co., Ltd.	10	10	0
Messrs. Parker, Hamilton and Co.	10	10	0
Edward Sisterton, Esq.	2	2	0
Messrs. The X. Patent Chair Co.	2	2	0
Hon. Mrs. Boril.	0	10	0
Saxon Noble, Esq.	10	0	0
J. H. Kaye, Esq.	10	0	0
Rt. Hon. Earl of Rosebery, K.G., K.T.	20	0	0
G. Cholmondley Lattan, Esq.	1	1	0
P. R. Buchanan, Esq.	1	0	0
Mrs. Murray	4	0	0
Mrs. Henderson	1	0	0
Mrs. J. Kennedy	1	0	0
Miss Thomson	0	5	0
Miss Hannington	0	3	0
Miss Kennedy	1	0	0
Messrs. MacAndrew Forbes	25	0	0
Mrs. Kennedy	1	0	0
Geo. Moffat, Esq.	5	0	0
David Forbes, Esq.	20	0	0
Mrs. H. Lamb	2	2	0
Sidney Nowill, Esq.	5	0	0
Sir Raymond Beck	10	10	0
G. E. Hubbard, Esq.	1	0	0
Harold A. Bell, Esq. (S25)	5	4	0
America Levant Line..	3	3	0
St. Helens S.S. Co.	2	2	0
— Evans, Esq.	1	1	0
F. W. Parry, Esq.	1	1	0
The Mayor of Hove (A. R. Sargeant, Esq.)	2	2	0
Rev. Salisbury T. M. Price, D.D.	1	1	0
Capt. W. W. Sandeman	1	1	0
W. B. Chamberlain, Esq.	0	10	0
Miss S. E. Chamberlain	1	0	0
Mrs J. G. Seacome	1	0	0
Hon. Mrs. Neville Hood	0	10	0
Mrs. John Gordon	3	3	0
Mrs. Fairley Daly	1	0	0
Mrs. Morrison	0	10	0
Miss Tweeddale	0	3	0
Misses Harrison	0	7	0
Mrs. Bernard Townesend	5	0	0
Mlle. Elsie	0	10	6
Messrs. Cooling, Lawrence, and Sons	2	2	0
Messrs. The British-American Tobacco Co., Ltd.	50	0	0
Messrs. Glynn, Mills, Currie and Co.	50	0	0
Messrs. The Imperial Tobacco Co. (Great Britain and Ireland), Ltd.	10	10	0
Messrs. John Leckie and Co.	5	0	0
— Price, Esq.	1	1	0
Messrs. Mooro Eady and Murcott Goode, Ltd.	10	0	0
Sir Ernest Cassel (second donation)	100	0	0
Richard Bullard, Esq.			
Basrah	10	0	0
Mrs. Glazebrook	0	10	0
Sir Richard Crawford	10	0	0
Alfred Farquhar, Esq.	25	0	0
Messrs. Low and Bonar, Dundee	50	0	0
Messrs. H. C. Vivian and Co., Cardiff	10	10	0
P. Frankenstein and Sons, Manchester	2	2	0
Indo-European Telegraph Co.	25	0	0
Anglo-Syrian Trading Co., Manchester	25	0	0
Richard Howarth and Co.	3	3	0
Madame de Royen	2	0	0
J. A. C. Tilley, Esq.	10	0	0
H. D. Beaumont, Esq.	5	0	0
Mrs. H. Beaumont	5	0	0
Hon. Sir John Buchanan	5	0	0
Messrs. P. W. McLellan	20	0	0
Messrs. Robert Hudson	5	0	0
Dr. Brigstocke	0	10	0
A. T. Waugh, Esq.	5	0	0
W. Bernard Rees, Esq.	5	0	0
Mrs. Evelina Allen	5	0	0
Hon. Lady Kennedy	1	1	0
G. Butterworth Piggott, Esq.	1	1	0
Marconi Wireless Co.	21	0	0
Flersheim and Co., Nottingham	1	1	0
Cox, Ritchie, and Co..	1	1	0
Mrs. Brinton	2	0	0
Leo F. Schuster, Esq..	1	1	0
Sir Robert H. D. Hay	1	1	0
Messrs. Johnston and Co., Ltd.	50	0	0
Messrs. Geo. Angus and Co., Ltd.	2	2	0
Messrs. Hall Bros. Steamship Co.	5	5	0
"D. H. C."	1	1	0
Messrs. Harpin and Co	5	0	0
Messrs. Stephenson Bros., Ltd.	2	2	0

Payments from Fund up to and including May 4, 1915.

Remitted to Sir Francis Elliott:—				
March 2, 1915	£300			
,, 30 ,,	200			
April 29 ,,	250			
		£750	0	0
Remitted to Constantinople		350	0	0
Remitted to Syria		20	0	0
Remitted to British Refugees in England and Paris		186	7	4
Stationery, Telegrams, and Postage		3	18	8
		£1,310	6	0

A further £250 was remitted to Constantinople by cable on Wednesday morning.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Gallipoli Operations.

May 6.

Replying to Mr. Bonar Law, who asked whether he could give the House any information about the Dardanelles, Mr. ASQUITH gave an account of the operations in the Gallipoli Peninsula since the landing of troops on April 25. He added but little to the official statemennt issued by the Admiralty and the War Office on the 1st inst., but he stated that by May 2 further advances had been made by the British and French troops at the southern end of the Peninsula and the Australian and New Zealand Corps, which had been reinforced by the Royal Naval Division, to the north of the Peninsula. The operations, he said, were being continued and pressed forward under highly satisfactory conditions.

Export of Egyptian Cotton Prohibited.

Mr. PETO asked whether the prohibition of the export of cotton contained in the Order in Council of April 27 applied to exports from Egypt of Egyptian cotton, and, if not, whether the Foreign Secretary intended to take any steps to prohibit the export of Egyptian cotton from Egypt to all ports other than those of France, Russia, Spain, and Portugal.

Sir EDWARD GREY: The Egyptian Government has been invited to prohibit the export of cotton in the manner suggested, and the measure is expected to become operative very shortly.

Germany Getting Egyptian Cotton.

Mr. PETO also asked whether, in the six months October 1 to March 31, Germany and Austria imported 99,272 bales of cotton from Egypt in 1913-14, and in 1914-15 none during the same period; whether the imports of cotton from Egypt to Italy and Switzerland together in the six months from October 1 to March 31, 1914-15, increased by 99,524 bales; whether he had any information as to the ultimate destination of the Egyptian cotton represented by this increase in imports; and if he would state the names of the firms who were the principal shippers of Egyptian cotton and the principal consignees in Italy and Switzerland respectively.

Sir EDWARD GREY: The figures given are substantially correct. I would remind him that it has only been the policy of the Government to prevent all imports reaching Germany since March 11, so that the statistics quoted do not cover more than a very short period during which the present policy has been in operation. Since the initiation of that policy everything has been done to prevent all imports reaching Germany.

Income Tax of Officers in Egypt.

May 11.

Sir JOHN JARDINE asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether any special arrangements had been made in favour of naval and military officers and men engaged in the Dardanelles or Egypt to extend the period allowed for making claims for refund of income-tax deducted at the source from dividends and similar payments?

Mr. LLOYD GEORGE: Claims of the nature referred to by my hon. friend may, under the existing law, be preferred at any time within three years of the end of the income-tax year to which they relate. In these circumstances it does not appear that any special arrangements for extension of time are called for.

Sir J. JARDINE: May I ask whether in the case of officers killed or wounded, a further extension of time at the end of the war will be considered?

Mr. LLOYD GEORGE: The extension at the present time is a very liberal one—three years—but I am quite prepared to consider the point.

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DIRECTORY

showing the present addresses of English residents in Turkey, who have left the country in consequence of the war, or have been prevented from returning there. Readers from Turkey whose names are not given below will oblige by forwarding to the Managing Editor their present addresses for inclusion (free of charge) in the Directory, which is intended to be of assistance in bringing friends together. Changes in addresses should be notified as early as possible. The "Near East" accept no responsibility for the correctness of the addresses given.

ALDERSON, W. J., 181, Links Road, Tooting, S.W.
ALDOUS, A. H., Banbury Road, Brockley, Northants.
ANDERSON, J. H., and family, 114, Botanic Road, Glasnevin, Dublin; or c.o. Gill and Cook, Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C.
ARLAND, J. A., C.S., 63, Guilford Street, W.C.
ATKINSON, Bombardier G. M., 266th Battery, 85th Brigade. R.F.A., Colchester.
BAKER, Arthur, and family, 80, Prince of Wales' Mansions, Battersea Park, S.W.
BARNHAM, Henry D., C.M.G., Leinster Court Hotel, Lancaster Gate, W.
BARWELL, Mrs., 62, Hart Road, Erdington, Birmingham.
BEAUMONT, H. D., British Embassy, Rome.
BELL, Mrs. H. J., 71, Belsize Park Gardens, Hampstead, N.W., or care of Messrs. Grindlay and Co., Parliament St., S.W.
BENNETT, A. A., 11, Basford Bank, Stoke-on-Trent.
BENNETT, Mr. and Mrs. C. Taylor, 213, Seabank Road, New Brighton, Cheshire.
BINNS, Mrs. C. E., and family, 22, Queensdale Road, Holland Park, W.
BINNS, Miss Ada, 37, Lynedoch Street, Glasgow.
BINNS, Mr. and Mrs. Douglas, 8, Incognitogaten, Christiania, Norway.
BINNS, Miss Hilda, Sunny West, The Promenade, Cheshire.
BINNS, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence G., 12, Ramshill Road, Scarborough.
BINNS, Mrs. Walter, 89, Fairhaven, Cranfield Road, Brockley.
BINNS, Mr. and Mrs. W. Hylton, 20, South Hill Park Gardens, Hampstead, N.W.
BIRD, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. C., c/o Dr. Mence, Worcester Lodge, Surbiton.
BLAIR, Charles, and family, Old Phaleron, Greece.
BOND, Miss, 16, Wilton Mansions, Kelvinside N., Glasgow.
BOND, Miss Norine, 8, Slatelands Road, Glossop.
BOND, A. W., 16, Wilton Mansions, Kelvinside N., Glasgow.
BOND, Miss E. G., 16, Wilton Mansions, Kelvinside N., Glasgow.
BOND, Miss H. V., 4, Oxford Terrace, Kingston Road, Wimbledon, S.W.
BOND, Miss I. A., 16, Wilton Mansions, Kelvinside N., Glasgow.
BOND, Mrs. R., 4, Oxford Terrace, Kingston Road, Wimbledon, S.W.
BOND, Mrs. S. J., and daughter, 4, Oxford Terrace, Kingston Road, Wimbledon, S.W.
BOND, Stephan J., 16, Wilton Mansions, Kelvinside N., Glasgow.
BOND, Mr. and Mrs. Valentine, and family, 26, Llanbleddian Gardens, Cathays, Cardiff.
BOROUGH, Rev. Roland, Eaton Bank, near Duffield, Derby.
BOWMAN, Joseph, and family, 5, Crewdson Road, Brixton, S.W.
BOYD, W., 22, Charles Street, Wigan.
BRIGSTOCKE, Dr. P. W., C.M.S. Hospital, Old Cairo, Egypt.
BROOKE, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur, 45, Savile Road, Dewsbury.
BROOKS, W. W., Royal Naval Torpedo Factory, Greenock, N.B.
BROOKS, Mrs. W. W., and daughter, Hotel Metropole, Athens.
BROWN, Canon J. Carnegie, 16, Lincoln's Inn Fields.
BROWNLOW, Miss F. A., 8, Homefield Road, Wimbledon.
BURROUGH, Rev. Howard C., and family, 5, Rue des Protestants, Tuni N. Africa.
CAMPBELL, James L., Orchard Chambers, Church Street, Sheffield.
CAMPBELL, Mrs. J. L., and family, Old Phaleron, Greece.
CAMPBELL, R. J., and family, Old Phaleron, Greece.
CAMPBELL, W. Gordon, c/o the Standard Oil Co. of New York, Pireaus, Greece.
CAHAN, Julian, 17, Via Ariosto, Milan.
CARPENTER, Rev. F., Rushington, Braywich Road, Maidenhead.
CATONI, A., care of Lloyd's Agency, Larnaca, Cyprus.
CERVATI, A. Edgar, care of British Insulated and Helsby Cables, Ltd., Prescot.
CHALMERS, D., and family, Old Phaleron, Greece.
CHALMERS, Mrs. D., jun., and family, Old Phaleron, Greece.
CHARNAUD, Mr. and Mrs. Charles B., and family, Bowmont House, 9, Willesden Lane, N.W. Telephone: Willesden 305.
CHARTERS, Miss, Elmwood, Harrogate.
CHISNELL, Mrs. Alice, Hotel Alexandre le Grand, Athens.
CHISNELL, George A., Rue Nikis, No. 11, Athens.
CLARKE, Miss Jeannette, Griffitt, The Hutch, Shepherd Road, Watford, Herts.
CLEMOW, F. G., 56, Edith Road, West Kensington, W.
COLES, Donald A., M.D., c.o. Lloyd's Bank, 72, Lombard Street, E.C.
COMBER, F. W., and family, Sea View House, Parkgate, Cheshire.
COOK, H., Tower Bungalow, Tankerville Drive, Leigh-on-Sea.
COWE, Alexander W., 44, Upper Parliament Street, Prince's Park, Liverpool.
CRAWFORD, Mr. and Mrs. Robert, 45, Freehold Street, Fairfield, Liverpool.
CRAWFORD, Sir Richard, British Embassy, Washington, U.S.A.
CUMBERBATCH, Mr. and Mrs. A. H., Odessa.
CUMBERBATCH, H. A., C.M.G., St. James's Club, Piccadilly, W.
CUMBERBATCH, Miss Lillan, c/o Mrs. J. Gilbert, Manor Lodge, Egham, Surrey.
CUMING, Bombardier A. C., 262nd Battery R.F.A., 84th Brigade, Colchester.
CUMING, Mrs. J. B., "Fleet View," Fleet R.S.O., Hants.
DASTON, John P., 158, Akerman Road, Brixton, S.W.
DAVIDSON, Bombardier C. T., 266th Battery, 85th Brigade R.F.A., Colchester.
DEAN, Mr. and Mrs. S. Gregory, 18, Alwyne Mansions, Wimbledon, S.W.
DRAKE, Albert, c/o Mr. Fox, Mohair merchant, Bradford.
DEVEY, G. P., 43, Redcliffe Gardens, S.W.
EDMONDS, W. S., Grand Hotel, Athens, Greece.
EDWARDS, Mrs. C. R., 22, Queensdale Road, Holland Park, W.
EDWARDS, Miss Vivian, c/o Mrs. Whishaw, Steep, near Petersfield, Hants.
EDWARDS, Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Middleton, 4, Fellowes Road, South Hampstead, N.W.
ELDRIDGE, E., Foreign Office, S.W.
ELLIOTT, Mr. and Mrs. Clifford, and family, Fritton Lodge, Monkham's Drive, Woodford Green.
ELLIS, Mr. and Mrs. F. T., "Homeleigh," 15, Aubert Park, Highbury, N.
ELWELL, J., 3, Lancaster Park, Harrogate.
FARRELL, Miss G. M., 31, Birkbeck Avenue, Acton, W.
FAULKNER, Lieut. M., Admiralty House, Malta.
FERGUSON, F., Secretary's Office, G.P.O., London.
FORBES, Mr. and Mrs. D., Hyde Park Hotel, S.W.
FULLER, W. E., 12, Elmfield Mansions, Elmfield Road, Balham, S.W.
GANDON, Mrs. J., Derrybaum, Mayow Road, Sydenham.
GATER, E. A., Grosvenor Street, Cheltenham.
GEERE, Miss Ada, Tolcarn, Frognal Lane, Hampstead.
GERBAULT, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel, 13, Rue de la Grange, Batelière, Paris.
GILCHRIST, Mr. and Mrs. Gavin, The Lodge, Budehaven, Bude, N. Cornwall.
GINGELL, W. F., 5, Cathles Road, Balham Hill, S.W.
GOYARD, Mrs., Ladies of Sion, Chepstow Villas, Kensington, W.
GOODWIN, Mr. and Mrs. R. H., Hill Cottage, Seaford, Sussex.
GORDON, Mrs., and family, Hotel Continental, Athens.
GOUT, Edgar, Foreign Office, S.W.
GOUT, Lieut. Charles L., 4th (R) King's Own Yorkshire L.I., Drill Hall, Bank St., Wakefield.
GRAHAM, Miss S. J., 43, Lythos Road, Finchley Road, N.W.
GRAVES, Philip, Cairo.
GRAVES, Mrs. Philip, Le Blanc, Strand, Ryde, Isle of Wight.
GREENWOOD, Mr. and Mrs. Harold P., 9, Upper Crescent, Malone Road, Belfast.
GUEST, W., c.o. Etablissements Orosdi Back, Cairo.
HABAKKUK, William, care of The Institution of Mining and Metallurgy, 1, Finsbury Circus, E.C.
HACK, Charles, St. James's Hotel, Valetta, Malta.
HALLIFAX, Commander G. W., R.N., Kingsland House, Shawford, Hants.
HAMSON, Mr. and Mrs. Charles E., and family, 139, Ladbroke Road, Holland Park, W., Tele., 2625 Park; also Passport Office, Foreign Office, S.W.
HAMSON Mrs., and daughter, 139, Ladbroke Road, Holland Park, W.
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HARDMAN, Mr. and Mrs. L. H., Tudor House, Newington Green, N.
HARTY, H. J., and family, Old Phaleron, Greece.
HARTLEY, Henry J., 56, Wood View, Bradford.
HARVEY, E., 46, South Quay, Great Yarmouth.
HAYDEN, A. J., Claremont Cottage, West End, Esher, Surrey.
HEATHCOTE-SMITH, C. E., H.B.M. Consul, Mytilene.
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HENSMAN, R., 12, Lodge Road, Sutton, Surrey.
HENSMAN, Mrs. E. G., 12, Lodge Road, Sutton, Surrey.
HIGHTON, Mr and Mrs., Pension McTaggart, Athens.
HILL, A. A., and family, 32, Dawson Place, Pembridge Square, W.
HOGBEN, Miss E., Girls' High School, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.
HOLMES, Mr. and Mrs. Chas., and family, 13, Stonor Road, West Kensington, W.
HOYLAND, H. W. D., "H" Company, Inns of Court O.T.C., Berkhamsted.
HUGHES, Mr. and Mrs. Richard, Haulfryn, Bettws-y-Coed.
IRELAND, D., and family, 91, South Side, Clapham Common, S.W.
JAMIESON, J., and family, Old Phaleron, Greece.
JOHNSON, Dr., 24, Park Hill Road, Croydon.
JONES, E. Bird, and family, 2, Grove Road, Hoylake.
JONES, Mr. and Mrs. W. J., 19, Clifton Gardens, Maida Vale, W.
KERNEY, Henry P., Ranelagh, Dublin.
KEY, W. H. M., M.D., care of Messrs. Coutts and Co. London, W.C.
KEYSER, Mrs., Kefissia, Greece.
LA FONTAINE, Miss Edith F., Elmfield, Esher, Surrey.
LA FONTAINE, Sub.-Lieut. J. S., Royal Naval Division, Crystal Palace, Sydenham, S.E.
LA FONTAINE, Miss Kathleen, Lammas Cottage, Esher.
LA FONTAINE, Richard, and family, Hotel Minerva, Athens.
LA FONTAINE, Mr. and Mrs. Sydney J. W., Devonshire House, Richmond Hill, Bournemouth.
LA FONTAINE, Wilfred, Hotel Minerva, Athens.
LAKE, O., Bristol Terrace, Brynamman, near Swansea.
LE PAGE, Eng. Lieut. R.N., and Mrs. G. W., care of Dr. Morgan Rees, Benton House, Whitchurch, near Cardiff.
LORIMER, Mr. and Mrs. D., Grand Hotel, Larnaca, Cyprus.
LYSTER, Alfred J., 69, Edith Road, West Kensington, W.
LYSTER, Miss Edythe, 69, Edith Road, West Kensington, W.
LYSTER, Fred. J., 69, Edith Road, West Kensington, W.
MACANALESS, Pension Merlin, Athens.
MACKENZIE, William, 6, Rue de l'Ancienne Bourse, Alexandria, Egypt.
MACKINNON, Dr. and Mrs., 14, Coates Crescent, Edinburgh, N.B.
MACKRAY, E. D., Daira of H.H. Princess Emina, Bordein, Egypt.
MADGE, Harold, and family, 62, Balls Rd., Oxton.
MALTASS, Albert, and family, New Phaleron, Athens.
MALTASS, Thomas, Hotel Minerva, Athens.
MALTASS, W., 8, Cornwall Terrace, Regent's Park, W.
MARSHALL, M. B., 30, Saltwell Road, Gateshead-on-Tyne.
MARTIN, Mr. and Mrs. P. M., 7, St. Ives Gardens, Stranmillis Road, Belfast.
MARTINDALE, Percy, 47, Gwydyr Mansions, Hove, Sussex.
MASHAM, c/o W. G. Masham, Esq., I.S.O., 68, Rosendale Road, Dulwich, S.E.
MASHAM, Mrs., Lower Eastwood, Ledbury, Hereford.
MASTERMAN, E. W. G., M.D., Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital, Coventry.
MAYOR-METCALFE, Mr. and Mrs. A., 8, Slatelands Road, Glossop
MILLINGEN, Prof. and Mrs. A. van, c/o Banco di Roma, Rome.
MILLS, New House, Craneswater Park, Southsea.
MITCHELL, R. A., Keyward House, Wells, Somerset.
MONCK-MASON, A., Ottoman Bank, Alexandria.
MORRISON, J., 3, Morton Terrace, Greenock, N.B.
MOUNTAIN, Henry E., care of R. Henderson, Esq., Lloyd's Agent, Xenophon Street, Athens.
MOUNTAIN, Mr. and Mrs. W. C., and family, 19, Royal Parade, Cheltenham.
MUMFORD, Newman, Surveyor to Lloyd's Register, P.O. Box 1208, Odessa.
MUMFORD, Mrs. N. c/o Mrs. La Fontaine, Lausanne, Switzerland.
MUNRO, 2nd Lieut. J. G., 4th Scottish Rifles, Fort Matilda, Greenock.
NEWTON, Miss F. E., International Women's Franchise Club, 9, Grafton Street, W.
NIAS, Arthur, Conservative Club, St. James' Street, S.W.
NIAS, M., care of Imperial Ottoman Bank, Throgmorton Street.
NOWILL, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen, Sandygate House, Sheffield.
O'NEIL, Miss, Hotel Grande Bretagne, Athens.
PALMER, S., and family, Old Phaleron, Greece.
PARFIT, Rev. Canon J., M.A., St. Edward's, Victoria Road, Worthing.
PARFITT, Harold, 176, Whitehouse Rd., Croydon.
PATERSON, Mrs. Alexander, Allanshaw, Hamilton, Lanarkshire, N.B.
PATTERSON, Mr. and Mrs. H., Hotel d'Angleterre, Athens.
PEARS, Sir Edwin, 24, Riverview Gardens, Barnes, S.W.; also Reform Club.
PEARS, H. E., and family, 12, Willow Road, Hampstead, N.W.
PEARS, Miss Lorna, Military Hospital, Gatcombe House, Newport, I.W.
PEDDIE, F., 109, Avenue de Villiers, Paris.
PISANI, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick, and son, Hotel Centrale, Rue du Stade, No. 22, Athens.
PISANI, Mr. and Mrs. Edward, Boulevard Constantin le Diadoque, No. 53, Pirœus.
POYNTER, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh E., 70, Addison Road, W.
RAMSAY, G. McGregor, Hotel Lincoln Hall, Upper Bedford Place, W.C.
RAMSAY, Miss, 18, Alwyne Mansions, Wimbledon, S.W.
RAMSAY, Mrs. Alexander, and family, 18, Alwyne Mansions, Wimbledon, S.W.
RAMSAY, Mrs. G., and family, Old Phaleron, Greece.
RAWE, Reuben, Old Phaleron, Greece.
REES, T. Bowen, Pesmazoglu Corner, 46, Stadium Street, Athens.
RIZZO, Mr. and Mrs. Edgar V., and family, 48, Odos Hypocratis, Athens.
ROBSON, F., 142, Earlston Road, Liscaird, Cheshire.
ROUTH, R. A. C., 64, Torrington Square, W.C.
ROWELL, Mr. and Mrs. Robert, and family, 124, King Henry's Road, South Hampstead, N.W.
RUSSELL, J. MacDowall, British Postmaster, Shanghai, China.
RUSSELL, Mrs. J. MacDowall, care of Mrs. J. Bruce, Bogs of Blevrie, by Forres, N.B.
RYAN, Mr. and Mrs. A., Mountside Lodge, Caterham, Surrey.
SACKVILLE-WEST, Hon. B. G., 13, St. George's Road, Eccleston Square, S.W.
SAMSON, Major L. L. R., C.M.G., Junior Army and Navy Club.
SCRIMGEOUR, Dr. and Mrs., Maadi, Egypt.
SEAGER, Basil, c/o H. S. Sellar, Esq., 22, Palace Road, Streatham Hill, S.E.
SEAGER, Edward J. P., c.o. British Consulate, Dedeagatch, Bulgaria; or c/o H. E. Mountain, Hotel Minerva, Athens.
SEAGER, Sergeant Jack, Public School Battalion, Middlesex Regiment, B. Co., Sutton, Surrey.
SEAGER, Mr. and Mrs. Walter, and family, 12, The Promenade, Hoylake, Cheshire.
SELLAR, Miss, c/o F. B. Sellar, Esq., Underwood and Underwood, 104, High Holborn, E.C.
SILLEY, Alfred C., Agent, Khedivial Mail Line, Dedeagatch, Bulgaria.
SILLEY, Bernard, 37, Elliscombe Road, Charlton, S.E.
SILLEY, E. C., 37, Elliscombe Road, Charlton, S.E.
SILLEY, Mrs. Alfred C., Miss Alice, and Miss Beryl, Dedeagatch, Bulgaria.
SILLEY, Mr. and Mrs. C. C., 70, Kingsdown Avenue, Ealing, W.
SILLEY, Mr. and Mrs. Walter and family, care of Imperial Ottoman Bank, Limassol, Cyprus.

(Continued on page 52.)

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

The circular issued by the directors of the Ottoman Railway from Smyrna to Aidin to the holders of the Four per Cent. First Debentures and the Five per Cent. Second Debentures will not have come as a surprise to anyone. Consequently, it will not arouse gloomy forebodings. Of course, it is unfortunate for the holders, who will, however, realize that *force majeur* and not negligence has been the cause of the company's temporary inability to meet the interest payments which have now fallen due. Moreover, there are brighter days in store for the company. For, as frequently urged in these columns, Smyrna is essentially a British sphere of "commercial" influence, and the British railway which runs from the port into the interior is bound to identify itself with the future expansion of our interests in the vilayet.

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These remarks bring to my mind an article which appeared in the *Financial Times* some days ago (reproduced elsewhere) on the Russian attitude regarding the Baghdad Railway. That the future of this railway will be different from that proposed by the German-cum-Turk combine, which, sitting at Constantinople, is playing to ruin the Ottoman Empire, goes without saying. Its military and aggressive characteristics will be lost, as well as its savour of devilish Pan-Germanism. It will become an agent for commercial and economic expansion, and will link up Baghdad with the Black Sea, the Ægean, and the Eastern Mediterranean. In this scheme the Smyrna line (Ottoman Railway) will play an important part. I disagree with the author of the article as regards Constantinople, which will lose, rather than gain, in commercial significance.

***

With reference to a note on tobacco culture in Cyprus in THE NEAR EAST of April 2 last, Mr. Nejim Houri, on whose enterprise comment was made, writes to say that the Circassian colony which was settled at the Cherkess Chiftlik did not suffer so much from climatic conditions as from an epidemic which broke out among them. I imagine that the medical authorities, both military and civil, have made inquiry into the health conditions of this region, and have probably recorded their opinions. On the other hand, I am glad to infer from our correspondent that there has been an improvement. If the advice given recently by Sir Ronald Ross is carried out as far as possible in Cyprus, there will no doubt be a great change for the better in many areas, including the spot referred to, which borders on miles of mosquito-breeding swamps and marshes.

***

Elsewhere we publish an article from a correspondent giving some interesting details concerning the Cyprus Motor Transport and Development Company. I have since been given to understand that the result of the second invitation for tenders is as sterile as the first, and that the inhabitants, having learnt that the Government intends abolishing the service, are signing petitions for its continuance. In view of this attitude of the public, I gather that the Government is considering the advisability of making the Transport Company a more advantageous offer, but that this latter offer is still far below the rock-bed minimum asked by the company. I sincerely hope that a compromise will be arrived at between both parties; but the Government must realise two things; first, that a transport company cannot philanthropically work continually at a loss with no prospects ahead of it; and, secondly, that to abolish the service in this, the first year of our possession of the Island, would be highly inadvisable.

***

Inconsiderate attacks have again appeared in the papers on the Government's oil policy, "Vanoc," in the *Referee*, being, perhaps, the most prominent antagonist of the whole scheme. I hold no brief either for the Government or for the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, but I do think that criticism levelled against either or both at the present time is utterly inopportune, childish, and futile. Mr. Rudyard Kipling's "What do they know of England," etc., applies, moreover, to the majority of the Government's myopic critics and the short-sightedness of those who persist in condemning a gigantic scheme before it has not been fairly—I say fairly advisedly—tried, is contemptible. Those who cried out against the Government's policy last year are now ready to plume themselves on the accuracy of their predictions and shout "I told you so!" If they knew everything, why did they not warn the Government that war was to break out in August? There are, to my mind, bigger things brewing than have been brewed, and any temporary dislocation of the oil supply from the Persian fields will be—well, temporary. In the meantime, considering that the Admiralty, to the best of my belief, is not suffering from a shortage of oil, the less said about the present situation or future arrangements, the better.

***

The letter from the secretary of the British Chamber of Commerce of Turkey and the Balkan States, published in the current issue of the *Engineer*, and reproduced on another page, vindicates the good name and utility of the Chamber. I do not think that the writer of the article wished to impugn its usefulness, and he will, therefore, be among the first to recognise the justice of the secretary's remarks. That part of the latter's letter, however, which refers to the methods to be employed by us if we wish to increase the volume of our trade is of vital interest to us. I quote: "If immediately before the present war our commercial and industrial interests were only a fraction of what they might have been, the fault should not be laid at the door of the Chamber. Even after the war is ended different methods will have to obtain if we as a nation are to take a share in the future development of the country." Here we have the old, old story over again—the story of antiquated versus modern methods. Until we learn the meaning of the latter and learn how, honestly, to profit thereby, we shall continue to be outclassed in the field of commercial competition.

***

Writing on May 2, our Special Correspondent in Athens, whose information from Constantinople is rarely at fault, says: "Arrivals (in Constantinople) of coal have stopped, and the shortage is causing anxiety to the authorities, who are now pushing on the construction of a railway from Zunguldak to Ismidt." I believe that THE NEAR EAST was the first journal in this country to urge the destruction of the port of Zunguldak, and in a recent issue I pointed out that the hurried construction of the Zunguldak-Ismidt line could only have one object—namely, the transport by land of coal to Constantinople. The above message fully bears out my previous contention, and I now urge the Russian authorities to do their utmost from the Black Sea to prevent, by all means in their power, the transport, by land as well as by sea, of coal from Zunguldak. A coal-less Constantinople is a vital factor in the success of the Allies' operations in the Dardanelles and in the Bosphorus.

***

The same correspondent alluded to above states that the *Turquie* publishes a list of 117 insurance companies and other societies which have declined to conform to the new Turkish Companies' law. "These companies must not transact new business in Turkey, but are allowed to liquidate their affairs." I have already pointed out the gross injustice of the new Turkish law, and stated at the time that it would inevitably result in the winding-up of numerous foreign companies. Insurance companies have, it would appear, been hit harder than any others, the 117 mentioned above representing, I should think, practically 100 per cent. of those operating in the Turkish Empire. Unfortunately, the full list, as published in the *Turquie*, has not reached us at the time of writing. In any case, it is to be hoped that, in the case of British and Allied companies, the liquidating of their affairs will only prove a temporary measure.

***

Mr. A. S. E. Ackermann read a paper before the members of the Royal Society of Arts some time ago on "The Utilisation of Solar Energy." He dwelt on the numerous inventions for turning to practical use the concentration of solar energy, and gave an interesting account of his experiments with the Shuman-Boys sun-power plant in Egypt, illustrating it by a number of lantern slides. He urged that the problem of the utilisation of solar energy is well worthy of the attention of engineers, pointing out that where coal is dear sunshine is commonly plentiful, and it must be remembered that coal will gradually get dearer, while the cost of manufacture of sun-power plant—at present a stumbling-block in the way of a lure to capitalists—decreases, owing to their enormous supply of sunshine. Both Egypt and the Sudan are admirably situate and must benefit directly from any progress made in man's new attempt to harness the sun.

COMMENTATOR.

Bank Rate 5 per cent. (Aug. 8, 1914.)

SETTLING DAYS.

STOCKS AND SHARES.

In Mining Shares the next carry-over is May 25.

Continuation Day.	Ticket Day.	Pay Day.
Wed., May 26.	Thurs., May 27.	Friday, May 28.

NEAR EASTERN EXCHANGES.

On the dates given the rate of exchange ruling in the undermentioned centres on London was:—

ALEXANDRIA.....	May 12 ..	97¼ p.t.
BUCHAREST	Mar. 13 ..	20 frs., in equivalent of 30 lei.
SOFIA	April 13..	33·70—34·50 leva.

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Smyrna and the Dardanelles.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—No one desires to dispute the fact that Russia has waged war against the Turks from the middle of the seventeenth century until the present time, but, with the exception of the campaign in 1877, these were wars of conquest, and were not undertaken for the liberation of the Christian races, nor is there any intention of disputing her right to a free passage through the Straits, but the question is whether the control of these Straits is to be vested in one Power, and that Power Russia, or an International Commission be appointed to safeguard the interests of all the nations concerned in this all-important matter.

Some writers seem to have overlooked the fact that Roumania and Bulgaria are interested, in a lesser degree perhaps, in the free navigation of the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles. Roumania especially has to be taken into consideration, for she has no other outlet, and in that respect she is as much concerned in the matter as Russia.

Then as regards British interests, are we to contemplate with indifference the possible loss of our trade with the Black Sea ports? There was a time when between 4,000 and 5,000, and possibly more, British vessels passed through the Straits annually. Is this important factor to be ignored?

France, Italy, and, in fact, all the nations of the world have their interests in that part of the globe, and unless the safeguards mentioned in "Elverir's" letter can be assured, with some others to be added, notably absolute protection for all industrial enterprises already established in Turkey, it would be highly impolitic to hand over the administration of Constantinople and the territory to be included to a single Power.

Constantinople is certainly not a manufacturing town, but is there any reason why it should not become one in the future? With raw material of every description close at hand, and a large and intelligent Christian population capable of acquiring in a very short time all the knowledge necessary to enable them to work in factories, there is every probability of the capital becoming a great manufacturing centre. With a proper Government, capital would flow into the country, which to-day is practically undeveloped.

The trade of Constantinople has never depended upon its manufactures, but upon its imports and exports, which are very considerable, and Great Britain has had the lion's share. That this trade will be considerably extended when a stable Government has been established there is not a shadow of a doubt. Branch lines of the Baghdad Railway are sure to be constructed, bringing many important trading centres into communication with the capital, which will certainly benefit to a very considerable extent, and if the vast expenditure upon the Turkish Army and Navy and upon the host of useless officials ceases, surely there will be so much more money available for the development of the country. The influx of foreigners, as well as natives, from the interior will also tend to increase the importance of the place.

After the declaration of the Constitution in 1908 the population increased from about 1,000,000 to 1,200,000, and if it had not been for the Balkan war the growth would have continued. The number of travellers to the East during the past few years has been very noticeable, and at the close of the war we may look for a very large increase. Not only will they come to visit the city, but many will take up their residence on the shores of the Bosphorus during the summer months.

The industrial works undertaken in recent years, such as the telephone, electric lighting, trams, railways, and docks, brought hundreds (if not thousands) of foreigners to the capital, many of whom became permanent residents. Money flowed into the country, and it was evident that all classes were benefiting, and whereas before the population was living from hand to mouth, the change in their material condition was very marked.

With a proper Government Constantinople and its suburbs would become a paradise, and we need not fear any falling off in importance, either as a centre of trade or as a resort for Europeans.

The establishment of an International Commission, and not the Russification of the capital, is the best solution.—Yours, etc.,

ISHIMIZEH ELVERMEZ.

London, May 5.

RUSSIANS AND THE BAGHDAD RAILWAY

Now that the Allied Army is firmly established in the Dardanelles, while our Indian forces may be regarded as holding Mesopotamia (writes a correspondent in the *Financial Times*), consideration is being given to various important questions relating to the Baghdad Railway. The matter was first taken up in Russia, in connection with a general review of the situation in Turkey now that the Sultan is a declared enemy of the Allies. Originally the route of the Baghdad Railway was mapped out very much in accordance with German wishes and ideas, but with the outbreak of the war it was recognised that these arrangements would be eventually abrogated. This anticipation has now taken concrete shape with the formulation of certain definite alterations, involving far-reaching changes in the course traversed by the railway which is destined to open up some of the most fertile portions of Asia. The terminals of the line will remain as originally contemplated, but the intermediate points to be touched at will leave out of consideration all German commercial or political predilections, and will give effect to Russia's aims, together with those of ourselves and France. On this basis the line will probably be a greater financial success than under the original scheme, for the sole object striven at will be the bringing into communication of the principal markets between Baghdad and Constantinople, while incidentally the commercial importance of the last-mentioned place will be greatly increased. This, of course, is no time for carrying out the revised project, but it will encourage merchants and others with interests in the East to know that this matter is being taken up energetically and in a very broad-minded spirit.

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Engineering Prospects in Turkey.

We reproduced last week lengthy extracts from an article under the above title which appeared in the *Engineer*. The following are further extracts from the same source :—

A German-held concession, which will have to be abandoned or transferred, is that of the electric railway from Galata to Roumeli-Fener. This was secured by the Ganz (German-French-Austrian) group, and work was to have been commenced in March, 1913, but, owing to the Balkan war calling away most of the available labour, permission was sought, and obtained, to postpone the beginning of the work until March, 1914.

Docks.

The French had a strong hold upon Turkey as a field for engineering enterprise, many millions of francs having been invested in works of one kind or another in the Ottoman Empire. La Société des Docks et Ateliers du Haut Bosphore (Stenia), for instance, had immense interests, its original concession dating from 1911. This concern owned three floating docks and several large marine repair shops, and it had undertaken a number of important engineering contracts for the Turkish Government. Just before the war broke out important orders were about to be placed for lighting machinery, pneumatic tools and quantities of lathes and drilling machines. All of these things will still be required, for both the Société des Docks et Ateliers and the affiliated company, the Société Dyle et Bacalan, are purchasers of this kind of equipment. British manufacturers of such specialities would therefore do well to get into communications with these firms.

Konia Irrigation.

It will come as a great disappointment to the Germans that the Ottoman Government should have determined not to make its new capital at Konia when it is finally compelled to leave Constantinople. The Teutons have expended immense sums of money upon irrigation schemes there, the whole plain having been recovered by a German company—the Konia Plain Irrigation Company of Frankfort-on-the-Main, which began work as long ago as 1908, by constructing a dam and weir at the south-eastern extremity of the Beyshehir Lake; it was upon the point of transferring its holdings to the Turkish Government when the European war broke out. The cost of the whole undertaking has exceeded £1,000,000.

Smyrna.

Smyrna, a city of locks, will offer special inducements to foreign contractors when once it is relieved from the yoke of Ottoman rule. The town has already derived considerable benefit from the British-owned railway known as the Ottoman, which runs to Aidin, while in January of 1913 the British firm of Warren Brothers and Co., of Middlesbrough, secured the contract to provide the electric lighting of the largely populated suburb of Bouje. The British railway officials in Smyrna, connected with the Ottoman Railway to Aidin, have equally helped to popularise British-made railway plant, machinery and appliances; their own admirably arranged workshops contain little else than British-made equipment, and this serves by its completeness and efficiency to stimulate the enthusiasm of native buyers. There is always a number of local engineering firms stocking certain English goods, but they would seem to have received little encouragement from home manufacturers to push their various specialities. None the less they are open and willing to act as the agents of British houses, which would do well to look into this matter as soon as circumstances prove propitious, for there is undoubtedly valuable trade to be done here, in almost every class of agricultural machinery, light railways, mining tools, implements and small electric plants. Flour machinery is also likely to be in request later on, several mills having already been erected, while others are in contemplation in the Dara-Gatch industrial district, a very flourishing part of the country.

Some years ago an Englishman secured a concession for an extensive electrical tramway installation at Smyrna, but . . . sold out his interests to a Belgian company. The concession is granted for a period of forty-five years, but its life thereafter can be extended. There already exists one Smyrna tramway system, that belonging to the Belgian company established in 1903 by Messieurs Tissot et Guiffray and known as Le Société des Tramways des Quais de Smyrne.

There will be required for Smyrna several bonded warehouses of steel construction, and it is understood that the Smyrna Quai Company will be ready to place contracts as soon as political conditions allow. It is proposed that the system of the Egyptian bonded warehouses, which have given very good results, shall be adopted. The construction of these warehouses may all be undertaken by British firms if they care to interest themselves. Even the concession to build and work the warehouses will be thrown on the market, for it is not actually certain that the Quai Company, which holds the concession, will be disposed or able to work it. The Company is believed to be open to deal with any responsible British concern which may desire to acquire a transfer of the concession.

The above article, the first part of which was extensively quoted in last week's issue of THE NEAR EAST, has drawn a letter from the secretary of the British Chamber of Commerce of Turkey and the Balkan States. The letter was published by the *Engineer*, in its current issue, and, in fairness to the writer's objection to a certain passage in the article anent the Chamber of Commerce (inadvertently reproduced by us), we quote it in full, commenting on it in our editorial notes on page 51.

"My attention has been called to an article appearing in your issue of April 16, entitled "Engineering Prospects in Turkey," in which your correspondent quoted freely from publications of this Chamber. I would, however, take exception to the interpretation placed upon a passage from the speech of the President of the Chamber, Sir Adam Block, at the annual meeting of March 12, 1914, referring to the commercial war to be waged in Turkey. I feel certain that the speaker's intention was not to touch upon political questions, nor to convey the idea that after the Balkan War, no other war or wars would intervene, even although it may have been the wish of everyone who realised what were Turkey's own interests. I believe that the intention was rather to record the fact that the country had to be developed commercially and industrially, and this fact equally holds good whatever Power may occupy the territory hitherto known as Turkey. From your article I take this to be your correspondent's view also.

"I understand the object of that article to have been to call attention to the opportunities and openings for British enterterprise and industry in Turkey (*sic*), and this the Chamber has been doing for years past, through the medium of its *Journal* and annual reports. I do not purpose in this letter to enter into the reasons why the Chamber's labours may not have achieved the desired results, nor can I, writing without any minutes before me, refer to the resolution quoted in your article calling attention to the tremendous and successful efforts of our commercial rivals in that territory, but I venture to take exception to the statement that "having delivered itself of this wise pronouncement, the Chamber calmly sat down and waited results." During its existence of more than a quarter of a century, the Chamber has lost no opportunity of giving publicity to facts relating to the activity of our rivals and their steady encroachment upon our trade in a country where our interests were once supreme. If immediately before the present war our commercial and industrial interests were only a fraction of what they might have been, the fault should not be laid at the door of the Chamber. Even after the war is ended different methods will have to obtain if we as a nation are to take our share in the future development of the country, as outlined in your article."

CYPRUS MOTOR TRANSPORT AND DEVELOPMENT CO.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

The reference made in last week's issue of THE NEAR EAST to the Cyprus Government's second invitation for tenders for running a motor service between Nicosia and Larnaca, and "Commentator's" mention of the Cyprus Motor Transport and Development Company, seem to me to offer an excellent opportunity for reviewing the whole question of motor transport in our new island. The facts of the case are, roughly, as follows:—

At the end of 1910 Messrs. Robinson and Thorp, who had been for a long time interested in affairs in Cyprus, suggested the promotion of, and did promote, a company, the object of which was to undertake a service of motor transport in Cyprus. The company was to receive an annual Government subsidy for the Nicosia-Larnaca route of £400 a year for carrying the mails. Incidentally, I may mention that, to the best of my belief, the Imperial Ottoman Bank took a financial interest in the undertaking. It must be admitted that inquiries made in expert circles in the island at the time elicited the almost universal opinion that the undertaking under the above conditions would hardly prove a paying concern, but that the service *would be of great advantage to the island*. The forecast has proved accurate in every way.

The first few years of the company's working developed into costly experiments as to the type of car, etc., and tyres best suited to the somewhat rough roads to be traversed. The mail subsidy, in view of the impossibility for the company to progress under existing conditions, was increased to £720 a year, but, notwithstanding this and the smoother working resulting from the experience gained in the earlier years, there was a net loss for the year ending April 30, 1914, of £1,258, which brought the total loss of the company up to nearly £5,000.

There could be only one conclusion, and that was that, given a Government subvention of only £720 a year, the service could not be maintained. The directors, therefore, after going carefully into all accounts, decided that on a subsidy of less than £2,000 per annum the company could not continue, *except at a loss*.

The concession having expired, and the company being unable to renew it on the old terms, the Cyprus Government invited tenders for the continuance of the service, the conditions thereof being published at the time in THE NEAR EAST. I gather from information which has been placed at my disposal that only one offer was received in reply, and that came from the Cyprus Motor Transport and Development Company. The directors, hoping that increased passenger traffic might enable the company to avoid further loss, tendered for a new period of three years at £1,450 a year.

This tender has been refused, and the Government counter-offered £750 for a period of one year, which the company could not possibly accept. Thereupon the Government invited new tenders, as announced in last week's issue of THE NEAR EAST.

The result of the new Government invitation is not definitely known, but I am under the impression that it will be a failure. There is no commercial concern, working on business lines, which will undertake the service with the knowledge of the Transport Company's unfortunate experience to guide it. Therefore, I can safely deduce that either the service must be abandoned (*in the first year of our possession of the island!*) or the Government must be prepared to make a more remunerative offer. Which is it to be?

"Commentator" refers to the same question on page 51.

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Trade Notes.

Egypt.

Tenders are invited for the supply and erection of a swing bridge, required in connection with the Central Gharbia drainage scheme. Copies of the drawings, specifications, etc., may be consulted at the offices of the Inspector, Central Gharbia Drainage Projects, Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, where also tenders will be received up to noon on June 19.

Tenders are invited for the supply of balances and weights required by the Egyptian Postal Administration. Copies of the specification and conditions of contract may be obtained on application to the Director, Physical Service, Dawawine Post Office, Cairo, by whom also tenders will be received up to noon on June 15.

The *Journal Officiel* for April 12 contains a Ministerial decision, dated April 6, whereby the exportation from Egypt of molasses from cane sugar for use in distillation (other than liquid sugar known as "dark honey") is permitted without limit or restriction.

The *Journal Officiel* for April 19 contains a revised Tariff Valuations (No. 27) for use in assessing duties on iron and steel manufactures imported into Egypt—with effect from April 16 to June 15, 1915, or until denunciation. (Vide *Board of Trade Journal*, May 6.)

Gibraltar.

With reference to the list of articles the exportation of which has been prohibited and which was published in these columns, an amended list has now been published and has been reproduced in the current issue (May 6) of the *Board of Trade Journal*.

Bulgaria.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of telegraphic information to the effect that the exportation of haricots, millet, bran, crushed cereals, salted and preserved meats, and cattle of all kinds from Bulgaria has been prohibited.

Morocco.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of telegraphic information to the effect that an edict has been issued prohibiting the importation into the French Zone in Morocco of all goods of enemy origin without regard to the port from which shipped or the nationality of the shipper or of the consignee of the goods. Goods of enemy origin, if belonging to subjects of neutral States and shipped to Morocco before May 1, will, however, be admitted to importation.

The *Bulletin Officiel* of April 12 contains the copy of a decree prohibiting the importation into, and the sale, exposure for sale, or possession for sale in the French Zone of Morocco of the following beans or peas: (1) Beans or peas called "de Java"; (2) beans or peas called "de Birmanie," containing more than 0.02 per cent. of hydrocyanic acid.

Roumania.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of telegraphic information from H.M. Minister at Bucharest to the effect that the exportation of the under-mentioned articles from Roumania has been prohibited: —Cattle and pigs, ink, old iron, metal ores (whether containing sulphur or not), raw cotton and cotton yarns, cotton and woollen cloth, raw or manufactured hemp, tinplates and tins made therefrom (whether full or empty), hats (headwear) of all descriptions, stearine, paraffin, glycerine, walnut wood, ashwood and elmwood, graphite, mercury, acids of all kinds, ammonia and salts of ammonia, sulphate of soda and sulphate of copper, tanning materials, olive oil, and string, cords and cables of any kind. The exportation of Portland cement by water is also prohibited.

Greece.

With reference to the call last August for tenders by the Greek Ministries of the Interior, of Finances, and of Communications, for the construction, maintenance and working of the undertakings necessary for (1) the supply of water to Athens, Piræus, and their suburbs by using the springs at Stymphalie or Medas, and (2) the laying of a distributing system in Athens, Piræus, and North Phaleron for water supply and sanitation, H.M. Minister at Athens reports that the date for the receipt of tenders has been postponed until September 13. The estimated value of the contract is £2,240,000. The plans, cahiers des charges, etc., may be seen at the "Bureau du service spécial pour l'alimentation d'eau et des égouts," Athens, where they may be copied at the tenderer's expense. Sealed tenders will be received by the Ministry of Communications, Athens, up to 11 a.m. on the above-mentioned date. A receipt for the payment of a provisional deposit, £20,000, to the "Caisse centrale d'Etat" or the National Bank of Greece must accompany each tender. A copy of the Gazette (in French) may be seen by United Kingdom contractors at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

Macedonia.

The U.S. Consul at Salonika states that the new régime instituted by Greece has produced free competition in the tobacco industry, as a result of which about sixty private firms are now engaged in the business. Many of these, however, are possessed of very small capital. Up to the present eleven tobacco-cutting machines are in operation, these machines varying in capacity from 650 pounds to 1,500 pounds per working day of ten hours. Ten of the cutters are of English origin and cost £90 to £170 each. More cutting machines are required. As cigarettes are now made entirely by hand, there would appear to be an opening for the introduction of cigarette-manufacturing machinery. The U.S. Consulate has an inquiry from a local firm for catalogues, prices, etc., of machinery for the manufacture and printing of cardboard cigarette boxes; the company has an antiquated machine of German origin and is contemplating the refitting of its plant. All kinds of machinery entering into the manufacture of tobacco may find consideration by many of the firms alluded to above.

SUDAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

The following are extracts from the President's report read at the sixth annual meeting of the Sudan Chamber of Commerce held in Khartoum last month:—

"During the past year our expenses exceeded our income by £E30.467; this is chiefly due to our having increased the size of our *Monthly Journal* in the hope of attracting new members. We closed our year on February 28 with a balance in hand of £135.288. The number of members in the Sudan at the end of our year was forty-five compared with thirty-five last year; this is a satisfactory increase, but I must again urge upon our members the necessity of encouraging new subscribers to join. We are anxious to improve our *Monthly Journal*, and to increase the scope of the Chamber in other ways. This can only be done by an increase in our income. I am pleased to inform you that I have received from Mr. Contomichalos a list of applications for membership containing the names of no less than twenty-three members of the Greek community. This addition to our members will be of very great assistance to us at the present time.

"Since the outbreak of war your Committee has been in correspondence with a number of Chambers of Commerce in various parts of the world with a view to finding new openings for the trade of the country. A considerable correspondence has resulted with the Chambers communicated with and their members, with reference to all sections of the Sudan trade. Members are earnestly invited to avail themselves of the information contained in this correspondence, which is at their disposal.

"The Chamber has received a cordial letter of thanks from the Government for the assistance it was able to give in supplying samples of merchandise, as exported from the Sudan, for the International Rubber and Allied Industries Exhibition held in London in July. The samples were supplied by our members and selected by a sub-committee. The Government kindly undertook, at its own expense, to transport and mount the samples and to include them in the Sudan Section of the Exhibition. The Sudan Exhibit contained samples of all the commercial products of the Sudan, prominence being given to cotton and gum. The exhibit was very skilfully arranged and attracted considerable attention; it has now been mounted in the Sudan Court at the Imperial Institute."

The members elected the Committee for the ensuing year. Fourteen members were elected, who will later meet and elect from their own number the officers for the year, namely, the president, vice-president, and honorary secretary and treasurer.

A vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. Contomichalos, seconded by Mr. McGillivray, to Mr. Job, Manager of the National Bank, for offering the use of the Bank offices for the meetings of the Chamber, and also for the deep and active interest which Mr. Job has taken in the work of the Chamber. The vote was adopted unanimously, and Mr. Job responded, expressing his best wishes for the success of the Chamber.

NEW TRADE ROUTE.

With reference to the proposed new trade route, recently referred to in THE NEAR EAST, between the United Kingdom on the one hand, and Roumania (and Russia) on the other, without passing through Bulgaria or Turkey, the British Consul-General at Salonika has forwarded the following information:—

"From Salonika to Nish and Paratchin the railway is of ordinary gauge, but from the last-named place to Zaitchar a length of narrow-gauge line intervenes. Goods would therefore have to be unloaded from trucks and reloaded both at Paratchin and Zaitchar, and at neither of these places are there any storage facilities. Goods would thus be exposed to the weather while waiting for trucks. The same would probably be the case at Prahovo, though there is said to be an ample supply of boats there for the journey to Turn Severin and the delay would not be so long. There is moreover, at the present time a very great shortage of trucks on the Salonica-Nish line, as the requirements of the Serbian Government are such as to leave few, if any, for the requirements of trade."

In connection with the above, it is as well to mention that our Bucharest Correspondent pointed out last week that the route referred to by our Consul-General had been definitely abandoned as impracticable, and that in its stead another route, through Bulgaria, had been chosen. In other words, and owing to the inconvenience of the narrow gauge section between Paratchin and Zaitchar, the Nish-Turn Severin route seems to have given way to a Nish-Sofia-Sistova route. Why Sistova should have been chosen instead of Rustchuk it is difficult to understand, the line between Rustchuk (Giurgevo) and Bucharest-Russia being by far the shortest and most direct.

HOT MEALS IN THE TRENCHES.

A hot dish of curried fowl or a hot beefsteak and kidney pudding, are luxuries not usually found on the battlefield, but these and a host of other appetising dishes may now be enjoyed by the aid of a new invention just put on the market by Messrs. Crosse and Blackwell. This unique and valuable adjunct to the soldier's kit is known as the "Joffrette" Heater, and costs but 1s. 6d. complete. Its construction is so simple and yet so effectual that a tin or bottle of preserved food can be thoroughly heated in a few minutes by simply lighting the cake of solidified alcohol supplied with the Heater (additional cakes costing but 3d. each). It is without doubt one of the cheapest yet one of the greatest boons which can possibly be suggested for use in the trenches.

The Heater cannot explode or get out of order, the flame is invisible and impervious to wind, and while it is of peculiar utility at the present time, it is equally serviceable for boating parties, picnics and household use where a hot meal or a cup of tea or coffee is quickly required. The "Joffrette" Heater is stocked by all the principal grocers.

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British Chamber of Commerce of Egypt.

Important Speeches at a Banquet.

On April 24 Sir Henry McMahon, the High Commissioner for Egypt, was the guest of honour at a dinner given by the Cairo branch of the British Chamber of Commerce of Egypt at Shepheard's Hotel. The following are extracts from the various speeches:—

The Chairman (Mr. H. K. Baynes), in proposing the health of the High Commissioner, compared the commercial importance of Alexandria with that of Cairo, and referred to the latter as the seat of Government, of the great "spending departments," which are, in themselves, "important commercial concerns." It was only natural, therefore, that men whose business is mainly with the Government "should have their headquarters on the spot, where they are in closer relation with the various departments than would otherwise be possible. Indeed," continued the Chairman, "I think that most of the Cairo members will agree with me that a considerable portion of our time is occupied in seeing, or perhaps I ought to say waiting to see, Government officials. I trust we may take Sir Henry's presence as an augury that those cordial relations which have always subsisted between the Government and the Chamber will not only be maintained, but increased and more closely cemented. I further hope that this banquet will become a recognised annual event. Such gatherings should be productive of an immense amount of good by bringing the official and commercial communities into closer touch than would otherwise be possible.

"This is not the time, nor is it the place, to enter on a discussion as to what is to happen when this terrible war is over and the administration of the country is modified to suit the altered conditions of a Protectorate. That will all come later, but it may not be an inopportune moment for me to mention that on the initiative of our Vice-President, Mr. Kingsford, who is one of the original, and certainly one of the most active, of our committee, sub-committees were appointed some months ago, both in Alexandria and here, to study the steps to be taken when the proper time arrives for the further development of British commercial interests in Egypt under the new *régime*. These sub-committees have completed their work, and their combined report is now in the press, and will be circulated in due course. I feel sure that it will receive both careful and sympathetic consideration at the hands of the authorities, and that it will be in many ways useful to them. Finally, gentlemen, when all the many complicated and intricate questions which must arise in connection with this alteration in the administration do come up for settlement, I am confident that the High Commissioner and his advisers will not forget that they have in this Chamber a body of men able, willing, and, I think, competent to advise them on all commercial matters."

Sir Henry MacMahon, on rising, said that when he received the invitation to the dinner he was told that there would be no oratory at all, and that speeches were not contemplated. It was, therefore, with some trepidation that he saw a formidable list of speeches. He noted with pleasure, however, that in the excellent speech made by the chairman there was no hint or suggestion that the new *régime* should treat British commerce in a spirit of partiality or favour. That was the correct spirit of the new *régime*. The British Protectorate would not be used to push unduly British interests at the expense of those of other nations. It would benefit all interests by assuring a greater security and other advantages hitherto lacking. This would attract British capital and so give a fresh impulse to British trade in the country. Egypt had now the advantage of an able and enlightened ruler, who was anxious to promote all industrial interests. He, the speaker, considered that British prospects here were very bright, and, speaking in his official capacity, he could assure the British Chamber of Commerce in Egypt that he was ready to render them every reasonable assistance and support. The commerce and industry of the country would provide openings for employment for an ever-increasing number of the educated classes. His Excellency pointed to the value of the work which the commercial and industrial schools of the country could perform in equipping the youth of Egypt to take its part in future developments and enterprises.

Mr. R. L. Devonshire proposed "The Naval and Military Forces of the Empire," remarking that none who had followed the successive phases of the great struggle now shaking the world could fail to appreciate the debt which British commerce owed to the Great Navy whose fleet and ships now dominated the seas, while it was well-nigh impossible to calculate the magnitude of the obligation incurred by the whole British Empire to the Army. He coupled with the toast the names of General Maxwell and of Admiral Robinson.

General Maxwell, replying for the Army, made an interesting reference to the big and important part that commerce was playing in the war. There were many people who thought that the growing armed forces of the Empire were sufficient for our needs in the struggle now in progress. Of course, they were wrong. The output of munitions—a matter of such vital concern—depended enormously upon the security of the commerce of the world, for, as they all knew, munitions of war depended upon the products of other countries than our own. General Maxwell paid a graceful tribute to the splendid work being done by the mercantile marine, and, turning again to the armed land forces of the Empire, concluded by saying that he was perfectly certain that, although we might have three millions of men under arms, there were many more who would come forward.

Admiral Robinson followed with a breezy speech, in which he, too, paid a tribute to the splendid way in which the mercantile marine was doing its duty.

Lord Edward Cecil, in proposing the toast of the British Chamber of Commerce, in a brief and entertaining speech, remarked that, while no one would deny the terrible times through which commerce was now passing, there were probably many who would echo the sentiments of a commercial magnate of London who some time ago said to him, in alluding to the war, "Thank God it has come." Lord E. Cecil went on to refer to the profound changes that the war would bring about in connection with the markets of the world, and, in conclusion, expressed his firm conviction that here in Egypt, at all events, British commercial interests would be easily the first.

Mr. Kingsford, in reply, said that the Protectorate was bringing with it a new era. He hoped that the law court difficulty might soon be done away with. He added that it was the duty of the British Chamber of Commerce in Egypt to concert with other British Chambers elsewhere and the Board of Trade to promote British business interests. In conclusion, he said that the Chamber would be glad to aid the Government with regard to contracts and to investigate any complaints, adding that in India British Chambers of Commerce were bodies of great weight, and that there was no reason why those in Egypt should not be so as well.

BRITISH SEAMEN IN TURKEY.

In connection with the list of British seamen prisoners in Turkey, published in last week's issue of THE NEAR EAST, we understand from the Imperial Merchant Service Guild that the captains, officers, and crews of the steamers "City of Khios" and "Assiout" interned in Turkey are faring much better than might have been expected, and their conditions appear to be at least superior to those prevailing in Ruhleben Camp in Germany, where there are 180 merchant captains and officers.

ROUMANIAN NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BUCHAREST, April 21.

The stock of wheat in the country being still considered insufficient, the Council of Ministers has decided to purchase a further supply of 1,300 waggons of wheat in Russia—apart from the 2,000 waggons already purchased. The two lots have been acquired at 2,000 frs. per waggon, which is less than the price fixed for wheat by the Ministry of Commerce. The price of sugar has increased, and the Government has, therefore, purchased a large quantity abroad. One hundred and twenty waggonloads (1,200 tons) will shortly arrive in this country. It is true that the output of the sugar factories is not wholly sufficient for the wants of the country, but the real cause of the rise is that retailers, profiting by the situation, are asking fancy prices. The decision of the Government to introduce sugar from abroad will, however, prevent such speculations. The supply of another lot of 1,000 tons is being negotiated in Russia.

GREECE AND THE HUNS.

The *Engineer* writes:—

"Little surprise, but some slight satisfaction, is likely to be felt by the several British firms of contractors who were invited some years ago by the Greek Government to tender for the construction of a new battleship and certain torpedo craft, at the results which have attended the final entrustment of the contract to German yards. It may be remembered that in February of 1912 no fewer than ten eminent British contracting firms, in addition to four French, three North American, two Italian, one Austrian, and three German, tendered and submitted elaborate plans for the construction of one cruiser, four destroyers, and six torpedo boats, intended for the Hellenic Government. Among the first-named were to be found the firms of Messrs. Armstrong, Whitworth and Co., Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne; Beardmore and Co., Ltd., Glasgow; Cammell, Laird and Co., Ltd., Birkenhead; the Fairfield Shipbuilding Co., Ltd., Glasgow; Vickers, Ltd., Barrow-on-Furness, and others. Many of these took infinite pains to assist the Greeks in their efforts to improve the effectiveness of their navy. Notwithstanding the almost certain prospects which, at one time, existed of the contract going to a British yard, the powerful influence of the Prussian Crown Princess—now Queen—Sofia, a sister of the German Emperor, proved too strong, and the work was given to the German Vulcan Works, of Stettin. When questioned subsequently as to the reason for discarding the British bids at the last moment, M. Nicholas Stratos, the Minister of Marine, declared that the Government had been actuated entirely by the promise made by the Vulcan Works that the battleship, at least, should be delivered 'in record time,' while British yards could not promise delivery in less 'than eighteen months or two years.' The result is now seen in the German yards having the contract for the battleship—the 'Salamis'—cancelled. As a fact, no great effort was made by the Teutonic firm to carry out its obligation, the one desire to defeat British contractors having alone been kept in view. This once effected, the execution of the order to time was deemed of little consequence."

In connection with the campaign undertaken by the Board of Trade, on the advice of their Advisory Committee on Commercial Intelligence, to assist British manufacturers and merchants to secure trade formerly in the hands of German or Austro-Hungarian firms, the Board continues to receive a very large number of inquiries for the names of sellers or buyers of articles.

Special arrangements have been made in the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade for dealing with these inquiries, and lists are prepared and circulated of articles which inquirers desire (a) to purchase, and (b) to sell. List 20 is now ready, and may be obtained by United Kingdom manufacturers and traders.

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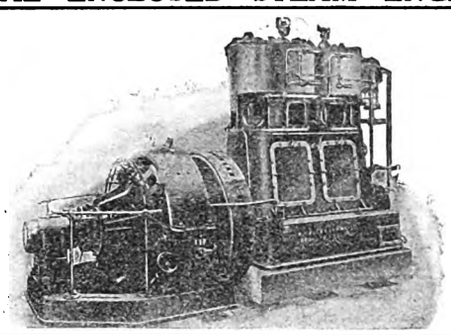

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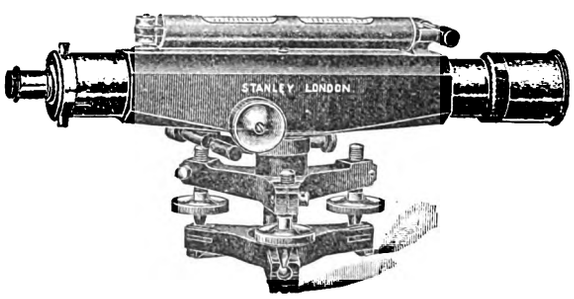

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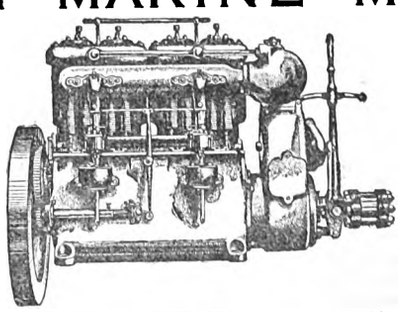

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Engineering Notes.

Fire-resisting Wired Glass.

A very interesting report has been issued by the British Fire Prevention Committee on recent investigations with wired glass as applied to window openings and to skylights. It is the result of a series of tests with wired glazing, and shows to what an extent the fire resistance of glazing of this type has been developed. Ample evidence of the fact is afforded that wired-glazing, when vertically used in windows has withstood the heavy strain of the British Fire Prevention Committee's tests for a period of ninety minutes at temperatures gradually increasing to 1,500 degrees F., the fire tests being immediately followed by the application at close range of water from a steam fire-engine. Further, when horizontally used, this glazing has withstood a fire test of an hour's duration at similar temperatures, followed by a similar application of water. The maximum size of any piece of glazing under test in a vertical position was 4 ft. by 1 ft., and the maximum temperature attained in the skylight test was 1,600 degrees F. Both tests are records of wire glazing, and claim considerable attention, as they put modern wired glazing, when suitably fixed, in the same fire-resistive rank as fire-resisting partitions and doors.

Fire Engine Pumps.

With reference to our notes on the above subject (see issue of THE NEAR EAST, April 23) we are informed by Messrs. Merryweather and Sons, of Greenwich Road, London, S.E., that the reciprocating pumps in use by the Calcutta Fire Brigade, to which allusion was made, were supplied by their firm, and referring to our statement that it cannot be accepted by experts that the turbine pump has any advantage over the reciprocating pump when dealing with gritty or dirty water, Messrs. Merryweather state that this point of view is confirmed by the experience of the Rand Water Board and the South African Mines, as reported in a recent issue of the *Colliery Guardian*, in which it is stated, on the authority of Mr. W. Ingham, that two of the principal factors which militated against the adoption of centrifugal pumps for mine work are (1) silt and sand; (2) acidity of water. An interesting statement is made by Messrs. Merryweather that some few months ago, on the occasion of a fire at Workington, a reciprocating fire pump, of the same type as in use in Calcutta, employed ammoniacal liquor for fire extinguishing work, and pumped no less than 6½ tons of the liquor without any harm resulting to the valves and working parts of the pump.

Refrigerating Machinery.

The introduction of refrigerating machinery in the Near East has been comparatively very slow. The importance, however, of cold storage, which has been abundantly demonstrated in recent years in connection with the development of many industries and agricultural resources in various parts of the world, is now being realised, and there is every probability that refrigeration will soon be an important factor in the development of some new industries in the Near East. Unfortunately, little is known there of British refrigerating machinery, as most of the existing small or large plants have been imported from Germany. A brief description, therefore, here of one or two of the principal British refrigerating systems may be of some advantage.

Ammonia Compression.

The principle of refrigeration on the ammonia compression system is as follows:—The ammonia in gaseous form is compressed in the ammonia compressor to a pressure varying according to the temperature of the condensing water from 100 lbs. to 150 lbs. per square inch. It is then conveyed through an oil separator to the condenser, where the heat developed in the above operation is withdrawn by means of cold water, and the gas, assuming a liquid condition, runs down some pipes into the receiver. From the receiver the liquified gas is allowed to expand into the refrigerator through coils of pipes, and in doing so extracts from the substance surrounding the pipes (either water, brine, or air) practically the same quantity of heat that was previously given up by the gas to the water used for condensing. The gas having performed this last operation (its refrigerating work), is now ready to repeat the cycle again.

Cold Storage.

There are three systems or methods by which the compressed liquified ammonia may be applied for cold-storage purposes: (1) The direct expansion system, in which the ammonia is expanded direct through coils placed in cold chambers. This system is recommended for small plants, where it is desired that everything should be as simple as possible. (2) The brine circulation system, in which ammonia is used to cool brine, which is in turn circulated through coils placed in cold chambers. The advantage of this system over the direct expansion system is that, in the event of a slight leakage, there is little risk of the goods in the chambers being damaged. (3) The air circulation system, in which air is drawn from the cold chamber by a fan, passed over coils through which ammonia is expanded, and returned to the chamber at the desired temperature. The advantage of this system is that the air in the chamber, being kept in constant circulation, is maintained in a perfectly pure condition.

New Refuse Destructor.

Municipal authorities in the Near East, who find it expensive to establish the ordinary large refuse destructors, of which details have been given in previous Notes, and who appeal to the public to burn house refuse now that the hot season is approaching, will be interested to hear that there is a new destructor, simple and of a moderate price. This destructor is started by lighting a small wood, coal, or gas-coke fire, which will quickly burn up, or a fire may be obtained by a set of gas burners of special construction, which can be supplied with the destructor. When the refuse is well alight the gas can be turned off. The body is made of wrought-iron plates, and is surrounded by a wrought-iron jacket, which is open at the bottom on the outside and on the top in the inside, thus creating a forced draught. A cast-iron baffle is provided where the jacket enters the destructor, and deflects the warm air into the rising smoke of burning rubbish to assist combustion. The fire basket is made of wrought-iron tubes placed slightly apart all round the cast-iron furnace bars; air is drawn up these tubes and around them, thus enabling combustion to take place around the fire instead of just at the bottom. The destructor consumes its own smoke, and is made in six different sizes, with hoppers ranging in size from 10 ins. by 6 ins. up to 20 ins. by 12 ins.

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EGYPTIAN COTTON MARKET.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

ALEXANDRIA, April 27.

In sympathy with American quotations, prices have shown a steady rise. The demand from abroad for Egyptian varieties has decreased, however, so that the upward tendency of prices is purely speculative. Futures are doing well in view of the strength of the American market, but should there be a drop abroad, quotations will tumble down surprisingly. Arrivals up to date amount to 6,100,000 cantars. Apparently about 450,000 cantars are still unsold.

News regarding the coming crop are favourable. In spite of the recent locust invasion, little damage has been done, and the young plants are progressing satisfactorily. Water is abundant. Sakellarides have been largely planted to the detriment of other varieties. Likewise Nubari is ousting Afifi, which tends to disappear entirely. Speculations in futures are already taking place, the trade quoting PT 60-70 for delivery in November.

EGYPTIAN COTTON CROP.

The Alexandria General Produce Association in their monthly crop report dated May 5, 1915, state:—Lower Egypt: Sowing was completed at the usual time, even earlier in several localities, and is now finished everywhere. The young plants are in good condition, but development has been set back by the cool and irregular weather experienced this month. Re-sowing has been partial. The acreage planted is less than that of 1914, in accordance with the decree of October 30, 1914. Estimates vary between 15 and 30 per cent., according to different districts. The cultivation of Sakellaridis has increased considerably this year, lessening the cultivation of other varieties. Water irrigation is abundant. Locusts appear in all provinces, but have only caused insignificant damage up to the present. The Government continues to take very energetic measures for the destruction of eggs. Some isolated cases of cutworm are reported in certain districts. Upper Egypt and Fayoum: Sowing finished in normal time. The appearance of the young plants is satisfactory, although there have been strong winds. For the same reason as above the cotton acreage planted is less than 1914; estimates vary from 10 to 20 per cent. As usual Ashmouni has been sown almost entirely. As regards water, locusts, and cutworm, information of Lower Egypt applies to Upper Egypt.

COTTON IN PERSIA.

The U.S. Vice-Consul at Teheran, writing on February 20 on the cultivation of cotton in Persia, says that the plant is cultivated north-west of Kerman and in the Province of Khorassan, and also around Kashan, Ispahan, Yezd, and Urumiah. The quality is not especially good, and the shortness of the fibre makes it unsuitable for many purposes. Persian growers have tried American seed, but have not obtained good results, although the quality is said to be better than that grown from native seed. English, American, and German hand gins and presses are used. Although there is not a cotton factory in all Persia, a considerable amount of raw cotton is used in the making of mattresses and bedding. Some cotton cloth is woven with hand looms at Yezd, Kerman, Meshed, and Kashan, but the output is small. The yarn used by these looms was formerly made locally, but the native article has of late almost been driven from the market by foreign competition.

Statistics showing the amount of cotton grown in Persia are not available. The following table shows the value (in U.S. dollars, roughly five dollars to the £ sterling) of the exports to the principal countries of destination during the year ended March 20, 1913:—

Countries.	Cleaned.	Uncleaned.	Total.
United Kingdom..	—	8,898	8,898
India	27,185	44,520	71,705
Russia.....	7,086,870	318,368	7,405,238
Turkey.....	4,863	6,873	11,736
Oman	4,802	3,980	8,782
Other	781	348	1,129

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Near East Markets.

SPECIAL REPORTS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Roumania. April 23.

The *Curierul Financiar* (Bucharest) of April 11 states that, according to figures issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, the area which had been sown in Roumania up to the beginning of December, 1914, was less than that sown at the corresponding date of the previous year, owing principally to adverse climatic conditions. Sowing was, however, continued in December in several regions, with the result that a total area of over 2,000,000 hectares was sown with wheat. The area under rye is 68,366 hectares, or 21,461 hectares less than in 1913. Autumn barley was only sown over an area of 48,656 hectares, or 20,096 hectares less than in 1913; probably, however, the spring sowings will be sufficient to bring the total up to the average. The area sown with rape was very small on account of the dry weather in August, and only amounted to 60,879 hectares, or 25 per cent. less than in 1913.

Alexandria. April 27.

The price of sugar has doubled since the beginning of the war, but it must not be supposed that it has reached its highest point. On the contrary, M. Naus, director of the Société des Sucreries, announces a further rise. In an interview granted recently to a local journalist, he deplored the Government's act in fixing a maximum price as injurious to the industry. I fail to see why this should be so.

H.M. Minister at Bucharest telegraphs that the moratorium in respect of debts due abroad has been extended for four months.

PRODUCE REPORT.

London, May 13.

Currants.

The market continues strong and advancing. The advance is not rapid, but it is, nevertheless, necessary to pay a little more in every case to replace previous purchases. No arrivals have taken place, but the s.s. "Teano," with 1,000 tons, is daily expected. The stock of currants in London on April 30 was 4,491 tons, against 5,881 tons last year the same period. The tons shown, however, in the stock return is non-existent on the market, having all passed into the hands of consumers and distributors. Duty-paid clearances since January 1 show an advance of some 30 per cent. on previous years.

In Liverpool the market has been quiet during the week, owing, as it was expected, to the large business done prior to the introduction of the Budget, so that buyers are sufficiently supplied for the moment, but the stocks available are very restricted, and consist mostly of unattractive qualities. The market is, as in London, decidedly strong, and holders are demanding full values. Prices are reported higher in Greece, and next arrivals are due in a week or ten days.

Sultanas.

There is a good demand for nearly all qualities, the principal inquiry being for the cheapest fruit. The s.s. "Leonidas" has brought 800 tons, and some further arrivals are expected.

In the Liverpool market only a small quantity is on offer, and the parcels still on show are of inferior quality. Dealers here have been forced to operate in other markets. The chances are all in favour of a higher range of prices all round in the near future.

Figs.

Naturals are in fair demand at steady prices, while skeleton cases sell slowly.

From Liverpool there is nothing to report.

Dates.

A good business doing, and prices are little firmer. Persians quoted 14s. 6d. to 20s.

Seeds.

Egyptian cottonseed is steady at recent rates. London, spot quoted £8 10s., afloat £8 12s. 6d., May £9, and June £9 3s. 9d. per ton. Linseed is quiet and tendency easier. Indian, London, spot quoted 56s. 6d., April-May and May-June 56s. 3d., June-July 57s. Rapeseed is upheld. Brown Cawnpore May-June 51s. 6d., Guzerat pure ditto 55s. 6d. Rangoon beans on the spot are selling 72s., for May-June and June-July shipment £15 to £16 per ton c.i.f. terms is now asked.

Oils.

Linseed oil shows a further decline on the spot, but for arrivals is dearer. On the spot, pipes £31, barrels £31 15s., month £31 15s., May-August £32 paid. Rape oil is firm:—Ordinary brown on the spot, naked £38 15s. to £39, nominal. Cotton oil is also firmer. Crude on the spot, pipes £31 7s. 6d., May-June £31 15s., refined, on spot, pale, pipes £33 10s., sweet barrels £36 10s. to £38 10s.

Egyptian Onions.

The demand continues excellent for Egyptian, and last week's quotations have been fully maintained for ordinary, while finest may be quoted firmer. Some of the latter, heavy weights, are sold at 14s.

Locust Beans.

This article continues scarce and dear at £8 for whole and £8 10s. for kibbled.

NATIONAL BANK OF GREECE.

ESTABLISHED IN 1841.

CAPITAL - Dr. 20,000,000. RESERVES - Dr. 13,500,000.

Head Office: ATHENS.

BRANCHES.

Aegion, Agrinion, Almyros, Amalias, Amphissa, Arta, Atalante, Calamata, Calavryta, Céphalonia, Chalkis, Corfu, Corinth, Cythère, Dimitzana, Gythium, Ithaque, Janina, Karditza, Kyparissia, Lamia, Larissa, Lévadia, Mégalopoli, Messina, Missolonghi, Naupacta, Nauplia, Patras, Paxos, Piræus, Poros, Pylos, Pyrgos, St. Maure, Salonika, Santorin, Sparta, Syra, Thèbes, Trikkala, Tripoli, Volo, Zante,

Every kind of Banking Business Transacted. **Correspondents in all Parts of the World.**

Cable Address—NATIONALBANK, ATHENS. Codes Used—LIEBER'S; A.B.C. (5th Edition).

NATIONAL BANK OF BULGARIA.

State Bank of Emission. *Established 1879.*

Head Office - - SOPHIA.

Branches at Sophia, Roustschouk, Varna, Philippopolis, Tirnovo, Burgas, Widin, Plevna, Sistov, Sliven, T.-Pazardjic, Shumla, Stara-Zagora, Gabrovo, Dede-Agatch, Xanthie, Gumuldjina, and 70 agencies.

Capital - 20,000,000 leva gold = £800,000. Reserve Funds - 10,500,000 leva gold = £420,000

EVERY KIND OF BANKING BUSINESS TRANSACTED.

Governor, CHR. TCHAKALOFF.

AGRICULTURAL BANK OF BULGARIA

(BANQUE AGRICOLE DE BULGARIE).

PRIVILEGED CREDIT ESTABLISHMENT.

ESTABLISHED IN 1864.

CAPITAL (fully paid-up) - - Frs. 45,500,000
RESERVE FUNDS - - - ,, 14,500,000

Head Office: SOFIA.

85 Branches and 100 Agencies in all the principal centres of Bulgaria.
Banking and Stock Exchange Operations undertaken. Special Service for Debt Collection Transfers, Letters of Credit, etc.

ROYAL EXCHANGE ASSURANCE CORPORATION.

Incorporated in A.D. 1720.
ROYAL EXCHANGE, LONDON, E.C.

FIRE AND LIFE.

Egyptian Branch: Head Office, Cairo.
39, Sharch el Manakh. Telephone 4114.

Agencies:
ALEXANDRIA - GABBARI STORAGE CO., 3, Pl. Mohamed Aly
Agents in all the principal towns in Egypt and the Sudan.

The Corporation accepts all classes of FIRE INSURANCE, such as MERCANTILE RISKS, HOUSE PROPERTY, FURNITURE, etc., etc., on the best possible terms and effects LIFE INSURANCE in Egypt at the same rates and under the same conditions as in England.

Proposals and requests for information should be sent to the Office of the Corporation.

EVERARD STOKES,
Manager for Egypt and the Sudan.
Telegraphic Address, "Foxhound," Cairo.

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ALEXANDRIA NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Alexandria, April 27.

The Bourse.

There is no movement in the market. The official reopening of the Stock Exchange is shortly to take place, but it is feared that it will cause a further depreciation in values, especially if the banks are allowed to unload. In the meantime the securities dealt in are the Crédit Foncier Egyptien lottery bonds, Levant Steamship Company shares, and those of the Salt and Soda Company. In some instances actual quotations have been higher than those prevailing before the war. Small deals in Agriculturals, Nationals, and Cassa di Sconto take place from time to time.

Credit Foncier Egyptien.

As a result of the war, the bank has had to acquire several thousand feddans of land to the north of the Delta from impoverished debtors. Expropriation measures against the Daira Khassa have been interrupted. On the other hand, the Crédit Foncier is selling 6,000 feddans of land at Cherbine, which came into its possession as a result of the Zervudachi failure. I understand that after the war the bank will form an auxiliary company, with 20,000 feddans of land, which will be cultivated and then sold. The capital will naturally be subscribed by shareholders of the Crédit Foncier.

SHARAKI LANDS.

The *Journal Officiel* publishes a ministerial order enacting that from May 15, 1915, until a date to be fixed later by ministerial order irrigation is prohibited in Middle and Lower Egypt on the lands generally known as sharaki lands, and comprising those lands devoted to the cultivation of maize or of other crops cultivated in the same manner as maize.

This prohibition will not, however, affect lands devoted to the cultivation of rice in zones where such cultivation may be permitted, nor lands devoted to the cultivation of vegetables, cucurbitaceous plants, sesame, or ground-nuts, nor lands devoted to the cultivation of crops to be irrigated by means of wells having no connection whatever with any canal, but deriving their water from the subsoil, nor islands surrounded by water on every side, nor the sahels of the Nile.

THE HANNA FAILURE.

A meeting of the creditors of the firm Bushra and Suiot Bey Hanna took place in the Cairo Mixed Court on April 20 (Judge Houriet presiding) to vote on whether the debtors should be allowed to apply for a *concordat préventif*. The firm offered to pay its creditors 100 per cent. The proposal was naturally accepted by the creditors by a large majority, and the case was then postponed till May 1, when the *concordat* was to have been put through the Commercial Court.

CUSTOMS ORDINANCE.

A new ordinance, entitled the Customs Ordinance, 1915, has recently been issued by the Sudan Government in the *Gazette*. The object of this ordinance is to amend the Customs Ordinance, 1913. The latter ordinance, as amended by the new ordinance, will shortly be published by the Customs Department in book form.

DELICIOUS COFFEE.
RED WHITE & BLUE
For Breakfast & after Dinner.
Wholesale, of Hanson's, London, England.

EGYPTIAN TRADE DURING MARCH.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, April 20.

The Egyptian Customs returns for the month of March have just been published, and show a continuation in the decline of imports already noticeable during the preceding months. Exports, which in February showed a welcome increase, as compared with a regular monthly decrease since the outbreak of the war, have reverted to their former tendency, but, happily, the drop is only a small one.

The figures are: Imports, £E1,332,390 against £E2,414,627, and exports, £E2,703,708 against £E2,878,106 during March last year. The decrease in the former is £E1,082,237, and in the latter £E174,398, whilst the diminution since the beginning of the year has been £E3,470,770 and £E1,038,892, respectively.

Imports from the British Empire fell from £E938,940 to £E816,699, and those from France dropped by 65 per cent. to £E64,140, whilst Italy showed a diminution of £E45,304, and Russia one of £E55,774. Germany and her Allies figure for only the amounts withdrawn from bond into which the goods had been placed before the war or for the consignments shipped from neutral ports. It is interesting to note that the United States, Brazil and Greece all have increased their sales to Egypt by amounts varying from 100 per cent to 150 per cent., and that the last named country now stands second in importance among the importing nations.

Under exports, whilst Germany, Austria, Turkey (excepting a small amount shipped to Busreh), Belgium, Montenegro, and Roumania, do not figure, the share of France has fallen during the month by £E79,547, and that of Russia by £E108,085. On the other hand, the Empire purchased £E129,177 more, whilst Spain increased by £E26,258, Greece by £E71,347 (last March £E6,753), Italy by £E104,416, and last, but by no means least, Switzerland by £E230,590 (last March that country took only £E57,329). It is noteworthy that practically the whole of the purchases in this country made by the United States, Spain, Japan, and Switzerland, were cotton.

The effect of the fall in cotton prices can be seen from the fact that although during the month 66,824 cantars more were exported, the value of cotton exports fell by £E575,187. Since the beginning of the year cottonseed exports have increased by 243,588 ardebs, and those of cotton by 569,169 cantars, but the total decrease in value has been £E1,892,061. To compensate the price of eggs and onions has risen, as has also the export of both these products, whilst an almost phenomenal impetus has been given to the sugar industry by the good prices that this article commands abroad at the present moment.

During March, exports of eggs increased by £E61,395, of onions by £E66,271, of cereals by £E95,411, of sugar by £E75,899, and of gold and silver bars, etc., by £E84,357. It may be interesting to note that of the sugar exports £E31,679 went to Morocco, £E21,737 to India, and £E4,977 to British Possessions in the East.

The following variations in the imports took place: Frozen meat increased by £E78,977 (practically all from Australia); coffee by £E38,226 (mostly from Brazil); and coal by £E15,600. Skins and leather goods decreased by £E38,974, cereals by £E223,513, spirits by £E29,144, construction wood by £E51,696, cotton tissues by £E335,330, and worked iron and steel by £E277,854. It should be noted that the rise in value of the coal imports is entirely due to the increase in freights, as the quantity brought in last month was 67,761 tons less than that imported in March, 1914.

Specie imports amounted to £E71, against £E69,963 last March, and exports to £E12,874, as against £E825,990. Again Turkey appears for a large amount, but there is no explanatory note to indicate why this export has been allowed. Cigarettes continue to show a falling off, due for the most part to the closing of the German and Austrian markets. The decrease since January 1 has been thirty-eight tons, valued £E30,581.

The new table of trade between Egypt and the Sudan shows imports from the latter amounting to £E39,724, and exports from Egypt of £E71,077. Imports include: Gum £E2,657 (mostly in transit), cereals £E10,517, and cattle £E5,221; exports comprise, refined sugar £E15,591, common soap £E1,909, and cotton tissues £E18,597. Owing to the difficulty in securing freightage from Port Sudan, and the high rates ruling when space is even available, it is being found more convenient, as well as cheaper, to send Sudan produce in transit via either Halfa or Suez for shipment to the foreign markets from Egyptian ports.

COMPANY NOTES.

Credit Foncier Egyptien.

The *Egyptian Mail* states that following the appointment of M. Claude Janet, manager of the Crédit Foncier Egyptien, as sequestrator of the ex-Khedive's Khassa (recently referred to by The Near East), comes the information that the French banking establishment has decided not to take legal proceedings for the recovery of the sum, amounting to half a million pounds, advanced to the Khassa on 20,000 feddans of land.

Egyptian Markets.

It will be announced at the general meeting that since the close of the year 1914, this company has been appointed sole agent in Egypt for the sale of the phosphate products of the Egyptian Phosphate Co., Limited.

Egyptian Hotels.

That familiar problem whether a company registered here is liable for income-tax in respect of profit earned abroad came before the House of Lords on the 7th inst. in a new guise, says the *Scotsman*. Down to August, 1908, the business of the Egyptian Hotels, Limited, which was the carrying on of two hotels in Cairo, was managed by the Board of Directors in London, but at that date the articles of association were altered, and the Egyptian business was entirely transferred to an Egyptian Board of Directors, which was made independent of any other directors and of any general meeting of the company not held in Egypt. The Crown contended that the respondents were a company resident in the United Kingdom, carrying on their trade wholly or in part in England, and that the head seat and directing power were situated in England. Lord Loreburn, in De Beers Consolidated Mines, Limited, *v.* Howe, and Lord Haldane, in the American Thread Company *v.* Joyce, said that a company resided where its real business was carried on, and it was contended for the Crown that that being so, the admission that the Egyptian Hotels Company resided here necessarily imported that its business was in part at least carried on here. The ultimate control of this company resided in its general meetings, and that ultimate control was at all times exercised in Great Britain. The respondents argued that from 1908 their trade was a foreign trade and a foreign possession, and that the profits and gains which were the subject of assessment were exclusively derived from trade wholly carried on in Egypt. The Court of Appeal held that there was no carrying on or exercising of the trade in the United Kingdom—a judgment which, the respondents argued, was in accordance with the decision of the House of Lords in Colquhoun *v.* Brooks.

Constantinople Telephone Co.

Mr. M. Webster Jenkinson, the representative in the United Kingdom of the Constantinople Telephone Co., in a circular to the shareholders, states that the Turkish Government have forcibly taken possession of the company's system in Constantinople. The general manager (Mr. Douglas Watson) and the British staff were expelled from the company's buildings, and on the advice of the American Ambassador left Constantinople, arriving in England last week. A letter has been received from Mr. Salem, the company's chief legal adviser in Constantinople, enclosing minutes describing the confiscation of the plant and property by the Turkish authorities and a copy of the protest addressed by the Constantinople directors to the Turkish Government. It is hoped that it will soon

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be possible for the British staff to return and for the company to resume possession of its plant, and, of course, endeavour will be made to obtain reparation for the loss inflicted by the action of the Turkish Government. The Turkish authorities have based their action on Article 23 of the Convention, which reads as follows:—"The State have full power to inspect and supervise the service, and the concessionnaire shall do whatever is necessary to facilitate this inspection. The Government also reserves the right to assume control of the service on all or any part of the system when necessary for the public safety. The company shall have no right to demand compensation on this score." The company has never interpreted this clause as giving the Turkish Government power to take physical possession of the company's plant and to expel the staff as they have done. The matter is receiving the most careful consideration of the European directors, and every possible step has been, and will be, taken to protect the interests of the shareholders and bondholders.

Piræus-Athens-Peloponnesus Railway.

At the annual general meeting of the Piræus-Athens-Peloponnesus Railway, held in Athens on Saturday last, the payment of a dividend at the rate of drachmas 5.50 per share was sanctioned. The date on which the dividend distribution should be made was left to the discretion of the Board.

Ottoman Railway.

As a direct result of the war, the directors of the Ottoman Railway from Smyrna to Aidin are unable to meet the debenture interest, and they propose to fund it by the issue of debentures.

In the course of a circular issued to the Four per Cent. First Debenture and Five per Cent. Second Debenture stockholders, signed by Lord Rathmore, President of the Council of Administration, it is recalled that the company's railway was seized by a Turkish force on November 27 last, and the Ottoman Government formally assumed possession of the railway on December 6. For some time before the seizure, it is added, the company's revenue had been seriously interfered with by the arbitrary methods of the Turkish authorities, including the commandeering of rolling stock and coal for use on other railways and the transmission of munitions of war and soldiers over the railway on a large scale, the company's charges being merely added to the rapidly accumulating debt due from the Government. Upon the seizure of the railway the staff was dismissed, and from that time the railway and its earnings passed from the control of the company. The last fifteen years, continues Lord Rathmore, had been a period of substantial and steadily increasing prosperity for the railway, and not only had the average net earnings for the past three years been the highest for any similar period in the history of the company, but also the net earnings for the year ended June 30 last exceeded those of any previous year.

Figures are given showing that the net earnings for the three years ended June 30, 1904, averaged £195.412, while those for the three years ended June 30, 1914, averaged £255,459 per annum. The total sum required annually for the service of the company's debenture debt is £148.833. The circular goes on to state that there was every reason to expect that these earnings would be maintained or even exceeded during the current year, but the outbreak of war and its consequences have necessitated seeking the debenture-holders' approval to a scheme for safeguarding their interests. Provision was made for the payment of interest on the first and second debenture stocks on January 1 last with the assistance of an advance from the company's bankers secured upon certain investments and the reserve fund for the debenture stocks. It will not, however, be possible for the company to make cash payment either of the half-yearly interest on these debenture stocks, which will fall due on July 1 next or on subsequent half-years so long as the war with Turkey lasts. In view of these circumstances, the directors ask the debenture holders to accept a proposal that, should it prove necessary, all cash payments of interest falling due on both debenture issues be deferred for twelve months after the signing of peace between the British and Turkish Governments or for the period of three years from June 30, 1915, whichever period shall be the shorter. The deferred payments of interest will carry interest in the case of both issues at the rate of 5 per cent., and will be payable at the termination of the period mentioned. First debenture stock interest will be paid in that stock ranking *pari passu* with the existing first stock at the rate of £120 stock for every £100 of interest so satisfied. The interest on the second debenture stock will be paid in similar fashion, except that it will be at the rate of £100 stock for every £100 of interest so satisfied. The company will retain the right to pay off in cash at any time any portion of any interest deferred under the scheme, but it will not be permitted to pay off in cash any interest on the second debentures unless all interest accrued on the first debentures has been paid.

It is further proposed to suspend the debenture stock reserve fund for the period the scheme is in force and the application of the fund in repaying the loan raised for paying debenture interest last January. The directors, in conclusion, express the hope that the company will in due course be able to pay at least some portion of the first debenture deferred interest in cash, and, bearing in mind the rapid increase of the company's prosperity in recent years, state that there is some reason to believe that, given a fair chance after the war, it should be possible to do this. The scheme will be submitted at meetings to be held on 11th prox.

COMPANY RESULTS, &c

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN OILFIELDS.—Production for the week, Hurghada, 77 tons (last 153 tons).

ROUMANIAN CONSOLIDATED.—Production for the week ended May 8, 1915, 2,436 tons.

SUEZ CANAL.—Traffic receipts for the 7th, 8th, and 9th inst. amounted to 460,000 francs, against 1,400,000 francs for the corresponding days last year.

THE ALEXANDRIA WATER COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the THIRTY-SEVENTH ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the Shareholders will be held at the Company's Office in Alexandria on Friday, the 4th June, 1915, at four o'clock in the afternoon, for the transaction of the ordinary business of the Company, pursuant to the Act of Parliament.

The Transfer Books of the Company will be closed for 14 days immediately preceding the Meeting.

By order of the Board,
J. E. CORNISH,
Assistant Manager.

Dated, Alexandria, 24th April, 1915.

BANK OF ABYSSINIA.

Notice is Hereby Given that in conformity with Article 30 of the Statutes an ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the Shareholders of the Bank of Abyssinia will be held on Friday, the 28th May, 1915, at 4 p.m., at the Offices of the National Bank of Egypt, Cairo, Egypt, for the purpose of:—

Submitting the Accounts to the 31st December, 1914.
Presenting the Directors' Report.
Presenting the Auditors' Report.
Electing the Auditors for the year 1915, and fixing their remuneration.

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

In Egypt (at Cairo and Alexandria), at least five days before the date of the Meeting:—
At the National Bank of Egypt, Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Ltd., Banque d'Athenes, Banque Belge pour l'Etranger, Imperial Ottoman Bank, Banque d'Orient, Banco di Roma, Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio, Comptoir National d'Escompte de Paris, Crédit Lyonnais, and Deutsche Orient Bank.
In Abyssinia, at least 15 days before the date of the Meeting:—
At the Bank of Abyssinia, Adis-Abeba, Dire-Dawa, and Harrar.
In New York, at least 15 days before the date of the Meeting:—
At Messrs. Kidder, Peabody, and Co., Bankers.
In Europe, at least 15 days before the date of the Meeting:—
In Paris: at the Société Générale de Crédit Industriel et Commercial, 66, Rue de la Victoire.
In Rome: at the Banca d'Italia.
In London: at the National Bank of Egypt, 3 and 4, Lothbury, E.C.

F. T. ROWLATT, President.

Cairo, 6th May, 1915.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE	Mean Price. July 27.	Min. Price. Mar. 20.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	—	90
Do. 5 % Gold Loan, 1902	—	—	—
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907	82	—	—
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909	80	—	65
City of Alexandria 5%, 1909	99	—	90½
City of Constantinople 4% Bnds	96	—	—
Egypt. Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan	93½	87⅛	87½
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	85	89⅞xd
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	88	78	78
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82⅜	73½	78½
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	80⅜	75	75⅜
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	52	57½
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	52	56⅛
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	45	49
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	40	45⅛
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	52	56
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	—	52
Do. 4 % Rails. Loan, 1902	77	—	70
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	94	—	95
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	—	79½
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	91	—	81
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £60p.	92	—	—
Servian 4 % Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855	103	97	—
Do. 4 %, 1891	94⅛	—	85⅜
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	—	78½
Do. 4 % Loan, 1902	82½	—	—
Do. 4 % Unified	79	—	59½
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	65½	—	52
Do. 4 %, 1909	69	—	—
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	—	3⅝xd
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7⅜	—	7
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.	80	—	78½
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red.	83	—	79½
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	—	10⅝
Bank of Abyssinia	½	—	—
Bank of Athens	£2	—	—
Bank of Roumania	8½	—	—
Eastern Bank	5	—	85/9
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅜	—	6⅛
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	—	—
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅜	—	72/6
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	—	5
National Bank of Egypt	13⅜	—	12⅜
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½% C.P.	8	—	6½
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8½	—	6⅜
Do. do. 5 % Debs., Red.	93	—	95
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I.	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	85½	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17¼	—	13⅞
Do. do. 6 % Cum. Pref.	22	—	16½
Do. do. 4 % 1st Deb.	87	—	62
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb.	101	—	70
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	90	—	—
Do. do. 3 % Bonds	61	—	—
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1⅞	—	13
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	—	95
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	¼	—	—
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2¼	—	2½
Do. Do. Def.	¼	—	—
Béhéra Co.	8½	—	7½
Do. Pref.	4½	—	4
Daira Sanieh	2/2	—	1/9
Do. Def.	⅜	—	⅜
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	9/-	—	7/1½
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tst.	98	—	92
Do and Foreign Trust	5/-	—	4/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	—	1⅛
" " Founders	¼	—	—
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—	—
Do 5 % Debs. Red.	—	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	9⅜	—	8½
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	—	91⅛
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	—	—
Sidi Salem Co.	⅜	—	—
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	—	—
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	—	1/3
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	—	11⅞
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt.	97	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	—	—
Egyptian Hotels	1½	—	—
Do. 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—	—
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅜	—	1⅛
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	99¼	—	99
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	1⅛	—	14/3
Do. 5 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	96	—	98
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	—	10/-
Do. do. Prefs.	3⅜	—	3½
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt.	90	—	85
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (*fr.*500)	£179½	—	£—
Upper Egypt Hotels	2½	—	—

OIL.	Price on July 30.	May 12-15.
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	⅜	14/-
Anglo-Persian	22/1½	21/9
Cyprus Oil Trust	2/3	2/3
European Oilfields	4/9	4/-
Roumanian	20/-	17/6

PARIS BOURSE.

	Jan. 4.	May 12-15.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane	—	—
Canal de Suez	4050	4345
Credit Foncier Egyptien	639	—
Turkish Unified 4%	61.50	64
Egyptian Unified 4%	87.75	89.40
Serbian, 1895	—	65.10

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 211.—Vol. IX. FRIDAY, MAY 21, 1915.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Italian Government is now nearing the moment at which it can give effect to the decision taken, as readers of these columns know, some time ago. To overcome the obstacles placed in the way of Italian co-operation with the Triple Entente by Signor Giolitti, whose followers form the majority of the Chamber, the Prime Minister found it necessary to hand in the resignation of the whole Cabinet. King Victor Emmanuel refused to accept the resignation, and the Salandra-Sonnino Ministry remains in office. The step taken by Signor Salandra enabled the country to indicate in an unmistakable manner its complete confidence in his policy. Signor Giolitti, from being in the position of virtual dictator in Italian politics, found himself suddenly shorn of all his power. On two occasions since the outbreak of the war he has given his support in the Chamber to the Ministry; but during the last few weeks, while Italian opinion has become more and more convinced that war with Austria-Hungary was inevitable, the Giolittian party has chosen to agitate for peace on Austrian terms. The temper of the country has overborne these intrigues, and Signor Giolitti has found it politic to leave Rome before the meeting of the Chamber.

An isolated warning in the German Press against too much emphasis being laid on Signor Giolitti's championship of the German cause supplies, perhaps, the chief explanation of his downfall. The personal hostility shown to him in Rome and other towns was rendered possible by the belief that he was actuated by no honest difference of opinion, but was consciously lending himself to Germany's game. Thus Prince von Bülow in Italy has brought about a similar feeling of resentment, only a hundredfold intensified, to that produced in the United States by Herr Dernburg and the German Ambassador, Count Bernstorff, whom the former's activities temporarily eclipsed as the accredited representative of the German Empire. The German campaign in Italy was faithfully carried out in the Giolittian Press. Threats of the fate awaiting Italy in the event of her breaking with Germany and Austria-Hungary bulked large in the arguments against intervention in the war, until the country has become almost as much incensed against Germany for her bullying methods as it is against Austria for definite acts of injustice and oppression.

A declaration in the Reichstag by the Imperial Chancellor on the subject of the negotiations between Italy and Austria-Hungary may be taken as a sign that Germany recognizes that the game is up, that Italy has now to be reckoned among the countries pledged to rid Europe of the German incubus. Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg enumerated the concessions which Austria was prepared to make to Italy. They make a good showing, but the amount of territory which the Vienna Government offered fell far short of Italy's aspirations. Even if Italy had been promised all that she hopes to obtain from the dismemberment of Austria, the crux of the position would have been the guarantee she could have that the concessions would be real and permanent. We hope there is truth in the story which states that this very question was put by King Victor Emmanuel to Prince von Bülow. When the latter replied, "The word of Germany," the King's answer is said to have been: "It is too late in the day for such a guarantee to be acceptable." Although the sentiment attributed to the King may not have been uttered, it must have been present to the Italian mind throughout the protracted negotiations.

If report be correct, the concessions offered to Italy entailed on her part acceptance of the annexation of Belgium by Germany, while in general, by coming to terms with the Germanic Powers, she would tacitly have to condone all the outrages that can be laid to their charge in their conduct of the war. The German Imperial Chancellor made no mention of this fact when he announced to the Reichstag that Germany "undertook to give a full guarantee for the loyal fulfilment of these offers." In other words, Germany was prepared to pledge her word to Italy, if Italy would acquiesce in her violation of her pledged word to Belgium. The Germans, and with them, it is to be feared, those in other countries whose minds are set upon patching up an early peace, have some way to travel before they realize that in future reliance will only be placed on their pledged word, when they have

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been deprived of the capacity and opportunity to break it.

The concessions offered to Italy by Austria-Hungary are of sufficient interest to be recapitulated here. They were as follow:—(1) That part of the Tyrol inhabited by Italians to be ceded to Italy; (2) likewise the western bank of the Isonzo, in so far as the population is purely Italian, and the town of Gradisca; (3) Trieste to be made an Imperial free city, receiving an administration ensuring an Italian character to the city, and to have an Italian University; (4) the recognition of Italian sovereignty over Valona and the sphere of interests belonging thereto; (5) Austria-Hungary declares her political disinterestedness regarding Albania; (6) the national interests of Italian nationals in Austria-Hungary to be particularly respected; (7) Austria-Hungary grants an amnesty for political or military criminals who are natives of the ceded territories; (8) the further wishes of Italy regarding general questions to be assured of every consideration; (9) Austria-Hungary, after the conclusion of the agreement, to give a solemn declaration concerning the concessions; (10) mixed committees for the regulation of details of the concessions to be appointed; (11) after the conclusion of the agreement Austro-Hungarian soldiers natives of the occupied territories shall not further participate in the war. This enumeration of the concessions as given by the German Imperial Chancellor throws an interesting light on one or two points—the lot of alien nationalities in Austria-Hungary which requires Italians to be singled out for "particular respect," and the value attaching to Germanic promises in general, calling for "a solemn declaration" that these particular promises really will be honoured.

Apart from the fact that no reliance could be placed on any pledge given by the treaty-breaking Central Powers, we see how little in the way of territorial concessions Austria-Hungary was prepared to offer Italy. These concessions, it is true, indicate how much store the Germanic Powers place on Italian neutrality; but they do not reveal that Austria-Hungary contemplated ultimate defeat and dismemberment. If the Vienna Government felt that Italian neutrality meant all the difference between victory and defeat, it would hardly have hesitated to give Italy all she wanted with the object of preventing the Slavs from obtaining the territory that they have in view. Austria-Hungary, however, was only prepared to humour Italy up to a certain point. If that was not sufficient to prevent the Italians from throwing in their lot with the Triple Entente, the Germanic Powers were still ready to face the consequences, and, in the words of the German Imperial Chancellor, would "know how to meet the new dangers with dauntless and confident courage." This point will, perhaps, help the Allies to realize the formidable nature of the opposition they have still to meet.

From the concessions offered to Italy by the Austro-Hungarian Government we may turn to those which she hopes to obtain by throwing in her lot with the Triple Entente. In a lengthy letter to the *Manchester Guardian* Sir Arthur Evans claims to set forth the terms which Italy has secured from the Allied Powers as the price of her co-operation. "The central feature of the agreement as now drawn up," he writes, "is the handing over to Italy of Northern Dalmatia, including the cities of Zara and Sebenico, with the hinterland and islands." In addition to this, although it is not stated in the letter, we may infer that Italian claims to the west coast of Istria, including Pola, have also been accepted. As the surrender of any portion of Dalmatia is known to be in direct conflict with Slav aspirations, it is of interest to note what Sir Arthur Evans says with regard to the methods by which the agreement was reached. "The complaisance of France in this matter seems to be largely due to sheer official ignorance of political geography. . . . Russian opposition, though genuine, was, unfortunately, undermined by the influence of the Holy Synod, which would fain see the future Serbia a purely Orthodox State, free from contamination with the Roman Catholic element so strongly represented in Croatia and Northern Dalmatia. Russian Government action was, in fact, enlisted last November to enforce these views on the Serbian Government, which, however, nailed its colours to the mast of free national union without respect of creed. Since then, however, the Russian Government had adopted a more sympathetic attitude toward South Slav liberation, and its yielding on the Dalmatian question was only made under protest from the most exalted quarters, and under extreme pressure exerted in an extraordinary manner on the part of its Western Allies. And let it be well understood that though Russian diplomatists may waver, the High Command has not ceased to take a lofty view of the cause for which the Empire is fighting."

These are pregnant words, and it may be taken for granted that Sir Arthur Evans would not allow himself to write them, unless he had good authority for his statements. The agreement, as he says, involves "grave matters of far-reaching import," and he raises the question whether the accession of over a million bayonets is a real equivalent for the material interests bartered away." It is admitted that there could be no adequate settlement after the war unless provision were made for Italian aspirations. But there can be no reason why Italy any more than Austria-Hungary should be encouraged to offend against the principle of nationality, for which the Allies are fighting. Her peculiar position in regard to the Adriatic is recognized. Sir Arthur Evans writes: "It is important to the Allied cause that a large tract of Lombardy and Venetia should no longer be perpetually threatened by the overwhelming strategic position of the German Powers on the side of the Alps. The danger of German maritime aggression on the Eastern Adriatic coast and islands is shared in common with ourselves. For the Italian national claims in the Trentino, in the Valley of the Isonzo, at Trieste, at Pola, and throughout Western Istria we have the greatest sympathy. It is fair to realize that the peculiar maritime advantages of the Dalmatian coast and islands, taken in connection with the open character of the eastern coast of Italy, make it quite reasonable that she should exact valid guarantees for her security on that side. Thus the neutralization of Dalmatia, as far as maritime armament is concerned, together with the dismantlement of existing fortifications such as those of Cattaro and Sebenico might legitimately be demanded. . . . As a supreme concession, indeed, . . . the annexation to Italy of the island of Lissa might itself be considered. . . . In Italian hands it would be a valuable guarantee for the open coast from Ancona to Pesaro, while the Italian occupation of Valona—which is not contested—places in the hands of the Power which already holds Brindisi and Taranto the remaining key of the Gulf."

If Russia has acquiesced in the terms on which Italy is said to be participating in the war, it may be urged that there is nothing more to be said on the subject. Sir Arthur Evans, however, indicates that Russian opinion may yet be divided on this question. He also says that the agreement was the result of secret negotiations carried out behind Serbia's back. "What is even less creditable," he adds, "various inquiries made on the subject of these underhand dealings by those interested elicited from more than one diplomat concerned the assurance that Serbia was being kept informed of the proposals, while at intervals, even to within the last few days, official statements were actually put out at Rome and Paris, repeated in London, that the Italian and Serbian Governments had come to an agreement on the Adriatic question. In all this there was, and is, not a single word of truth." We have seen that the Serbian Prime Minister had to disclaim any official knowledge of these negotiations, but the tenour of his reply showed some anxiety on the subject. If it be true that Italian claims represent a deliberate effort to drive a hostile wedge between Serbs and Croats, and that Italy also intends to stretch out her hands towards the Croatian port of Fiume, there may well be trouble in store, should she not be deterred from her purpose. That trouble would not be confined to the Allied States.

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but would in due course affect Italy herself, when she had to face the fierce opposition of her unwilling Serbo-Croat subjects.

A map which appears on another page in this issue will illustrate the national and geographical issues involved in the alleged agreement with Italy. There is a strong feeling abroad that the Italian Government takes its stand in regard to the Dalmatian question not on the existence of any real national feeling on the subject in Italy, but in deference to the views of a powerful organization in Dalmatia itself, which has succeeded in throwing dust into Italian eyes. Clearly, the deciding factor ought to be the principle of nationality. If throughout North Dalmatia 96 per cent. of the population consists of Serbo-Croats, while in Zara itself, to which the Italians have most claim, only a third of the inhabitants is in any real sense "Italian," then other safeguards than the incorporation of this territory within the kingdom must be found for Italy's position in the Adriatic. An agreement to which the British Government has given its assent at this stage can, we may hope, entail little more than an undertaking to urge such and such a course at the conference which shall determine the map of Europe at the end of the war. Compromises will then have to be made, and it will be a matter for surprise if the Italian nation, after having passed through the fiery ordeal of war side by side with her Slav allies, without whose help she could never hope to realize any of her national aspirations, does not view the Adriatic question in a more chastened spirit.

The fierce and carefully prepared offensive of the Austro-German forces in Western Galicia is the most momentous issue of the week. Our Russian Allies have proved their capacity before of rising superior to these terrific attacks, but clearly they have never been so hard pressed as at the present moment. The enemy has reached the San, and his plan must be to drive a wedge right through the Russian line. A few days, it would appear, must decide whether he is likely to be successful, or whether the Russian offensive towards Bukovina will have the effect of checking the Austro-German advance. The situation on this front makes prompt action on the part of Italy the more urgent. At the same time Roumania now has it in her power to duplicate the value of her intervention by giving her help quickly.

In a review of the general military situation which he gave to the House of Lords on Tuesday, Lord Kitchener summarized the position on the Gallipoli Peninsula in these words:—"The progress of our troops is necessarily slow, since the country is most difficult. But the Turks are gradually being forced to retire from positions of great strength, and, though the enemy is being constantly reinforced, the news from this front is thoroughly satisfactory." From the detailed reports published we know that the fighting on the Peninsula has been as fierce as, if not fiercer than, anything else in this terrific war. The Turks are displaying the splendid courage and capacity for defence for which they are noted, and their efforts are well supported by German thoroughness in regard to everything that is necessary to add to the natural advantages of the strong positions they hold. The fight for Achi Baba, the height commanding the lower portion of the Peninsula below the Narrows, still continues. It was the scene of a desperate encounter on May 6 and two following days, but it is not yet in the Allies' hands. In the meantime the casualty list grows, and we regret to learn that Lieut.-General Sir W. R. Birdwood, commanding the Australasian forces, is among the wounded.

We draw attention elsewhere to the satisfactory step taken by the British Government in notifying the Porte that its members will be held personally responsible for the life and well-being of any British subject or French citizen who may be sent to the zone of military operations in Gallipoli Peninsula. A similar intimation was conveyed to certain provincial officials in Syria at an earlier stage in the war, and at once had the result of securing better treatment for the British subjects within their jurisdiction. In these circumstances it seems unfortunate that we should not have tried to extend the principle of responsibility in high quarters to other theatres of the war. Any feeling of incongruity that might have been experienced at first in putting the Germans on a level with the Boxer hordes of China will now have passed, and the opinion is gaining ground that some means must ultimately be found of bringing home to the Germans, collectively and individually, a sense of the enormity of the crimes committed by their army. Meanwhile, harrowing accounts are being received of the horrors being perpetrated in Armenia and Persia by the Kurdish irregulars whom Germany and the Turks have let loose in Eastern Asia Minor. A telegram from the Russian Consul at Urumiah, dated May 15, announced that six thousand Armenians had been massacred at Van. It was added that the people were defending themselves as well as they could against the Turks and Kurds, but that help was urgently needed. There will be some difficulty in making sure that any message from the British Government will reach as far as Van; but it would be as well to notify the Porte that we shall extend the principle of personal responsibility wherever it can be shown that Turkish officers have held high commands in any districts that have been the scene of organised massacre.

Reports of unrest in Constantinople are becoming more insistent. Their significance has to be discounted, however, owing to the fact that in the face of a mobilized army no civilian movement has any chance of success. The Turkish Government is hardly likely to allow any section of the populace to gain the upper hand, unless it is supported by a considerable part of the army. In the meantime, the anxiety of Ministers for their own personal safety is known to be on the increase. Early in May an order was issued requiring all weapons in the hands of private people to be surrendered within five days. If any person at the end of that period was found in the possession of any weapon without authorisation, he was liable to be court-martialled and sentenced to death.

Writing to the *Economist*, a correspondent at Ispahan, where a Russian Vice-Consul has recently been assassinated, gives a depressing account of the situation in Persia. It was to be expected that trade would be bad, and that the Teheran Government would be, as usual, in grave financial straits. But we were hardly prepared to find that Persia had been left so entirely to her own resources, without help or guidance from the Protecting Powers, as the writer represents. The result has been that German intrigue has enjoyed a free field, and there will be still more ground to make up, if ever the Persian problem is tackled seriously. If only from the Moslem point of view, it would be worth the while of the British Government to take the Persian Government in hand at this stage, in order to save the country from its own incompetence. When the new British Minister to Teheran has had time to settle down, we shall hope to find that, with the help of M. de Etter, the new Russian Minister, who won golden opinions in London, a new era has begun to dawn for Persia.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, May 2.

The High Commissioner.

The High Commissioner on Wednesday inaugurated the series of provincial visits that lie before him by proceeding by special train to Tanta, the senior Mudiria town. He was received on arrival by the Mudir, Fathi Pasha, and the members of the Municipality and Provincial Council, and held a reception of the local officials and notables. Subsequently he visited the Ahmedi Mosque and the various educational institutions of the town, at each of which an address was presented. Fathi Pasha afterwards entertained Sir Henry McMahon and his party at luncheon, and later in the afternoon they left by motor-car for Shebin-el-Kom en route for Cairo. The speech made by the High Commissioner at the banquet given by the Cairo branch of the British Chamber of Commerce of Egypt appears to have given general satisfaction—and with reason, for it afforded evidence on the part of the authorities of a feeling of goodwill towards the commercial community, and breathed a spirit of confidence in the future of the country that is decidedly comforting, and with which most people are in hearty agreement.

The Skirmish on the Canal.

No undue importance should be attached to the skirmish just reported on the Canal or to the failure of our men to round up the Turkish force. It appears that the latter had no offensive object, but was one of the patrols which are daily sent out by the Turks for reconnaissance purposes, and of which we only hear when, as in this case, contact happens to be made with one of our own patrols. Moreover, once such contact is made, it is an extremely difficult matter to round up the enemy, unless the latter wants a fight or our own patrol is sufficiently strong to be able to force on an action on the spot. Usually, as in this instance, neither of these conditions is forthcoming, and light cavalry reinforcements have to be sent for, our patrol meanwhile keeping the enemy under observation at a safe distance. By the time these reinforcements can come up the enemy has started to retreat, and although the aeroplanes continue to follow him up, his main body is usually able to get away altogether, as light cavalry cannot cover more than four miles per hour in the heavy sand.

News from Syria seems to indicate that the Turkish forces in that province and on the Egyptian frontier have been so reduced by the requirements in other directions that any serious attack on the Canal is now out of the question; but, as I have stated in previous letters, we must expect to receive periodical reminders from the force in the Sinai of its presence there, which reminders will be intended to act as pin-pricks, nothing else.

Preparing for Dardanelles' Wounded.

Details of the progress of events in and around the Dardanelles are eagerly awaited by all classes. What news does come here, even from London, is at times so vague and confusing—as a result, no doubt, of the various censorships to which it is subjected—that it looks as if we shall have to wait for the arrival of the English and French papers to obtain really reliable information of what is happening so near to us. We may, however, be able to get some early and interesting details from the wounded, who are now beginning to arrive in large numbers. Most elaborate preparations have been made to deal with them, and soon all the available halls and hotels will have been requisitioned as hospitals. Some of the latter are gigantic in size, that at Victoria College, Ramleh, consisting of no less than 1,000 beds. From what one can gather, these men are not seriously wounded, the majority suffering from gun-shot wounds, or injuries to their feet due to the wire entanglements and the spiked pits set up on the shore.

The Trial of the Sultan's Assailant.

There is general agreement with the sentence passed on Mohammed Khalil, the man who attempted to shoot the Sultan. Perhaps, under the present system of censorship, one could scarcely expect any adverse criticism to make its appearance in the local Press; still, judging from the general trend of conversation in native circles, it would appear that the feeling is unanimous that the world in general and Egyptian society in particular are well rid of a man of the calibre of Mohammed Khalil. One fact, however, is perfectly clear: the trial has made a profound impression on the native mind. I do not refer to the effect produced by the presence in and around the court-house of British soldiers with fixed bayonets, or to the severity of the sentence, or to the celerity with which it was carried out. Those are all features that, as they were calculated to do, were bound to impress the ordinary native, and to overawe any element that might incline to unruliness. The factor, however, which has caused such astonishment to and has made such an impression on all thinking Egyptians, is the manner in which the trial was conducted. It came quite as a surprise to them that the court should ask the accused whether he objected to any of its members, and that other marks of impartiality and consideration should have been shown him; but, as many Egyptians stated to me afterwards, the greatest cause of their wonderment was the latitude allowed to counsel for the defence—an Englishman—who, in the conscientious execution of the duty he had assumed, first contested the competence of the court and then tried by all means in his power to mitigate the punishment to be meted out to a man of whose guilt neither he nor anyone else had any doubts. That a military court should entertain the plea submitted by counsel for the defence, instead of brushing it aside in virtue of the power that its constitution under martial law conferred on it, and that it should gravely and seriously consider the point as to whether in such a case it really had jurisdiction, are still the subject of favourable comment in Egyptian circles. There is, indeed, no doubt whatever that the conduct of the trial, under the presidency of Brigadier-General Frith, and the defence set up by Mr. Perrott have, by revealing the limits to which the conception of fair-play can go, raised the Egyptian, and indeed foreign, opinion of the British sense of justice and of duty to an even higher level than that at which it stood prior to the trial of this case. To this the files of the vernacular Press, since the passing of sentence on Mohammed Khalil, bear eloquent witness.

M. Venizelos.

M. Venizelos has continued in Alexandria the same triumphal progress that characterized his visit to Cairo. The ex-Premier was to have left this week for Cyprus viâ Port Said, but he has now postponed his departure for another week. Various rumours have been prevalent these past few days as to his having been recalled by the King, but it has been impossible to obtain conformation or otherwise. Whilst it is known that the relations between him and his sovereign have improved, and it is in some Hellenic circles thought quite possible that he might at any moment return to Athens, the general opinion is that he will first await the result of the elections. It is an undisputed fact that M. Venizelos came away from Athens because he did not want to be the direct cause of a conflict between the King and his subjects, and that he had advised his party to choose M. Ralli as their leader in the event of their being successful at the elections. The prominent Hellenes who have accompanied the ex-Premier are delighted at the reception he has had, and are of opinion that it will greatly add to his chances at the elections, which take place this month. They say that even if his party is successful he will not return to public affairs until after the war, but will content himself with directing its policy from behind the scenes. However, as one of those friends of his remarked to me, he is too great a patriot to hold back when his country needs him, and if, as it expects to do, his party gains a working

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majority there is no doubt that the King will give way, and that M. Venizelos will respond to the call that will then be made on him.

Death of a Popular Court Functionary.

It came as a great shock to society, foreign as well as Egyptian, when it became known that Ahmed Khairy Bey, First Chamberlain to H.H. the Sultan, had succumbed to an attack of appendicitis. Khairy Bey, who was only taken ill ten days before he died, was a most popular and capable man, and his appointment to the suite of the Sultan was considered to be one of the best made by his Highness. That the late First Chamberlain was a man of unusual character was proved by the fact that he held the same post under the old régime, but gave it up, as he did not agree with the ex-Khedive. In Khairy Bey the Sultan loses a valued friend and servant, and Egypt one of the few men of character whom she possesses and can ill spare.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Fighting in the Near East. May 18.

Earl KITCHENER, in the course of a review of military operations in the various theatres of war, referred to the landing in and operations at the Gallipoli Peninsula. The landing itself, he said, effected in the teeth of great natural difficulties, skilfully prepared obstacles, and armed opposition, was a masterpiece of organisation, ingenuity, and courage, which will long be remembered. The progress of our troops is necessarily slow, since the country is most difficult. But the Turks are gradually being forced to retire from positions of great strength, and, though the enemy is being constantly reinforced, the news from this front is thoroughly satisfactory.

As to Mesopotamia, Lord Kitchener said: In Mesopotamia our Indian soldiers have shown their value and bravery by attacking and utterly routing the Turkish forces sent against them. Sir John Nixon is following up the results of his victory, and the whole country is gradually being cleared of all hostile forces.

Treatment of Ottoman Subjects.

The Earl of CROMER, referring to the treatment of Ottoman subjects now in this country, said he feared that the judges of the new tribunal having to deal with the loyalty and general character of Turks, Armenians, or Syrians, would find themselves in a very difficult position. There were a good many members of the Diplomatic and Consular Service who spoke Turkish and Arabic. If some of these gentlemen were added to the Courts as assessors they would be of considerable assistance to the judges.

Viscount ALLENDALE said that the composition of the proposed tribunal was still under consideration, and in settling it the suggestions of the Earl of Cromer would no doubt be considered.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

British in Constantinople. May 13.

Sir EDWARD GREY, replying to Sir RICHARD COOPER, said that he had no information to show that all British subjects in Constantinople were being interned in Turkey. Inquiries were being made.

Future of Constantinople.

Replying to Mr. OUTHWAITE, who asked whether the Roumanian Government had been influenced by the view that a change in the possession of Constantinople might be to the detriment of that country; whether any agreement had been arrived at between the Allies regarding the future of Constantinople in the event of its fall; and, in such case, what commitment was entered into by his Majesty's Government, Sir EDWARD GREY said: It would not be in the public interest, and might gravely prejudice the progress and prospects of the war, if I were to make a statement at this moment on important questions of policy.

Persian Gulf Medals.

Colonel YATE asked the Under-Secretary for India whether a reply had yet been received from the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty sanctioning the grant of the naval medal to the officers and men of the Royal Indian Marine for services in the Persian Gulf during the years 1909-14, and if the medal rolls had yet been prepared; and what further steps had been taken regarding the distribution of prize money to the officers and men of the Royal Indian Marine who were entitled to it for the same services, with special reference to the operations prior to the outbreak of war?

Mr. CHARLES ROBERTS: The Secretary of State is not yet in possession of the decision of the Board of Admiralty on the question of the grant of the naval medal to officers and men of the Royal Indian Marine. The Government of India have informed the Secretary of State that no officers and men of the Royal Indian Marine have performed services in the Persian Gulf of a kind for which prize money can be awarded, though there may be grounds for a small monetary reward in the case of the "Minto."

NEWS FROM TURKEY.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

ATHENS, May 10.

Allied Residents in Constantinople.

On Thursday last information reached Dedeagatch that the principal English and French residents in Constantinople had been notified by the Turkish authorities to assemble on the Galata Quay that morning with a view to their exile or their internment somewhere. Later news, however, came to hand to the effect that all the English and French in Constantinople had been given three days to leave the Turkish Empire; but whether this expulsion will be carried into effect remains to be seen. Up to the time of writing there is no news of any arrivals at Dedeagatch, so there are hopes that the American Ambassador may have succeeded in inducing the Turkish Government to reconsider its decision.

There is no information of a similar measure having been taken in Smyrna. In fact, the latest arrivals report all well there.

The Turkish "Victories."

During the first week after the renewal of the operations at the Dardanelles the official *communiqués* stated daily that the Allies had been repulsed everywhere, and had been driven into the sea. The Turkish papers were jubilant at these imaginary victories, and the culminating point of Oriental imbecility was the conferring of the title of Ghazi (conqueror) on the Sultan.

To keep up the farce, the Selamlik on the last two Fridays has taken place at San Sofia, and the Accession anniversary was celebrated with a great deal of fuss. Of course, all this is done with the view to concealing the real state of affairs from the public.

With the arrival of thousands of wounded in Constantinople, the delusion of the public becomes practically impossible, and a change of tone is visible in the Press. In fact, there is now much uneasiness in official circles in Constantinople, and reinforcements are being hurried to the Dardanelles. It is stated that the Peninsula of Gallipoli is strewn with dead Turks, and many deserters are crossing into Bulgarian territory in a half-starved condition.

Russian Operations.

The presence of the Russian Fleet at the mouth of the Bosphorus has practically closed the Black Sea to the Turks, and few, if any, vessels now leave the Bosphorus. There is no confirmation of the recent rumours that Russian troops had been landed on Turkish territory. The lights of the lighthouses in the Bosphorus and in the Sea of Marmora have been extinguished.

The sound of the Russian guns at the mouth of the Bosphorus and the dropping of shells near Buyukdere have naturally increased the general feeling of alarm, and the whole European population is anxiously awaiting the appearance of the Allied Fleet off Seraglio Point.

German-made Lies.

The Turkish Press is particularly vehement against England, and all the papers publish long articles containing scurrilous falsehoods about the state of the British Empire and the progress of the different campaigns. They say that England has been beaten everywhere, that she has lost all her colonies, that India and Egypt are in a state of revolt and after the war will be severed from the British Empire, and that the English will have to curl up in their own little isles. These outbursts, which are, of course, inspired by the Germans, are a sign of the times, and are like the yelping of a dog limping away after a good licking.

The papers are now filling their columns with fantastic narratives from wounded soldiers who have come from the Dardanelles, and who seem to vie with one another in exaggerating their own valour and the terrible chastisement which the brave Turks have inflicted on the Allies.

The Turks have made great efforts to salve the English and French submarines which were wrecked in the Dardanelles, but have not been successful.

Armenians and Greeks Arrested.

In Constantinople the arrest of Armenians continues, but it has not been possible to ascertain so far what is the real cause of these wholesale arrests. Hundreds of Greek *Rayahs* also have been arrested and forced to serve in the army.

The so-called requisitioning of goods by the military authorities has developed into barefaced robbery; for military officers enter any shop and take whatever they require, without any ceremony.

Hundreds of refugees from the Gallipoli Peninsula have arrived in Constantinople. Many of them have been sent to Anatolia.

Mr. Mumford's residence at Candilli, which had been commandeered by the police, has been destroyed by fire. A short time ago Mr. Mumford was the victim of Turkish unscrupulous methods in having his furniture sold to pay exorbitant taxes.

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BULGARIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Sofia, May 4.

Bulgaria and the Entente.

The articles hostile to Bulgaria that appeared in the Press of the Entente countries regarding the Valandova affair encouraged the enemies of this country to prepare a fresh affair with the object of hopelessly compromising Bulgaria in the eyes of the Entente. But one of the Entente Powers discovered this plan, and sent warning to those responsible for it that its execution would not be countenanced; and this fact coming to the knowledge of the Bulgarian Government has helped greatly in winning Bulgaria over to the side of the Entente. Bulgaria has been led to make a statement regarding her demands, and if the Entente could guarantee their fulfilment she would engage to declare herself as their ally.

I learn from an authoritative source that the Bulgarian demands are as follows:—(1) The unconditional restoration to her of: (a) the Uncontested Zone of Macedonia as specified in the Serbo-Bulgarian Treaty of 1912, and (b) of the Dobruja, with the exception of Silistria, according to the St. Petersburg Conference; (2) the Enos-Midea frontier, according to the Treaty of London of 1913; (3) the possession of Kavalla, Drama, Seres, Vodena, Florina, Yenidje Vardar, and Kastoria; and (4) the necessary financial support. I understand that the Bulgarian Government has declared that if the fulfilment of these demands is guaranteed, without any conditions attached regarding Serbia receiving an outlet to the Adriatic, and if the Entente Powers will guarantee her against attack by Greece or Roumania while her army is engaged against Turkey, Bulgaria will at once mobilize her army and use it against Turkey as the ally of the Entente.

Bulgaria, it is explained, has no objection whatever to Serbia's obtaining a port on the Adriatic if she can do so, but this must not be made a condition of Bulgaria receiving Serbian Macedonia (the uncontested zone). It is generally believed here that if the Bulgarian demands are satisfied, and she takes part in the fighting, the end of the great European war will be very near.

"The Serbian Provocations."

Under the above heading the Ministerial journal, the *Narodni Prava*, writes:—

The Serbian Press Bureau continues, even now, when every detail regarding the Valandova incident is known, to invent all kinds of falsehoods in order to demonstrate that the Bulgarian Government was at least aware of the attack that was being prepared. We need not deny the Serbian intentions or point out that the Valandova incident was a direct result of the oppressive Serbian rule over the Bulgarian and Turkish population in Macedonia; for this is best shown by the thousands of fugitives arriving daily in Bulgaria. But we will just point out that the campaign engineered by the Serbian Government through the Serbian and certain foreign newspapers will certainly increase the feeling of bitterness which has existed amongst the Bulgarian community since the treachery of Serbia and the Treaty of Bucharest.

But as if all this were not enough, on April 24, at 11.30 p.m., an aeroplane coming from Serbia, in the direction of Radovishte, made a circuit over Strumitza. On its return journey, it passed over the village of Suchevo, on the edge of the Ograjda Mountain, and disappeared behind the mountain into Serbia. We cannot understand how it is that the Serbian Government and the Serbian military authorities decline to consider their conduct towards Bulgaria. To all our efforts in the past to preserve the peace of the Balkans the reply from Nish is continual provocations, which can hardly be tolerated any longer.

The Armenians in Constantinople.

Travellers lately arrived from Constantinople state that the news of the discovery of a great Armenian plot is a piece of pure invention on the part of the Turks. The arrests were made without any cause. Several days earlier the rumour had spread through the city and elsewhere in Turkey that the authorities intended to make wholesale arrests of Armenians without distinction of position, profession, or party. The lists had been prepared several weeks before, and on the morning of May 2 some scattered arrests were made, and at midnight wholesale arrests took place. All the known members of the Dashtnaktzutiun organisation, many bishops, clergy, doctors, merchants, State officials, and even a former Minister of Posts and Telegraphs fell victims. Questioned as to the reason for these arrests, Talaat Bey replied that the Van Dashtnaktzutiun party had stirred up the inhabitants of Van and occupied the town.

Railway Communications with Turkey.

The Turkish Government intended to stop for an indefinite period all railway communication between Turkey and this country, also with Dedeagatch. But in view of a protest by the Bulgarian Government, and fearing that the action threatened might serve as a pretext for Bulgaria to occupy the railway Karaagatch-Dedeagatch, the stoppage was not enforced. The timetable has, however, been radically changed, and the trains now pass through Turkish territory by night, and are subjected to great delay.

ROUMANIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, April 30.

Italy and Roumania.

It is announced this morning that Italy has definitely thrown in her lot with the Allies. This comes somewhat as a surprise after the repeated assurances of the German and Austrian Press that the negotiations between their governments and that of Italy were proceeding favourably; but there can now be very little doubt that Roumania will follow the lead given her, and it is generally thought here that Bulgaria will be forced to follow suit, though with reluctance, perhaps.

No one will be more disappointed by the turn events have taken than the members of the Legations of the Dual Alliance here, who have worked feverishly, and have stuck at nothing to win over this country. The enormous sums they have spent seem to have been thrown away, and to have had no result except to excite ridicule in the pro-Ententist Press. One of the means adopted by these gentry to "educate" the Roumanians was the publication of an illustrated weekly paper, *Septamania Resboiului* ("The Week's War"). In an evil moment invitations were issued to vote for or against joining Germany and Austria. The results two days after the appearance of the number containing the voting papers were: 19 for Germany and Austria; 54 for continued neutrality; and 415 for joining the Allies.

Control of Aliens.

In connection with the new law for the control of aliens, the Prefecture of Police has issued a notice that all new arrivals in the country must register themselves within eight days. Failure to do this entails liability to a fine of 100 francs.

Munitions for Serbia.

It is reported from Danubian ports that a further convoy of eleven lighters from Russia, laden with munitions and stores for Serbia, and accompanied by five armed vessels, has passed up the river.

General Savoff arrived in Bucharest on the 27th inst., on his way to Russia.

Boy Scouts in Roumania.

The Boy Scout movement is gaining ground steadily in this country, and is now being taken very seriously. Prince Carol, who is Chief Scout, has been reviewing the scouts of various towns; and a few days ago the curious sight was witnessed at Silistria and Dobritch of Mohammedan Boy Scouts marching past him, all wearing the fez, though good Romans.

A Debarred Portia.

Some time ago I referred to the efforts of Mlle. Ella Negruzzi, who had successfully passed all the qualifying examinations for the law, to obtain leave to practise. The High Court has now finally decided that women may not act as lawyers in this country.

BRITISH REFUGEES IN ATHENS.

The attention of ex-British residents of Constantinople at present in Athens is drawn to the fact that "The Near East" is on sale every week at M. Th. Vafiades' Bookstore, where subscriptions are also received.

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SERBIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Nish, May 7.

The Question of the Adriatic.

There is still great excitement in Serbia over the negotiations between the Triple Entente and Italy, and this afternoon a great meeting of protest is to be held. Serbia is crying out over the loss of Dalmatia. It will be remembered that there was a hue and cry when Austria annexed Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the same state of things exists to-day in Serbia with respect to the expected Italian annexations.

M. de Giers, the newly appointed Russian Minister Plenipotentiary to the Court of Rome, stopped here on his way to Italy, and the Prime Minister had long conferences with him. It is said that he gave assurances that the negotiations between the Powers of the Triple Entente had not yet been concluded, and that he himself had a special mission in connection with this subject.

The interpellation in the Skupshtina and the frequent articles in the Serbian Press are no doubt intended to call the attention of the Powers to Serbia's claims, but how far Serbia will be able to influence the Great Powers is another question, and one ill-effect of this agitation is that the public is stirred up to a great pitch of irritation.

The Situation at Belgrade.

There is almost daily interchange of shots between the Serbian artillery at Belgrade and the Austrian artillery on the opposite side of the river. Last Sunday there was very heavy firing on both sides, and some Austrian detachments attempted to cross into Serbian territory near Belgrade, but were prevented. On the same day the Austrians bombarded the town of Belgrade, and—if it was not intentional—there were a remarkable number of stray shots.

This state of things would not indicate the present as being a propitious moment for the return of the public to Belgrade, yet only three days ago drummers went through the streets of Nish notifying that the Belgrade inhabitants should return to their homes, and that there is a free railway service for the poorer classes. The destitute refugees were informed that their return to Belgrade was in a manner compulsory, as if they remained here they would no longer receive pecuniary support from the Nish Municipality.

If the Austrian artillery were dislodged from their positions near Semlin and driven off there would be safety, but until that is done there can be no dependence on a cessation of the bombardment of Belgrade.

The incursions of Bulgarian *Komitajis* have not ceased. In small numbers they continue their annoyances, and the Albanians also are not quiet. Provisions are dear and so are groceries and general imported merchandise, but that is partly to be attributed to the high rate of agio on gold.

However, on the whole one ought not to complain, as Nish must be a paradise compared with Budapest, according to the reports of the Serbian interned who have returned from Hungary. They state that the bread sold in Budapest is hardly eatable, a mixture of ingredients quite indigestible, worse than ever it was at Belgrade in the severest days of deprivation caused by the alternate evacuation and occupation of the town by the opposing armies and the breaking of the railway communications.

Typhus Diminishing.

The typhus epidemic is lessening in force. There are still a great many cases, but now the majority recover, whereas formerly the greater part died. There is no need now to complain of the lack of doctors, very many having been sent not only from England and America but also from other friendly States. The task that now confronts the sanitary authorities is to thoroughly cleanse certain outlying districts and to get rid of all possible breeding grounds for the microbe.

New buildings have been erected outside of Nish for the reception of patients in the event of the hot weather bringing with it any other epidemic. These are only necessary precautions.

CYPRUS NOTES

(From a Correspondent.)

Cyprus, April 30.

Mr. Venezelos, the ex-Prime Minister of Greece, is at present in Egypt, and, according to the Press here, an invitation has been addressed to him by the Metropolitan of Kitium to visit this island. Were he to do so he would certainly be very well received, especially by the Greek-speaking portion of the community, as they regard him, rightly or wrongly, as favourable to their desire for union with "Mother Greece." Since the annexation this desire has been raised into hope, as the so-called Greek inhabitants are determined to believe that the annexation is merely a step towards its realisation. Their emancipation from Turkish suzerainty seems to bring them by so much nearer to Greece.

The session of the Legislative Council has beaten all records for shortness, having closed within a fortnight of its having opened. It confined its attention to three matters only: Reply to the opening speech, the passing of the Estimates *en bloc*, and petitioning once again for union with Greece. It is understood, however, that it will have to meet again in order to consider the votes included under surplus balances, which are outside the actual annual Estimates.

The Limassol race meeting on the 15th and 17th instant was well attended, but there were few entries from Nicosia. Athletic sports were held in the same week by the men of the Malta Regiment.

FOR OUR SERBIAN ALLIES.

Serbia's troubles and misfortunes, of which she has assuredly had her share during recent years, have at least served to make many friends for her, and it is satisfactory to know, on the authority of our Belgrade Correspondent, that help is pouring into the country in the hour of its sore need. There need, however, be little fear that the help will be in excess of the requirements of the case. That is made clear in the booklet, "The Terrible Truth About Serbia," written by Sir Thomas Lipton, and issued recently by the Red Cross Society at the price of one penny. Lack of space forbids us quoting from the pamphlet, but we earnestly commend it to the attention of our readers. The picture drawn by Sir Thomas is an appalling one indeed; but it has its bright side in the account it gives of the splendid work being achieved by the devoted men and women who are labouring amongst the wounded and the sick, and the cheerful courage of the Serbian sufferers themselves. Those who desire to help this work are invited to send hospital comforts, blankets, drugs, etc., and, especially, money for the purchase of stores to the British Red Cross Society, 83, Pall Mall, marking their gifts "For Serbia."

The Farmers' Fund.

The British Farmers' Red Cross Fund, which is endeavouring to raise £100,000, has already (May 17) received over £20,000 towards that amount, and is sending out a second hospital to Serbia at an early date. This will cost £5,000; and further subscriptions are urgently needed. In the sixteenth list of subscriptions, to May 14, we note that Essex gives all the other counties a good lead, its subscriptions to that date totalling £2,776 9s. 3d. Other counties over £1,000 are: Sussex, £1,524 13s.; Lincolnshire, £1,395 8s. 5d.; Surrey, £1,331 15s. 7d.; Yorkshire, £1,260 6s. 3d.; Kent, £1,216 16s. 3d.; and Hertford, £1,088 3s. 3d. Subscriptions to and communications regarding the fund should be addressed to Herbert Brown, Esq., Room 5, Tower Bridge Flour Mills, Bermondsey, S.E.

Wounded Allies Relief Committee.

This Committee, whose typhoid hospital is being established at Kragujevatz, has received a satisfactory report from the doctor at present in charge. Dr. Lauwens reports that the building provided by the Serbian Government is spacious, clean, and in all ways suitable; that the unit has received the utmost attention from the Serbian Government; and that the typhus epidemic is already declining, a total of 20,000 cases in March having dropped in April to 12,000. He further relates the safe arrival of the Committee's motor ambulance, which is to be used at first for the transport of cases of infectious disease. Dr. Lauwens reports a most urgent need of all surgical instruments, dressing materials, and bandages, disinfectants, iodine, etc. Gifts in kind will be welcomed if addressed to the Committee at Sardinia House, Kingsway; while money should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. T. O. Roberts, manager, London County and Westminster Bank, 217, Strand.

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"TO THE BRITISH NATION."

JUGOSLAV MANIFESTO.

We have received for publication the following document, signed by the President, Dr. Ante Trumbic, and members of the Jugoslav Committee:—

Austria-Hungary and Germany have imposed upon the Southern Slav nation a fratricidal civil war. Eight million Southern Slavs (Jugoslavs) are condemned to fight against their own brothers and liberators. Large numbers have been expelled from their native soil, or put to death, while the prisons are crowded with political victims.

To-day the Jugoslav people cannot give expression to its wishes; its representative assemblies are closed, many of its deputies are in prison or subjected to a rigorous surveillance.

Those of our young men who succeeded in escaping are fighting in the ranks of the Serbian and Montenegrin armies. We, who at the outbreak of war happened to be abroad, feel it to be our bounden duty to acquaint the civilised world, and above all the British nation, with the true sentiments and aspirations of our people. Our Jugoslav brothers in America, meeting last March at Chicago in a congress of 563 delegates, have unanimously adopted our programme.

The Serbs, Croats and Slovenes pray for the victory of the Triple Entente, and confidently await from it the salvation of the Jugoslav nation. The conviction that the Triple Entente is fighting for the triumph of the principle of nationality inspired the moral energy and superhuman efforts of Serbia and Montenegro, and prevented their kinsmen across the frontier from utterly losing heart.

For Serbia and Montenegro this war is one of self-defence and liberation, not of conquest; they are fighting to emancipate our people from a foreign yoke and to unite them as a single free nation. The military and political overthrow of Austria-Hungary will for ever put an end to that system of "Divide et Impera," by which our people has for centuries been governed.

The Jugoslavs form a single nation, alike by identity of language, by the unanswerable laws of geography and by national consciousness. Only if united will they possess the resources necessary for an independent existence.

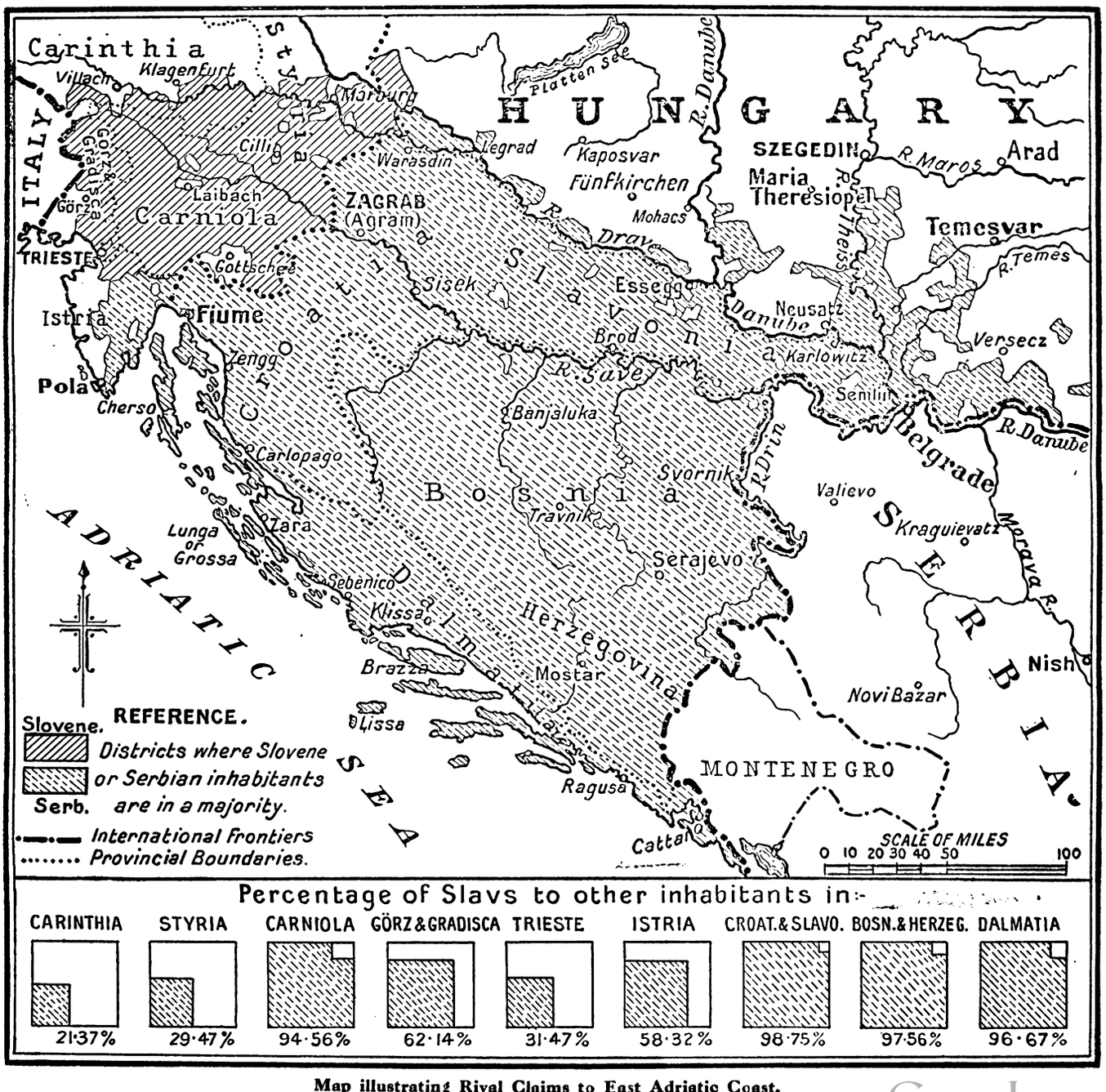
The Jugoslavs (Serbs, Croats and Slovenes) inhabit the following countries:—The Kingdoms of Serbia and Montenegro; the Triune Kingdom of Croatia-Slavonia-Dalmatia (with the Fiume and district); the provinces of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Carniola; considerable portions of the provinces of Istria, Trieste, Gorizia-Gradisca, Carinthia and Styria; and finally the Jugoslav zone of Hungary proper.

To perpetuate the disunion of these territories by leaving so many under Austro-Hungarian rule, or to transfer even portions of them to another alien rule, would be a flagrant violation of our ethnographical, geographical and economic unity, and to this our people would unquestionably oppose an energetic and justifiable resistance.

The Southern Slav people aspires to unite its territories in a single independent State. The internal arrangements of the new State will be determined by the nation itself, in accordance with its own wishes and needs.

The Southern Slav State (Jugoslavia) will be an element of order and of peace. While devoting its whole energies to the cause of progress, it will also develop those well-known virtues of its seafaring population, which the British nation will be the first to appreciate. Its ports will be open to trade in a manner hitherto unknown, and through them a commercial outlet will be assured to all the nations of their hinterland, especially to the Czechs and the Magyars.

Our people, which professes several religions, and whose tolerant spirit is well known, will crown its national unity by guarantees of religious equality and complete freedom of worship. Sure of the goodwill of our Russian brothers, we appeal also to the sympathies of their western Allies in our struggle for liberty. And in thus appealing, as representatives of a democratic people, to the British nation and Parliament, we look for such support as shall enable the Jugoslav nation, after centuries of martyrdom, to achieve at length its unity and independence.



Map illustrating Rival Claims to East Adriatic Coast.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

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

SERBIA AND THE ALLIES.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—Heaven forbid that I should unkindly criticise our gallant Serbian Allies, but why on earth cannot they "cut the loss," and instead of wasting men and money on holding *all* Serbian Macedonia, in parts of which they are uncommonly unpopular, hand over Ishtib and Kotchana to the Bulgars in return for the promise of the latter to co-operate with us against Turkey?

Roumania has already agreed in principle to surrender part of her "new territory" to the Bulgars, from whom she took it in 1913. Cannot Serbia do the same, and even go further and surrender a slice of her cake to the doubtless annoying but necessary Bulgarian?

The Serbs have fought well, and held up a force of from 150,000 to 200,000 Austrians. But by refusing to concede anything to Bulgaria they have kept both Greeks, Roumans—and Bulgars from joining the Triple Entente. It may, indeed, be said that their diplomatic disservices to us have almost outweighed their military services. Do they not realise that if we lose they lose all, and that if we win they will gain really useful territorial acquisitions—Bosnia, Croatia, etc.? Cannot they agree to sacrifice something for those who have kept them in shells, cartridges, and medical aid since the war began?

We are losing, and shall lose, more men at the Dardanelles than we should have lost had the Serbian soldiers who surround Prince Alexander left diplomacy to diplomatists, instead of vetoing every suggestion of concession.—I remain, sir, etc.,

SERBOBORED MUCHLI.

Athens, April 4, 1915.

SERBIA AND BULGARIA.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—I must, for the sake of right against wrong, ask once more for a space in your hospitable paper.

In your issue of the 9th last, only just received, Mr. Janitsch has come again to the attack. In my last, in your issue of April 9, I gave a definite refutation to every one of his assertions. He remains obdurate, and is apparently incapable of understanding that no further floundering in the bog can possibly secure to him a surer footing.

He knows as well as I do that the Serbians *at present* are held in England *en odeur de sainteté*, and that on the other hand the Bulgarians, because of the conditions of the present war, are looked upon as black sheep. Of this situation he takes, I think, unseemly advantage. Twice he calls the attention of your readers to the fact that in the present calamitous war Bulgaria is in the enemy's camp. Is he aware that the English are lovers, above all things, of a stand-up square fight, that they would qualify such an argument as hitting below the belt?

Mr. Janitsch, I am sorry to see, has introduced malice in the discussion. He insists that the Bulgarians are of a Mongol race, that they have nothing in common with the Slav. At present there is in England great sympathy for the Slavs, because of the hopes in the Russian armies, and antipathy for the Turks, of Mongol race, because they are fighting under the orders of their task-masters the Germans. Mr. Janitsch's object is, with a stroke of his pen, to place the Bulgarians in the Turkish camp, to alienate from them any possible sympathy, to deprive them of a fair hearing, and to obtain a cheap credence for his glaring, defamatory statements. This saw is very much used up, it cannot alter established facts. Mr. Janitsch might, with more authority and on the same grounds, object to the name of English or British. The Normans conquered England, introduced a great part of their language and many of their institutions, *but lost their name*. The original Bulgarians left the Slavs they conquered absolutely *nothing beyond their name*. The Bulgarians have been and are Slavs; it was in their language, more than a thousand years ago, that the first Slavic book was written. Ancient Slav is simply old Bulgarian. The ancient rich Slavic literature originated with the Bulgarians, and was in their old Bulgarian language.

With the question of treachery, as between the Bulgarians and the Serbians, I dealt fully in my letter in your issue of January 22. There Mr. Janitsch will find my answer.

Mr. Janitsch has the audacity to assert that the main battle against the Turks was fought by the Serbians at Koumanovo and Monastir (Bitolia). I could refer him to competent military writers in England and other countries. I will, however, limit myself to giving some very eloquent figures. The Bulgarian forces against the Turks amounted to 370,000 men, including 25,000 who operated in Macedonia and protected the Serbian left flank when the battle of Koumanovo was fought. There were not less than 520,000 Bulgarians doing military service or on the Quartermaster's list. The Turkish forces operating against the Bulgarians amounted to 330,000 men plus nearly 100,000 in Adrianople, and some 20,000 operating on the lower Maritza (Yaver Pasha's army). The forces of Serbia in the field never surpassed the number of 200,000 men; those of the Greeks 120,000. The Turkish forces which opposed Serbian and Greeks consisted of three army corps *incompletely mobilised*. I may put them down at 60,000 men at the utmost. The Serbian contingent at the siege of Adrianople was 31,000, and not 50,000, men, as Mr. Janitsch states. At Chatalja the Turks had concentrated not less than 400,000 men, and 80,000 at Bulair.

Some more figures:—The losses of the Bulgarians against the Turks were: 1,228 officers and 82,261 men, those of the Serbians 23,000. The Greeks refused to supply the information. The above figures are official, they deserve Mr. Janitsch's cogitation.

Mr. Janitsch vaunts the Serbian arms, and audaciously affirms that the Roumanian invasion had nothing to do with Bulgaria's collapse. Can he not appreciate the position of a soldier fighting two enemies in front, while aware that at the same time a third enemy was stealing behind him, already in possession of his unprotected home, with a raised sword at his back; and more besides, a fourth enemy treacherously invading Thrace, to conquer which he had shed the best of his life's blood?

Mr. Janitsch has never wished to know that towards the end of the war the Serbians were *figés* (congealed), as a Frenchman in authority described it, at Kalimantzi, and were incapable of further efforts; that about the same time the Greek army was placed in the greatest predicament in the Kresna Pass, that because of this inextricable position of the Greek army Bulgaria accepted the armistice in Bucharest, under the menace of an immediate occupation of Sofia by the Roumanian army, encamped within sight of the capital.

Mr. Janitsch quotes the Bulgaro-Serbian Treaty. I am much obliged to him. The strength of Bulgaria is in treaties, and in this one in particular. I had the pleasure of sending you, Sir, the English version of this Treaty, with annex and map, with my letter published in your issue of January 22, for publication. Had you, Sir, found it convenient to publish the Treaty Mr. Janitsch might have been spared falling into his own pit. Here again Mr. Janitsch is utterly wrong. He quotes Art. 2, paragraphs 2 and 3. I trust that these have been passed over to him, and that he knows nothing further of the Treaty: otherwise I am bound to charge him with unscrupulous dealing with documents. His quotation concerns territories which Serbia and Bulgaria engaged to place beyond the limits of discussion. They are territories over which neither Serbians, on the one hand, nor Bulgarians on the other, ever aspired to; they are beyond the Shar Mountains and east of the Rhodopes and the river Strouma. The question to settle concerned the territory between the above-mentioned frontier lines, the Ægean Sea, and the Lake of Ochrida. The following paragraph, which Mr. Janitsch has honestly quoted, says: "As regards the territories lying between the Shar Mountain, the Rhodopes, the Ægean Sea and the Lake of Ochrida. . . . Serbia binds herself not to put forward any claim in regard to the territories lying beyond the line marked on the annexed map, and which runs starting from the commencement of the Turkish-Bulgarian frontier at Mountain Golem (i.e., Kriva Palanka) in the general direction towards south-west up to the Lake of Ochrida." (Follows a detailed description of the frontier line).

Between this line and Shar Mountain is a territory of about 6,500 kilometres square, with the towns of Koumanovo, Skoplje (Uskub), Kalkandelen, Kitchevo, Struga, and Dibra included. This is the territory termed the Contested Zone, upon which the Russian Emperor was to arbitrate. I hope I have made myself clear.

Mr. Janitsch harps again upon a very exhausted subject, but he must have his second hit below the belt, and insists that the Macedonians being pure Slavs have nothing in common with the Mongol Bulgarians; that the Bulgarians had converted them to their views by the propaganda of priests, the fire and swords of the terrible *komitajis*—this during the last 40 years, that is to say, during the bloody rule of Sultan Hamid, the greatest persecutor of the Bulgarians!

The Macedonians have been Bulgarian ever since Macedonia was conquered by King Boris, baptized in the name of Mihail (837-852 A.D.). They remained Bulgarian during 168 years under the Byzantine rule (1018-1186). Their conqueror, Basil II., the Bulgarian Killer, confirmed the autonomy of the Bulgarian Church, which at the time exercised authority over Bulgaria, Thrace, Macedonia, Albania, Serbia and Bosnia. They remained Bulgarians under the short Serbian rule, some 50 years in the fourteenth century. During this period the Bulgarian Patriarchs of Tirnovo as well as of Ochrida continued in their functions, the latter by the authority of the Serbian king, and they have remained Bulgarians ever since.

The folklore of the Macedonians is in the Bulgarian, not in the Serbian, language.—I am, etc.,

P. M. MATTHEEFF.

Sofia, May 3.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—Will you allow me to make a very short reply to the letter of Mr. Kenneth H. Ledward in your issue of the 14th instant? On my own part this shall be my last word in the short controversy started by the letters of The O'Mahony and Mr. Mattheeff.

Mr. Ledward asserts that it was the Serbians who provoked the Bulgarian attack on the Allies, because "as early as November, 1912, they were making every effort to get the treaty abrogated, and were using every diplomatic lever in Petrograd to obtain not only the *zone contestée*, but also lands beyond which they had previously bound themselves not to claim!" Is it possible not to make any distinction between the loyal diplomatic efforts to obtain honourably, by mutual consent, a formal modification of a treaty *which had ceased to be just and was already modified by practical events* and an unexpected, treacherously executed attack by all the military force on the Allies? All the world knows well that the actual circumstances were already in November, 1912, fundamentally changed, that

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the Serbians carried out their engagements beyond the stipulations of the treaty, and that the Bulgarians carried out theirs below those stipulations. In proof of this let me mention only the well-known fact that the Serbians sent their troops to assist the Bulgarians to conquer Adrianople, although such assistance was not stipulated for in the treaty, and the Bulgarians did not send their troops to assist the Serbian operations in Macedonia, although they were engaged by the treaty to do so. For their services rendered to the Bulgarians outside and above the treaty stipulations the Serbians had clearly the right to demand from the Bulgarians adequate compensations, and such compensations would be given to them by anyone else but the Bulgarians. The Serbians were asking for compensations in a legal, loyal manner and a conciliatory spirit. They were willing and ready to submit their entire case to the arbitration of the Tsar, *as it is officially established and proved*. It is absolutely impossible to put the methods which the Bulgarians used in the same category with the methods which the Serbians used. The responsibility for the war between the Serbians and Bulgarians lies clearly and undoubtedly with the Bulgarians. That has been acknowledged by every impartial outsider.

It seems to me that the second argument of Mr. Ledward is of the same nature. He says: "General Savoff's order *followed* the proclamation of King Peter bidding his army move against the Bulgarians." It may be that the order of General Savoff was issued *after* the proclamation of King Peter (Mr. Ledward is not quite sure of it himself, saying: "as far as we can judge now"). But in any case the proclamation of King Peter was issued *after the Bulgarian army's attack* on Serbia.

That the meeting between the Greek and Serbian staffs in May, 1913, is "a direct evidence that the two Allies were meditating at some future date an attack on the Bulgarians" is nothing but a wanton supposition. The suspicious conduct of the Government and the menacing tone of the Press of Bulgaria imposed on Greece and Serbia the duty to consider how to defend themselves against an eventual attack with which Bulgaria openly menaced them. Besides, against Mr. Ledward's supposition we have the great and glaring fact that the Bulgarians *actually attacked* Greece and Serbia.

The argument that the Serbians, by establishing their own administration in the Macedonian towns which they conquered from the Turks, gave proof of their intention to tear up the treaty I cannot understand. Surely it was a plain duty of Serbia to establish her own authorities in the towns which her army had just conquered from the Turks. The preservation of order required the immediate organisation of such authorities, without prejudice to the question to whom those towns should later on definitively belong. There is no example in history that a conqueror ever did otherwise.

Was the main Turkish offensive directed against the Serbians or not? That is a question of secondary importance, and I have mentioned it only as such. However, it is a fact that Zekki Pasha and Djavid Pasha were as well known as able generals as Abdullah and Nazim, and that the very best Turkish troops were entrusted with the defence of Macedonia. When the Turks received reinforcements of the Anatolian troops, the Bulgarians were beaten at Chatalja. I do not mean to insinuate that the Bulgarians are not brave and excellent soldiers. Nobody could question that. But I must say I am astonished by the assertion that the Turks "cared little for Macedonia." At any rate, they offered stubborn resistance, and fought bloody battles in defence of Macedonia—a fact which is well known.

I cannot enter now into the question of the nationality of Macedonia and of the number of schools in that country. Those questions are complicated, and could be solved only on the basis of trustworthy statistics and by a scientific method, and not by space-limited polemics. It is sufficient here to mention that all well-known and well-informed foreign scientists have established that Macedonia forms a *transition* zone, and that accordingly, and in the best case for the Bulgarians, Macedonia is as much Bulgarian as she is Serbian also.

The Treaty of San Stefano, which neglected the Serbian and Greek interests, and unjustifiably favoured exclusively Bulgarian interests, was a mistake of Russian diplomacy. Russia is suffering to-day for that mistake, and with her also her allies, France and England. I will only give expression to the hope that similar mistakes shall not be committed in the future.

As we are touching here the chapter of errors, it will not be difficult for me to confess that Serbia, for some time, was losing ground in Macedonia, partly by her own fault. Her unfortunate history during the last thirty years, the difficult position in which she found herself, the many and big tasks which she had, did not allow her to keep what was her own on all sides. But it seems to me very unjust that impartial and disinterested men should now hinder Serbia from preserving that which is her own and for which she has paid so dearly again.

The Valandova incident had its causes not *at home*, but *abroad*. It is an invention and a fiction that it was the result of the oppression of the Serbian Government against the people of that district. In reality it was prepared and organised on Bulgarian territory, with at least the connivance of the Bulgarian Government, because, clearly, preparations of such proportions, with artillery and machine guns, cannot be carried on without the knowledge of the authorities of the district. I do not wish to embitter these polemics, and therefore I leave aside the question: Could such conduct of the Bulgarian Government be in the interest of the Entente Powers, and how could it be harmonised with the friendly assurances from Bulgarian sources, of which one was published in the same number in which Mr. Ledward's letter appeared? But I must say that it is paradoxical, to put it mildly, to adduce the Valandova incident as an argument in favour of the Bulgarians.

I am sincerely grateful to Mr. Ledward for his flattering words concerning the Serbian people. I am sure they are sincere, and they do not surprise me coming from him; for Englishmen love to be just and impartial, and their precious friendship fills us with pride. Still, I fear that Mr. Ledward, taking so bravely the brief for Bulgaria, had not unintentionally increased the Serbian mistakes and reduced the Bulgarian ones. For instance, he says that Serbia had in 1885 attacked Bulgaria without any cause. "Without any cause" is unjustifiable. It may have been a mistake of the then existing Government, when King Milan also committed a gross *blunder* by declaring war without sufficient ammunition and mobilising only 30,000 troops against 100,000 Bulgarians. Expressing such a severe judgment on Serbia, Mr. Ledward declares for the other side, and even after the Valandova incident and the attack on the main line Skoplje-Salonika—that Bulgaria "magnanimously forbore to attack Serbia last December," and that the attack of General Savoff on Serbia in 1913 was only a blunder! A treacherous and criminal attack on the Allies, by which the Bulgarians killed and wounded between five and six thousand Serbians while they were, so to speak, asleep—to be called simply a blunder! In that case the Germans might declare that their sinking of the "Lusitania" was not an intentional murderous attack, but simply a blunder!

We Serbians desire as much as Mr. Ledward to see the end of this disastrous war. We are ready, and have given abundant proofs of such a disposition, to make every reasonable concession for that object. But on no account to an extent where the interest and the national life of Serbia could be injured. I again appeal most sincerely to the British patriots and friends of the Balkan nations not to be one-sided friends. The one-sided friends, especially those of the Bulgarians, succeed only in inflaming the passions and developing impossible and unjust desires. Exactly such one-sided friends of the Bulgarians are responsible for the present conduct of Bulgaria. It ought not to be lost to view that not only has Bulgaria not yet joined the Allies, who fight for the liberation and regeneration of Europe, but during the first eight months of the war she was preventing Roumania and Greece from intervening on the side of the Allies. It is well known that both those Balkan kingdoms were explaining—I believe quite sincerely and truthfully—their hesitation to join the Allies by their distrust of Bulgaria's intentions, who might attack them while they were at war elsewhere. I especially have to draw attention to that fact. It is impossible to obtain from Bulgaria even an unequivocal neutrality. Her declarations are only empty words, when her *deeds* are showing that she is in truth hostile to the Entente Powers. And while such is the conduct of Bulgaria towards them, Serbia has readily and joyfully given to the common cause of justice and liberty, and therefore also to the allied Powers of the Triple Entente, all she had in her modest power to give. It seems to us very strange, and, indeed, it is painful to us, that even under such circumstances it is expected that only Serbia should make concessions! It is possible that those demands are asked from her, according to the general law of "weaker resistance," because she always has been giving way. But it is well to remember that justice and every true success are only to be attained by the way of "stronger resistance!" In this instance this way is the more clearly indicated because, with some nations, as well as with some individuals, yielding awakens only fresh demands. It is only firm and decided conduct that can keep them within the bounds of justice and equity.

I am, Sir, with grateful thanks for your impartiality and courtesy, your obedient servant,

D. JANITSCH.

London, W., May 19, 1915.

BISHOPS AT THE FRONT.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—We have all read with deep interest the many accounts of the Bishop of London's visit to the front. Doubtless many a humble brother-parson has envied his Lordship such an opportunity as he had and wisely took. It was in every sense right that the Bishop should go to the front, and we are all assured that his visit was greatly appreciated by our splendid men.

It may be that not many people are aware that one of the finest of our bishops has been at the front since August doing chaplain's work. I refer to Bishop Gwynne of Khartoum, whose work amongst men, though so quiet and unassuming, is both far-reaching and deep in its effect.—I am, sir, etc.

JAMES WHITAKER.

May 16, 1915.

THE COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE OFFICE OF EGYPT,

23, Sharia Soliman Pasha, Cairo.

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

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Any newsagent or bookstall in the United Kingdom can supply copies of "THE NEAR EAST," which are on sale early on Friday morning. Should any difficulty be experienced in obtaining the paper, the Manager would be glad to receive a post card giving particulars, and he will take steps to rectify the matter.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE BAZAARS OF STAMBOUL.*

There was once upon a time, to use a term dear to our childhood, a lover of beautiful Oriental objects, and he went to Constantinople in the heyday of revolutions and counter revolutions to see if he (or his companions) could pick up some bargains which would later be put on board a boat sailing from the Mediterranean to the great river Thames. The plan was a good one—the campaign promised well—the more so considering that no less a person than a Turkish Prince had promised many things. The Yildiz Kiosk, that supposedly wonderful jewel possessed by Sultan Abdul Hamid the Wise, on the wooded shores of the Bosphorus, was the ultimate goal of the expedition. For, it was rumoured on the boulevards of the City of Light, the rare treasures of the Kiosk—rich carpets that had been hand-woven in the hills of Turkestan, priceless pearls that had come from the pools of the Persian Gulf, exquisite perfumes from the vales of Araby, and choice embroideries tear-stained by captives of the harem—were to be disposed of, and the first on the spot would have the first pick. Hearing which, the British expedition, with a voluble Turkish prince to back it, sped in haste across the dull plains of Hungary, through the hills of Serbia, and along the Maritza to Constantinople, to the Golden Horn, to Stamboul of many weird shops and bazaars, and finally to the Yildiz Kiosk. There comedy was staged for them, eunuchs with scimitars, guards, Armenian interpreters, paltry escorts, and so forth, *but no treasures!*

The story of the expedition and its failures is told by Sir Arthur Liberty in a pretty little volume entitled "The Treasure Hunt." Now and again the chatty, gossipy style, masking disappointment 'neath a veil of irony, is broken by descriptive passages of real merit. Take, for instance, the description of the Mosque of Ahmed:—

"The Mosque of Ahmed is more and more fascinating the more one sees of it. In dignity and grace its exterior is even more impressive than its near neighbour, Santa Sophia. . . . If the exterior is beautiful, the interior staggers one with its dignity and vastness, and yet its lines are as simple as the effect is stupendous. Just a dome on four columns, with aisles running round. But such a mighty dome, and such mighty columns, . . . of a thickness beyond belief, and faced with translucent tiles in infinite variety of designs and colourings! Tiles of like bewitching hues rise in a gigantic dado round the aisles, and fill the dome. One stands as 'twere beneath a heaven inset with gems."

In passages like the above one forgets the treasure hunt, and dreams of that other hunt, the hunt for things beautiful, and, truly, Constantinople is the mistress city of wonderful sights, of beautiful objects that linger in one's mind like a fairy dream. Be it the silhouettes of minarets at night or the same minarets resplendent in the sunshine; be it the multi-coloured crowds which surge ceaselessly backwards and forwards, on land and on water, at the Golden Horn; be it the striking contrasts on the Bosphorus, the clear waters of the Gulf of Ismidt, with its pine-clad islands, or the quaint picturesqueness of old nooks and crannies in the bazaars—these and a thousand and one other kaleidoscopic scenes make Constantinople what she is, and always must be, the artist's favourite among the favoured cities of the world.

But, to return to the Treasure Hunt. The particular hunt described by Sir Arthur Liberty fell as flat as an anti-climax, which is to be deplored. If, however, the scribblers, alias correspondents, of the British Press abroad are to be believed, there are excellent prospects for future campaigns. Thus, for instance, the neutral writer in *The Times* on "Turkey from Within," asserts that never "have the bazaars been so rich in the best things that the Orient has produced. In the arcade where carpets are sold the little dark shops are crammed with the most beautiful Persian and Indian rugs. In the arcade where the dealers in carved stones are found, in that where wrought and engraved brasswork is shown, the same conditions prevail. Elsewhere are exhibited wonderful gold and silver tissues and embroideries, the art of Bokhara and of Brusa." In other words, there is a glut of good things in the bazaars, and, unconsciously, when reading the book under review, I could not but help remembering that fact—why, I do not know.

In conclusion, I must congratulate the publishers of "The Treasure Hunt" on the admirable way in which they have produced the book in two colours, with quaint and attractive woodcuts, and old-fashioned lettering. If only more books were printed in this commendable way!

C. R.

* "The Treasure Hunt: The Conspirators in Constantinople." By Arthur Lazenby Liberty. Printed by Liberty and Co.

BEYOND THE VEIL.†

The quotation from the work of Abu Saïd, the Persian poet, with which Mr. Tudor-Pole closes his own book seems to embody the whole teaching that he is so anxious to emphasise:—

The veil between God and His servant is neither earth nor heaven, nor the throne, nor the footstool. Thy selfhood and illusions are the veil, and when thou removest these thou hast attained unto God!

It is the thought that has been aimed at by the visionaries of all ages, the dream of earthly perfection wrought by a full recognition of the Divine presence in each aspect of our every-day life. Death is not regarded as a barrier between earthly and spiritual existence; it is a door through which the spirit passes from one plane of existence to another. We imagine that the present war will be responsible for the production of many books on this subject. It is impossible not to think of death; it is equally impossible to regard it with indifference. Already we hear of battle-field visions which have come to the support of some of our least imaginative soldiers in the time of their greatest stress in Flanders and elsewhere.

Mr. Tudor-Pole feels the moving of vaster powers than our own above the chaos of the battle-field, and he urges us to think, and to enquire, and to pray. We neither accept nor reject his arguments, but although his book is lamentably lacking in cohesion it is still well worth reading. The author, however, has to a certain extent undermined the possible usefulness of his book by a tendency to looseness in his moralisings, as for instance, when he recounts a harmless tale against England given him in parable by a sheikh in Egypt, and concludes by remarking that: "This is the Oriental idea of the way in which Great Britain has become possessed of her colonies and dependencies." He might have said with truth that this is *an* Oriental idea; to use the word *the* as though the sheikh's opinion was held by Orientals generally is preposterous.

† "The Great War. Some Deeper Issues." By W. Tudor Pole. With a Foreword by Stephen Graham. (G. Bell and Sons, Limited. 2s. net.)

BOOK RECEIVED.

Fate and Free-Will. By Ardaser Sobrabjee N. Wadia, M.A. (J. M. Dent and Sons. 2s. 6d. net.)

MASSACRE AT VAN.

A telegram received in London from the Russian Consul at Urumiah, dated May 15, announces that 6,000 Armenians have been massacred at Van. It is added that the people are defending themselves as well as they can against the Turks and Kurds, but that help is urgently needed.

A telegram from Cettinje, received by Sir J. Roper Parkington, Consul-General for Montenegro, states that Austrian soldiers are driving Bosnian villagers over the frontier into Montenegro. Fighting has taken place in the Gorazda district between Austrian and Montenegrin troops, the latter maintaining their positions.

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1915.	1915.		1333.	5675.
May	May		Rejeb.	Sivan.
21	8	Friday	7	8
22	9	Saturday.....	8	9
23	10	Sunday	9	10
24	11	Monday	10	11
25	12	Tuesday	11	12
26	13	Wednesday	12	13
27	14	Thursday	13	14

Monday is the birthday of H.R.H. Princess Elisabeth of Greece, second daughter of Prince Nicholas, and niece of King Constantine.

Wednesday is the birthday of H.M. the Queen.

On Thursday of last week the Hellenic Minister received a telegram from Athens announcing that King Constantine was suffering from pleurisy. Happily the latest bulletins report that his Majesty's condition is, upon the whole, satisfactory.

Our Sofia Correspondent writes (May 4):—Last Wednesday Prince Mehmed Burhan-ed-Din, the youngest son of the ex-Sultan Abdul Hamid, accompanied by his aide-de-camp, Hassan Ali Bey, and an old woman, arrived at Sofia at 1.30 p.m., coming from Constantinople. He left the same evening for Bucharest, travelling by way of Rustchuk.

Lord Kitchener had an audience of the King last Friday.

Prince S. Cantacuzene, a member of the Roumanian Parliament, after spending several weeks in London, left town on Tuesday for Bucharest.

The Greek Minister and Mme. Gennadius returned to the Legation on Tuesday from the country.

M. de Giers, the new Russian Ambassador to the Court of Rome, was received by King Victor Emmanuel on Tuesday, and presented his credentials.

A Reuter's message reports that General Gouraud, the new Commander-in-Chief of the French forces in the Dardanelles, has arrived at the front.

Sir William Willcocks is reported to have arrived in Roumania from Egypt in connection with some important irrigation schemes which the Roumanian Government is considering.

Mr. Wedgwood Benn, M.P., arrived at Alexandria on April 23, and is staying for a short time in the desert at Sidi Bishr.

Our Special Correspondent in Athens reports, under date of May 10: Mr. Keyser and daughters have arrived from Smyrna. Mr. Keyser has proceeded to France and England, and his two daughters are staying at the Ilion Palace Hotel.

Mr. Edward Barff has also left Smyrna and has gone on to England.

Sir Thomas Lipton, with a number of nurses, arrived at Malta on Saturday in his yacht "Erin," en route for Serbia.

STOBART'S MOVABLE HOSPITAL in SERBIA.—Additional FUNDS are URGENTLY REQUIRED to purchase Horse Ambulance for above Unit.—Mrs. Bargrave Deane, 52, Eaton Place, S.W.

The Malta correspondent of the *Morning Post* reports that with the approval of Field-Marshal Lord Methuen, the Admiralty, and the War Office, Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Courtauld Thomson has been appointed Chief Commissioner of the Order of St. John and the British Red Cross Society of Malta and the Near East. Sir Courtauld will be responsible for the organisation and co-ordination of the Red Cross in the Island. Colonel Sir Frederick Treves, who accompanies Sir Courtauld, has, with Lord Methuen, visited most of the hospitals with a view to ascertaining how the two societies can best assist.

Under date of May 17, the same correspondent reports that Sir Frederick Treves and Sir Courtauld Thomson, of the British Red Cross Society, have left Malta for Egypt. Sir Thomas Lipton's yacht "Erin" left on Saturday for Salonika with Red Cross units for Serbia.

On Wednesday afternoon, at Queen's Hall, M. Miyatovitch, former Serbian Minister to the Court of St. James, gave an address to members of the Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association and their friends on "Social Conditions in Serbia."

In Henry VII.'s Chapel, Westminster Abbey, the marriage was solemnised last Saturday morning of the Hon. Geoffrey Howard, M.P., son of the Earl of Carlisle, to the Hon. Ethel Christian Methuen, eldest daughter of Field-Marshal Lord Methuen, Governor of Malta. In the unavoidable absence of Lord Methuen the bride was given away by her brother, the Hon. Paul Methuen. She was attended by one maid, her sister, the Hon. Ellen Seymour Methuen, and the Hon. Edwin Montagu, M.P. (Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster), acted as best man. Among those present were Lady Methuen, the Prime Minister and Mrs. Asquith, the Duke and Duchess of Somerset, Viscount Gladstone, Lord Sydenham, Lady Murray, Sir John Fuller, and Mrs. Winston Churchill.

Mr. A. S. Delany, who recently arrived in Ireland from the Sudan, has been given a commission in the Dublin Fusiliers.

A telegram from Cettinje, received in London last Friday, states that the death of Mr. Charles Tapp, one of the ambulance officers of the British Medical Mission despatched to Montenegro from England last January, has aroused the deepest sympathy there. The Montenegrin Government and the Committee of the Montenegrin Red Cross have sent expressions of regret to the British Minister.

News was received in London yesterday that Lieutenant-General Sir W. R. Birdwood, K.C.S.I., C.B., D.S.O., in command of the Australasian Force on the Gallipoli Peninsula, has been wounded. We are glad to learn, however, that the wound is a slight one. At the time he was selected to lead the Commonwealth troops and the New Zealanders, Sir William Birdwood was Secretary of the Army Department at Delhi, and he had previously held several important posts in India, amongst others those of Assistant Military Secretary and Persian Interpreter under Lord Kitchener.

Lieutenant-Colonel John Campbell, D.S.O., 2nd Cameron Highlanders, who is reported wounded with the Expeditionary Force, served under Lord Kitchener in the Sudan, where the Camerons led the charge at the Atbara, and took part in the Battle of Omdurman. He also served in the South African War.

Lieutenant-Colonel R. J. Bridgford, D.S.O., 2nd Shropshire Light Infantry, who is reported wounded while serving with the Expeditionary Force, at one time commanded the Egyptian Mounted Infantry.

Lieutenant-Colonel G. Swinton Tulloh, commanding the 2nd Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment, who is reported killed in action, had seen service in Egypt, South Africa, Malta, India, and Ceylon.

Major John Harington, 4th Rifle Brigade, who is reported wounded at the Front, served with Lord Kitchener in the advance on Khartoum, and took part in the operations against the Mad Mullah in 1903. He has also seen service in Central Africa and in the South African War.

Major A. H. Festing, C.M.G., D.S.O., 1st Royal Irish Rifles, reported killed in action while serving with the Expeditionary Force, had done much useful work on the Nile, being extra-regimentally employed.

Fleet Paymaster Arthur R. G. Beal, H.M.S. "Goliath," who is reported missing, was clerk of H.M.S. "Minotaur" during the Egyptian War of 1882, and was awarded the Egyptian Medal and the Khedive's Bronze Star.

Captain G. C. S. MacLeod, 2nd Battalion Black Watch, who is reported to have died at Bethune on May 13 of wounds received in action on the 9th inst., served with the Egyptian Army from 1906 to 1908.

Captain Francis S. Brodigan, 1st Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment, who was killed in action recently, was the only son of the late Colonel Brodigan, of Pilltown House, Drogheda, Co. Meath, who, in the same regiment, served with much distinction throughout the Crimean War.

Lieutenant Brian T. R. Mellard, who was killed in action at the Dardanelles, was a nephew of the Prime Minister.

Lieutenant James Arthur Chetwynd Inglis, 4th Battalion Highland Light Infantry, attached 1st Batt. Seaforth Highlanders, who is reported killed in action in Flanders on the 9th inst., was the only son of Major J. A. S. Inglis, who was at one time Commissioner of Nicosia, Cyprus.

We regret to learn that Mr. Arthur T. Upson, superintendent of the Nile Mission Press, Cairo, has been medically advised to leave Egypt for several months in order to avoid a breakdown due to nerve strain. Mr. and Mrs. Upson are due to arrive in England this week, travelling via France, and the following address will always find them: Care of Nile Mission Press, 16, Southfield Road, Tunbridge Wells.

The death is announced from Southampton of Mr. James Herbert, who served with the 1st Battalion 25th Regiment at the Siege of Sebastopol. He had recently celebrated his golden wedding.

At His Majesty's Theatre "The Right to Kill" has been somewhat curtailed, and modifications have been introduced, which put the heroine in a more sympathetic light.

Our Cairo "season" contemporary, the *Sphinx*, has suspended publication, as usual, for the summer months. This weekly publication, intended to chronicle the doings of society visitors to the Nile Valley, has had to contend, naturally, with adverse circumstances owing to the war, but, under the able editorship of Miss Griffiths, it has worthily maintained the traditions of former seasons. We can only hope that conditions will have sufficiently improved by next winter to ensure the successful continuance of the paper, which fills a decided want in the capital of Egypt.

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APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, etc.

Our Cyprus Correspondent informs us that Mr. Thomas Greenwood, Local Commandant of Police, has been appointed to act as District Commissioner, Larnaca, during the absence on leave of Mr. C. B. Wodehouse.

Mr. Charles E. Hamson, lately Vice-Consul at Constantinople, and more recently employed in the Passport Department of the Foreign Office, was appointed H.M. Vice-Consul at Dunkirk, and left for his post on April 28. His family has remained in London, and continues to reside at 139, Ladbroke Road, Holland Park, W.

The following Egyptian Government officials passed the elementary examination in Arabic for non-Egyptians held on April 10 and following days:—William Butler Bently, Ministry of Finance; Alexander Evelyn Cardew, Ministry of Finance; Charles Docker, Instructor, Intermediate School of Accountancy and Commerce; Elliot FitzGibbon, Ministry of the Interior; Georges Ligonniére, Instructor, Intermediate School of Accountancy and Commerce; Reginald George Randall, Ministry of Education; Arthur Walton, Instructor, Intermediate School of Accountancy and Commerce; Charles Anthony Williams, Ministry of Agriculture.

ROLL OF HONOUR.

British Subjects from Turkey in H.M.'s Forces.

ASHE, Lance-Corp. R., R.E.
ATKINSON, Bombardier G. M., 266th Battery, 85th Brigade, R.F.A. Colchester.
ATKINSON, Gunner T., "A" Co. Royal Field Artillery.
BAKER, Lieut. A. Warden, 7th Royal Scots Fusiliers.
BARRON, Lance-Corporal J. B., First Canadian Contingent (formerly of the St. George's Boys' School, Jerusalem).
BINNS, Rifleman Edward, 8th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
BINNS, Bombardier Harold H. (49,567), Battery Office, 34th Reserve Battery, R.F.A., 6b Reserve Brigade, Piershill Barracks, Edinburgh.
BINNS, Lieut. C. E., R.M. (Interpreter to Mediterranean Forces).
BOLTON, Alfred, Naval Brigade.
BOND, Private H. C., 7th (Reserve) City of London Regt.
BOND, Gladwyn J. T., Inns of Court O.T.C.
BOND, Trooper S. (1779), Royal Horse Guards.
BOND, Corporal R., Royal Field Artillery, Durlston House, Park Road, Swanage.
BORRELL, Rifleman Alfred, 8th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
BOWMAN, Private Henry J., R.A.M.C., Duke of York's Barracks, Chelsea.
BROOKS, Corporal G., Royal Field Artillery, Swanage.
CASTELL, Rifleman Henry, 8th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
CATCHI, Act. Corporal Henry (6113), 19th Service Battalion, C Company, Royal Fusiliers, Epsom, Surrey.
CLIFTON, Capt. Ernest H., Durham Light Infantry.
COLES, Dr. D. A., R.A.M.C. (formerly of the English Hospital, Haifa).
COLLEY, Trooper Isaac E., Royal Horse Guards.
CRAWFORD, Private James, 7th (Reserve) City of London Regiment.
CUMBERBATCH, Lieut. A. Noël, 9th East Yorkshire Regiment, Fulford Barracks, York.
CUMBERBATCH, 2nd Lieut. H. D., 9th Batt. the Buffs.
CUMBERBATCH, Lieut. and Adjutant R. C., 15th Batt. Rifle Brigade.
CUMING, Bombardier A. C., 262nd Battery R.F.A., 84th Brigade, Colchester.
DAVIDSON, Bombardier C. T., 266th Battery, 85th Brigade, R.F.A., Colchester.
ELLIOTT, Eric C., 2nd Lieut., Essex Regiment, 11th Batt.
EPPSTEIN, Lieut. W. R., Durham Light Infantry.
FAULKNER, Lieut. M., Admiralty House, Malta.
FROMANT, Private F., Grenadier Guards.
GALLIA, Rifleman M., 7th (S) Batt. Rifle Brigade.
GOODACRE, Miss C., Red Cross, Shoreham.
GOUT, Lieut. Charles L. 4th (R) King's Own Yorkshire L.I., Drill Hall, Bank Street, Wakefield.
GOUT, Rifleman Evelyn, 8th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
GOUT, Rifleman Richard, 8th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
HADKINSON, Rifleman Vivian, 8th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
HIGGS, Private J., 6th Dragoon Guards.
HOLTON, Alfred, Naval Brigade.
HOLTON, Trooper John, Essex Yeomanry.
HOYLAND, 2nd Lieut., H.A.D. (Interpreter to the Mediterranean Forces).
IRELAND, Private D. J. (3346), 15th County of London Regiment.
JACKSON, Rifleman Edward, 8th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
KERR, Miss E., Army Nursing Corps, France.
KEYSER, Lieut. A.G., 8th Batt. King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry.
KEYSER, 2nd Lieut. R. N., 10th Batt. East Lancashire Regiment.
KEYSER, 2nd Lieut. Henry, 2/10th Batt. Middlesex Regiment.
KEYSER, 2nd Lieut. J. C., 2/9th Batt. (D.C.O.) Middlesex Regiment.
LA FONTAINE, Rifleman Fred., 8th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
LA FONTAINE, Lance-Corporal Hugh, 7th (Res.) City of London Regiment.
LA FONTAINE, Sub-Lieut. J. S., Royal Naval Division, Crystal Palace, S.E.
LANDER, 2nd Lieut. Arthur.
LORIMER, Private D., Army Service Corps, Aldershot.
MICHEU, Bombardier C. G., Royal Field Artillery.
MOORE, Miss K. M., St. John of Jerusalem, France.
MORRISON, J., O.T.C., Inns of Court.
MORTON, Private Stanley, 2nd Sportsman's Battalion.
MOSS, 2nd Lieut., Public Schools Battalion.
MUNRO, 2nd Lieut. J. G., 4th Scottish Rifles, Fort Matilda, Greenock.
NOWILL, Private Sidney, 7th (Res.) City of London Regiment.
PARKER, Trooper G., Royal Horse Guards.
PATERSON, Lieut. Alexander, R.A.M.C., 3rd Batt. Black Watch, Nigg, Rosshire, N.B.
PEACOCK, Sapper Frank, R.E.
PENGELLEY, Sapper Walter, R.E.
RAMSAY, Corporal F. R. F., 14th Service Batt. Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.
REES, Trooper R. (1709), Squadron D (in Egypt), Herts Yeomanry, c.o. G.P.O., Southampton.
ROBINSON, Lance-Corporal J. E., Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment (formerly of the C.M.S. College, Jerusalem).
RICE, Rifleman Cecil, 8th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
ROUTH, 2nd Lieut. C., 3rd/8th (D.C.O.) Middlesex Regiment.
SACKVILLE-WEST, 2nd Lieut. Hon. B., R.N.V.R.
SEAGER, Lieut. John Owen, Public Schools Batt., 16th Middlesex Regiment, Woldingham.
SHAW, 2nd Lieut. T., R.E.
SIMMONS, Gunner H. C. (56,799), No. 123, Heavy Battery R.G.A., Woolwich, S.E.
STOCK, Lieut. H. W., Royal Marines. (Serving abroad.)
SUNDERLAND, Interpreter (at the front).
THOMPSON, Lieut. Harold H., R.N.V.R.
THOMPSON, Commander W. A., R.N.V.R., H.M.S. "Egmont."
THWAITES, Dr. H., R.A.M.C., Wareham.
TRENTER, Trooper T., Household Cavalry.
VAN LENNEP, Private E., 2nd Sportsman's Battalion.
VEDOVA, Rifleman Eghbert, 8th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
VEDOVA, Rifleman Lionel, 8th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
VERE, Lieut.-Commander Harry, R.N.
WARREN, Act.-Corporal R. M., 7th (S.) Batt. Rifle Brigade, Guadeloupe Barracks, Bordon Camp, Hants.
WHEATLEY, Miss, Sister Q.A.I.M.N.S.R., No. 3 Casualty Clearing Station, British Expeditionary Force.
WHEELER, Lieut. P. F. C. d'Erf, 1st Dorset Regiment.
WHITTALL, Captain G., 1st Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry.
WHITTALL, 2nd Lieut. Arthur, 7th (Res.) City of London Regiment.
WHITTALL, Lieut. Hugh, Royal Marines. (Serving abroad.)
WHITTALL, Private Kenneth, 10th Batt. Royal Fusiliers, Colchester.
WHITTALL, Private Roland, 10th Batt. Royal Fusiliers, Colchester.
WHITTALL, Rifleman Walter, 8th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.

NEAR EAST DIRECTORY.

The Directory of the present addresses of residents in Turkey who have left that country in consequence of the war does not appear in this issue. The complete Directory will appear as often as space permits. It was last published in our issue of May 14. The following is a list of additions and changes of address received since that date:—

EADY, Griffin, Hotel Grande Bretagne, Athens.
GANDON, J., Hotel Grand Bretagne, Athens.
MUMFORD, Newman, Hotel Alexander le Grand, Athens.
VERE, Harry, Hotel Grande Bretagne, Athens.
WHITTALL, Charlton, Hotel d'Angleterre, Athens.
WHITTALL, Edwin, Hotel Grand Bretagne, Athens.
WHITTALL, W. J. W., Hotel Minerva, Athens.

For the benefit of their friends we hope our readers will assist us in keeping the Directory as up to date as possible by notifying us of any changes of address, etc., at the earliest opportunity.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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

BIRTHS.

FERGUSON.—May 16, at 9, South Square, Boston, Lincs., the wife of Frank Ferguson, of a son.

HUTT.—On the 14th inst., at Aspenden, Hertfordshire, the wife of Lieutenant John Hutt, R.N.V.R. (on active service), of a son. Malta papers, please copy.

DEATH.

BRIAN.—Killed in action, in France, on May 9, Lieutenant Herbert Cecil Brian, R.G.A., eldest and dearly loved son of Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Brian, of Cairo, Egypt, and of Holmburg, Berkhamsted. Aged twenty-three years.

The partnership formerly existing between Messrs. Joseph Cohen, Jacques Eskenazi, and N. Babani having been dissolved, the Han Halil shop of JOSEPH COHEN is now in the same road, near the Arch Way, Cairo, entrance from the Mousky. Friends and customers are respectfully requested to visit the new shop when visiting the Bazaar, where they will find a rich assortment of carpets, embroideries, etc., etc.—Advt.

WHERE TO STAY.

Cairo's Hotels de Luxe.

SHEPHEARD'S HOTEL.
Open all the year round.

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

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

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

UPPER EGYPT.

Luxor.
The Winter Palace. The Luxor Hotel.
The Karnak Hotel.

Assouan.
The Cataract Hotel. The Savoy Hotel.
The Grand Hotel.
Are the Finest on the Nile.

Alexandria.
MAJESTIC HOTEL.
Every modern comfort and luxury. Private apartments with bath-rooms attached & combined suites.
150 ROOMS AND SALOONS.
Hot and cold water in each bedroom. Large and luxurious dining rooms. American bar and restaurant stocked with best wines and liquors. Garden terrace. Verandah. Lift. Motor Car, Guides and Interpreters meet all trains and ships on arrival.
Moderate and Inclusive Terms

Alexandria.
WINDSOR HOTEL (*Facing the Sea on the New Quay*).
Most delightful and healthy situation of any Hotel in Alexandria. Electric Light throughout. Daily Concerts on Verandah. Meals served *al fresco*. French Cuisine and English Management.
Inclusive Terms from P.T. 60 (10s.) per day.
Special Terms to Government Officials, Commercial Travellers, and for long stays.
Proprietor and Manager—AUG. van MILLINGEN.

Alexandria.
CARLTON HOTEL, Bulkeley.
Just outside Alexandria. Half-way to San Stefano.
Ramleh's Fashionable Hotel.
Patronised by the Elite.
Open all the year round. Visitors from Cairo alight at Sidi Gaber Station and thence drive to Bulkeley in five minutes. **Full Pension P.T. 50 per day.**
C. AQUILINA, *Proprietor.*
(Late of Messrs. Thos. Cook & Son.)

Bucharest, Roumania.
GRAND HOTEL DU BOULEVARD.
The Rendezvous Hotel of the Diplomatic World and Distinguished Visitors to Roumania.
Entirely renovated, with all Modern Comfort. Unrivalled Cuisine.
FAMOUS ROUMANIAN BAND.
Admirably situated in the very centre of the Town.
LUCIAN BERTOLA, Proprietor.

Cyprus.
THE CYPRUS HOTEL CO.
Open all the Year round—
LIMASSOL (Olympus Hotel).
FAMAGUSTA (Savoy Hotel).
For Summer Seasons—
PLATRES (Platres Hotel). 4,000 ft. from the sea level. Opens from May till Oct.
TROODOS (Olympus Hotel). 6,000 ft. from the level of the sea. Opens from May till Oct.
Perfect Situation. French and English Cuisine. Moderate Terms. Also Excursion to Mount Troodos.
For Tickets and further particulars apply to—
NAJEM HOURY, Limassol, Cyprus
(*Proprietor of the Army and Navy Stores*).
Head Office: Najem Houry Stores, Limassol, Cyprus.
Branches: Polymedia, Troodos, Nicosia, Famagusta, Larnaca, and Platres.
All arrangements for Transport by Carriages, etc. are made by the above Firm.

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THE NEAR EAST.

Editorial and Publishing Offices:
DEVONSHIRE SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

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

FRIDAY, MAY 21, 1915.

BRITISH DIPLOMACY IN THE NEAR EAST.

A new and welcome departure in British diplomacy in the Near East has to be recorded. In the first week in May Sir Edward Grey received, through the kind offices of the American Ambassador in Constantinople, an intimation to the effect that in view of the bombardment of Gallipoli and other places Enver Pasha had decided to send to the danger zone in Gallipoli Peninsula a number of British subjects and French citizens in order to expose them to the same perils as Turkish non-combatants in this zone. The step would not be taken, however, if by May 6 Great Britain gave the Porte an assurance that the bombardment of Gallipoli and other "unfortified" places would be discontinued. Sir Edward Grey's reply to this communication was brief. He asked the American Ambassador to be good enough to inform the Ottoman Government that, if British or French non-combatants were transported to those places which, owing to the presence of the Ottoman army, fall within the zone of present military operations, his Majesty's Government would hold Enver Pasha, the Grand Vizier, the members of the present Ottoman Ministry, as well as the military authorities commanding the Turkish troops, personally responsible for the life of any British subject or French citizen so transported, and for any hurt, damage, or wounds which such nationals might receive. Meanwhile, on May 6 the Turkish Government had selected twenty-six British subjects and twenty-four French citizens and shipped them on a transport to Gallipoli. In reply to the American Ambassador's request that no action should be taken until an answer had been received from the British and French Governments, Enver Pasha stated that, having given the order and issued it to the military authorities, he could not countermand it without serious injury to army discipline. The fifty hostages, however, do not appear to have been landed, and on receiving the Allies' reply the Turkish Government recalled the transport to Constantinople.

The significance of this incident, we may hope, will not be overlooked. In the first place it will be a matter of genuine regret to many to learn that the Turks are abandoning the correct attitude which they appeared to have adopted for the conduct of this war. The appalling excesses of their Kurdish irregulars against the unarmed population of the territory on both sides of the Persian frontier have been in a category by themselves, unless we have to credit reports just received of terrible outrages on wounded and prisoners committed by the enemy on Gallipoli Peninsula. But where circumstances placed citizens of the Allied States in the power of the Turkish authorities in Baghdad, Busreh, and elsewhere no complaint of actually inhumane treatment has had to be raised. It has been left to the authorities in Constantinople, under the instigation, no doubt, of their German taskmasters, to sink to the level of German barbarity. The proposal to place British and French hostages within the zone of military operations has had its counterpart in the employment by the Germans in Belgium of women and children as a screen for their own troops in the presence of the Allied forces. It is a piece of villainy which would have been denounced throughout the civilized world, if the sum total of German atrocities had not forestalled indignation over any one particular outrage. For the moment, however, we are more concerned with the chain of events which thwarted the Turkish Government of its purpose. It announced its intention of resorting to a barbarous practice in the hope of prejudicing the Allies' military and naval operations at the Dardanelles. Sir Edward Grey's reply was prompt and emphatic. He made no attempt to strike a bargain with the Turks or to parley with them in the hope of persuading them of the error of their ways. For the lives and well-being of any British subject or French citizen the lives of the members of the Turkish Government and of the military authorities countenancing the outrage would be held forfeit. Enver Pasha and his colleagues appreciated the directness of the reply, and the transport sent to Gallipoli was ordered to return to Constantinople. The episode, we trust, will bear fruit for the rest of the war, so that Turkey at least may be spared, when peace is signed, the additional humility of making reparation for criminal outrages. We cannot tell to what extent the kind offices of the American Ambassador, who has done so much for the Allies since the outbreak of war with Turkey, were a factor in the result, but we feel confident that the straightforward and unequivocal tone of Sir Edward Grey's communication was the keynote of its success.

But Sir Edward Grey's reply ought to have far more significance for British diplomacy. It implies, we may hope, a complete break with the procedure of recent years, during which the British Government has allowed its influence in the Near East to be almost entirely eliminated. From the vigorous diplomacy of Sir William White's days we have relapsed into a condition in which our representatives are merely content to wait on the turn of events and consider the Empire well served if they merely ask for and pass on instructions from the Foreign Office. Personal influence and strength of character are the only qualities that Orientals really understand. They contributed mainly to the success of Baron Marschall von Bieberstein with the Porte. The mere fact that for a number of years no ambassador of commanding personality has represented us at Constantinople has been regarded by the Turks as evidence that the star of the British Empire was setting. That we should be satisfied to see Germany making the Near East the special feature of her diplomatic service, while we continued to treat it as a backwater of our own service, could only mean to the Turkish mind that we had definitively abandoned any claim to a leading position in Europe. That policy has borne, and is still bearing, bitter fruit for Great Britain. Orientals do not understand what our politicians call generosity or liberality. They mistake it for weakness. Whatever may be the territorial changes introduced as a result of this war, the Near East will continue to play an important part in the destinies of Europe. The individual States may be relatively small, but their capacity for shaping the trend of European politics is considerable. We can only hope to exercise a salutary influence in these territories, if we select hereafter as our representatives men of strong character—not necessarily tactless ones. Among the causes that will have led to Turkey's undoing there is no doubt she can fairly include want of guidance from our diplomatic representatives, more particularly as she had always had reason to regard our country as her best friend. She had a right to expect a measure of protection from the ever-increasing incubus of German intrigue. We gave her none; on the contrary, we ignored the danger as long as we conveniently could, and when it was thrust upon our attention we would make some protest, but usually contrived to step still farther into the background, leaving yet a wider field open to the Germans. Chance seems to have guided the British Government once more into the wisest way of dealing with the Turks, and we will hope that the attendant success will serve to commend it. At the end of the war they will need our disinterested friendship as much as ever; but to be effective it must be given incisively and without wavering.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

Subscribers to "THE NEAR EAST" who have left the Ottoman Dominions recently will oblige by notifying the Manager of their new address as early as possible, so that the supply of the paper should not be unduly interrupted.

"THE NEAR EAST" has largely increased its circulation in the United Kingdom since the war, and the Management is convinced that there are many people still who would be glad to know of its existence. Specimen copies will be forwarded post free if the names and addresses of friends are sent to the Manager, at 16-17, Devonshire Square, E.C.

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JUSTICE IN EGYPT.

JUDICIAL ADVISER'S REPORT FOR 1913-14.

(By Our Cairo Correspondent.)

In view of the fact that H.B.M.'s Representative in Egypt will not issue his reports this year, an unusual interest attaches to those published by the different administrations, as they constitute, in the circumstances, the sole means at the disposal of the public for judging of the progress made during the past year. Recently I had occasion to review the Note on the Budget by the Financial Adviser. To-day I am able, similarly, to deal with the report on the judicial administration of the country, presented by Sir Malcolm McIlwraith, Judicial Adviser to the Egyptian Government.

The report opens by pointing out that whilst the outbreak of war must have affected the judicial administration, just as it has affected most other things in the counry, it is as yet too early to gauge the nature and extent of the effects thus produced. The judicial year ends on October 31, which means that the one under review covered three months of the war. Those three months showed a marked diminution in crime and litigation, there being a decrease of 78 crimes, 5,000 civil cases in the Summary Courts, and 8,000 in the Cantonal Courts. But the check given to the criminal and litigious proclivities of the people appears to have been merely a momentary one, for since November there has been a very large increase in both classes of work, the number of cases in the Cantonal Courts alone amounting in January to no less than 45,000, the monthly average for the previous year having been 22,000. The Adviser concludes that as regards crime and litigation "it seems likely that the figures for 1914-1915 will be largely in excess of those for the year under review." In so far as legislation is concerned, this from the point of view of the Ministry of Justice almost entirely ceased with the proclamation of Martial Law in November last, since when legislation has been usually effected by Military Proclamation.

Native Civil Jurisdiction.

With the exception of the Courts of First Instance in Appeal and of the Cantonal Courts, the number of new cases brought before the various Civil Courts of the Native Tribunals decreased during the year. The total number was 376,027, as against 482,347; the most important decrease was in the Summary Courts, where, despite the extension of their competence to £E150, the number of new cases dropped from 206,892 to 98,199. This decrease is due to the institution of the Cantonal Courts, and as the fall has been continuous and steady throughout the twelve months, "the outbreak of war and the consequent moratorium do not appear to have had any appreciable influence on the number of cases." It is satisfactory to note that the number of cases awaiting trial at the end of the year in all the Civil Courts, except the Central Tribunals in Appeal, has decreased.

The Cantonal Courts.

The new cases before the Cantonal Courts increased last year by 14,713, or 5.8 per cent. Of these 43,229 were Summary Court cases brought before the aforementioned courts with a view to first effecting a compromise, according to the law—7.3 per cent. of these cases were eventually settled by agreement; 1,139, being outside their jurisdiction, were, nevertheless, brought before them by agreement between the parties. Appeals appear to be beginning to pile up, for whilst the 265,949 new cases make an average per tribunal of 1,131, as against 1,070 the previous year, the numbers awaiting trial and in suspense at the end of the twelvemonth averaged respectively 78 and 13 per tribunal, compared with 62 and 8 at the close of the judicial year 1912-1913.

The Judicial Adviser is of opinion that these courts, which are now in their third year, "have certainly proved a great success" from the point of view of the volume of work laid upon them. As a proof of the fellahs' appreciation of their institution, he points to the fact that of the 376,027 civil cases entered for trial last year 70.7 per cent. were brought before the Cantonal Courts. About half these cases are for sums under £E1, and so are heard without fees, which prompts Sir Malcolm to remark, "that it is open to question whether it is desirable to render litigation so cheap as to encourage people to come forward with vast numbers of petty claims without making any contribution to the general expenses of judicial administration. The Judicial Adviser has doubts as to whether the phenomenal volume of business that has flowed into these courts shows that they supply a long-felt want, or whether the provision of this popular system of justice has not stimulated, if it has not largely created, the production of claims. At the same time he is of opinion that "there is probably no intention of interfering now with the policy to which they owe their existence." The justice they administer may be defective in individual cases, but there appears to be no evidence "that in the vast mass of business the people are dissatisfied with the decisions of the notables." This fact is certainly borne out by the manner in which the decisions in penal cases were received. In only thirteen cases was an appeal made, and as proof of the fairness of the notables' judgment, in eight of these the sentences were confirmed, whilst in the 888 appeals made in civil cases 78 per cent. of the judgments were confirmed.

Native Criminal Jurisdiction.

Crime during 1913-1914 showed a gratifying reduction of 327 cases, or 8 per cent., reverting for all practical purposes to the figure recorded in 1911-1912. With the exception of arson, which increased by 13.2 per cent., there has been a decrease in almost every category. Murder, continuing its previous year's tendency, and attempted murder have both fallen off appreciably, especially in Assiut, which has ever enjoyed an unsavoury criminal reputation. An interesting table inserted in this year's report shows that there is possibly some connection between the number of arms seized by the Mudirias and the reduction in serious crime. In 1913 300,000 and in 1914 25,000 firearms were thus seized. "A continuation of this activity should have excellent effects in diminishing crime."

Criminal inquiries rose by 1.9 per cent. to 235,842, of which 196,138 were classed as real cases. The decrease of 16.1 per cent. in the arrears shows that the Parquet was able fully to cope with the work. On the other hand, it is unsatisfactory to note that the percentage of cases filed temporarily for want of evidence has risen. Misdemeanours once again show an unfortunate upward tendency, jumping to 98,548 cases from 92,938 in the previous year. The principal heads of increase are destruction of crops, cattle-poisoning, misappropriation, common assault, resistance to the authorities, and cotton worm. The last-named is, if anything, welcome, as it indicates that the law for the extermination of that pest is being put into effect, but, generally speaking, it is difficult to find a reason for this rise in misdemeanours. "The economic condition of Egypt may account for an increase in the number of thefts and vagrancy, but there is no apparent reason why common assault and resistance to the authorities should have increased."

On the other hand, contraventions as a whole decreased slightly, though in certain categories there are marked increases, due to activity in certain directions by the authorities, or to the creation of a new service, such, for instance, as that of weights and measures. It is surprising to note that practically all the cases made out under the "Protection of Useful Birds Law" were at Alexandria and Damietta. The only conclusion to be drawn therefrom is that the provincial authorities are slack in this respect. One would do wrong to assume that the absence of cases in the other parts of the country indicates obedience to this particular law, since the mere fact of the latter's great utility to the country would serve to render such obedience quite contrary to native habit. Considering the havoc that is wrought by the cotton pests and, at the moment, by the locusts, and the great assistance that these birds give in the work of extermination, it is to be hoped that steps will be taken to force the local authorities vigorously to apply this useful law.

In view of the campaign against drink that is being waged at home, it is interesting to study the statistics of prosecutions for drunkenness in this country. Cairo comes easily first with 2,405 such cases—of which 59 were against foreign subjects; Alexandria comes next with 481 cases (28 foreign subjects), Port Said third with 436 cases (13 foreign subjects), and Suez fourth with 259 (7 foreign subjects). It is curious to note that the proportion per 10,000 inhabitants at Port Said and Suez is extraordinarily high—87 and 143 respectively, whilst that at Alexandria for some inexplicable reason is markedly low. The report points out that drunkenness amongst natives is prevalent at Tanta, Minia, Luxor, Assiut, Beni-Suef, and Sohag, and adds: "It will be noticed that all these places have a European population of some size." Seeing that alcoholic drink is forbidden by the Koran, it would be interesting to have statistics showing the religions of the persons prosecuted.

Work of the Courts.

The number of persons who applied to the Cassation Court on points of law against sentences for crime or for misdemeanour was 2,046; of these only 55 were admitted. There has been a slight increase in the number of cases judged by the Assize Court—2,504, against 2,442 in 1912-1913. The percentage of acquittals in both cases and persons has fallen off, and in both categories compares favourably with foreign statistics. But while the decrease in acquittals on murder and attempted murder charges is, in the opinion of the Judicial Adviser, very satisfactory, the increase in those on charges of arson and forgery seems to indicate that the *Juge de renvoi* has not been sufficiently careful in his preliminary work. The Assize Courts set the same number of days per month, and decided the same number of cases per day, as in 1912-1913, but Sir Malcolm adds: "I regret to state that the average number of days between the commission of a crime and its final judgment has again increased from 103 to 107."

The Summary Courts tried 101,738 cases of misdemeanours, contraventions, etc., as against 81,112 in 1912-1913. The proportion of persons tried for misdemeanour per 100,000

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inhabitants was 1,041, as compared with 611 in France, and the percentage of men to women was 6.7 per cent., as against 13.5 per cent. in France. Fewer paid their fines and more elected for labour instead of fine than in the previous year, clearly a sign of the economic stringency. The Cantonal Courts tried 6,661 cases, as against 6,065 the previous year. The percentage of acquittals was high, 56.4 per cent., but this was "probably on account of the disputants becoming reconciled in court."

There has been a slight decrease in the periods of preventive arrest, except before the Assize Courts. Indeed, in the latter the condition of affairs is far from satisfactory, for of 536 persons subsequently convicted, 108 were kept under arrest for five months and over, and of 216 persons subsequently acquitted, 76 were confined for similar periods.

Under Law No. 12 of 1912, persons sentenced to simple imprisonment not exceeding three months could be employed on extramural labour. Of the 14,051 persons thus sentenced, 10,360, of 73.7 per cent., elected for labour in lieu, and taking into consideration those who elected for labour instead of fines and costs, 37,458 persons actually worked without pay for the Government, benefiting the latter to the extent of £E1,800. Juvenile offenders, after showing a decrease in the previous year, are again on the upward grade, having increased by 6.3 per cent. to 5,129. The Judicial Adviser again draws attention to the fact that "there is still no proper method in this country of dealing with the hordes of juveniles who infest the large centres," but as a very large number of boys gain their livelihood by selling papers, he hopes that the new *arrêté* compelling newsvendors to be licensed will enable the police to control them better.

Commenting on the situation as regards crime in general, Sir Malcolm McIlwraith is of opinion that "the headings under which the chief decreases fall are a matter for satisfaction." He draws particular attention to the reduction of crime in Assiut, which "is most marked and, indeed, quite remarkable." But against this decrease in crime has to be set the rise in misdemeanours, which include considerable increases in cases of destruction of crops, cattle poisoning, misappropriation, and common theft. "Poverty," says he, "produced by the economic situation resulting from the war may be responsible for a certain proportion of these increases, but the lawless state of mind of large portions of the population, as exemplified by these figures, is most unsatisfactory." He adds that compulsory education, by improving the position of women in the country, might in time raise the standard of morality among the children, but until the ingrained habits of these classes of the population have been radically changed, some better means of repressing crime must be found. And here the Adviser proceeds to place his finger on the weak joint in the machinery. He declares that no system of repressing crime can succeed unless the Parquet and the Police work in harmony. Co-operation between these two administrations oft-times shines by its absence, and its lack often enables a criminal to escape. Whilst these two mutually necessary administrations continue to exist under present conditions, no improvement in the work of repressing crime may be expected, and Sir Malcolm very practically expresses the opinion that "the time has come to reconsider the whole question."

IVAN MEŠTROVIĆ: SCULPTOR.

By Ernest H. R. Collings.

There has recently been exhibited at the Victoria and Albert Museum, South Kensington, a group of works by Rodin, and the fact that in the same hall are the colossal bronze figure of a Buddha (sixteenth-century Japanese) and the two marble Corean mandarins (Chinese Ming period) reminds us of the gulf between the art of the East and that of the West, which has existed for so long, but which through the ubiquitous searchings of the modern mind may tend to become bridged.

Already we may see the early growth of such a link in the sculpture of Mestrovic, a southern Slav who, racially, stands mid-way between Eastern and Western civilisations.

Ivan Mestrovic was born in 1883 at Urpolje, in Croatia-Slavonia. He spent his boyhood and early youth minding his father's flock until a patron's generosity enabled him to commence a training in the art of sculpture, to which his thoughts were set from early years, and which first showed itself in the carving of wood.

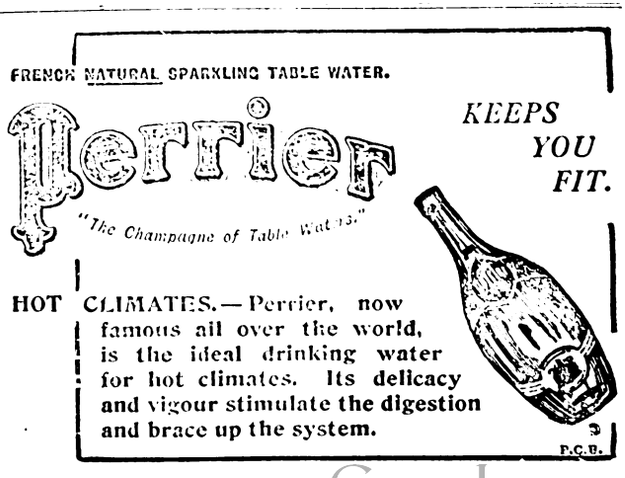
He studied at the Vienna Academy of Fine Arts, and his work shows how thoroughly he took to heart the maxim which is recorded in an official publication of the Ministry for Public Works, Vienna:—"In modelling and drawing from the nude the chief weight is to be placed on the total appearance and the study of movement, and then only are the details to be studied." Further, his student years coincided with those which saw the revival of Austrian art, and his receptive mind must have been alert to all the eager aspirations of that time.

From Vienna he went to Paris, and then to Rome, paying a visit in the meantime to London with the sole object of seeing the Elgin Marbles in the British Museum. His name appears in the catalogue of the Dalmatian Artists' Exhibition in "Elysia," at the Austrian Exhibition, Earl's Court, London, in 1906, "Item 19—Sculptures," but I have no record of the nature of the exhibits. The only example of his work now in England is, I believe, the cast in bronze which belongs to Mr. John Lavery, A.R.A. (lent by him to the International Society's Exhibition at the Grosvenor Gallery in the autumn of 1913), and was taken from the head (modelled from the sculptor's wife) of one of the mourning women intended for the after-mentioned "Temple of Kossovo." Mestrovic's most important work has been shown at Venice (1907), Paris (1909), Vienna (1910), at Rome and Zagreb in 1911, and at Venice last year, when he exhibited in the Salone Centrale of the International Art Exhibition, in addition to several pieces of sculpture, his model for "The Temple of Kossovo," figures and groups for which were the outstanding features of "The Pavilion of the Kingdom of Serbia," at Rome in 1911, a building which may be regarded as a draft model of the temple itself. To the realisation of this project all the sculptor's efforts have been directed. His whole inspiration springs from his deep sense of the brotherhood of the Southern Slavs, their past greatness and their destiny, and "The Temple of Kossovo" is designed as a monument to the national heroes, particularly Marko Kralyevitch and his *pobratim* (brother-in-God), Milos Obilitch, and to those who fell in 1389 on the battlefield of Kossovo when the Serbs entered on their long subjection to the Turks; but the building is more than this, it is a shrine of national ideals, kept down but never dead, and during the last few years awaking in deeds that are leading to the freedom of Serbs, Croats, and their kindred peoples: a temple in which the flame of an unconquered spirit is kept burning. It is necessary when considering his art to remember the powerful stimulus which all his country's joys and sorrows gave this lonely shepherd boy, who never ceased to dream that he would one day give form to those heroic figures which his people's songs kept ever before him. In addition to the sculptures (which include "Sphinx," the huge mounted "Marko Kralyevitch," "Milos Obilitch" (a symbol of the spirit animating the sculptor himself), the series of Caryatides, the groups of widows, and the haunting relief "The Maiden of Kossovo") intended for the temple, Mestrovic has produced various others of great interest, among them, "My Mother" (upon which children would place fresh flowers each morning when it was shown at Zagreb); the perfect "Innocence," a carven stone in which he has enshrined that moment when Nature seems to halt in awed joy before she leads onward the maid to womanhood; and that silent-song in marble, "Remembrance," bought for the Modern Gallery, Vienna.

A writer in the *Manchester Guardian* of October 31, 1912, says: "It is a safe prophecy that in Mestrovic we see the most organic force as well as one of the most subtle craftsmen according in modern sculpture," and if we attempt to compare his art with that of other moderns, we see that he stands apart in singleness of purpose, control of and respect for his material, and in the spiritual fury of his thought, the fusion of which qualities has produced work that rooted in good gross earth flowers naturally to the skies.

We are compelled to judge him in the divine company of the Egyptians, the Greeks, and Michelangelo, and if we apply the most stringent tests can we name another who has a better right to the next place in the *direct* line of true sculptors?

[NOTE.—Since the above was written, Ivan Mestrovic has arrived in London, as also has a representative collection of his work for exhibition at South Kensington Museum.]



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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

On the occasion of my visits to Constantinople I have always found it a rather pleasant city, but I must admit that I have no great desire to return to it again just now. That view, however, is not shared by a good many Englishmen who were until lately resident in the place. I have talked with several of them and received letters from others, and most of them appear to be quite impatient to get back to their old haunts. For instance, one of them, writing from Dedeagatch on May 6, says: "I may say that ever since daylight on Sunday morning, April 25, the bombardment in the Gulf of Saros and the Straits of the Dardanelles has been incessant day and night. From here we have 'assisted' by listening and seeing the flashes occasionally, and with every boom we have felt that we were one step nearer home (Constantinople)."

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Letters written by officers and men taking part in the operations at the head of the Persian Gulf make frequent mention of the mirage, which on one occasion at least appears to have saved our enemy from severe punishment. This, I take it, is not what is known as the true mirage, in which an image of objects, frequently beyond the horizon, is seen reflected in the air; but rather a kind of heat haze, a quivering of the air close to the earth's surface, such as you may see in this country occasionally in the hot weather, especially above a fence or wall, or when lying on the ground. But in Mesopotamia and in other parts of the East this quivering of the air is very much more marked than ever it is in England, and I can readily believe that it must prove a great trial to our troops when they are engaged in shooting, or trying to shoot, the Turks or Arabs. For viewed through its medium, any object at a distance appears blurred and faint, when you can see it at all, and, moreover, it often seems to be jumping up and down when it is in fact perfectly still. Under such conditions it is, for instance, practically impossible for an engineer or surveyor to read a ten-foot rod at a distance of five hundred feet; and for this reason, I am told, surveying work in certain parts of India is invariably suspended during the hot weather.

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But even so, I was surprised to read in the letter from an officer in the Indian cavalry, which was published in THE NEAR EAST of May 7, that the Bedouin "are perfect adepts at attacking from behind mirages." For I had always understood that if, of two people facing one another but widely separated, one observed a mirage in any particular place or direction, it would be either invisible to the other, or would appear in a totally different direction. Under those conditions it would seem that the Bedawi's only chance of carrying out the strategem referred to would lie in a knowledge of optics with which one is hardly inclined to credit him; but it is possible that his wonderfully developed instinct may serve him in lieu of such scientific equipment. At any rate, he knows his native desert as well as, if not better than, the old Londoner knows his own city, and it is obvious that he is quick to take advantage of his knowledge, and as ready as ever to turn his hand "against every man."

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For my own part, I have seen at sea one very perfect mirage—or as sailors call it, I believe, a "looming"—in which a steamer and a sailing vessel, both below the horizon, appeared for a short time suspended in the air; and, very curiously, there were two images of both, one erect and one inverted. I very well remember my surprise when both faded away; for I had never suspected that the erect images were mere phantom ships. On land, too, I have seen the mirage in various forms, the most perfect example being in the Euphrates valley, where I saw a long-drawn-out caravan of camels apparently stalking through the sky. But the commonest form of illusion I am acquainted with in those parts is the appearance of shallow pools of blue water, which, when you reach the spot where you hav marked them down, prove to be absolutely non-existent. Fortunately, this experience has never befallen me at a time when I was suffering from thirst; but I have known caravan animals, which were suffering from want of water, deceived by these appearances, and grievously disappointed when disillusionment fell upon them.

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A trustworthy and well-informed correspondent in Bulgaria informs me that deserters from the Turkish army who escape across the frontier complain bitterly of the shortness of food. It does not necessarily follow from this that the Turkish troops really are on short rations; for, of course, a deserter is always ready to put forward excuses for his desertion, and somehow it seems less damaging to a man's self-respect to say that he took leave because he was underfed rather than because he was afraid. But, for all that, I should not be surprised if there were something in these deserters' tales. Enver and his German masters may try to feed their troops well, but they have to rely to a large extent on Turkish assistants, and—well, the days of peculation are not yet quite over in Turkey!

This is made very clear by a story told to a representative of the *Egyptian Gazette* by refugees who recently arrived in Alexandria from Jaffa. The American relief ship "Vulcan," it seems, arrived at the Syrian port with a thousand tons of food sent by the Jews of the United States for distribution amongst the long-suffering people of Syria and Palestine. She was welcomed with enthusiasm by the Turkish authorities, who insisted that *they* should receive 75 per cent. of the provisions themselves as "bakshish," although "the Ottoman Government had given assurances to the United States Government that every assistance would be given to the 'Vulcan.'" Happily the American Consul and the representative on board the "Vulcan" of the United States Government succeeded in nipping the authorities' hopes in the bud. But if such things can be attempted in the case of an American consignment of this kind, what may not be expected with regard to the Turkish Government's own stores when they pass through the hands of their own people—and of the Germans?

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The *Vossische Zeitung* has been good enough to produce a long article detailing the many and wonderful benefits which are to be bestowed upon Egypt when (and if) her administration falls into German hands. It appears that for many years past England has, all unbeknown to the world, been occupied in putting spokes in the wheel of Egypt's intellectual development. This is very shocking, and our esteemed contemporary has some difficulty in finding fitting phrases in which to express its scorn. We are told, however, that the hour of deliverance is at hand, the day for setting things right is drawing near, and with German Kultur as the directing force in Egypt, the "world will be astonished at the course which events will take." If the Egyptian results of German Kultur are to be anything like the samples supplied elsewhere, perhaps the world would rather not be astonished—but this is by the way. Not only do the Germans propose to reorganize all the Government departments of State and introduce their own system of education into the country, they intend also to bestow upon the long-suffering fellaheen the ineffable gift of the German language. His cup of bliss is indeed to be full! Incidentally, and apparently as an afterthought, the paper refers to the benefits which Germany will herself obtain. It must be extremely satisfactory for her to know that the thousands and thousands of pounds which she poured into the country for purposes of—well, for political purposes, in time of peace, are not to be lost after all. Capital and interest will be every penny repaid when—and if—the Germans arrive an active force in Egypt to claim it.

CORSAIR.

Sir J. Roper Parkington, Consul-General for Montenegro, has received the following official telegram from Cettinje:—

The Commander of the Montenegrin Army operating near the banks of the Drina on the Bosnian frontier states that there is considerable activity on the enemy's flank. The Austrian soldiers are driving the villagers from their homes, and the women, children, and old men are compelled to take refuge behind our troops. It is evidently the intention of the enemy to force the entire frontier population into the interior of our country. Yesterday a stubborn artillery and infantry fight took place on the Herzegovinian frontier in the Gorazda district between our troops and the Austrians; the fighting lasted the whole afternoon, but we fully maintained our original positions.

"Try a chota peg o' Perfection.
"Notice how mellow and silky it is?—not a touch of 'bite' or harshness. That's the effect of maturing in sherry casks. Makes it a little darker in colour, too.
"You'll order a case of Perfection?
"Well, everyone of 'ours' is doing the same. They all like it. Here's a toast, old man. Drink up—To Perfection, the best whisky in India, from the everlasting hills to the plains."

Perfection

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Constantinople, Islam, and Russia.

Lieutenant-Colonel A. C. Yates, contributing an article to the *United Service Magazine* (May), is inclined to the opinion that Russia has a very good claim to Constantinople, although he is entirely opposed to the tendency evinced in some quarters of "booming" Russia as the rightful "Heir of Byzantium." A great part of his article is devoted to showing "what a comparatively poor case Mr. J. W. Mackail . . . has made out for his Imperial *protégée*." Mr. Mackail, with the *Spectator*, appears to form the principal objective of Colonel Yates' article. We quote from one of his references to the paper in question:—

The *Spectator's* latest move is to urge that not only Constantinople, but Adrianople also be handed over to Russia. On this point I can only express a very earnest hope that nothing of the sort may come to pass. Bulgaria may have erred, but she has also suffered deeply and fought gallantly. Bulgaria has a right to Adrianople.

In a further reference to a remark of Mr. Mackail's concerning the regeneration of Germany, Colonel Yates produces an epigram which is singularly to the point, and which should live. "To-day," he writes, "the regeneration of Germany is the degradation of the world." In the latter portion of his article he deals with the question of whether Russia should be accorded territorial connection with Constantinople; the following quotation is from his remarks in this regard—

We can hardly wonder that Greece, Bulgaria, and Roumania do remain sitting on the fence. Their propects, as Allies of the Triple Entente, are not encouraging. Two years ago Bulgaria had captured Adrianople and fought her way to the lines of Chatalja. Then fortune hit her hard, and she lost much that had been won at heavy cost. Can Bulgaria and Roumania contemplate with equanimity the loss of their frontage on the Black Sea coast?

The Dardanelles.

The vital issues attaching to our attack upon the Dardanelles are admirably dealt with by Captain E. N. Bennett in the *Daily Chronicle* (May 14). Captain Bennett has only recently returned to England after a three months' sojourn in the Balkans, and he has been considerably astonished at the attitude of a section of the British public towards the question of the Dardanelles. For weeks past, he writes, the Gallipoli Peninsula has become a "veritable cynosure to the military and naval eyes of the Nearer East." He emphasises the ferocity of the struggle in which England is engaged, and points out that even our own resources are not limitless, while France is subjected to a strain which we can only dimly realize in England.

What, then, is the best means for ending the war with satisfaction to the Allies? If we are to avoid the prolonged agony and terrible exhaustion of a two or three years' war, our best hopes lie in two directions—free access to Russia and fresh Allies.

Life in Constantinople.

A correspondent who is contributing to *The Times* a series of articles dealing with life in Constantinople gives, in his last article (May 15) an interesting and pathetic impression of the Sultan in these days of stress.

The Sultan, who was helped out of his carriage by Enver Pasha and one of the footmen, looked very tired and out of health and older than his seventy-one years. His face was very pale and the skin hung loose as though he had suddenly got much thinner. He traversed very slowly and with evident effort the few steps from the carriage to the door of the mosque, helped by the footman, while acknowledging with a sad smile the bows of the spectators. On his breast was one decoration only—the Iron Cross.

According to this writer, Enver Pasha is growing stout, and wears a perpetual smile of a sardonic nature.

Roumania and Italy.

The following extract from a recent article communicated by Dr. E. J. Dillon to the *Daily Telegraph* contains the most emphatic declaration concerning the future attitude of Roumania that has yet appeared in any of the great London dailies:—"The question has been asked whether Roumania will join hands with the Italian people and stand by them when they march against the common enemy. The reply is contained in a message I sent on May 8, announcing that Russia and Roumania had come to an understanding on the points which alone had caused divergence between them."

I will now add—and I vouch for the fact—that Roumania is bound by a specific engagement to co-operate with the Allies in the second phase of the war which is now impending, and that that nation has been dealt with by these Powers in the amicable spirit which this engagement involves.

Dr. Dillon anticipates the active intervention of Roumania before the end of the present month.

Bulgaria and Entente Diplomacy.

The article contributed to the *Fortnightly Review* (May) by Dr. E. J. Dillon was written at the time when Bulgarian intervention on the side of the Central Empires was regarded as an unquestionable and even imminent possibility. But although circumstances in this direction are now actively different, Dr. Dillon's analysis of the situation makes very interesting reading. The following quotation from the early part of his article may be taken as indicative of his opinion regarding the dilemma in which Bulgaria had been placed by the fact of war:—

As a matter of fact the ordeal through which Europe is now passing cannot fairly be described as a mere political crisis, and still less as a "golden opportunity" for Bulgaria to expand to the dimensions of an Empire or for Ferdinand of Coburg to don the crown of Byzance. It is the clashing of the destructive forces of Teutonism against the social forces of Christian civilisation, and in the wild maëlstrom of currents that whirl and seethe little ethnical islets like Bulgaria may easily be submerged.

The writer deals with the question of Bulgaria's financial difficulties consequent upon the recent Balkan wars, and points to the fact that she had applied in vain to the Entente Powers for assistance. He considers the diplomacy of the Entente Powers to have been questionable at this juncture, and holds the opinion that Russia from the first offered so high a price for the neutrality of Bulgaria "that little room was left for further inducements for her active co-operation."

He regards the chances of the reconstruction of the Balkan League as being somewhat remote, as he considers it possible that Bulgaria may remain a formidable and unchanging obstacle:—

The attitude of the Sofia Government throughout the present world struggle has done injustice to the brave and estimable nation it represents. Against the Bulgarian people whose rare spirit of thrift, sobriety, and self-abnegation connotes a moral as well as a political force, the somewhat dubious tactics of the Cabinet constitute no indictment. The Bulgarian people is sound at core . . . and will end by imposing its own higher standard of duty upon those who are authorised to act temporarily in its name.

Articles to Note.

"Roumania and the War," by R. T. C., in the *British Review* (May).

"Roumania: Its Princes and People," by Amy B. Barnard, L.L.A. (illustrated), in the *Girls' Realm* (May).

"The Resurrection of Serbia," by Lieutenant-General F. H. Tyrrell, in the *United Service Magazine* (May).

"The Armies of the Balkan Neutrals," by H. Charles Woods, in the *Field* (May 15).

"Aftermaths—I. Constantinople and Belgium," by A. E. Carey, in the *Academy* (May 15).

THE EGYPTIANS' FOREBEARS.

On Tuesday afternoon, Mr. James Cotton presided at a meeting of the Egypt Exploration Fund held at the Royal Society's rooms, when Dr. C. G. Seligman, Professor of Ethnology in the University of London, lectured on "The Earliest Egyptians and their Modern Representatives." The lecturer said that it was in the Sudan, south of Suakin, that he came across the tribes in whom he recognised the modern representatives of the earliest Egyptians, the people, without suspicion of Negroid elements, whom we have sure knowledge of only from their graves, although French Egyptologists claim to have discovered traces of them in other sites. The lecture, which was illustrated by lantern views, compared in anthropological tests these earliest pre-Dynastic inhabitants of the Delta with the Beni-Amer, Bisharin and Hadendoa, the modern tribes in question, and in a very interesting way discovered various parallels between the two in the way of head-dress, implements, and ceremonial customs. Where similarities exist between Negroids and these earliest Egyptians it is open to explain them by borrowings one from the other or by a common stock, the latter theory being that which Dr. Seligman adopted.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

The British Industries Fair being held at the Agricultural Hall is a success in so far as it proves our ability to manufacture articles which, for superiority of workmanship and design, can easily hold their own in any world market. We can make toys to amuse children every bit as well as the Germans, and though in the past we have not done so because we preferred to leave this important market in the hands of our enemies, necessity has nurtured our mechanics with surprising results. The inventive genius of the British artisan has now been proven; it only remains to apply that genius to toys of cheap material (four-fifths of this world's children are born to parents of straitened means) and glaring colours in order to control the world market. The renaissance of this particular trade during the past few months has been extraordinary, and, developed on the lines suggested, will progress still further and go far.

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In fancy goods of solid workmanship we have always been on the top rung of the ladder, be it in wood workmanship or leather wares. The great Industries Fair only helps to accentuate our superiority. If in the toy line the British Metal and Toy Manufacturers of London, Isaacs and Co., of Birmingham, and the Irish Toy Industry of Belfast are producing articles of real merit, in the fancy line such firms as H. J. Tidy and W. H. Mann, of London—to cite one instance only—are producing tidy nicknacks unsurpassed in Vienna, and the same can be said of fancy leather goods such as those exhibited by Worrall and Co. and Rendall, Underwood and Co., both of Birmingham. These firms, and their kin, have an unprecedented opportunity now of snatching, throughout the Near East and from Vienna, that capital's pre-eminence in the fancy line trade. I can honestly say that I was surprised—nay, delighted—at the superior quality, designs, and ingenuity of the exhibits in the above-mentioned lines. The same remarks apply to pottery, electro-plate, Sheffield ware, art printing, and a hundred other lines and—this is the point I wish to emphasise—the sooner Near Eastern countries are made to realise this truth, the greater will be our exports to that part of the world.

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One of the exihibits that caused me special pleasure was that of the Imperial Typewriter Company. I have had some experience with the machine, and, acting on the strength of my suggestions, several firms in the Near East have stocked it; but, at the same time, they pointed out that the semi-circular keyboard, adopted by the company, could not compete with the German Adler machine, which, while simple and cheap, had the advantage of the straight keyboard. The Imperial's genial engineer has now elaborated a provisional Imperial with a straight keyboard that combines the marvellous simplicity of the old Imperial with the straight keyboard of the conventional type. My congratulations to the company! They are one of the very few all-British makers of typewriters independent of the questionable American typewriter trust, and deserve all the success they get.

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I quote extracts from a letter, signed by Mr. R. B. Kerr, which appeared in the *New Age* of May 6:—"The only thing of any importance in recent Turkish history is the development of the Baghdad Railway scheme. There can be no mistake about the stupendous importance of that scheme. What is proposed is the building of a railway running right through from Hamburg to the Persian Gulf, about 3,500 miles long, over which trains could run the whole distance in five days. In face of such a railway where would Britain be, with her long and tedious sea route to the East? A Berlin commercial traveller would be at Bombay about the same time as an English one was laboriously steaming past the shores of Crete. All kinds of light goods from Germany could be distributed throughout the shops of Benares, Calcutta, and Madras, while the anxious British competitor was sweating and panting round the enormous angle of Arabia."

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I admit the "stupendous importance" of the Baghdad scheme, but I deny its staggering influence on British trade. The construction of the line will not interfere with our big merchandise trade with the Middle East. Big shipments from Europe to Asia will never be sent viâ the Baghdad Railway on account of excessive expenditure, and the British commercial traveller would not be "laboriously steaming past the shores of Crete" while his German rival was doing business in Bombay, for the very simple reason that the "stupid" Britisher would also travel viâ the Baghdad (no longer Berlin-Baghdad) Railway, and thus take the wind out of his rival's sails. The whole argument, from the above point of view, is wrong, and is hardly complimentary to the British tradesman, who is not such an arrant fool as some would fain paint him. On the other hand, the political, and *not* the commercial significance of the Baghdad Railway must be considered dangerous to the Empire; but, as regards this aspect, I think we can trust the Home and Indian Governments to look after our interests and our future sphere of influence.

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The following paragraph from a letter by the Cairo correspondent of the *Railway Gazette* is not lacking in humour. I reproduce it without comment:—"With regard to the new combined road and railway bridge at Embaba, a rather curious fact is reported. The contract was placed with a firm who in turn placed the order for construction with a firm in Northern France. The bridge was constructed in the works, one span was shipped to, and has since been delivered in Egypt, then the Germans invaded France and captured the remainder of the spans. As they are not likely to give them up, work on the bridge is temporarily abandoned." The correspondent then continues (and I heartily approve of the moral of his story):—"This is one of several lessons the Egyptian State Railways have had of the wisdom of placing orders in Great Britain and the unwisdom of placing them on the Continent."

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Champions of the metric system—and they are numerous—will be pleased to learn that the National Wholesale Grocers' Association of the United States is on their side. As far as the home market is concerned, it does not matter whether or not we buy peat in bushels or litres or whether we weigh ourselves in kilos or in "stones" of fourteen pounds which are smaller than the metric pounds. As soon, however, as we emerge from the home market and try to do business in Near Eastern countries we are handicapped. Take paint, for instance: a German firm exports paint to Roumania, etc., in 500-gramme tins, the exact weight of which the local buyer can readily grasp. The English exporter, on the other hand, sends the same goods in 1 lb. or 2 lb. tins, which are neither 500 nor 1,000 grammes. The local buyer naturally scoffs at measures about which he knows nothing, and the result is that the German article sells and the British does not. It is absurd. This war, which is doing away with so many "precedents" that are nothing if not shackles on our limbs, ought to do away with our multiple system of weights and measures and induce us to adopt the metric system, if only with a view to facilitate our export trade.

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The reported purchase of the whole stock of benzine in Roumania by a company provided with French capital appears to have been confirmed. The company has secured the large reservoirs constructed by the Government for the Constanza pipe-line. The exportation of benzine, it will be remembered, has been prohibited since the beginning of the year.

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On another page we reproduce a description of the bazaars at Stamboul from the pen of a neutral writer in *The Times*. I now read the following paragraph in the current issue of the *Indiaman*:—"It was reported last year that grapes were cheap throughout the vine areas of Europe, owing to the collapse of the usual means of transport to the world's markets. Now we learn of the falling price of another luxury—Persian carpets. It appears that many carpets find their way to the Constantinople market, which is now closed to them, with the usual consequence of an excess of supply in the other markets, and a resultant drop in price. There could not perhaps be a better illustration of the world-wide effects of this war than that it has upset the trade of the Persian weavers, a body which, it might be imagined, had long since written off disturbance of communications as a permanent feature of the situation."

COMMENTATOR.

G. R.

By Order of the Admiral Superintendent, H.M. Dockyard, Malta.

Tenders are invited for the purchase, for a period of six months from July 1st, 1915, of Mill Offal, viz.:—Pollard, Bran, Screenings and Sweepings in such quantities as may become available from time to time.

Full particulars can be obtained on application to the undersigned.

Wm. HOGARTH,
Superintendent.
H.M. Naval Victualling Yard,
VITTORIOSA.

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Sudan Trade in 1914.

War and Water Problems.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, April 29.

The last quarterly statement of the Sudan Customs, which has just reached here, is of particular interest, as it enables one to see what progress has been made by Sudan trade during 1914. Imports during the past year amounted to £E1,570,532, and exports to £E1,020,260, as against £E2,075,293 and £E1,185,186 in 1913; that is to say, there has been a decrease of £E204,765 and of £E164,925 respectively as a result of the year's working.

Practically all the decrease in imports is accounted for by the textile category, which fell off by £E199,273. On the other hand, imports of cereals increased by £E190,160, the total value of this category being £E422,448, of which two-thirds came from India and Aden, and one-third from Egypt. Under Exports we find that the falling off is due to the diminution of £E28,631 in ivory, of £E56,609 in gum, of £E53,555 in ginned cotton, and of £E52,040 in sesame. Exports of livestock increased by £E12,465, of gold by £E24,344, of hides and leather goods by £E36,645.

It is interesting to note that Egypt is the Sudan's best customer, for she sold the latter goods to the value of £E810,752, and purchased in all £E404,709. Her sales consisted mainly of cereals, refined sugar, and cotton fabrics, whilst her purchases were devoted to livestock, of which she took about 95 per cent. of the total; to cereals, of which she absorbed over 80 per cent. of the total; and to gold and cotton, which she and Great Britain divided between them.

Germany and Austria.

Turning to the analysis of the participation of the various countries in the foreign trade of the Sudan, we find that under imports out of the total of £E1.870.532, Great Britain sent £E450,945 (£E138,282 less than in 1913), India and Aden £E333,053 (£E101,034 more than last year), Austria £E44,846 (£E9.650 more than in 1913), Germany £E23,855 (£E3,689 more than last year), and Abyssinia £E52,003 (£E13,690 less than in 1913). The share falling to Belgium, France, and Italy remained, practically speaking, unchanged. Under exports Great Britain comes next after Egypt with the slightly increased figure of £E269,543; the United States has a small decrease to £E84.795; India and Aden increase by £E7,834 to £E12,820; and all other countries show more or less slight decreases. Austria and Germany standing for £E12.385 and £E60,227—a decrease of £E10,353 and £E19.670 respectively. It is interesting to note that of these two last-named decreases, £E4.645 and £E14,442 respectively, were registered during the first half of the year, and that the increase in German imports at the end of the year was £E7.577 less than what it stood at at the end of June. It is to be noted, however, that Austrian imports, which had increased by £E6,633 at the end of June, had further increased by an amount of £E2,967 at the end of December. Owing to the fact that the Customs returns are prepared by quarters, it is difficult to ascertain where this latter increase took place, but it is to be presumed that it occurred before the beginning of hostilities, or that, if after that date, the goods represented by it, as also those recorded as imported from the other enemy countries during the third and fourth quarters of the year, were consignments already en route or in bond at the time war was declared. It is curious that, contrary to the practice of the Egyptian Customs, no mention to this effect is made in the Sudan returns.

Effect of the War.

There is little doubt that the war has had an unfortunate effect on the trade of the Sudan. This can be seen by the falling off in imports, which on June 30 had increased by £E31,993, as compared with the first half of 1913. In addition, the dearth of shipping has certainly affected the exports, though it is to be feared that climatic conditions have also had a contributory share in the decrease in this part of the country's external trade. Thus, the export of gum fell from 336,700 cantars in 1913 to 275,300 cantars last year, due to the poor rains of 1913 and to the cold weather, which together affected the productivity of the forests. Cotton fell off by £E53.683, which is due to the poorness of the Khor Baraka flood, which reduced the cultivable area at Tokar by about 60 per cent. On the other hand, the new trade in Dom palm nuts has made marked progress, increasing from £E7,982 in 1913 to £E15,282, whilst gold has risen from £E35,468 in 1912 to £E63,146.

Water Problem.

It is to be noted that the rate of decrease in exports recorded on June 30, when the diminution amounted to £E108,464, did not continue in the second half of the year, when the decrease was only £E53.462, due to the fact that the last quarter an increase of 10 per cent. was actually registered. All things considered, the net decreases of 10 per cent. in imports and 14 per cent. in exports are not as bad as one might reasonably have expected, considering the position of the Sudan, and we may take comfort in the thought that, firstly, the climatic conditions have improved, and, secondly, the increase in exports during the last quarter shows that success is crowning the efforts of the Central Economic Board to find suitable markets for Sudan produce. Whilst we may look forward with confidence to the export trade of the country improving very much during the current year, we must not overlook one point, viz., that the setback recorded during the last two years is mainly due to the fact that climatic conditions play an important part in the economic progress of the country. It is, therefore, imperative that public works to ensure the water supply in the producing districts should be carried out at the earliest possible moment, and until a serious start is made in this direction we must be prepared for ups and downs, and must not expect to see the fulfilment of the promise of economic development that the progress made by the country previous to the intervention of the recent unfavourable climatic conditions and of the present war held out.

ALEXANDRIA PRIZE COURT.

We have been favoured with a full report of Judgment No. 2 (for Judgment No. 1 see The Near East of February 5), in re s.s. "Gutenfels," delivered by Judge J. P. Cator, presiding over the Alexandria Prize Court on March 5. The following is the text of the judgment:—

The "Gutenfels" is a German ship which took refuge in Port Said on the afternoon of August 5, 1914. Her case was brought before the Prize Court last November, and on January 6, 1915, we delivered judgment, finding that she could claim no protection from the Suez Canal Convention, but we reserved the question as to whether she was entitled to any benefit under the Hague Convention. This general question was subsequently determined by the judgment which we delivered in the case of the "Barenfels" on January 22 last, but there remained a further point specially relating to the "Gutenfels" which must now be dealt with.

As the "Gutenfels" is fitted with wireless telegraphic apparatus and did not reach Port Said until about seventeen hours after the outbreak of war between Germany and the United Kingdom, it is reasonable to conjecture that she must have entered Port Said with knowledge of the war. The question is vital, for if she entered Port Said in ignorance that hostilities had broken out she can claim the benefit of the Hague Convention. Otherwise she is liable to confiscation. In view of the great development of wireless telegraphy that has taken place in recent years, and the extended use to which it has been put for the dissemination of news at sea, I have come to the conclusion that the only safe rule upon which a Prize Court can act is to assume that every ship fitted with wireless apparatus receives from its Government, either directly, or by transmission from other ships, prompt news of the outbreak of hostilities between its own and any other country. At one time I was almost disposed to declare that it would not be open to any ship to rebut this presumption, but I have come to the conclusion that such a rule would be unduly harsh, and we admitted evidence to prove that in fact the "Gutenfels" did not get news about the war until she reached Port Said. I need hardly say that the evidence in cases like this must be scrutinised most carefully, and as the onus of proof lies with the ship, she will suffer confiscation unless she removes all doubt from the mind of the Court. It is in this spirit that I have considered the evidence, and I have come to the conclusion that the "Gutenfels" has discharged the burden cast on her.

She left Hamburg on July 16, reached Antwerp on the 17th, left that port on the 24th, and touched nowhere else before her arrival in Port Said on August 5. That is to say, she quitted her German port at a time when the peace of Europe was not yet threatened. Even when she left Antwerp no crisis had occurred. So that we may eliminate from our minds any suspicion that the "Gutenfels" started on her voyage with any expectation that a European war was imminent.

The master tells us that his wireless operator gave him no news on the voyage and complained that the apparatus was out of order, and I believe that this is the truth. It is a strange coincidence that the apparatus of the only ship which reached Port Said after the outbreak of war should not have been in working order, but I think that an impartial consideration of the wireless log book leads to that conclusion. The operator himself is not within the jurisdiction, but I see no reason to question the truth of his entries. On July 15 he records that he took over the station, and says "Cannot hear anything." On the 17th he records that he was in communication with two land stations. On the 26th he enters "Communication with 'Kendenfels'—nothing." On the 27th, "Called C. Q.; heard nothing." C. Q., as we know from another source, is a general German call. On the 28th, "Communication with 'Knight Bachelor'—nothing." On the 29th, "Called C. Q.—no answer." On the 30th, "Do not hear anything on long waves; cause unknown." On July 31, "Switched 'Nordeich' and 'Eiffel Tower'; heard nothing." August 1, "No communication." August 2, "Called C. Q.; no answer." August 3, "Heard nothing." August 4, "Called S.U.B.; heard nothing." S.U.B., we are told, represents the Port Said station. August 5, "Called S.U.B. at a distance of thirty miles; no answer."

The master corroborates this, but says the operator told him he was once in touch with Port Said on the morning of the 5th.

In view of these entries, and bearing in mind that the existence of a pre-arranged plan to pretend that the apparatus was out of order so as to give an excuse for not recording news of the outbreak of war, is almost inconceivable, I think we are bound to accept the sworn declaration of the master that he reached Port Said in ignorance of war.

The order of the Court will be similar to that made in the "Barenfels" case, namely, detention during the war and delivery to the owners at its conclusion.

WAR ON GERMAN TRADE.

In connection with the campaign undertaken by the Board of Trade, on the advice of their Advisory Committee on Commercial Intelligence, to assist British manufacturers and merchants to secure trade formerly in the hands of German or Austro-Hungarian firms, the Board continues to receive a very large number of inquiries for the names of sellers or buyers of articles.

Special arrangements have been made in the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade for dealing with these inquiries, and lists are prepared and circulated of articles which inquirers desire (a) to purchase, and (b) to sell. List 21 is now ready, and may be obtained by United Kingdom manufacturers and traders.

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Trade Notes.

Egypt.

Tenders will be received by the Department of Public Health, Cairo, for the supply of three double cylindrical watering carts, necessary to the Scavenging and Watering Service, Bulâq, in accordance with the specification and conditions of tender. Intending tenderers may apply for all information to the Director of Stores every day, Fridays and holidays excepted, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., when conditions of contract may be seen and signed. Tenders should be made on the special form, supplied free of charge by the Administration, and should be addressed to the Director-General, Department of Public Health, Cairo, in sealed envelopes bearing the inscription: "Tender for the supply of double watering carts." Tenders must reach the above address on July 5, 1915, at noon at latest.

Tenders will be received by the Department of Public Health, Cairo, for the supply of Newcastle, Cardiff, and anthracite coal and coke, necessary to the branches of the Department, during a period of nine months, commencing on July 1, 1915, and ending on March 31, 1916, in accordance with the specification and conditions of tender. Intending tenderers may apply for all information to the Director of Stores, every day, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Fridays and holidays excepted, when conditions of contract may be seen and signed. Tenders should be made on the special form, supplied free of charge by the Administration, and should be addressed to the Director-General, Department of Public Health, Cairo, in sealed envelopes, bearing the inscription: "Tender for the supply of coal." Tenders should reach the above address not later than noon on June 15, 1915.

Tenders will be received by the Mechanical Department, Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, up to noon on May 26, 1915, for the general supply of timber for the Government Workshops during the year April 1, 1915, to March 31, 1916. Persons wishing to tender for this supply can consult the specification and conditions on all days on which public offices are open, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the offices of the Mechanical Department, Ministry of Public Works, from April 19, 1915. Tenders must be submitted on the form to be supplied by the Mechanical Department, and should be addressed to the Director-General, Mechanical Department, Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, in a sealed envelope bearing the inscription: "Tender for the general supply of timber for Government Workshops, 1915."

Tenders will be received by the Director, Physical Service, Dawawine Post Office, Cairo, up to noon on June 15, for the supply of balances and weights required by the Postal Administration. Copies of specification and conditions of contract may be obtained free of charge on application to the said Service. Tenders should be addressed to the Director, Physical Service, in sealed envelopes bearing the inscription: "Tender for the supply of balances and weights for the Postal Administration."

Cyprus.

A Cyprus correspondent writes:—Efforts are being made, we understand, in certain mercantile quarters at Limassol for the purchase of a small steamer to perform a coastal service. It is felt by many competent to judge that such a service would be a great advantage in developing inter-trade between outlying parts of the island.

Cyprus (says *Kelly's Monthly Trade Review*) reports a great shortage in Madapollams, drills, shirtings for underwear, Oxfords, muslins, handkerchiefs, etc. Traders in Cyprus require six months' credit.

Roumania.

The *Moniteur du Commerce Roumain* (Bucharest) states that the provisional statistics of Roumanian exports in 1914 show a considerable diminution as compared with the previous year, partly due to the poor wheat harvest. The effect of the war is clearly shown by the fact that the exports of cereals and their products, petroleum and timber together amounted to 2,370,248 tons during January to August, 1914, whereas from the outbreak of war until December only 420,952 tons were exported. The provisional statistics give the following figures of exports for 1914:—Cereals, 1,954,894 tons (2,718,933 tons in 1913); cereal products, 110,318 tons (195,234 tons in 1913); timber, 70,195 tons (133,805 tons in 1913); and petroleum, 655,993 tons (980,426 tons in 1913). All the grain crops show a decreased export, with the exception of maize, which increased from 930,286 tons in 1913 to 1,061,730 tons in 1914.

The need for drilling and other plant necessary to the development of the Roumanian oil industry is becoming more and more marked, says *Petroleum World*. Tools and apparatus, especially machinery, are wanted which cannot be made in Roumania, and have always been imported from other countries. Especially is this the case with the larger and heavier types of drilling outfits, both percussion and rotary, which have come into fashion with modern operations in the fields, wells of considerable depth and great force of flow having to be provided for. Just now there is a positive famine in casing and tubing, much of which used to come from Germany. The export of goods of this sort is, however, prohibited from Germany, as it is from most European countries, and supplies are not obtainable. The sea route via the Dardanelles is, of course, closed. In one respect the lack of oil-well supplies is good. It checks drilling, and checked drilling means a smaller production, which again means a smaller addition to stocks that will have to be shifted when the Allies clear the Dardanelles, and if and when there are sufficient tank steamships available. Other smaller lines, such as steel and copper wire, machinery belts, manilla and wire ropes, are also short, and stocks of these have been exhausted. On the whole, the country is hoping for speedy deliverance from an impossible position.

Abyssinia.

The following are extracts from an article which appeared in the current issue (May) of *Kelly's Monthly Trade Review*:—

Abyssinia's present external trade is not one of much importance. Our own share is quite small, for we import from that country for home consumption goods worth on an average about £9,000 yearly, and for re-export something over £50,000, while our exports scarcely reach an average of £5,000. These figures have little real bearing on the future, for although the empire is an old one, the whole country is only just emerging out of chaos. Its possibilities are more than respectable, and have assumed new interest for us since our acceptance of greater responsibilities in Egypt and the Sudan, with which the future of Abyssinia is so closely linked up.

Abyssinia is a region of rugged surfaces, of high plateaux with extensive valleys, surrounded on the north, west, and east by a fringe of dreary, partly scrub-covered stony lowlands, partly inhospitable sandy deserts. Consequently it is a difficult and expensive country to penetrate. But in the interior, in spite of the deplorable practice of deforestation, which was pursued by its rulers for many generations, there are vast fertile tracts and many sheltered valleys where fine crops of wheat, barley, maize, millet, linseed, peppers, and other produce are raised notwithstanding the extremely primitive methods prevailing.

In this belt of cereal and general vegetable cultivation the climate is somewhat trying, the year being divided into a dry and wet season, the drawbacks of this being accentuated by the scarcity of trees. Drainage and irrigation works have been attempted tentatively, and will no doubt prove remunerative when taken in hand, but the Government is precluded by treaty from carrying out any works which would interfere with the flow of the Nile. Nothing must be done to retard or diminish the supply of water to Egypt. But, with a policy of water conservation and irrigation will come an era of more intensive, more scientific cultivation, and then will be the opportunity for the energetic introduction of British agricultural machinery and implements. There should also be room for timber-dressing appliances. Another demand which will be created by the spread of irrigation and other public works will be for good hydraulic cements, suitable for a hot, dry climate.

The Americans supply most of the coarse cotton piece goods, known locally as "abugedid." These are made up into 30-yard lengths by one yard wide, weighing between 6½ and 8½ lbs., and are put up in bales of from 20 to 25 pieces. Finer cotton white goods are mainly English. For the Harrar district red cotton is required. The demand for woollens is small, the supply coming mostly from England, the goods being dyed red, yellow, and green. Cotton velvet is bought by the wealthier and official classes, being made up into their gala cloaks. In the south and the lowlands the subject races are still largely unclothed, so there is plenty of room for pushing the sale of cheap, hard-wearing textiles, put up in suitable lengths and widths. In Abyssinia itself white is the rule, but the nearer one gets to the Sudan the more are vivid reds and greens appreciated. Parasols, which sell readily, come chiefly from India, and their distribution is favoured by the large number of energetic Hindoo traders. Hardware is finding a ready outlet among the people. The imports come from Austria and Germany, with a small amount from Italy and Belgium. We ought to be able to step in here, and also to inaugurate a trade in cutlery and tools.

In conclusion the article states that Abyssinia is an undeveloped, rich country, which will pay to develop. For many years past the Germans and Austrians have been making strenuous efforts to gain pre-eminence in the business world of Abyssinia. The diplomatists were ably backed up by traders and financiers, who were devoting attention not merely to imports but to agriculture, forestry, and mining. They are not much liked, but their determination made some impression. We should see to it that this side-door to the Sudan passes under British control, the country being financed and tutored by ourselves, both on its own intrinsic merits and for what lies behind it.

Bulgaria.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of telegraphic information to the effect that the exportation of cement from Bulgaria has been prohibited.

Morocco.

H.M. Consul at Casablanca writes that the French official sequestrator has refused to allow claims to be put forward by Consular officers, and insists on all creditors of Germans and Austrians lately trading in Morocco being represented either in person or by a commercial or a legal agent.

THE TURKISH BAZAARS.

The writer in *The Times* on "Turkey from Within," describes the state of the bazaars at the present time in the following graphic way:—

Even the bazaars have been greatly changed by the war. The whole Turkish population, panic-stricken, has been seized with a fever to realize as much money as possible and to be ready to leave for Asia at any moment. The richest families are calling Jew merchants, Persian curiosity dealers, and Levantine antiquaries to their private residences and selling the entire contents of the house at ruinous prices. The less wealthy part of the population flows down to the bazaars. Outside the tiny shops the merchants sit apparently supremely indifferent to the chance of a good bargain. They have become *blasé*, besieged as they are by a crowd of women laden with large parcels of carpets, woven fabrics, and embroideries, or carrying Persian vases and pieces of inlaid furniture, going from one shop to the other and getting finally very small sums for their often wonderful possessions. There is no money in Constantinople; there are no foreigners to buy the treasures that Turkish families have been collecting for generations and generations. Never have the prices demanded been so low, and never, I believe, have the bazaars been so rich in

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the best things that the Orient has produced. In the arcade where carpets are sold the little dark shops are crammed with the most beautiful Persian and Indian rugs. In the arcade where the dealers in carved stones are found, in that where wrought and engraved brasswork is shown, the same conditions prevail. Elsewhere are exhibited wonderful gold and silver tissues and embroideries, the art of Bokhara and of Brusa. But the bazaars are full of sellers and empty of buyers.

In connection with Mr. Pease's announcement in the House of Commons last week of the formation of a Government Advisory Committee to afford scientific assistance to British industries, the present operations of the Imperial Institute are of great importance. As is now generally known, the Institute has rendered, through its expert establishments at South Kensington, valuable assistance to British manufacturers, especially in connection with the supply and utilisation of raw materials from India and the colonies (including the Sudan). The Institute possesses extensive laboratories and workshops, in which colonial (Sudanese) and Indian raw materials of all kinds are constantly under investigation, and the results of this work are published freely for the use of British manufacturers and merchants.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

At the meeting of the British Cotton Growing Association, held in Manchester on the 4th inst., it was stated that the reports as to the cotton crops at Zeidab, Tayiba, and Barakat are quite good, and there will be a considerable increase in the quantity of cotton produced at these stations.

Major Baldwin has forwarded a copy of the annual shipping and commercial statistics compiled by the Danube Commission for the year 1914. This paper, which is in French, may be consulted by the United Kingdom firms interested at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

The steamer "Niggem," with a cargo of cotton, which left Alexandria for England early in December, had not since been heard of. Captain Macintyre has now wired from Sollum, Gulf of Tripoli: "Steamer foundered on December 27. Myself and seven of crew safe. Proceeding to Alexandria."

The *Egyptian Gazette* states that the estates of the ex-Khedive, especially his large property at Edfina, are at present in a miserable condition and, according to a correspondent who has lately visited that part of the Delta, three-quarters of the Edfina estates are uncultivated and have reverted to marshland.

Work in linking up the Bulgarian and Roumanian railway systems on the Dobritch-Varna line is terminated, and the inauguration of the route is to take place (writes our Bucharest Correspondent) as soon as the railway agreement between both countries has been signed.

The cotton crop at Tokar is estimated at 9,000,000 kilos.

About 1,100,000 tons of oil and products are now held up in Rumania awaiting the forcing of the Dardanelles by the Allies' sea and land forces. The value of these is considerably over £5,000,000. It was put at that figure last month, but since then at least 100,000 tons have been added (says *Petroleum World*), so that the value is now considerably more.

The imports of coal into Egypt during the first quarter of this year were valued at £203,000, as against £272,000 in the corresponding period of 1914. The imports of iron and steel show a much greater drop, having decreased from £141,000 in the first three months of 1914 to £41,000 this year.

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MANUFACTURERS OF
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Flannels, Serges, Blankets, Tweeds, Broadcloths, Coatings, Hosiery, Rugs, Puttees, Uniforms, &c., &c. . . . .
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CAWNPORE, INDIA.
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CAWNPORE, INDIA.
Spinners, Weavers, Bleachers, Dyers, and makers of every description of Cotton Goods such as TENTS, DURRIES (Cotton Carpets), and other Floor Coverings, Dusters, Towels, Bed & Table Linen, &c., &c.
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Near East Markets.

CONSULAR REPORTS.

Crete.

April 21.

H.M. Vice-Consul at Canea has furnished the following account of the olive oil market in Canea:—

Owing to the large demand from Venice and Genoa, prices have reached 1 fr. 22 centimes per oke. This means a f.o.b. Canea price of £47 per ton of 1,000 kilogs., including the new export tax of 1 fr. 30 centimes per 100 okes. These prices are the cost prices of olive oil purchased on the spot, and do not include the commission of the export merchant. In order to obtain a c.i.f. United Kingdom quotation, British importers must add the cost of freight and insurance to the f.o.b. price. Freight rates to the United Kingdom are unsteady, but the present rate stands at 55s. per ton. Marine and war risks insurance should be calculated in the United Kingdom, as it is better for British importers to do this themselves upon receipt of telegraphic information from shippers at Canea of the shipment of the goods. The acidity of the oil is high, running from 8 per cent. upwards, and Cretan exporters are unwilling to make offers on a fixed rate of acidity.

There has been a large decrease of shipments to the United Kingdom owing to high prices and undue percentage of acidity of the oil. On the other hand, shipments to Italy have increased greatly, and this oil is largely re-exported from Italy to Austria and Germany by Italian merchants and agents of Cretan shippers in Venice. It is said that enormous prices for olive oil are being paid in Trieste, and several Greek steamship companies have established new lines running from Piræus to Venice, whence the cargo is deflected off to Trieste.

Stocks of oil at Canea are small, not exceeding 600 to 650 tons in the town of Canea, though in the Canea district there are probably some 1,000 to 1,200 tons.

The 1915 crop is expected to reach to about half of what is called a good crop. In many parts of the island the prospects of the crop are bad.

Salonika.

The U.S. Consul reports as follows:—

There is no congestion of either freight or vessels. Steamers are able to discharge more rapidly than heretofore owing to a decrease in tonnage arriving. There is, however, a great shortage of cars operating between Salonika and Roumania. Freight intended for Russia is transhipped at Ploeshti, Roumania. On March 6 the Serbian Government issued notice that for a period of three weeks merchandise in transit would not be accepted over its lines, and that after that period only seven cars per day would be despatched from Salonika to points in Bulgaria and Roumania. Bulky pieces are difficult to ship owing to limited car space. The shipping period from Salonika to Ploeshti varies from fifteen to twenty-five days.

Local steamship agents report a congestion of vessels at Dedeagatch, due to the absence of sufficient lighters and other discharging facilities. Railway communication with Roumania, whence shipments to Russia are made, is said to be fair. Freight for Bulgaria or Roumania must necessarily pass through Ottoman territory (Dedeagatch to Adrianople, thence to Sofia); to avoid delay, bills of lading are made out to a Bulgarian or Roumanian point. It is not advisable to ship very heavy pieces, owing to the great difficulty in discharging. There are no piers at Dedeagatch; vessels discharge their cargo into lighters about half a mile from shore.

The U.S. Consulate has secured permission from the Bulgarian Government for the Archipelago-American Steamship Co. to operate its own lighters at Dedeagatch. These lighters and stevedores will be placed at the disposal of vessels carrying American merchandise, thereby guaranteeing reasonably prompt discharging.

PRODUCE REPORT.

London, May 20.

Currants.

There is a strong demand for all qualities, and many buyers being unable to fill their requirements on the spot are now making purchases for shipment. With the exception of smalls, all qualities are about 1s. per cwt. dearer on the week. The s.s. "Teano" arrived last week, with about 1,000 tons, but no samples are at present available.

In Liverpool the market is now almost cleared of fruit in first hands, so that the trade this past week has been of very little importance. A few sales were made on overland samples afloat, per s.s. "Britannia," at very full prices. Until the arrival of this steamer, which is due this week-end, business will be of a retail character, but afterwards a good demand is anticipated.

Sultanas.

There is one arrival this past week, the s.s. "Elpiniki," with about 24,000 boxes, but samples are not yet on the market. The lower prices have stimulated the demand, and a very large business has taken place, principally in the lower qualities. Owing to this increase in the demand, and also to reports that the coming crop is likely to be an exceptionally small one, prices during the last few days have advanced about 3s. per cwt. Smyrnas are quoted 42s. to 62s. and Greek 48s. to 62s.

In Liverpool the last few sales cleared up the remnants of the late, leaving the market absolutely bare. Next arrivals are due this week-end per s.s. "Pontiac" and s.s. "Britannia," which bring together about 20,000 boxes—not much considering the present position.

Figs.

There is a steady demand for bags of naturals, but this is a very scarce article at present.

Dates.

There is only moderate business at recent rates.

Seeds.

The market for linseed has been dull and values rather weak. London-Calcutta, spot, is quoted 54s. 9d. Ditto for afloat and April-May. Rapeseed is also dull, Cawnpore, brown, May-June is quoted 51s. 6d., Guzerat, ditto, 55s. 3d. Cotton-seed remains inactive with values weak; London-Egyptian on passage is quoted £8 7s. 6d., spot £8 10s., May £9, and June £9.

Oils.

A dull tone is prevailing in the market. Linseed oil is quiet and values declined sharply, spot pipes landed £28, barrels ditto £28 15s. June-August, £29. Rapeseed oil also quiet, and prices are nominal; ordinary brown on the spot naked £38 15s. Cotton oil continues firm; crude on the spot, pipes, £31 10s.; refined spot pale, pipes, £33; sweet barrels, £37 to £39.

Oil Cakes.

Egyptian cotton cake: There is a continued upward tendency in the tone of the market, and stocks of Egyptian are practically exhausted. There are free buyers of April shipment at £6 7s. 6d., ex ship; May, £6 8s. 9d. Linseed cakes are quiet; Greek in bags are held at £10 2s. 6d. to £10 5s. per ton.

Egyptian Onions.

The extraordinary home and export demand for all grades of Egyptian onions continues. Prices for finest are again 6d. to 1s. per bag dearer.

Gum.

Arabic, "Turkey" sorts, 40s. to 50s. cwt.; East India, common to fine, 32s. 6d. to 37s. 6d.; myrrh, good to fine, 96s. to 100s.; sandrac, 30s. to 85s.; tragacanth, first, 560s. to 900s.; low to good sorts, 90s. to 130s.

Egyptian Eggs.

Egyptian eggs have been making 7s. 9d. to 8s. 9d. per 120, according to grading and quality.

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Persian Telegraph Systems.

The following are extracts from the United States Consular report from Teheran (February 7) on the Persian telegraph and telephone systems:—

Persia has a system of telegraphs consisting of 5,231 miles of line, with 9,993 miles of wire and 143 stations, which is owned by the Persian Government, the Indo-European Telegraph Department (a department of the British Government), and the Indo-European Telegraph Company. The Indo-European Telegraph Company's line extends from London, through Emden, Berlin, and Odessa, to Julfa, on the Russo-Persian frontier. The company's 431 miles of three-wire line in Persia extends from Julfa, through Tabriz, Mianeh, Zendjan, and Kasvin, to Teheran, and is worked by an English staff according to its concession of 1868.

Indo-European Telegraph Department.

The Indo-European Telegraph Department forms the connecting link between the line of the Indo-European Telegraph Company, which terminates at Teheran, and the Indian Telegraph Department at Karachi. The head office of the department is the India Office, London, where the director in chief has immediate executive control under the Secretary of State for India. The departmental lines consist of two sections—the Persian and the Persian Gulf. Each is administered by a director—the former at Teheran, the latter at Karachi. In Persia the lines consist of a three-wire line, 681 miles long, on iron supports, from Teheran, through Ispahan and Shiraz, to Bushire, where a connection is made with the Gulf section, and a three-wire line, 710 miles long, from Teheran, through Yedz and Kerman, to the Perso-Baluchistan frontier at Kuh-i-Malek Siah, where they join the Persian Gulf lines.

The departmental lines in Persia aggregate about 1,800 miles and 5,400 miles of wire, with five main stations and fourteen minor stations. The Persian Gulf lines consist of two submarine cables from Bushire to Jask, thence one submarine cable and a two-wire line along the Mekran coast to Karachi, and an iron standard line of two wires from the Perso-Baluchistan frontier at Kuh-i-Malek Siah through Panjgur and Las Bela to Karachi.

The departmental lines in Persia are worked under a convention between the British and Persian Governments made during the sixties, and repeatedly renewed since. The latest renewal is effective to 1945. The staff in Persia consists of about 200 Europeans and natives. British gazetted officers, who are under the immediate orders of the director, are in charge of the sub-divisions, such as Teheran, Ispahan, Shiraz, Yedz, and Kerman, and departmental accounts.

The bulk of the traffic is between England and India, Australia and the Far East, and passes Teheran in what is known as translation—that is, it is automatically transmitted, as London and Karachi work direct Wheatstone auto. Between London and Karachi—about 5,800 miles—are twelve translating stations. There is considerable local traffic in Roman characters, which the department deals with, but the receipts from all local traffic go to the Persian Government. Messages in the vernacular are dealt with by the Persian Telegraph Administration.

The Persian telegraph is owned and worked by the Persian Government. It consists of 3,000 miles of line, with 3,300 miles of wire, as follows:—A single-wire line of 431 miles, extending from Julfa through Tabriz, Mianeh, Zendjan, Kasvin to Teheran, one of the three wires on the supports of the Indo-European Telegraph Company from Julfa to Teheran; a single-wire line of 256 miles, extending from Teheran to Charoud, on the supports of the Indo-European Telegraph Department, by whom this line is maintained; a single-wire line of 544 miles, extending from Teheran to Meshed, and maintained by the Indo-European Telegraph Department; a single-wire line of 681 miles, extending from Teheran through Ispahan and Shiraz to Bushire, on the iron supports of the Indo-European Telegraph Department, and maintained by the department; a single-wire line of 710 miles, extending from Teheran to Bam (Kerman), and maintained by the Indo-European Telegraph Department; a single-wire line of 553 miles, extending from Meshed to Seistan, and maintained by the Russian Government; a single-wire line of 31 miles, extending from Astrabad to Tchikichlar (Turkestan), and maintained by the Russian Government.

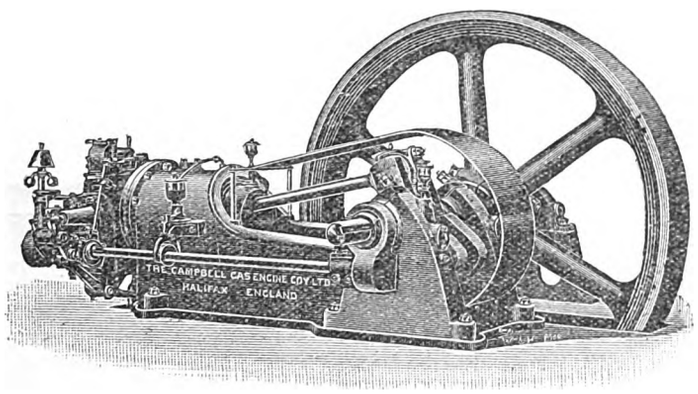
The staff of the Persian Telegraph is composed entirely of Persians, except that the manager, who is an Englishman, is lent to the Persian Government by the Indo-European Telegraph Department. The stations number 118, all of which are open for traffic in the vernacular, and 53 in Latin character.

The rates throughout Persia on the three lines are nearly identical.

Telephones.

In Ghilan and Mazanderan the telephone lines belong to the Hadji Mehdi Agha Company, whereas in the remaining provinces they are the property of the Société Anonyme des Telephones Persans. There is telephone service in Teheran, Tabriz, Meshed, Urumia, Maragha, Hamadan, Kermanshah, Kasvin, Ispahan, Shiraz, Resht, and Bushire.

The company holding the road concessions from Julfa to Tabriz and from Enzeli to Teheran has built a telephone along these roads for its exclusive use. The Société des Pêcheries Lyanazoff has installed a telephone line for the length of the shore between



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Bender-Gez and Gomouch-Téé, on the Caspian Sea. The Anglo-Persian Oil Company has built a private line from the oil wells at Madji Soleiman, Abaden, to the company's refineries on the banks of the Chat-el-Arab. A private line, joining Urumia with the lake of that name, has been recently built, and has been placed at the disposition of the public.

EGYPTIAN RAILWAY NOTES.

The Cairo correspondent of the *Railway Gazette* (May 7) gives the following details concerning Egyptian traffic receipts:—

Egyptian Delta.

The final, but as yet unaudited, traffic reports of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways show the earnings of the light lines of the system, as apart from the broad gauge Helouan Railway, during the year ended March 31, 1915, to have been £E190,000, as against £E250,000 during the year previous, a drop of £E60,000. The receipts of the Helouan Railway are down about £E15,000. Whereas the percentage of drop on the Egyptian State Railways has been about 29 per cent., it has only been about 25 per cent. on the Delta Light Railways.

Ramleh Railway.

The earnings of the Ramleh Railway Company from October 1, 1914, to April 10, 1915, are £E35,937, as against £E39,834 during the same period of the previous year. Of this drop, £E3,488 comes under the head of ordinary coaching traffic. The abnormal times are affecting tramway traffic in Egypt equally badly. The total receipts of the Alexandria Tramways Company from October 1, 1914, to April 10, 1915, have been £E36,867, as against £E47,855 for the same period the year before, a drop of £E10,988. Here, as with the railways, ordinary passenger traffic (as distinct from season ticket traffic and traffic by means of the purchase of books of tickets) is mainly accountable, having dropped £E10,112 during the period. It is curious that the only head of account under which both the Ramleh Railway and the Alexandria Tramways show an increase in receipts is under "season tickets." During the period of 1914-15 under review season ticket revenue on the former line increased by £E148, and on the tramways by £E73, as compared with the same period of 1913-14.

EGYPTIAN OILFIELDS IN 1914.

The following information is from a report by Mr. Fox-Strangways, the Acting British Vice-Consul at Suez, on the trade of that district in 1914, which is being issued:—The development of the oilfields progressed very satisfactorily during the year. Several old wells were abandoned, thus confining the work more to the drilling of new wells. Two good gushers were struck, which gave prolific production to begin with, but unfortunately one of them (at Gemsah) was eventually flooded by water, this being the great difficulty to be contended with in this field. The other well, however, is still producing. There are also in operation wells yielding smaller quantities. The total production of oil from the fields during 1914 considerably exceeded the output for the previous year; moreover, it is anticipated, in view of the fact that oil is now being obtained from the concessions south of Gemsah, that a far larger output will be obtained during 1915. The crude oil is transferred from Gemsah or Hurgada to the refinery at Suez, where it is converted into benzine, kerosene, and liquid fuel. In 1914 the quantity of crude oil imported into Suez for refining was 119,349 metric tons, valued at £E179,023, and of heavy benzine distillate 11,893 metric tons, valued at £E83,251. The output and value of the refined products in metric tons and at £E, equal to £1 0s. 6¼d., were as follows:—Used in Egypt—Liquid fuel, 6,923, £17,307; kerosene, 8,638, £43,190; refined benzine, 1,186, £11,860; unrefined benzine, 2, £14; total, 16,749, £72,371. Exported to the East, France, and the Mediterranean—Liquid fuel, 47,248, £118,120; kerosene, 22,154, £110,770; refined benzine, 8,227, £82,270; unrefined benzine, 16,921, £16,921; total, 94,550, £328,081.

Mr. E. W. P. Foster, C.M.G., a director of the National Bank of Egypt, has been added to the London Committee of that bank.

Engineering Notes.

Refrigerating Plants.

The present war has interrupted the completion of an important scheme for the exportation of fresh meat, fruit, etc., from the Near East to the United Kingdom and the Continent. Cold storages were being planned on land, and a certain number of steamers plying between England and the Ægean and Black Seas were to be fitted with refrigerating installations for frozen meat. So far as known, a German firm was likely to supply the necessary refrigerating plants—a firm which had already been doing considerable business with the East. The preference given to the German system must be attributed to the fact that the latest British refrigerating systems are not sufficiently known, though they are superior to the German, and, in some instances, cheaper.

Dry Air Refrigeration.

In our notes last week we referred to refrigeration by the ammonia compression systems as adapted for cold storages, etc. We will now refer to another British system as employed for the importation of meat, fish, fruit, dairy produce, etc. It is the Dry Air Carbonic Refrigeration in which carbonic anhydride is used. This material is a most powerful refrigerant, and is applicable to commercial purposes; incidentally, it may be mentioned that it is the gas which is used for making all aërated waters, and constitutes the sparkle of wines and bottled beers. The refrigerating machine consists of (1) the compressor in which the gas drawn from the evaporator is compressed; (2) the condenser, consisting of coils, in which the compressed warm gas is cooled and liquefied by the action of cooling water; and (3) the evaporator, consisting of coils, in which the liquid carbonic anhydride evaporates, producing any degree of temperature that may be required down to 80 degrees below freezing point. The required quantity of carbonic anhydride originally put into the machine is used over and over again, going progressively through the process of compression, condensation, and evaporation. Thus a small quantity only is required to be added to from time to time in order to replace any small losses, and for this purpose carbonic anhydride is sent in steel cylinders to any part of the world. The cost of the material is only a few pence per pound, and the quantity required for a complete charge is very small.

Marine Installations.

For preserving provisions on passenger steamers, steam yachts, making ice, etc., a small type of machine is generally used, consisting of a single vertical steam cylinder and a compressor, both secured to a casting containingthe condenser coils. Behind this casting is another secured containing the evaporation coils, the whole making a very compact and accessible design. This type of machine is very simple, and can easily be worked by a person of ordinary intelligence. Brine services are fitted for producing the temperatures required in the meat, vegetable, butter, and fruit rooms, as well as for the making of ice and for water cooling. These are controlled from the refrigerating machine, which may be placed in any available corner in the main engine-room, where it comes under the eye of the engineer on watch.

Frozen and Chilled Meat.

For the importation of frozen and chilled meat the size and type of the refrigerating machines depend on the quantity of meat to be carried, dimensions of holds of ship, length of voyage, etc. For maintaining the holds at 15 degrees F. for frozen meat, or 30 degrees for chilled meat, the brine system has proved the most advantageous. The brine, cooled by the machine in the engine-room, is circulated by a small pump through iron pipes which are fixed on the under side of the deck over the hold or insulated space. The presence of the cold brine pipes at the top of each hold sets up a constant circulation of air; for as the air in contact with the pipes becomes colder, and consequently heavier, it descends, and is replaced by less cold air, which is cooled in turn. The pipes also have the effect of producing very dry cold air, any moisture in the air being condensed upon them, but not to such an extent as to impair their cooling efficiency. The large quantity of cold brine in the holds acts as a storage of "cold," thus maintaining the holds at a low temperature for a considerable period after the machine is stopped. In most cases it is, therefore, necessary to run the machine for only a few hours daily. For the importation of butter, some kinds of fruits, etc., where the goods require to be rapidly chilled when placed in the insulated holds of the ship, air-coolers and fans are substituted, by which the moisture abstracted from the goods during the process of chilling is rapidly drawn off. The air coolers consist of coils of pipes through which the carbonic anhydride is circulated, the air passing over these pipes being thus cooled and passing around the goods in the insulated holds.

Mining Machinery.

The war is exercising an adverse effect upon the demand for British mining machinery (says *Engineering*), the value of the exports to March 31 this year having fallen to £130,900, as compared with £271,888 in the first quarter of 1914, and £249,802 in the first quarter of 1913. The value of the exports to British India declined to £12,064, as compared with £25,775 and £18,107.

Riverworks at Khartoum.

From the *Sudan Times* we learn that work has been begun on the erection of a stone wall on the river front for the protection of the roadway and trees against the encroachments of the river. The wall, which will extend from the north-west corner of the Post Office to a short distance beyond Malik Avenue, will be of a perfectly simple construction, built of undressed stone and laid with a sloping face. It is regarded as a temporary structure, for, while the authorities have just now to consider economy most carefully, it is hoped that in the not distant future the whole embankment will be protected by a river wall as solid and handsome as that which already fronts the Governor-General's Palace.

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Company Notes.

Societe des Immeubles d'Egypte.

The annual meeting of shareholders has been held. Net profits for 1914 amount to P.T.1,837,135.16, which, with the sum brought forward from 1913, gives a total of P.T.2,742,140. The following dividends will be paid:—(1) P.T.20 per ordinary share, or P.T.1,118,500, and (2) P.T.2.20/40 per "action de jouissance." P.T.450,000 has been placed to the "extraordinary reserve." The company's reserve amounts to P.T.7,174.166. Compared with 1913, the past year shows a decrease in revenue of about £2,500, of which £1,625 is due to a fall in rentals. Various works were undertaken during the past year. These involved an extraordinary expenditure of P.T.118,357, which has been deducted from the profits. The reserve of £E4,500 is destined for the payment in full of newly installed lifts and of eventual depreciation on the Ghizeh Estate.

Ottoman Railway.

In connection with the circular reproduced in last week's issue of THE NEAR EAST, anent the debenture stockholders, the following letter which appeared in the *Financial Times* from Mr. W. M. Smith, of 2, Castle Street, Salisbury, is of interest:—

"I have received notice from the directors of the Ottoman Railway from Smyrna to Aidin, in which they propose that in funding the interest the first debenture stockholders should receive at the rate of £120 for interest on every £100 of stock, while the second debenture holders are to receive at rate of £100 only for every £100 of stock. This I consider grossly unfair to the second debenture holders, and I trust same will protest and not give away their protest by signing the proxies. In the case of other special war-time fundings I can find no such similar arbitrary treatment."

The *Financial Times* yesterday analysed the funding scheme and said:—

"There is, of course, no doubt as to the necessity for the directors proposing a funding scheme, because the railway was seized by the Turkish authorities in November, and the interest on the debenture stocks due on January 1 last was only paid in cash by the aid of a loan obtained from the company's bankers on the security of the reserve fund investments, a process which cannot be repeated. As regards the funding terms, the second debenture holders must in the first place remember that the first debenture holders have a prior charge on the property, and in the case of default, if no new arrangement were made and the rights were enforced, it would be necessary to pay off the whole of the first debenture stock, amounting to £1,960,700, and to meet all arrears of interest before the second debenture holders could receive a penny of capital or interest. It is therefore essential that the consent of the first debenture holders should be obtained to any scheme, and that consent cannot be obtained unless the terms are fair to those holders.

"Another point which the second debenture holders must not overlook is that the stock they hold and the stock they are to receive in lieu of cash bears 5 per cent. interest, whereas the first debenture holders receive only 4 per cent. interest, and the stock to be issued to them for funding purposes will also be 4 per cent. Assuming that it had been decided to give both classes of debenture holders £100 of stock for each £100 interest, a holder of, say, £2,000 second debentures would receive £100 of 5 per cent. stock, while the owner of a similar amount of first debentures would get only £80 of 4 per cent. stock.

"Then there is the question of the market value of the two stocks which are to be issued to the respective debenture holders. This must be taken into consideration, because the payment in stock is to take the place of cash. In normal times—it must be on this basis that a valuation is made—the 5 per cent. second debenture stock has regularly stood at from 9 to 15 points higher than the 4 per cent. first debenture stock.

"It will be seen that while the first debentures have averaged rather under 90 in the four years, the second debentures have averaged 101. It would appear that the directors, in considering the terms for funding, have taken all the rights and the points in the positions of the two classes of debenture holders into account, and that the scheme is a fair one. Should the first debenture holders prefer to wait for cash payments of their interest instead of accepting stock without enforcing their other rights, then the second debenture holders would have the resumption of cash payments on their stock delayed until all arrears had been paid off, and it is therefore to their interest that a funding scheme should be accepted by the first debenture holders."

Ottoman Docks.

The following official notice has been published:—

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN DOCKS ARSENALS AND NAVAL CONSTRUCTIONS COMPANY.

ISSUE OF 5½ PER CENT. BONDS.

This Company being incorporated in Turkey, a position has arisen consequent upon the war which no one contemplated when the issue was made. As we originally brought the investment to your notice, we are ready to purchase any scrip at the amount paid up upon it plus interest at the rate of 5½ per cent. per annum from the date of payment of the respective instalments up to the 25th day of May instant, less income-tax, and upon the following footing:—

The scrip to be sent to the undermentioned brokers for verification. On the scrip being found correct, the Bank of England will be requested to transmit to the holders the amount of principal and interest due to them.

This offer remains open for scrip handed to the brokers up to the 20th day of June, 1915; it does not apply to alien enemy holders.

For Sir W. G. Armstrong Whitworth and Co., Ltd.,
CHARLES L. OTTLEY, Director.

For Vickers, Ltd.,
V. CAILLARD, Director.

London, 20th May, 1915.

Brokers to whom scrip should be sent:—
Messrs. Cohen Laming Goschen and Co.,
14, Austin Friars, E.C.,
or
Messrs. Wise Speke and Co.,
23, Collingwood St., Newcastle-on-Tyne.

The *Financial Times* reviews the situation as created by the war as follows:—The issue, which was made in July last, consisted of £600,000 5½ per cent. bonds guaranteed by the Imperial Ottoman Government, and Messrs. Armstrong and Vickers, who were the contractors entrusted with the work of constructing the new docks contemplated under the scheme, themselves took up £100,000. The outbreak of war prevented any substantial progress being made, and when, after Turkey had joined the belligerents, the position of the bondholders was discussed, Messrs. Armstrong and Vickers stated that, with the exception of a relatively small sum, the amounts paid up by subscribers were still safely held in this country. A meeting of subscribers was held on December 30 last on the initiative of the Trustees Executors and Securities Insurance Corporation, who are the trustees for the bondholders. As a result negotiations were entered into with the contractors, and legal proceedings were also instituted. In March a statement of the position, detailing what had been done, was issued, and the outlook then did not appear to be particularly encouraging. At the meeting of Vickers, Ltd., last month, however, the Chairman, Sir Vincent Caillard, stated that they hoped shortly to be in a position to make a favourable offer to the bondholders. This has now been done, on what appears to be fair terms, and the cost of expensive and needless litigation will thus, we hope, be avoided.

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COMPANY MEETING.

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

The ordinary general meeting of the Egyptian Markets, Limited, was held on May 17 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Major W. I. le Breton (chairman of the company) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. F. J. Horne) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The following are extracts from the chairman's speech: Gentlemen,—Before I proceed to the business of this meeting I have to refer, with deep regret, to the loss sustained by this company in the lamented death of Mr. Allan F. Joseph, C.E. I will, with your permission, take as read the directors' report and the accounts circulated therewith. It will, I am sure, have been no surprise to you that the continuity of our 10 per cent. dividends has been interfered with by present conditions, and I feel sure that the proposed dividend of 8 per cent. is, under the circumstances, no disappointment to you. Unfortunately the effect of the war upon our company is not wholly measured by this difference in the dividend to the ordinary shareholders. Our deferred shareholders on this occasion only get £191, or 12s. 9d. per share, as compared with £1,787, or £5 19s. 2d. per share, a year ago, and the Government participation in our profits is £1,750 less. In all our profits are diminished by £6,923 as compared with the preceding year. Our expenses proper only increased by £170, but, for reasons to which I will refer later, we have had to charge off no less than £1,335, and the balance of £5,418 is revenue lost to us. Although this sum of £5,418 is our actual comparative loss of revenue, events are responsible for a yet larger figure. We ought to have gained from having our markets opened to horned cattle for over 600 business days more than in 1913, and also from the unrestricted admission of buffaloes. I must remind you here that in the year we are considering our operations were interfered with by the war for five months only. This interference took the form of a very serious curtailment of the means of making purchases on the part of our customers and of a serious shortage in camels, in particular, offering at our markets for sale.

As regards the first of these, you know that our business is conducted entirely in the districts of Egypt, and that their population is directly dependent upon the conversion of their cotton crops into cash. Their position, though bad, would have been worse if the Government of Egypt, with the assistance of the British Government, had not come to the rescue, as ready to make purchases of, or advances upon, considerable quantities of cotton, but the crop was inferior to recent years, the ruling prices were worse, and worst of all, the demand fell far short of the production. As regards the second point, you are probably also aware that an important part of the earnings of our cattle markets is derived from the business done therein in camels. In Egypt these are not only employed as beasts of burden, but the less useful and softer kind are used in large numbers for butchers' meat. They are brought to our markets mainly from Syria, and also come to us from the direction of Tripoli. These animals from both directions have evidently been annexed by the Turks to aid them in their attempted attacks upon Egypt, and, although they must have derived so little satisfaction from such use or abuse of their services, this action of the Turks has deprived our company of a considerable amount of revenue, as it also deprived the owners, probably, of the proceeds to which they were entitled. The receipts for the year from our cattle markets fell from £34,735 in 1913 to £31,334 in the year under review, and I am quite inclined to attribute this decrease of £3,400 to the dearth of camels at our markets for five months. It means to us that camels were absent from or in short supply at our markets on more than 2,000 market days, and, thus viewed, I do not feel that I am exaggerating the effect at an average loss of £1½ per day. The remainder of our loss of revenue is due to the following causes. Firstly, the sale of cotton seed to be taken over by the Government, as pointed out to you last year had been decided upon—from this we have suffered to the extent of £1,000—and, secondly, to decreases in the earnings of our general markets and slaughterhouses.

I will now turn to a brief consideration of miscellaneous matters, with which you have been made acquainted on former occasions. I will commence with our old enemy, the cattle plague. I told you a year ago, with somewhat mixed feelings, that owing to the heavy cost the Government had been compelled to curtail its operations for the eradication of cattle plague, and that, as a result, we should in all probability suffer less acutely then, while those measures were in full force, but for a longer time than if they had not been interrupted. We have suffered less acutely, for we enjoyed, as I have told you, 626 more market days open to horned cattle than in 1913. Indeed, for the last one and a-half months of 1914 we only had one market thus partially closed, and, according to latest advices, have only eleven so closed to horned cattle, against thirty-five at the same time in 1914. I think this goes to establist the fact that if the preventive measures adopted by the Government had been continued on the same scale we should soon have seen the last of cattle plague, while, on the other hand, the increase from one at the end of 1914 to eleven at May 6,1915, shows that there has been some recrudescence, and I may say that my mingled feelings of a year ago now give place to one of unqualified regret that, even at the heavy cost to ourselves, the successful efforts of the Government were prevented from being carried to that completion which, apparently, was so nearly reached. At the same time, we have every reason to hope that the measures taken, and still being taken, by the Government are sufficient to protect us from any return of this disease comparable to what we suffered from it in past years, and will, moreover, eventually stamp it out. A matter of considerable importance to us is our business in chemical manures, and the principal of these is nitrate of soda. In this we did not lose anything appreciable last year, but we should have done better if a lot of 250 tons shipped in an enemy's boat from Antwerp had not been seized and taken to Malta. By the prompt aid afforded to us by the Admiralty this cargo was soon released, but we did suffer, both from the delay and from the extra expense involved in then getting it to Egypt. This year we have had great difficulty in procuring nitrates, and greater still in getting freight. We have so far been unable to do more towards complying with our general manager's urgent requests for increased quantities than to send him enough to keep our business together, and we realise and share his disappointment that he has been prevented from effecting some considerable sales at profitable prices. Lately, however, we have been able to secure a cargo direct from the coast of Chile at a favourable price. This should reach Alexandria about this time; we must hope that it will do so safely, and we feel that it will be sufficient for present purposes and will be turned to good account by our able and energetic manager. Another of these fertilisers now coming into increased use in Egypt is phosphoric acid, at present obtained and sold by us in the form of superphosphates. This substance commands only a low price. It sweats and destroys its bags, and as a consequence little profit attaches to the business. For some time we have had in view, and have now completed, what we believe to be a more favourable arrangement for dealing with this matter.

The Egyptian Phosphate Co., Limited, secured from the Government of Egypt a concession of important phosphate beds at Sofaga, on the Red Sea, and have succeeded now in producing therefrom a basic phosphate much richer than superphosphates and, in the form of a dry powder, unobjectionable to handle. The company has agreed, for a period of five years, to give to our company the sole rights for the sale of their basic phosphate in Egypt, on a commission basis, and payment by us by way of advances of one-half only of the price to us delivered at Suez, while we, on the other hand, have undertaken to use our best efforts to further this business. We realise that we have to face the difficulties attendant upon the introduction of a new article to a very conservative people, but for this we claim to possess unrivalled facilities.

I will now offer a few remarks upon our prospects. In the first three and a-half months of the current year we have lost about two-thirds of 1 per cent. The next three and a-half months are not so important, and I should doubt our losing anything appreciable in that time. We then reach the date at which the war affected us in the past year, and, consequently, at the worst, I do not see that the current year can fall far short of that we have been considering, even if existing circumstances continue throughout the whole of it. (Applause.) I say, at the worst, because, in order to prevent a recurrence of the difficulties of cultivators in disposing of their cotton crops, the Government of Egypt has restricted the areas to be so cultivated, and, as a consequence, a great deal more land will be devoted to other crops. Of these, wheat and rice are likely to be the principal. It is not to be expected that these will yield the same profit as cotton, but they will, at any rate, be marketable, and in all probability at good prices. Cash, therefore, is not likely to be so scarce. We may, possibly, secure business in these crops while we have had no share in cotton dealings, and our manager believes that our chemical manure business will be larger. If existing circumstances do not continue throughout the year an improvement on this forecast may be looked for, while in regard to future years I have no doubt that you share the generally expressed belief that Egyptian business, so sound as ours, is likely to benefit from that country having been declared a British Protectorate. (Hear, hear.) On this occasion I desire to make somewhat special reference to this company's staff. It has been my painful duty to remark upon the shortcomings of some who were in our employ last year, but this must not, I feel, prevent my commending the staff to your notice as a whole, more particularly so as, in the absence of my usual visit to Egypt, and under the circumstances with which we are contending, this is the only encourage-

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ment I can offer to them. On the outbreak of war Mr. Duffield, our general manager, and all members of our staff on leave, returned to their posts without a murmur. Any of us who have served abroad, and have saved up our leave and our money for a trip home can realise the disappointment thus caused to them and their friends. Two of our inspecting staff were recalled to military duty, while a third enlisted and obtained his commission in the short space of three months. (Hear, hear.) Those remaining have had harder and more trying times than usual. At this end I hope I may be permitted to refer to what, I am sure, are most valuable services being performed, at great sacrifice to himself, by my distinguished colleague, Captain St. John Cooke, D.S.O. (Applause.) My other colleague, Mr. Home, C.I.E., is, I know, serving with one corps, and our secretary, Mr. Horne, with another, while in the office the one gentleman left (Mr. Hassett) was, for some reason, pronounced unfit for military service, though he has proved himself so fit for ours. If any shareholder has any questions to ask I shall be happy to reply. (Applause.) I beg to move: "That the report of the directors dated April 27, 1915, together with the audited statement of accounts and balance-sheet for the year ended December 31, 1914, be and they are hereby approved and adopted."

Captain A. St. John Cooke, D.S.O., seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The Chairman proposed, "That a dividend of 8 per cent., less income-tax at 1s. 6½d. in the £, on the ordinary share capital of the company for the year ended December 31, 1914, be and it is hereby declared to be paid to the holders of ordinary shares, recorded on the register of the company on May 4, 1915, and to the holders of ordinary share warrants to bearer."

Mr. W. Home, C.I.E., seconded the resolution, which was carried.

The Chairman moved, "That the sum of £191 8s 2d. (equal to 12s. 9d. per share), plus or minus one-third of such additional amount (if any) as may be found due from or to the Egyptian Government, as the case may be, beyond the £950 (the amount estimated as due to Government), less income-tax at 1s. 6½d. in the £, be declared as dividend on the deferred share capital of the company, payable to holders of the deferred shares on the company's registers on May 4, 1915; that of such figure 10s. per share, less income-tax at 1s. 6½d. in the £, be paid on May 19, 1915, and the balance (if any) immediately after ascertainment thereof."

The motion was seconded by Captain A. St. John Cooke and carried.

On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Home, the retiring director (Mr. W. O. Joseph) was re-elected.

Mr. W. G. Morrison proposed, and Mr. J. F. Hall seconded, the reappointment of the auditors (Messrs. Price Waterhouse and Co.), and the motion was carried.

Mr. G. H. Redwood then moved, "That the company do refund to Major W. I. le Breton the sum of £175; to the estate of Mr. Allan F. Joseph, deceased, the sum of £175; to Mr. William Octavius Joseph the sum of £175; to the estate of Mr. F. E. Robertson, C.I.E., deceased, the sum of £290; and to Mr. F. J. Horne the sum of £100, being respectively the sums paid by the above-mentioned gentlemen to the company out of their own pockets in respect of the financial year ended 31st December, 1908."

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Morrison and agreed to unanimously.

THE ALEXANDRIA WATER COMPANY LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the THIRTY-SEVENTH ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the Shareholders will be held at the Company's Office in Alexandria on Friday, the 4th June, 1915, at four o'clock in the afternoon, for the transaction of the ordinary business of the Company, pursuant to the Act of Parliament.

The Transfer Books of the Company will be closed for 14 days immediately preceding the Meeting.

By order of the Board,
J. E. CORNISH,
Assistant Manager.

Dated, Alexandria, 24th April, 1915.

COMPANY RESULTS, &c

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN OILFIELDS.—Gemsah production for week, 386 tons (last week, 392 tons); Hurgada production for week, 315 tons (last week, 358 tons).

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.—Receipts for the ten days ended April 20 amount to £E4,018, as against £E5,831 for the same period last year.

GHARBIEH LAND COMPANY.—The annual meeting of shareholders will be held on May 31 in Cairo.

UNION FONCIÈRE D'EGYPTE.—The annual meeting of shareholders was held in Alexandria on May 15.

NILE COLD STORAGE COMPANY.—The ten per cent. share bonus dividend already declared in respect of the last financial year, together with an interim dividend of £1 per share for the current year, is now payable in exchange for Coupon No. 7. Coupons may be deposited for examination at the offices of the company, Maison Green, 19, Sharia Boulac, Cairo, 10 and 12 a.m.

OTTOMAN GAS.—The directors recommend a dividend at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum, free of income-tax, on the ordinary shares for the half-year, making 6 per cent. for the year.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN.—Gemsah production for week, 234 tons (last week nil). Hugada production for week, 43 tons (last week 77 tons).

ABOUKIR COMPANY.—Interest on Five per Cent. First Debentures, due June 1, will be paid on and after that date on production of Coupon No. 32 at the offices of the company, 134, Palmerston House, London, E.C.

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.—The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal of the 16th and 17th inst. amounted to 560,000 frs., against 570,000 frs. for the corresponding days last year.

THE GARBIEH LAND COMPANY.

Messieurs les Actionnaires sont convoqués en assemblée générale ordinaire pour le lundi 31 mai 1915, à 12 heures midi, au Siège social, au Caire, rue Gameh Charkass, No. 7.

ORDRE DU JOUR.

1. Rapport du conseil d'administration sur l'exercice écoulé.
2. Approbation du bilan au 28 février 1915.
3. Renouvellement partiel du conseil d'administration.
4. Nomination des commissaires pour l'exercice 1915-1916.

Les dépôts d'actions donnant droit à assister ou à se faire représenter à cette assemblée devront être effectués jusqu'au 16 mai 1915 au plus tard, soit au Siège social, au Caire, soit dans une des Banques ci-après désignées.

Banque Hollando-Américaine, 11, rue Pillet-Will, Paris.

Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited, au Caire.

Banque Belge pour l'Etranger, au Caire, et dans les principales banques belges pouvant recevoir des dépôts.

Banco di Roma, au Caire, et dans les principales Banques du Caire et d'Alexandrie.

LE CONSEIL D'ADMINISTRATION.

THE EGYPTIAN ENTERPRISE AND DEVELOPMENT COMPANY.

L'assemblée générale ordinaire tenue le 31 mars 1915 ayant décidé de se proroger au 31 mai 1915, MM. les actionnaires sont convoqués à la nouvelle assemblée générale ordinaire qui se tiendra le lundi 31 mai 1915, à 11 heures du matin, au Siège social, au Caire, rue Gameh Charkass No. 7.

ORDRE DU JOUR.

1. Rapport du conseil d'administration sur l'exercice écoulé.
2. Approbation du bilan au 31 décembre, 1914.
3. Renouvellement partiel du conseil d'administration.
4. Renouvellement partiel du collège des commissaires.
5. Communications diverses.

Les dépôts d'actions donnant droit à assister ou à se faire représenter à cette assemblée devront être effectués jusqu'au 16 mars 1915 au plus tard, soit au siège social, au Caire, soit dans une des banques ci-après désignées.

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Banco di Roma, au Caire.

Et dans les principales banques du Caire et d'Alexandrie.

LE CONSEIL D'ADMINISTRATION.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE	Mean Price. July 27.	Min. Price. Mar. 20.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	—	90
Do. 5% Gold Loan, 1902	—	—	—
Do. 4½% do. Bonds, 1907	82	—	—
Do. 4½% do. Bonds, 1909	80	—	65
City of Alexandria 5%, 1909	99	—	90½
City of Constantinople 4% Bnds	96	—	—
Egypt. Gov. 3% Guar. Loan	93½	87⅛	87½
Egyptian 4% Unified Debt	98	85	89½
Do. Pref. Rd. 5%, 1890	88	78	78
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82½	73½	78½
Do. 4½% State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	80½	75	75⅜
Greek 5%, 1881	57	52	57
Do. 5%, 1884	56	52	56½
Do. 4% Monopoly, 1887	49	45	49½
Do. 4% Rentes, 1889	45	40	45
Do. 5%, 1890	56	52	56
Do. 5% Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	—	54
Do. 4% Rails. Loan, 1902	77	—	70½
Do. 5% Nat. Ln., 1907	94	—	95
Do. 5%, Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	—	77
Montenegro 5% Loan	82½	—	—
Persian 5% Loan (1911)	91	—	81xd
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £50p.	92	—	—
Servian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish Guar. 4% Loan, 1855	103	97	—
Do. 4%, 1891	94½	—	85⅜
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	—	79½
Do. 4% Loan, 1902	82½	—	—
Do. 4% Unified	79	—	59½
Do. 4% Loan, 1908	65½	—	52
Do. 4%, 1909	69	—	—
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	—	3½xd
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	—	7
Do. 3½% Bonds Red.	80	—	78½
Do. 3½% Guar. Bonds Red.	83	—	79½
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	—	10⅛
Bank of Abyssinia	½	—	—
Bank of Athens	£2	—	1⅜
Bank of Roumania	8½	—	—
Eastern Bank	5	—	85/9
Imperial Bank of Persia	7½	—	6
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	—	—
Ionian Bank, Limited	3½	—	72/6
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	—	5
National Bank of Egypt	13½	—	12⅜
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5% C.P.	8	—	6½
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8½	—	6⅜
Do. do. 5% Debs., Red.	98	—	95
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½% Debs., Ser. I.	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88½	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17½	—	14
Do. do. 6% Cum. Pref.	22	—	16½
Do. do. 4% 1st Deb.	87	—	62
Do. do. 5% 2nd Deb.	101	—	67½
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	—	—
Pireus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	90	—	—
Do. do. 3% Bonds	61	—	—
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	—	17/32
Do. 5% 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	—	95
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	½	—	—
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2½	—	2½
Do. Do. Def.	½	—	—
Béhéra Co.	8½	—	7⅜
Do. Pref.	4½	—	4
Daira Sanieh	2/4	—	1/9
Do. Def.	⅜	—	⅜
Egyptian Agr. 5% 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	9/-	—	7/1½
Do. Gov. 4% Irr. Tst.	93	—	92
Do and Foreign Trust	5/-	—	4/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	—	1⅜
" " Founders	½	—	—
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—	—
Do. 5% Debs. Red.	—	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	9⅜	—	8½
Do. 4½% 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	—	91
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	—	⅜
Sidi Salem Co.	1/16	—	⅛
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	—	⅜
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	—	1/1
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	—	12
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt	97	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	—	—
Egyptian Hotels	1½	—	—
Do. 4½% 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—	—
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1 1/16	—	1½xd
Do. do. 5% Debs. Red.	99½	—	99
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	1/16	—	14/3
Do. 5% 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	96	—	98
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	—	10/-
Do. do. Prefs.	3¾	—	3½
Do. do. 4½% 1st Mt.	90	—	85
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (fr. 500)	£179½	—	£—
Upper Egypt Hotels	2½	—	—

OIL.	Price on July 30.	May 19-15.
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	1/16	14/-
Anglo-Persian	22 1½	21/6
Cyprus Oil Trust	2/3	2/3
European Oilfields	4/9	4/-
Roumanian	20/-	17/9

PARIS BOURSE.

	Jan. 4.	May 19-15.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane	—	—
Canal de Suez	4050	4380
Credit Foncier Egyptien	630	—
Turkish Unified 4%	61.50	64.15
Egyptian Unified 4%	87.75	88.75
Serbian, 1895	—	65.15

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 212.—Vol. IX. FRIDAY, MAY 28, 1915.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Italy declared war on Austria-Hungary on May 23. Early the following morning Austrian aeroplanes attempted to attack the arsenal at Venice, while Austrian destroyers shelled various places on the Adriatic coast. The enemy's activities, however, were merely in the nature of demonstrations, as no effort was made to press home the attacks. Both the aircraft and the naval units were easily driven off before any serious damage was done. The Italians replied with a raid on Porto Buso, the Austrian island at the head of the Adriatic, where they sank some enemy ships and took a few score prisoners. Without further delay what must be regarded for the present as the main Italian offensive is being developed across the eastern frontier along a wide front extending from Monte Maggiore to the sea. The first successes of our new Allies point to an Austrian concentration on the Isonzo River, for it is too much to expect that the enemy will not have made the most of the warning given them of Italy's intentions.

The rapidity of the Italian movements, no less than the significant passage in the mobilization orders which stated that railway services, both for passengers and goods, would continue regularly, proves that the Italian mobilization had been well advanced before war was declared. A resolute offensive pressed home with all the dash associated with Italian troops can hardly fail to be of the maximum advantage to the Allies at this stage. The Austro-German attack in Western Galicia is not yet spent, but this new menace from the south-west will have to be met by more troops than the Austrians would have felt justified in keeping idle on the Italian frontier so long as there was a chance of Italian hostility being bought off by concessions. A lull has been reported in the operations on the San River, and it may be that already the enemy's attack in this quarter has had to be weakened to provide troops for the south-west frontier. In this case Italy has been opportune indeed in her declaration of war.

As a result of Italy's intervention in the war all eyes are naturally turned for the moment towards Roumania. We have heard for so many months that this country was on the point of abandoning its neutrality, that interest in the prospective event could not be sustained long enough. It died down, only to be revived when some date was mentioned in connection with Roumanian intervention. The last date to hold the field was the one to be chosen by Italy for her declaration of war. But Italy has been in the field for some days now, and Roumania makes no move. It is rumoured, indeed, that the Bucharest Government has been trying to profit by the delay in order to secure better terms for her support from the Allied Powers. No one will challenge its right to safeguard the national interests in the most favourable manner possible; but it would be a matter for regret to Roumania's best friends and, we do not doubt, to the nation as a whole, if the Government were to adopt such an unreasonable attitude that it was in danger of forfeiting the respect of the Triple Entente.

Throughout the war Roumania's attitude has appeared to be perfectly straightforward. Her sympathies and her difficulties were well known to the Allied Powers, and they have waited confidently for the moment when in her own good time she would be ready to join them. She was acquainted with what she stood to gain by remaining neutral and with the rewards that awaited her co-operation with the Allies. Even if no precise date for her participation in the war had been fixed, the spirit of the understanding was that she should not delay beyond the reasonable period required for the completion of her military preparations. That stage has been reached. If she still delays, it is obvious that her co-operation, when it does come, will be less valuable to the Allies than it would have been if it had been given at an earlier date. A bargain, if broken by one of the contracting parties, ceases to be binding. It would be well if the Roumanian Government were to take note of the public temper in the countries of the Triple Entente. The feeling is abroad that at one period of the war things were being made too easy for neutrals who wished to fix their own time for climbing down from the fence. That feeling may be ill-informed, but it may react ultimately on the attitude of the Allied Governments, which can hardly be in a mood for protracted bargaining. It is true that for the speedy termination of the war we still need Roumania's co-operation; but Italy's intervention bids fair to place a different complexion on the European situation, and the relative value of the help that Roumania can give will certainly depreciate as time passes.

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An object-lesson of the straits to which a country can be reduced by a policy of wobble is provided by Greece. Our Athens Correspondent, in a letter published in this issue, describes graphically the attempts of the Gounaris Cabinet to persuade the country through its Press that the rejection of M. Venizelos' policy was the best course for Greece to adopt. What the Greeks realize, however, is that whereas in January the Allied Powers were ready to offer Greece a considerable part of Asia Minor as a reward for assisting Serbia, now they do not take the trouble even to answer Greece's overtures on the subject, still less to engage in the haggling which the tact and statesmanship of M. Venizelos prompted him to avoid. What the late Premier offered his country was a clear-cut policy. This was rejected, and the new Cabinet preferred to have no policy at all, but to wait upon events. The result is that it passes through agonies of uncertainty as each bulletin from the theatre of war reaches it, knowing that it must ultimately be forced into a decision, but lacking the courage that confidence in the honesty of its attitude would bring.

It would be too much to expect that the Bulgarian Government should modify its attitude at a moment when the issue on the Galician front is in the balance. If shells are to be the deciding factor in this war, and if the Allies refrain from manufacturing a sufficient quantity, while Germany's output shows hardly any signs of diminution, neutral countries which are compelled by their weakness to walk warily cannot be blamed for some uncertainty regarding the final issue of the war. But we believe that public opinion in Bulgaria is inclining more and more to the Triple Entente, and will be still further impressed by Italy's action. At the same time the Bulgarian attitude will be helped by the seizure by the Turks of a hundred Bulgarian railway trucks which were passing through Turkey laden with goods from Dedeagatch, consigned to Bulgarian merchants. The goods were discharged in Turkish stations, and the trucks were utilized for military purposes.

The news from the Dardanelles has recently become as fragmentary as some of Sir John French's despatches, and it is evident that the Allied troops are paying the penalty of meeting the Turks on their own ground. If the military strategists had been given a free hand they must have argued that, as the one thing which the Turks lack most is mobility, it was essential to engage them as far from their base as possible. With this object in view they ought to have been encouraged to expend all their strength in distant efforts against Egypt, in the Caucasus, and in Mesopotamia. But the forcing of the Dardanelles was considered a matter of extreme urgency—how far belief that it would prove an easy task influenced the degree of urgency attaching to it we do not know—and it was decided to tackle the Turk where mobility means nothing, but where everything is in his favour.

The last official statement of the operations on Gallipoli Peninsula covers the period from May 21 to May 24. Whitsuntide at the Dardanelles differed but little from Whitsuntide in Flanders and France. On the Friday, we read, the first French Division made considerable progress, and are now close to the Turkish trenches. The next day the enemy made a determined attack against the left of the Indian Brigade, and gained a temporary footing. A strong counter-attack, however, was at once organized, and the Turks were driven back with a loss of over five hundred men. In one particular a great difference between the conditions on Gallipoli and those in the western theatre has to be recorded. On Whit Sunday the Turks were granted at their request an armistice for the purpose of burying their dead lying in front of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps. Over 3,000 Turks were buried, all killed between May 18 and 20. Where our troops have to deal with Germans no suspension of hostilities is agreed to now. So often has an armistice been violated by the enemy that our troops are not allowed to trust them any longer. The result is to be seen in several places where the German dead have been lying between the two lines of trenches for many months. By Whit Monday further advances had been made by the Allies on the peninsula and the new lines had been consolidated. Since then, however, we have suffered a fresh naval loss in the torpedoing by an enemy submarine of H.M.S. "Triumph." Fortunately the greater number of those on board were rescued.

An interesting disclosure is made by the Italian Green Book dealing with the events leading up to the declaration of war with Austria-Hungary. It appears that at the time when a fresh attack on Serbia was regarded as imminent, and the Press of the Central Powers was at pains to spread reports of the numbers of German troops to be sent to reinforce the Austrians, the Italian Government contrived to interpose a veto on any military action by Austria-Hungary in the Balkans. Article VII. of the Triple Alliance Treaty bound the contracting parties to consult one another previously to, and to arrange "compensations" for, even temporary occupations of new territory by any one of the partners. Austria-Hungary seems to have availed herself of this Article when Italy was at war with Turkey and was in a position to bombard Salonika and Kavalla. On February 12 last the Italian Foreign Minister notified the Austro-Hungarian Government that, in view of the Austrian delays in answering its proposals, the Italian Government withdrew them from discussion, and in virtue of Article VII. declared that any military action whatever on the part of Austria in the Balkans without previous agreement with Italy would lead to the gravest consequences. A few days later Baron Sonnino emphasised this communication by informing the Vienna Government that it had "the precise significance of a veto placed by Italy on any military action by Austria-Hungary in the Balkans until the conclusion of the agreement for compensation in accordance with Article VII."

Three or four months ago Germany and Austria-Hungary were as little anxious to have Italy ranged against them as they were last week. They appreciated apparently the significance of the Italian threat, and the threatened invasion of Serbia did not take place. In view of the preparations that were stated to have been made for it, we have no need to underrate the value to Serbia of the Italian action. No doubt Austria-Hungary was unable to spare many troops for any sustained offensive; but the disastrous nature of the rout she had suffered at the hands of the Serbians called for some revenge, if only to satisfy public opinion at home. We know, however, that the expedition against Serbia never started. The German troops which had been despatched to reinforce it were drafted elsewhere, and for several months now the Serbians have enjoyed immunity from attack. Serbia's knowledge of her indebtedness to the Italian Government can hardly fail to affect the relations between the two countries. With Italy's entry into the war, controversy over the details of the compensation she is to receive is of necessity in abeyance. The silence that has succeeded to a somewhat bitter discussion in the Press of the two countries implies, we may hope, that an agreement has been reached satisfactory to both States.

The Russian Foreign Secretary has had no scruples in declaring *urbi et orbi* his satisfaction over Italy's action. In the course of an interview he is reported to have dwelt on "the tremendous importance of Italy's decision," and to have expressed the hope that her adhesion to the Triple Entente would accelerate the end of the war. In this country we have not allowed ourselves to give vent to any enthusiasm over Italy's step, probably for the same reason that will prevent us from celebrating any single success achieved in the war with much outward manifestation of joy. Nevertheless, we do not disguise from ourselves, any more than M. Sazonoff, the tremendous importance of Italy's accession to the Allied ranks, and we eagerly await the concrete results of her military operations.

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The Russian Foreign Secretary at the same interview was able to make a reassuring statement regarding Serbo-Italian relations. Russia, he said, would not have fulfilled her task if Serbia had not been afforded an extensive access to the Adriatic, and therefore the rumour that Russia intended to give Italy all the Dalmatian coast was unfounded. Serbia would receive good ports and her desire for access to the sea would be fully satisfied.

The absence of news from the Persian Gulf indicated that the punishment received by the Turkish forces at Shaiba and Ahwaz in the second week of April had not been without its effect. This reading of the situation is now confirmed in an official communication issued by the India Office. No further trouble seems to have been experienced in the Busreh district. But the Turkish forces on the Tigris and Karun remained, although they showed little inclination for active operations. With a view to checking the movements of the column whose presence in the district was a menace to Ahwaz and to secure the pipe-line of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, a British force was sent to attack the Turkish camp which had been located at Illah on the Kharkheh. A rapid rise of the latter river and a series of severe sandstorms delayed our movements, and the Turks were able to retire on Amara before we could come up with them. The further operations of the force were accordingly confined to the infliction of punishment upon those local tribes which had been assisting the Turks. It is to be inferred that the problem with which the Turks are confronted in the Gallipoli Peninsula has had the effect of distracting their attention from their other theatres of war. Certainly the operations at the head of the Persian Gulf have not fulfilled the promise of early threats. Of the attack on Egypt nothing more is heard, although the railway from Nablus may still be stretching out its steel feelers across the desert. In Armenia the Russians are reported on the northern shore of Lake Van—a notable advance since last we heard news from the Caucasus. Their presence there justifies the supposition that the Turkish menace to the north-western corner of Azerbaijan has been removed.

The condition of the King of the Hellenes gives rise to grave anxiety throughout Greece. Complications have ensued upon a bad attack of pleurisy, and it is a question whether even the Royal patient's splendid constitution can stand the strain placed upon it by the severe illness. A whole nation watches in spirit at the King's bedside. King Constantine became a national hero after the successes to which he led the Greek army in the two Balkan wars. In regard to his difference of opinion with M. Venizelos, which brought about the resignation of the latter, there has scarcely been time for public opinion in Greece to apportion responsibility between the King, the Premier, and the General Staff. In any case, King Constantine's illness has checked all criticism, and the nation's hope is centred on his speedy recovery. Greece could have no more popular ruler to lead her to the goal of her national aspirations.

A strong wave of feeling that as a nation we have hitherto failed to take the right steps for putting forth our best effort to end the war is passing through Great Britain. Its first result has been the formation of a Coalition Government. The country now looks to its leaders to make up for the deficiencies of the past by losing no time in marshalling its resources in men and material to the best possible advantage. Under the influence of this critical discovery it is inevitable that our outlook on the general position of the war should be temporarily clouded. We see the complete dissipation of all the hopes formed during the winter that with the early summer a combined advance of all the Allies would be in progress. In the western theatre the situation shows little or no improvement. On the eastern front the Russians, instead of being established on the Hungarian plain, have been forced to yield a great part of Galicia, and are struggling to prevent the investment by the enemy of the fortress of Przemysl. In the Dardanelles our rate of progress is measured by yards instead of miles, and each yard advanced entails loss of life. On the other side of the picture, however, there is the intervention of Italy, and time will show how long the prodigious efforts of Germany can make good with this powerful accession to the Allies' strength.

"DOUGHTY-WYLIE HILL."

Details have been received in London this week of the manner in which Colonel Doughty-Wylie met his death. They show that the end was worthy of the man, and was such as he himself would surely have chosen: met in the fulfilment of duty, for which he had volunteered, and in the performance of an action which saved many other lives. It is told as follows by the *Daily Telegraph's* special correspondent at Mytilene:—

Colonel Doughty-Wylie, who was on the Staff, had previously been superintending the landing of the Australians. From a transport lying close to the point of disembarkation he was observing their valiant efforts to secure a very difficult position which they had attempted several times under a terrific fire and against the strong defence of the well-entrenched Turks. Many Australians were killed and the officers were dropping one by one. Colonel Doughty-Wylie eagerly asked permission to lead the charge, and this was given, reluctantly, in view of his position as Staff Officer. Colonel Doughty-Wylie sprang to the head of the Australians and called them to follow him, which they did with loud cheers.

Under his lead the Colonials, who had lost greatly in numbers, but nothing in spirit, stormed the ridges and trenches, advanced a considerable distance, and captured position after position, inflicting heavy losses on the Turks and enabling the disembarkation of more troops to be effected in comparative safety. The brave colonel's heroism thus prevented the loss of many lives, in addition to achieving a feat of arms which provided a splendid example and resulted in a substantial gain.

Having performed this glorious, self-imposed mission, Colonel Doughty-Wylie fell at the head of the victorious troops, with the satisfaction of knowing that they had reached the goal and consolidated the position.

Reuter's correspondent in Cairo, who also forwards an account of the incident, reports that "the men spoke of this brave man in most eulogistic terms," and that the moral effect of his action was great. He adds:—

The hill on which he met his death is now known as "Doughty-Wylie Hill." An officer speaking about the Major said that no braver man ever lived. He had no business to be there, as he was a Staff Officer, but the loss amongst officers in landing had been so great, and the necessity for making headway quickly was so essential, that Major Doughty-Wylie felt that his duty lay in leading the men, and so he went forth fearlessly to his death, and the hill will be a lasting monument to his self-sacrifice and great valour.

The *United Service Gazette* (May 20) in commenting upon the wonderful exploits of submarine A.E. 14, in the Narrows of Chanak, does well to call the attention of neutral nations to the difference in the manner in which naval warfare is conducted by the various belligerents. It says:—

Neutral nations will note the difference between such a military enterprise as this, by British seamen from our colonies, and the limp and lame work being performed by German submarines in sinking unarmed merchant ships and fishing vessels.

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LETTERS FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, May 9.

The Wounded from the Dardanelles.

This week the war has been brought home to us more vividly than has been the case since hostilities started; for the first batches of wounded have begun to arrive from the Dardanelles. As I wrote in my last letter, very elaborate preparations had been made, but the number of casualties that the hospital ships and troop-ships brought over have taxed the capacity of those establishments which had been requisitioned. I am not permitted to give the number of wounded, but you can obtain some idea of what we have been called upon to cope with from the list of hospitals in Cairo alone. Besides the Citadel, which has a large capacity, Kasr-el-Aini has been taken over, as also the Ghezireh and Heliopolis Palace Hotels, whilst the Anglo-American Hospital has been largely given up to officers. Mena House is still retained, but it is understood that the Savoy and Semiramis Hotels are about to be taken over, and that the establishment at the Pyramids may be given up. In addition, Port Said has been called upon to accommodate a good number; and, as Alexandria has not sufficient room, the French hospital at Ismailia and the native ones at Damanhur, Zagazig, Shebin-el-Kom, and Benha have all been requisitioned. In fact, from being, so to speak, a garrison town, Egypt has become a vast hospital. The medical staff provided by the military authorities has, of course, had to be reinforced locally. All the civil doctors have been called upon for service to the wounded, whilst the nursing staff has had to be supplemented by the few lady residents who either had previous experience in Red Cross work or in anticipation of emergency had taken the precaution of attending lectures on the subject, and who are now greatly relieving the strain.

The worst cases have been retained at the ports, mostly in Alexandria, in order to save them the extra journey to Cairo. But even then a visit to the hospitals of the capital is quite sufficient to convey a very good idea of the havoc that modern warfare works. What strikes one at the very outset is the high *moral* evident everywhere. Thomas Atkins, whether he hails from Britain or Australasia, bears his lot with wonderful fortitude. His sole grumble is at his ill-luck at having been knocked out so soon. That man over there, really little more than a boy, who has been wounded in the spine by a shell, and who will probably never be able to walk; this one, who has lost his left eye and whose right one may be affected; this group, all with thighs and legs fractured and smashed by shrapnel; one and all are as cheerful as if they were simply having a day in bed. A chat with these heroes—for they are all that with a vengeance—reveals a remarkable keenness to be back in the firing line, despite the horrors they had experienced, and an interest in the progress of their comrades still at the front that are decidedly refreshing; but, above all, one finds them without exception possessed of a quiet, supreme confidence in the ultimate result that positively puts to shame those of us whom the telegrams from time to time incline to pessimism. If the spirit which I found dominant in every ward of every hospital in this city is that which animates the rest of the British forces—and I do not doubt that such is the case—then we need have no fears as to the future.

Some Details of the Landing Operations.

According to all accounts, our forces effected a landing on the Gallipoli Peninsula against almost overwhelming odds. Part of the coast had been protected by wire entanglements and pits with stakes driven in points upwards, and the difficulties were added to by the machine and other guns, which were so well concealed that for a long time the warships could not locate them. Many of the men never got on land at all, and were shot in the landing-boats, whilst the officers were picked off one by one by sharpshooters, who were eventually tracked down, but unfortunately not until they had levied a heavy toll. Thus it was that the Brigadier and every colonel but one of the Fusilier Brigade were placed *hors de combat*, and that the Dublins had only one officer left. Similarly, one of the Australian battalions was at the end led by a sergeant, and another was commanded by the padre, who was unfortunately killed.

The Australians seem to have done wonderfully well, and it is pleasing to note that all the other units were loud in their praise of the Colonials' work. The Naval Brigade also bore itself bravely, and the number of marines in hospital here shows what havoc was wrought in their ranks. As one of them said to me, Antwerp was child's play compared with what they had to endure after landing. The Turks, directed by the Germans, had taken most thorough precautions. All the ranges were accurately marked out, and they were able to sweep our lines with an endless curtain of shrapnel, whilst their snipers were so ingeniously concealed that they got to the rear of our men without being detected. Most of them were seated in dug-outs covered with shrubs, and so were able to pick off the officers after they had passed forward. Some of these snipers, when eventually discovered, were found to have a good supply of cartridges, at least a thousand, and food for a fortnight by them; a good number of these men were Germans. Some of the officers of the latter nationality, having obtained and donned British or Australian uniforms, contrived to get into our lines, where they tried to create confusion by issuing false orders or by shooting at our officers.

British Officers Called Up from Egypt.

As a result of the toll levied in officers in the Dardanelles Expedition and also on the Western Front, the number in the service of the Egyptian Government has had to be drawn upon, and several have proceeded to the front this week. These include Colonel E. A. Herbert, commanding Cairo District, and Captain E. B. Mackintosh, A.A.G., who have gone home; Captain A. A. C. Taylor, Assistant Director of Nizam; Captain Stirling, late Secretary of the Khedivial Sporting Club; Captain Kenny, A.D.C. to H.H. the Sultan; and Captain A. A. Butler, Assistant Director of Intelligence, who have gone to the Dardanelles. Captains Taylor and Stirling were both originally in the battalion of the Dublin Fusiliers that lost so many of its officers at Cape Helles, and the former will officiate as colonel and his companion as second in command.

Turkish Atrocities.

Most gruesome stories are circulating as to the brutality of the Turks, who are said to be retaining no prisoners and to be bayonetting the wounded, whilst they multilate those able-bodied men who fall into their hands. Even making allowance for ordinary exaggeration in the course of telling, there seems little doubt that the stories are fundamentally true, and that the Turks are systematically committing these atrocities, no doubt under the direction of the Kultur protagonists who are now in command of them. As it is understood that some of these unfortunate victims have struggled back to die in our lines, it would be as well if an inquiry were made into this matter, and an official statement issued. If, as one has reason to believe, the stories in circulation are true, no useful purpose can be served in hushing such matters up, although certain people seem to think that publicity is undesirable and inadvisable.

Cairo, May 16.

The Problem of the Dardanelles Wounded.

The influx of wounded, British and French, from the Dardanelles, which was recorded last week, has continued ever since, and appears likely to continue for some time to come in the same proportions. The officers and men have been distributed, as best could be, between the various regular and auxiliary hospitals, but the want of extra accommodation is being very much felt. From what one hears, the congestion is very great in Alexandria, where the more serious cases are being cared for, and where in consequence a longer

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period must elapse before vacancies occur amongst the beds at present occupied. Here in Cairo, as the majority of the wounded are able to get about after a short rest and a few dressings, the tendency is more towards creating convalescent homes than making new hospitals. To meet the recent pressure Luna Park has, however, been entirely taken over; and in view of any unexpected emergency the local Red Cross Society, with which the Cairo branch of the St. John Ambulance Association has been amalgamated, has decided to establish a Red Cross hospital of about 300 beds, probably out at Giza. A movement has been started, and appears to be meeting with great success, for residents to take into their houses those of the wounded who do not require constant and skilled attention. So far only officers have been thus cared for; but some residents have expressed their willingness to take over certain of the rank and file. By this means the pressure on the hospitals will be much relieved, for these wounded will only go at stated hours to the military surgery to be dressed, and will remain in the care of these public-spirited residents until they are fit once more.

The Sultan and the Wounded.

H.H. the Sultan, who, as Prince Hussein Kamel Pasha, was always to the fore whenever any philanthropic work needed attention, or suffering had to be alleviated, has since hostilities started with Turkey and the first wounded were brought to Cairo shown the deepest solicitude for their lot. Especially has this been noticeable since our wounded commenced to arrive from the Dardanelles. In the first place his Highness has lent the Walda Palace at Helouan—one of the properties belonging to the Wakf of his father, the Khedive Ismail—as a convalescent hospital for sick and wounded soldiers. A fund has been opened for its administration, and the Sultan has subscribed £E200 and has given a large number of very necessary articles. The hospital, which is under the patronage of his Highness, will be managed by his English physician, Dr. Llewellyn Phillips. Further, at the weekly sitting of the Council of Ministers, the latter, on the initiative of the Sultan, who was presiding, decided that the Egyptian Government should subscribe £E2,000 towards the funds for the wounded. On Thursday, accompanied by the Prime Minister, his Highness visited the hospital at Heliopolis Palace, and afterwards sent General Maxwell 100,000 cigarettes for distribution amongst the wounded at all the British hospitals. The Sultan's sympathy and generosity have made a very great impression on all sides.

A Shortage of Doctors.

There would appear to be little doubt that the military authorities were taken by surprise by the number of casualties that the Expeditionary Force has suffered. Extensive preparations had been made in Egypt, but if it had not been for the assistance given by the voluntary helpers one does not know how the work could have been coped with. There seems, also, to have been a lamentable shortage of doctors with the expedition; otherwise there is no accounting for the fact that some of the hospital ships, conveying over 1,000 cases, carried but two doctors and but four nursing sisters, who, helped by orderlies though they were, could not, working night and day, give anything near the proper attention to their charges. Practically all the wounded brought up to Cairo had not had their wounds dressed since the first dressing; in many cases they had merely received first aid on the field. That exceedingly few of them became septic may be certainly attributed to the beneficent effect of iodine, of which every man carries a small phial.

Arrival of Turkish Prisoners.

Turkish prisoners from the Dardanelles have now begun to arrive. They have all been taken to the prisoners of war camp at Maadi. The last batch included six officers, two of whom were certainly Germans. It was understood that the British military authorities contemplated allowing the Turkish officers out on parole, but the British residents in the district where they were to be allowed to reside petitioned against this step, and it is believed that the idea has been dropped. No doubt this proposal was entertained by the military authorities before they realised how barbarously the Turks had behaved in Gallipoli towards our men. Further confirmation has now been received of what I wrote on this subject last week; and since officers are always supposed to be responsible for the conduct of their men, there is no reason why the officers in question should be accorded this consideration.

An Echo of the Canal Attack.

An interesting ceremony took place at Ismailia on Sunday last, when the French Agent, M. Albert Defrance, presented the Cross of the Legion of Honour to Lieutenant George Carew. Lieutenant Carew, it may be remembered, was pilot of H.M.S. Hardinge during the first Turkish attack on the Canal. Whilst on the bridge he was wounded by a shell, which shattered one of his legs and severely damaged one of his arms. In spite of this, he insisted on remaining at his post, and it was only on the intervention of the doctor that he could be got down below. The British and French Governments at the time suitably recognised Lieutenant Carew's heroism, and the Quai d'Orsay saw fit to instruct its representative formally to pin on the pilot's breast the decoration awarded to him. The ceremony, which was attended by the General Commanding the Canal Defences and representative detachments of British and Indian troops and French sailors, was rendered all the more touching by reason of the fact that Lieutenant Carew had to be wheeled on to the scene, as he has had to have one leg amputated, and, although completely out of all danger, is still somewhat weak.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Cyprus, May 7.

It is understood that the Government may probably move into summer quarters on Mount Troodos earlier than usual, possibly about the beginning of June.

A number of Cypriot-Greeks have expressed a desire to be enrolled for service with the Allied forces now operating against Turkey. They are for the most part men who served through the late Balkan War. They have applied, it is reported, to the French Consul-General here, and are eager to be accepted in view of the opportunity they hope to get of striking a blow at their ancient enemy.

Cyprus, May 14.

We understand that the Malta Regiment will not proceed to Troodos, but remain in camp at Polymedia, Limassol, this being more convenient should a necessity arise for their sudden departure. Meanwhile it is probable that they may be at any moment replaced by some other regiment from Egypt.

The Boy Scouts movement has become established in Cyprus, and quite a number of lads are now enrolled, and may be seen in the well-known dress marching along with their familiar equipment, and bent on learning discipline and a good deal that is useful besides. It cannot be doubted that, if strictly worked on the approved lines, this movement is likely to have a most beneficial effect on the intelligence and morals of the youth of the island, and should tend to raise the whole standard of character, as it is well known it has done in every other country in which it has taken root.

In the Legislative Council, during the debate respecting a clause which the Greek members desired but failed to insert in the reply to the High Commissioner's address, lively passages occurred between the Greek and the Turkish representatives. The latter, who, of course, opposed the proposal (relating to union with Greece), were energetically led by Irfan Effendi, who is an active upholder of the Turkish views on the Council.

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ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, May 16.

The Question of Neutrality.

The proposal made a few weeks ago by the Greek Government to the Powers of the Entente has not been acknowledged, probably because the conditions imposed were quite unacceptable. The negotiations, therefore, came to a standstill. When it became evident, however, that Italy had come to some agreement with the Entente and was about to join them against Germany, and that in all probability Roumania would soon follow her lead, the Government began to show some inclination to take part in the Dardanelles operations, fearing that Italy might otherwise get a share of the territorial concessions in Asia Minor and elsewhere for which Greece was hoping.

The New Conditions.

In those circumstances the Government decided to modify their original conditions, and, suppressing their demand for a guarantee of Greek territorial integrity for a period of several years after the close of the war, they confined themselves to requiring this guarantee up to the signing of peace. On the other hand, they now propose to limit the action of Greece to the co-operation of her fleet, and to keep her army intact in order to meet any possible attack from Bulgaria, unless the Bulgarian army will also join in action against the Turks.

It may be asked why Greece should demand any such guarantee from the Powers, if she keeps at her disposal her entire army, which should afford her sufficient protection from the Bulgarian danger.

There are two reasons. In the first place, if Greece ranged herself on the side of the Entente Powers, she would be exposed not only to the danger from Bulgaria but to a possible attack by Austrian and German troops, in the event of their penetrating through Serbia, as they threatened to do a short time ago. Greece would then find herself in an extremely difficult position. But the situation would be quite different, and no such danger would exist if Italy and Roumania both declared war upon Austria. Then Greece would be able to count upon the support of Serbia, who would be relieved from the pressure by Austria, and would be able, in case of need, to assist her ally against the Bulgarians.

The Guarantee of Territorial Integrity.

The second and the most important reason why Greece insists upon this guarantee was mentioned in my last letter. It is that she fears that the Powers in their desire to re-establish the Balkan Alliance will permit Bulgaria to annex that part of Macedonia which she claims (*i.e.*, Kavalla, Drama, etc.), and that Italy will get the northern part of Epirus now occupied by Greece. The Ministerialist Press makes much of this danger, in order to rouse the patriotism of the country, and daily publishes articles showing how the Powers would thus make use of Greece to serve their own interests, and the fact that they will not give the guarantee she requires is held up as a proof that the Government's fears are well founded. It is a pity that in adopting this attitude the Ministerialist Press appears to forget what Greece owes to the three Powers in question, who practically created and have always protected our little kingdom. The Triple Entente Powers, not being in a position to accede to the demands of Greece in respect to this territorial guarantee, put a proposal before the Greek Government, undertaking in a general sense to protect Greek interests. They further pointed out to the Government, what M. Venizelos so well understood, that Greece had nothing to fear in becoming their ally, for if Bulgaria then attacked her she would have them to deal with also.

Interruption of Negotiations.

The Greek Government could not decide to accept this proposal, nor to abandon the territorial guarantee, and, therefore, refused to make any further official suggestions. The negotiations were then broken off, and the Government fell back upon its neutral policy, which it seems disposed to adhere to, even if Italy takes part in the war.

In justifying this policy the President of the Council argues (through the Press) that if a great Power like Italy is so reluctant to expose herself to the dangers of war, how much more reason has Greece to hesitate, especially as there has so far been no public demonstration in Greece in favour of war. which might lead one to infer that the people desire it. To this one might reply that Greece and Italy are quite differently placed, for even if she remained neutral Italy would have the compensations she most desires, and would annex all the Italian provinces now under Austria-Hungary which she might acquire by fighting. Further, if Italy fights she will have to throw *all* her forces into the field, whereas it is only proposed that Greece should offer the Entente Powers the support of her fleet. On the other hand, if Greece refuses to fight for the liberation of her compatriots she runs the risk of seeing Greek provinces ceded to another Power.

And as regards his argument that there have been no public demonstrations, M. Gounaris seems to forget that he took rigorous measures for their suppression. Even the Ministerialist journals have been obliged to acknowledge the strong public feeling in favour of M. Venizelos, which surely means that the people believe in his policy of action.

M. Gounaris would find it much easier to justify his hesitating attitude if he confined himself to the argument which he has used on another occasion, that his Cabinet does not hold its power from the people, and is consequently reluctant to assume the responsibility of adopting and putting into execution the bold policy conceived by M. Venizelos, but prefers that the people should show at the elections which policy they wish to support. He might add, if he wished to be even more frank, that the recent turn of events on the Russian front, the slowness of the Dardanelles operations, the appearance of German submarines in the Mediterranean, and in general the pessimistic view taken by competent critics of the operations against Turkey, and of the war in general, have strongly influenced the Government's decision to fall back upon its neutral policy.

The Programme for the Elections.

The Ministerial line of argument, which is intended to make people feel that the Government is mainly concerned in safeguarding the territorial integrity of the country, will form the basis of its programme for the elections. According to one of the Government papers, the electors will be told that, if they vote for the Venizelist party, they will give the Powers to understand that the Greek people approve of the cession of the Macedonian lands to Bulgaria, and that they are in favour of war. The Ministerialist newspapers are also exploiting the King's illness, declaring that it has been brought on by worry over his disagreement with M. Venizelos on the question of his war policy.

The Venizelist Press.

The Venizelist Press is busy refuting all these arguments. It points out that the Powers of the Entente gave M. Venizelos the formal assurance that they would make no demands in favour of Bulgaria, but would only try to remove his objections to the cession of the territory in question. Thus, if the Government of M. Gounaris finds any great difficulties in its way they must be of its own making. The Entente Powers must indeed have been surprised to find the Government proclaiming loudly that M. Venizelos wished to make territorial concessions to Bulgaria, without even explaining that he was to obtain in exchange other lands of much greater extent. This unpardonable revelation of State secrets has revived Bulgaria's dead hopes, and placed the Powers in a most awkward position in regard to her.

Greece's Representative at Petrograd.

M. J. Dragoumis, Greek Minister at Petrograd, has resigned his post in order to stand at the approaching elections. It is stated that his successor will be M. Caclamanos, Departmental Head at the Foreign Office, one of the most distinguished of Greek diplomatists.

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NEWS FROM TURKEY.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Athens, May 17.

The French and British "Hostages."

An Englishman writing from Constantinople on May 3 said he had that day received notice from the police to leave the country within three days. He said this measure was to be applied to all the British residents in Constantinople, and he was preparing to leave the following Thursday. Subsequently information reached here that twenty-five British and twenty-five French subjects had been sent to the Gallipoli Peninsula accompanied by a representative from the American Consulate. Later news arrived to the effect that these Englishmen and Frenchmen, the names of whom it has not so far been possible to ascertain, had been transferred to Broussa, and yesterday it was learnt that they had returned to their homes. Sir Edward Grey's warning that he would hold Enver and Said Halim personally responsible if anything happened to the English and French, and the energetic intervention of the American Ambassador, has apparently had the desired effect.

The exodus of Italian families from Constantinople continues; in fact, life in the capital is particularly uncomfortable for Europeans just now. The Armenians are accused of a conspiracy against the Young Turks, and it is alleged that they had made preparations to kill Enver, Talaat and others as soon as the Allies had got through the Dardanelles. Any Armenian on whom there is the slightest suspicion is immediately arrested, and all Armenian houses are being searched for arms and ammunition.

Turkish Wounded from the Dardanelles.

It is estimated that thirty thousand Turkish wounded have arrived in Constantinople, being conveyed to the capital by transports and by Bosphorus ferry boats. The hospitals are full, and the wounded are now being sent to Smyrna and other places. The Turkish losses in killed, wounded, and prisoners must exceed fifty thousand men.

Turkish prisoners are now being sent to Egypt. The men would probably surrender in large numbers were it not that they are between two fires; for if they attempt to retreat or escape they are shot by their German officers. In fact, the Germans are simply leading these poor wretches to slaughter to suit their own purposes.

More troops are being sent from Constantinople to Gallipoli, and during the past two days no trains have arrived at Dedeagatch from Constantinople.

The Splendid Australasians.

From all accounts, the dash and bravery of the Australians and New Zealanders is perfectly marvellous. No troops in the world could face them. They take trench after trench with the bayonet, and their officers have difficulty in restraining their intrepidity. These hordes of untrained colonials, as they were satirically described in a Germanised newspaper in Athens, have proved, as the Empire expected, that they were the best adapted for this particular campaign; and although they have had to wait some time for their fighting they have at last had an opportunity of showing their prowess. The British Empire is proud of them, and they will be idolised in their native land.

The bombardment of the fortified positions has been particularly violent lately, and it was reported yesterday that the Fleet was well inside the Dardanelles, and that the forcing of the Straits was considered imminent.

About twenty-five prisoners were marched through Pera about ten days ago on their way to Tash Kishla Barracks, amongst whom were three or four Englishmen.

Some excitement was caused in Constantinople a short time ago by the removal of the German steamer "General" from the Galata Quay to the Arsenal inside the Golden Horn. She is apparently occupied by the Headquarters Staff.

Turkish News.

The Turkish official *communiqués* continue to be drawn up with the view to deceiving the public, and although they can no longer say that the Allied troops have been driven into the sea, they now say that the Allies are being continually repulsed, have not been able to make any progress, and are unable to leave their entrenched positions on the seashore under the protection of the guns of the warships. This is the sort of stuff Europeans in Constantinople have to read, no English, French, or Italian newspapers being allowed in the country. The censorship is very strict, and telegrams are held up unless they are absolutely clear and intelligible.

According to the latest news, the "Breslau" was again inside the Golden Horn, and the Russians report that the famous "Goeben," which again ventured into the Black Sea, has once more been badly damaged.

A telegram from Maan, in Syria, announces the arrival there of the survivors of the "Emden," who, it will be recollected, escaped in a sailing vessel. They made their way to the Red Sea, and having landed on Turkish territory have now got so far as Maan, evidently on their way to Constantinople. The telegram states that they were received with great manifestations of sympathy from the population, and the commander of the Turkish troops entertained them at a banquet.

The appearance of German submarines in the Mediterranean has produced some excitement here, and the publication of a notice from the British Embassy that a reward of £500 will be given for information which leads to the destruction of a German submarine has been favourably commented upon by many of the Greek newspapers. They say that even without this reward it is the duty of every conscientious man to denounce these assassins, as there is no place in the Mediterranean for these Huns of the sea.

Apart from the arrest of some Armenians, all appears well in Smyrna, but the Port of Vourla is now blockaded by the Allies, and only passenger traffic is allowed.

ROUMANIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, May 8.

M. Marghiloman and his Party.

As I reported at the time, some little while ago, M. Marghiloman, the leader of the Conservatives, was called to account by the committee of the party regarding his attitude towards the Dual Alliance; and he then declared that his policy was one of national aspirations. Not long ago, it became known that he had stated to several persons that Great Britain had declared herself opposed to Roumania's aspirations in Transylvania—a report denied officially by the British Minister. M. Marghiloman then thought fit to deny that he had made the statements attributed to him; but this produced overwhelming proof of his having done so, statements proving it being published daily in the *Daminata*.

All this led the committee to call a meeting, at which a vote of want of confidence in M. Marghiloman was only lost by five votes. The actual numbers of votes were; twenty-seven for and thirty-two against; and, as three members who abstained from voting were known to be opposed to M. Marghiloman, he was practically only saved by two votes. It had been hoped to depose him, and to place M. Filipescu at the head of the party; the change may still be effected, for unless he be extraordinarily thick-skinned, M. Marghiloman's position would seem to be untenable. He has had to ask for the police guard at his house to be increased, and last Thursday a significant incident occurred on the racecourse, when a leading Transylvanian approached him and asked him why he was not doing something for his cousins of "diucolo," instead of amusing himself. The police did not dare to interfere, for it was known that any move on their part would instantly serve as the signal for a demonstration against the Conservative leader.

Students' Demonstration.

A party of students, exasperated by the tone lately adopted by the journals subsidized by the Austro-Hungarian and German Governments, yesterday held a demonstration before the "Terrace" Café, and then marched in procession to the offices of the *Ziua*, where they broke the windows. Next, the offices of the *Bukarester Tagblatt* were visited, and here the interior was wrecked, while not a single window was left whole. Then the students proceeded towards the *Minerva* offices; and though they were, in the Calea Victoria, confronted by a cordon of gendarmerie, a party of them managed to break through the cordon, and the windows of the *Minerva* paid penalty for that journal's views. A few of the students were arrested, but were set at liberty again immediately.

The Italian *stationnaire*, Archimede, which, since the closing of the Dardanelles, has had to remain at Galatz, is now being placed in charge of the Roumanian naval authorities. Her armament is to be stored in the Galatz arsenal, and her officers and crew are returning to Italy by rail. Much significance is naturally attached to these proceedings just now, when Italy is stated to have declared her intention of joining in the war on the side of the Allies.

BRITISH REFUGEES IN ATHENS.

The attention of ex-British residents of Constantinople at present in Athens is drawn to the fact that "The Near East" is on sale every week at M. Th. Vafiades' Bookstore, where subscriptions are also received.

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SERBIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Nish, May 15.

Serbia and Dalmatia.

The possibility of the cession of Dalmatia to Italy still occupies public attention, but it is now spoken of in despairing tones, as if the matter were already a foregone conclusion. Serbia, which bases its claim on the principle of affinity of race, insists that the population of Dalmatia are Jugo-slavs—that is, Slavs of the South—comprising Croats, Serbs, Slovenes, and Bulgars.

In the case of Dalmatia, it is asserted that nearly the whole of the inhabitants are of Croatian or Serbian race, that it comprises territory where the ancient Croat kings reigned; and it is asked why Italy does not annex Austrian territory with an Italian population instead of desiring to annex an Austrian province with a Slav population. A new society has been formed here called the "Adriatic League."

The Pressure of War.

The war presses heavily on Serbia, as it does, of course, on all countries taking part in it, but Serbia is shut in on all sides, without any seaport of its own, and the great bulk of the male population is serving under the colours. Provisions are dear and scarce, and are likely to become dearer.

The Serbian Press announces that Roumania, at the request of the Serbian Government, has commenced negotiations with the Austrian Government for an exchange of war prisoners, and it is expected that the negotiations will have a favourable termination very shortly. It will certainly be a great boon to Serbia to get rid of this heavy burden imposed on her by the immense number of war prisoners which she, all unprepared for such an eventuality, has to support. Moreover, the return home of the Serbians now prisoners in Austria-Hungary will be a great relief to many families here.

Salonika Line Flooded.

Last night the train running to Salonika was brought to a standstill near Ristovatz. The water had flooded the line for a distance of fifty metres, and passengers were held up until the following morning, when at daylight luggage and goods could be transferred from one train to another and the passengers also were able to proceed by the same means.

German Officers for Turkey.

The *Politika* claims to have received information from Sofia to the effect that forty German officers dressed in civilian clothes passed through Bulgaria for Constantinople.

Komitaji Activities.

It appears that the rumour is confirmed that Bulgarian *komitajis* led by Austrians are preparing again to make raids into Serbian territory, and that the noted Panitza is getting a band together with the object of making an incursion into Greece.

News, which is considered trustworthy, has reached here and is confirmed by the Monastir Press which states: "The brother of the murdered Etem Bey is mustering a large band of Albanians to cross into Serbia. They are assembling in Golo-Brdo, Chemernitza, and Elbassan. The chief of the Albanians in Elbassan, Tchamil Bey, a Young Turk especially sent from Turkey, ordered that many of Essad Pasha's adherents should be hanged.

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BULGARIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Sofia, May 11.

Macedonian Students' Manifesto.

The Macedonian students of the Sofia University have recently addressed to the disinterested nations of the civilized world a protest against the atrocities alleged to have been perpetrated by Serbians and Greeks upon the peaceful Bulgarian population in Macedonia. After giving a long list of the murders, massacres, and outrages which took place several weeks ago and provoked the Valandova incident, the students proceed to ask what the "inquisitors" hope to gain by this, and whether they think that the Bulgarian nation keeps no account of the murders, massacres, and disorders. "They deceive themselves," the manifesto continues, "if they believe that Bulgaria has forgotten the fatherland of her first teachers, or the blood shed for the freedom of Macedonia. She has not renounced the traditional ideal—the union of the Bulgarian race. This is the guiding thought that has been the basis of the renaissance, of the Church-School question, of the revolutionary movement that preceded the liberation of Bulgaria, of the Macedonian revolutionary movement, and of the two wars that Bulgaria waged. . . . The Bulgarian nation cannot but respond to the voice of her suffering brother-nation, which groans under a terrible yoke . . . and the Bulgarian Macedonians will not dishonour the Bulgarian name, the memory of the champions who have shed their blood for them."

Refugees in Bulgaria.

Since the Valandova affair about 22,000 fugitives from Serbian and Greek Macedonia have arrived in this country, 12,000 of them being Turks. The latter are especially fleeing from Greek Macedonia, where, they report, they are violently persecuted; but owing to the great number of refugees now in Bulgaria it is impossible for the Government to take care of the Turks. It has therefore addressed a note to the Ottoman Government, asking what shall be done with these Turkish refugees.

A Baseless Rumour.

A report, which apparently emanates from Bucharest, states that a delegation, consisting of the Macedonian *voivodes*, Paoli Christoff, Tchanleff, and Alexander Doreff, has left for Austria to raise money for the formation of bands to operate against Serbia. The object of this report is, of course, perfectly clear: to represent that the dissatisfaction in Macedonia is due to instigation by the Macedonian Organization. The ruse, however, is too transparent. The *voivodes* referred to have not stirred from Sofia for over a year.

Reservists Called Up.

Yesterday an order was issued by the Minister for War calling certain classes of the infantry reservists to the colours for three weeks' drill. The classes summoned are those of 1910, 1911, and 1912. A number of non-commissioned officers have also been called up for a month's training.

German Aeroplanes over Bulgaria.

On the morning of the 9th inst. an aeroplane, flying from the south, made several turns over Philippopolis, and then turned off in a south-easterly direction. Descending, it struck a telegraph post, and fell behind the artillery barracks, crushing an unfortunate woman, who ran to rescue her child, but fell a victim to her self-sacrifice. The aviator, who was a German, and carried a map of the Balkan regions, has been detained by the commandant of the town, and his aeroplane has been confiscated.

Some four days ago another aeroplane, flying towards Turkey, landed in a village near Stara Zagora. The two aviators who were on the machine were detained, and the aeroplane has been confiscated as contraband of war.

General Savoff visits Bucharest.

General Savoff, who, it will be remembered, was Commander-in-Chief of the Bulgarian army in the Balkan war, has been paying a visit of several days' duration to Bucharest. Last Saturday he returned here, and the following morning he had a long interview with the Prime Minister, Dr. Radoslavoff.

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THE SUDAN BIG-GAME SEASON.

FROM A CORRESPONDENT.

It will scarcely come as a matter for surprise that the big-game shooting season in the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan should this year have proved a comparative failure, thus further tending to impoverish an already depleted Treasury, and occasioning additional depression in commercial circles. With the attention of British big-game hunters violently diverted in a different direction, that of French and Norse Americans similarly discouraged and for like reasons, and alien sportsmen forbidden to set foot within the Protectorate, there have been no guns to license and no "heads" to count. Broadly speaking, this will mean a drop in the gross revenue for the Sudan Government of about £E7,500, that being the amount anticipated for the current year, as against £E4,000 for that preceding it. When the amount of the upkeep of the Game Preservation Department is deducted—and this may be estimated at £E2,200 (in 1913 it amounted to but £E1,900), there would have remained a net profit to the Administration of nearly £E5,000, which may be deemed quite a considerable sum at a time like the present, when literally every additional pound raked in becomes a matter of some importance.

The Game Preservation Department has formed a branch of the Sudan Administration since 1901, that is to say, two years after the British Occupation became established. During the whole of these fourteen years it has been under the direction of the same Superintendent—Mr. A. L. Butler, familiarly known as "Beastie Butler"—who has rendered valuable services in organisation and especially in controlling—if he has not succeeded in completely suppressing—the necessary amount of wastage among the game annually killed.

It was Mr. Butler, by the bye, who—in 1906—during one of his annual tours of inspection for the purpose of seeing that the game was being properly preserved, discovered the hill station of Erkowit. Although not coming within his province as Superintendent of the Game Preservation Department, his recommendation to the effect that the station should be developed and made into a kind of sanatorium was adopted, and it has since proved of great value to the Sudan. Mr. Butler has written several useful handbooks concerning his department, in which much valuable advice is given to intending sportsmen, and an endeavour made to guard them from falling into one or other of the several official pitfalls awaiting the Nimrod who would venture upon a big-game expedition in the Sudan without having gained some previous experience.

Annually about 1,800 head of game are killed by about 200 licence-holders in the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, a total which amounts to less than one-half shown by the French Sudan, where big game is recklessly slaughtered—especially elephants, whole herds of which are burned to death by the natives, who take the ivory tusks alone, leaving the carcases to rot. To some extent the same barbarous and wasteful methods are current in the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, the Administration—notwithstanding their efforts to control the situation—being unable to do so effectually over so enormous an area. It is a serious offence, for instance, to shoot a female elephant; nevertheless several "sportsmen" have done so, one of the offenders, it is alleged, having been Mr. Theodore Roosevelt, the former President of the United States. For this offence a fine of £100 can be imposed; but it very seldom is, since the Administration hesitates to take severe measures against offenders unless the case be a particularly flagrant one. This mistaken leniency is sufficiently evidenced by the fact that during the whole of both 1913 and 1914 the total fines imposed amounted each year to only £100.

In the particular instance of female elephant sacrifice referred to, there was nothing said "officially," but a good deal of comment circulated in genuine sporting circles. As a rule, there are considerably fewer than a hundred visiting sportsmen to the Sudan during the brief five months big-game shooting season, the officials, the officers and residents making up the balance of the number. There are several "closed districts" maintained by the Government, elephants—particularly in view of what has been said above—being provided with "reserves and sanctuaries."

Up till last year the Sudan Game Preservation Department was greatly understaffed, a fact the less comprehensible in view of the considerable profits made annually by the Administration—profits which, it was considered, might well have served to bring up to and maintain the Department in a greater state of efficiency. Some disgruntled critics have even considered that the Department has hitherto been run rather too much for the benefit of certain officials and officers serving in the Sudan; on the other hand it may perhaps be pointed out that these favoured classes of sportsmen, even if benefited at the expense of others (which is open to question), find in big-game shooting their one and only relaxation from their usually heavy routine work and continual responsibility; while, in any case, they are nominally subject to much the same restrictions and penalties as the ordinary big-game hunter. The most considerable benefits which they can be said to derive are in the form of heavy reductions in the cost of their licences.

There is now an Assistant Superintendent as well as a Superintendent, the respective salaries paid being £E330 and £E780, while several other officers, such as a taxidermist, a head keeper, two under keepers, and two "farrashes" are employed. That the Department has a considerable amount of accounting to get through in the course of the season may be gathered from the fact that the annual sale of licences (good for one season only), reached last year a total of between £E3,000 and £E4,000; the fees for animals killed came to between £E850 and £E860, royalties to about £E30, and Export fees to £E60 or £E70. During the past year the total of animals killed was considerably smaller than usual; generally speaking, the game destroyed this year by other than officials on leave in the Sudan will be of an almost negligible quantity.

ITALY'S SERVICE TO SERBIA.

In a communication (published on Wednesday) the Rome correspondent of *The Times* emphasizes a point revealed by the publication of the Italian Green Book. "It would seem," he writes, "that the immunity from Austrian attack enjoyed by Serbia and Montenegro during the last three months was directly due to the action of Italy." And he continues:—

Austria may have been unable to take strong offensive, but the condition of Serbia in February was such that a further Austrian attack might have been disastrous to her heroic defenders.

On February 12 Baron Sonnino wrote that, in view of Austrian delays in answering their proposals, the Italian Government would withdraw these from discussion and rested themselves simply upon Article VII. of the Alliance declaring that any military action whatever on the part of Austria in the Balkans without previous agreement with Italy would lead to the gravest consequences.

On February 17 Baron Sonnino dotted the i's by saying that the previous communication had "the precise significance of a veto opposed by us on any military action by Austria-Hungary in the Balkans until the conclusion of the agreement for compensation in accordance with Article VII."

The temporary immunity of Serbia was, therefore, a condition imposed by Italy before definitely entering into negotiations with Austria.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

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

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

SERBIA AND BULGARIA.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—Mr. Ledward's excellent letter in your issue of May 14 confirms my statement that from the time when the Powers refused to ratify the Treaty of San Stefano it has always been Bulgaria that has been forced to surrender territory hitherto acknowledged to be racially Bulgarian. In the year 1841 an insurrection took place in what was then European Turkey. It was confined mainly to the districts of Pirot and Nish, subsequently given to Serbia by the Treaty of Berlin. It was at the time regarded and described as a Bulgarian insurrection. M. Guizot, the then Foreign Minister of France, sent M. Blanqui, *membre de l'institut de France*, to European Turkey to report on the state of the Bulgarian population. The result was published in the form of: "Voyage en Bulgarie pendant l'année, 1841, par M. Blanqui, membre de l'institut de France," by W. Coquebert, Editeur, 48 Rue Jacob, Paris, 1843.

On his way to European Turkey M. Blanqui visited Belgrade, where he had an interview with that remarkable lady the Princess Lioubitza, the wife of the Prince Milosh, at that time in exile. Discussing the insurrection in the Pirot-Nish district, the Princess said: "Vous aller juger de ce que ces barbares (les Turques) ont fait en *Bulgarie*." The Treaty of Bucharest is admirably described in the May number of the *Quarterly Review* as follows:—

"The Treaty of Bucharest is founded on the ruins of violated contracts; it stands on the flimsy substructure of torn up 'scraps of paper.' It has not been recognised by any of the Powers, and cannot therefore be regarded as a legitimate substitute for previous arrangements which they have drawn up or sanctioned. It presents a series of grotesque frontiers, traced on vindictive lines in violation of the principle of nationalities, and in defiance of economic laws. It has condemned more than a million unhappy beings to conditions of existence which cause them to regret the rule of the Turks. It was completed during a period of eight days—a short time for the discussion of the most complicated question of modern times—and was imposed on the Bulgarian delegates almost literally at the point of the bayonet. Before the end of the negotiations M. Maioresco, the Roumanian Prime Minister, intimated to M. Toncheff that if he failed to sign the document within forty-eight hours Roumanian troops would occupy Sofia."

Your correspondent at Nish points out in your issue of May 14 that the military party in Serbia opposed all efforts to come to an amicable understanding with Bulgaria in 1913. He adds: "To-day the power of the military party here is undiminished and makes itself felt." Mr. Asquith has stated clearly and precisely that the new map of Europe is to be settled on national lines. The Powers of the Entente are fighting not only for themselves but for the freedom of small nationalities. They are fighting not only to save Serbia from extinction, but to free the Serbo-Croat race beyond the frontier of the present Serbia, to free the Greeks in Asia Minor, to free the Roumanians and the Poles in Austria-Hungary and Germany, to free Bohemia. To save an unnecessary expenditure of human life, to shorten this war, it is of supreme importance that the neutral nations whose very existence is threatened should come in and help. Bulgaria is said by many to block the way. If the description of the Treaty of Bucharest which I have quoted is correct, as I fully believe it to be, then it must be clear that Bulgaria cannot reasonably be asked to join in this war until she is satisfied that the victory of the Entente will mean the settlement of the Macedonian Question on national and economic lines. It is manifestly useless to expect the States concerned to come to an amicable agreement regarding "the most complicated question of modern times." Sooner or later a settlement will have to be imposed by the Powers of the Entente. It is not a question for military commanders, but for diplomats with a knowledge of the Balkans. There are many such, who can give no service in the field. Yet their services in drawing up a settlement now, to be imposed without alteration in the event of the victory of the Entente, would tend without doubt to shorten the war. The Balkan Peninsula has been the immediate cause of this war. For generations it has been the danger spot of Europe. At the end of this war, alas! still far ahead, there will be so many questions to settle that a very grave danger exists that the most complicated question of the Balkans may receive but scant attention if left till then. If this should unfortunately be so, the danger spot of Europe will still remain unchanged.—I am, etc.,

O'MAHONY.

Grange Con, Co. Wicklow, Ireland,
May 19, 1915.

ENEMY SUBJECTS IN EGYPT: WILL THEY GO TO MALTA?

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—"I wonder whether they will at least pass the winter in Malta?" remarked a friend in the course of conversation about the residue of enemy subjects now in Egypt. This set me musing, not about the pleasure that a winter season in Malta affords, but about the safety, happiness and luxury that some enemy subjects continue to enjoy in Egypt, despite the ill-treatment and brutality extended to every Briton in Germany. I also pondered over the bewildering methods of the Prussian espionage system. Is the possibility of the existence of undesirable enemy subjects in Egypt remote? We have already heard about the illustrious baron, the attempt to discover whom has evoked a considerable amount of over-zealousness on the part of minor officials. Doubtless Egypt is an attractive centre for espionage.

Enemy subjects still in Egypt are numerous. The uninterrupted continuance of their enjoyment of an unmolested life and the privileges of a safe country is accounted for by the fact that some have succeeded in changing their original nationality, while others have established their peaceful disposition and their sincere inclinations towards Britain. They may be honest in their utterances. It is believed, however, that the appointment of a special commission to make vigilant inquiries and a tour of inspection in the different parts of Egypt—especially the villages—might be productive of some not uninteresting revelations. A wireless installation, it is understood, is an easy matter.

I am, etc.,

EMILE BOUTAGY.

Egypt, May 9, 1915.

THE SEGREGATION OF FRIENDLY OTTOMAN SUBJECTS.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—Allow me to convey through your columns my gratefulness to Lord Cromer for his advice in the Press to our authorities concerning the case of these unfortunate people, whose segregation is due, in my opinion, solely to the inability of subordinates to analyse the various circumstances of the individuals concerned, and to the too great pressure on the time of superior officers of the Crown for a due consideration of the proper working of his Majesty's Order in Council according friendly treatment to such aliens. Otherwise the Government has been told this, and much more besides, months ago!

I only wonder why it is necessary for a man in the position of Lord Cromer to write to the papers for the redress of any public grievance by the Government when, with his access to our Ministers, he could easily tell them what he thinks, and his advice should surely not fall on deaf ears. Can it be a fact that however well qualified may be the private citizen to advise haphazard collected Ministries (witness the shuffling and reshuffling alone of Ministers) he gets no thanks for his advice, and to get his voice heard, he must always resort to the Press?

Present-day public men have certainly many virtues due to our Christian British civilisation, but it would seem that the old Adam is not quite dead in them, and that he fears nothing more than public showing up of his vices. This is, however, a disagreeable task to perform in times like the present, and my advice to our public men is to be more candid. There are many such minor but vexatious blunders about, which call for expert handling forthwith.—I am, etc.,

ALEXANDER SEFI.

May 22, 1915.

THE SITUATION IN PERSIA.

Information has been received by Reuter's Agency that a telegram received in London on Monday from a diplomatic source in Teheran states that the situation in Persia has much improved, and that as a result of recent events German propaganda in Persia has suffered a set-back. Much importance is attached to the fact that Russian forces from Khoi, to the north of Lake Urumiah, which had been operating between Dilman and Urumiah, in the neighbourhood of the Turco-Persian frontier, had been despatched against Van with a view to rescuing the remaining Armenian population which had not been already massacred by Turks and Kurds. These forces have met with great success, and the towns of Sarai, Bashkaleh, and Van have all been occupied by the Russian forces, who have forced the Turks to retreat to the southward.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE WORLD'S COTTON.*

Many books are written which could well be spared, but this encyclopædic volume of Prof. Todd's is one which was really needed. Everyone who is interested in the growing or spinning of cotton has occasionally wished to gather some information about cotton in countries remote from his personal experience; such information has usually been obtainable, scattered through various publications, but difficult of access and often antiquated. Prof. Todd has obtained these publications, struggled through the desert of Consular Reports, balanced the probabilities of various statements, and on the foundation of his personal knowledge of Egypt, America, and Lancashire, has strung the whole together into an interesting book, on which the publishers also deserve congratulation.

The work is primarily a compilation, and the only justification for such a compilation is that it shall be done well. As Prof. Todd rightly points out in his preface, there must inevitably be deficiencies and even errors, which need for their removal the voluntary assistance and corrections of people who are scattered all over the world, and the publication of a second edition. Such alterations can only be in minor details, however, for the principal chapters have all been revised by first-hand authorities. But this in itself would not make the book a standard work, though it has eliminated the likelihood of any flagrant error; in the absence of accurate numerical data, even experts have been known to differ. Therefore, the statistical appendix presents not only one set of figures, but every available set of figures, all set out country by country for production, consumption, and price, so that the reader is able to judge for himself whether the author's temerity in sometimes disagreeing with the voice of authority is justified or not. This is, perhaps, the strongest claim which the book could make to a permanent place in the bibliography of cotton. For example:—The crop of China is more or less of an unknown quantity, since it does not come into sight as exports to any great extent, but it is so large that we cannot afford to be ignorant of it, seeing China's potentialities; if we would gauge the extent of our ignorance of the Chinese crop we need only look at p. 397, where four authorities estimate it for 1909-10 as being 4,000,000, 1,200,000, 2,675,000, and 4,181,000 bales respectively. By not merely striking his own average opinion in such cases, but by presenting the data on which that opinion is based, the author has put his work on a plane of his own. We have been told what we know about cotton by other writers—though not in such compact form—we now have a means of finding out how much we do not know.

The three chapters at the end of the book on the Uses of Cotton and of Cotton-seed, and on The Effects of the War—the last being of the nature of a postscript—are of general interest, for "of no industry is it more true that the one half of the world does not know how the other half lives." Space will not permit discussion of the extraordinary state of things revealed by Prof. Todd's co-ordination of the data; how the cotton supply of the world is not merely dominated by the American crop, but by the small American farmer, and how the price of one year affects the acreage of the next, and this again the price; so that the world's cotton crop wobbles excitedly between over- and under-production in alternate years, and never by any chance hits the demand! There is an appalling amount of economic waste going on in the cotton trade—using the term to cover both fields and factories—and the author's plea for a new Cotton-Growing Association, with a capital equal to the amount now being spent daily on the war, is a business proposition. The amount of room available for the activities of such a body may be judged from the fact that Northern Nigeria, on which the British Cotton-Growing Association has now concentrated its attention, has, "making every allowance" some 25,000,000 acres available for cotton, though so far only 16,300 bales have been raised in a season from the whole of British West Africa.

The chapters of direct interest to readers of THE NEAR EAST are VI., XIV., XV., dealing with Russia, Persia, Asia Minor, Greece, even Malta, and with Egypt and the Sudan.

Russia, as one of the big cotton countries of the world, may be a surprise to some people, but her crop is nearly as large as that of Egypt, amounting to 1,000,000 bales of 500 lbs. each—we might have mentioned before that the bale-weight is always given in this book—which is all consumed in Russian mills, with an additional half-million bales imported. There is every likelihood of a steady increase in the local production, assisted as it is by an import duty of *threepence* a pound on foreign cotton, the limiting factors being labour (in Russian Turkestan), and irrigation developments, in Trans-Caucasia.

Persia supplies Russia with about 140,000 bales of very miscellaneous cotton, the supply being limited by the political state of the country, by deficient water-supply, and by the cost and uncertainty of transport.

In Asia Minor the German Levantine Cotton Company has developed the Cilician Plain, and some cotton is grown round Aleppo and Aïdin, the total production being about the same as from Persia, but of better quality. One of the limiting factors of the development there is the tendency to massacres.

Greece has made substantial progress in the last decade, from six to twenty-five thousand bales of good cotton; Cyprus grows about a quarter of this amount, mostly native cotton, and Malta is a cotton-growing country to the extent of five hundred bales or so.

The chapter on Egypt is a permanent contribution to the history of the largest problem in agricultural science ever faced by investigators. The author apologises for the size of this chapter in his preface, and explains why it is so. Nobody who knows his Egypt will object. But the impression left on the reader's mind is rather anticipatory than historical; what might not the potentialities of Egypt be, when she is treated as what she really is—a giant factory for the manufacture of the most valuable plant-products from soil, water, and air, with natural advantages which no other country can quite rival, whose capacities for any given season could be calculated to several places of decimals?

It is noteworthy that Prof. Todd ends his Egyptian chapter by echoing Sir William Willcocks' note of warning with regard to the danger of a really big flood, simply as an economist scared by the economic disaster which it would entail, if it were to happen. In the Sudan he finds similar potentialities for more insidious trouble, in too rapid development of the demand for labour, though this danger happily seems to be a thing of the past.

We forsee a future for "The World's Cotton Crops." It shows the road by which scattered details may be marshalled into the "close formation" of generalisations, and it should cause everybody to be very careful about making off-hand assertions on the subject of cotton for some years to come.

*"The World's Cotton Crops." By John A. Todd, B.L. (Messrs. A. and C. Black. 10s.)

NEAR EAST BOOK NOTES.

Mr. W. M. Petrovitch, the author of "Hero Tales and Legends of the Serbians," is just completing a History of Serbia, which will be published by Messrs. Harrap. This book, compiled from authoritative sources of information, comes down to the decisive defeat of Austria in December last.

Messrs. George Allen and Unwin have just issued a popular edition of "In Russian Turkestan," by Annette M. B. Meakin. The price of the book, which is illustrated, is 3s. 6d. net.

The Religious Tract Society are the publishers of Mr. Percy R. Salmon's "The Wonderland of Egypt," the price of which is 2s. 6d.

We have received a copy of the first number of *La Nation Tchèque*, a new review, published in Paris (223, rue Boissonade), on the 1st and 15th of each month, and edited by Prof. Ernest Denis. It explains clearly the Czechs' programme, and contains much interesting and valuable information concerning the present state of affairs in Austria. The subscription (in this country) is 7 francs a year.

Mr. John Lane published yesterday "An Englishman's Recollections of Egypt, 1863 to 1887, by Baron de Kusel (Bey).) The work, which has numerous interesting illustrations and a map, is issued at half-a-guinea net.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The Privateers, by H. B. Marriott Watson; *In the Wake of King James*, by Standish O'Grady; *Rosemary's Letter Book*, by W. L. Courtney; *The Black Watch*, by L. Cope Cornford and F. W. Walker; *Demos*, by George Gissing; *Her Son*, by H. A. Vachell; *The Black Douglas*, by S. R. Crockett. (Wayfarers' Library. Dent and Sons. One Shilling net each volume.)

An Englishman's Recollections of Egypt. By Baron de Kusel (Bey). (John Lane, 10s. 6d. net.)

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1915.	1915.		1333.	5675.
May	May		Rejeb.	Sivan.
28	15	Friday	14	15
29	16	Saturday.....	15	16
30	17	Sunday	16	17
31	18	Monday	17	18
June				
1	19	Tuesday	18	19
2	20	Wednesday	19	20
3	21	Thursday	20	21

To-day is the birthday of H.H. Prince Emmanuel of Montenegro, third son of Prince Mirko, who was born at Cettinje in 1912.

Sunday, being May 17, Old Style, is the birthday of H.R.H. Princess Theodora of Greece, third daughter of Prince Andrew, who was born at Athens in 1906.

Thursday is the birthday of his most gracious Majesty the King.

Sunday, the anniversary of the coronation of King Carol, was observed as a national festival in Roumania. King Ferdinand, the Queen, and the Royal family attended a Te Deum at the Cathedral in the capital.

It is officially announced that the King of the Belgians has been pleased to confer upon Field-Marshal Earl Kitchener the high distinction of the Grand Cordon of the Order of Leopold.

Our Serbian Correspondent writes, under date of May 15:—The Serbian Government has conferred the Order of St. Sava, 2nd Class, on Lady Paget for the great services she has rendered to the people of this country. A society of Serbian ladies, called the "Colo Srbskih Sestara" (Sisters), presented to Lady Paget a small evangelic picture blessed by the Metropolitan. This is regarded here as a great mark of esteem, as the Metropolitan only consecrates pictures of divine and religious subjects intended for use in the Orthodox churches. The semi-official *Samouprava* has a leading article stating that Lady Paget is held in such high esteem here that she may be regarded as a saint among Serbian people.

A Cyprus correspondent writes (May 10):—The High Commissioner and Chief Secretary's staff will move to Mount Troödos earlier than usual, probably early in June, any idea of remaining in the plains having been abandoned. Lady Clauson will only spend a few weeks in the hills, and will then pay a visit to England.

Writing on May 11, our Sofia Correspondent reports that on the previous Saturday a soiree was held at the British Legation. Amongst those present were Dr. Radoslavoff, the Prime Minister, the Head of King Ferdinand's private Cabinet, M. Dobrovitch, the Chamberlain of the Palace, General Savoff, the former Prime Ministers, MM. Malinoff and Gueshoff, and Mme. Karaveloff.

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Writing on May 9, our Cairo Correspondent reports:—

M. Venizelos left Egypt this week for the Piræus *en route* for Mytilene, where he has probably arrived by now. His visit, short though it has been, has proved an unqualified success both from the political and a personal point of view. On his way back to Alexandria from a visit to Ismailia he was met at Benha by one of the Palace Chamberlains, who presented him with a signed photograph of H.H. the Sultan.

A Cyprus correspondent writes (May 7):—The Right Rev. Bishop MacInnes, Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem, and Mrs. MacInnes arrived in Cyprus on April 22, and leave this week. While in Nicosia they were the guests of Government House. They also paid short visits to Kyrenia, Larnaca, and Limassol. On Sunday, April 25, the Bishop held a confirmation in St. Paul's Church, Nicosia, and officiated at the early celebration and preached in the evening. On the 28th a reception was given at Government House, to which all members of the congregation were invited. These visitations are greatly appreciated by members of the Church, and tend to impart fresh life to the Church spirit, which, like most else, is apt at times to flag. The annual visit of the Archdeacon is similarly helpful, as affording a fillip to the spiritual ministrations in the various district towns.

Another Cyprus correspondent writes:—It is a great disappointment to the Greeks here that M. Venizelos has been unable to visit the island. He informed the correspondent of a French paper that he had proposed to pay it a brief visit on leaving Egypt. Some of the local papers there have compared him with Solon, who when absenting himself from Athens visited Egypt, and thence proceeded to Cyprus, where he was received with great distinction.

The Greek papers describe the enthusiastic reception given to the Greek statesman in Egypt by all ranks, from the Sultan downwards. Dinners, fêtes, balls, race meetings, reviews, and functions of all kinds were arranged in his honour. Bouquets and flowers were showered upon him, and Greek ladies kissed him on the cheeks. No king or autocrat ever had such ovations; the honours heaped upon him not being on account of rank or power, as is usual, but purely on account of the sterling qualities and lofty patriotism of the man.

Our Bucharest Correspondent informs us that when M. de Giers arrived in Bucharest, on his way to take up his post as Russian Ambassador at Rome, he was met at the station by M. Poklevski-Koziell, the Russian Minister at Bucharest. He visited the British and French Ministers and M. Take Jonescu; and he was received in audience by King Ferdinand and Queen Marie on the day before he resumed his journey by way of Rustchuk and Salonika.

Miss Violet Asquith, the Prime Minister's elder daughter, left London last week for Egypt to visit her brother, Mr. Arthur Asquith, who was wounded during the Dardanelles fighting.

A marriage is arranged, and will shortly take place in Egypt, between Captain William Byam, R.A.M.C., attached to the Egyptian Army, only son of the late Major-General William Byam, C.B. (late York and Lancaster Regiment), and of Mrs. William Byam, of Sidmouth, and Doris Mabert Stiven, second daughter of the late E. W. F. Stiven, M.D., and of Mrs. Stiven, the Manor Lodge, Harrow-on-the-Hill.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Philip John Baker, youngest son of J. Allan Baker, Esq., M.P., and Irene Noel, only daughter of F. Noel, Esq., of Achmedaga, Greece.

An engagement is announced between Mr. F. W. Shirley, of Minia, Upper Egypt, and Miss Rye, eldest daughter of E. Rye Bey, of the Egyptian State Railways, and Mrs. Rye, Alexandria, Egypt.

Dr. Armand Ruffer, C.M.G., has been appointed Director of the British Red Cross Society in Alexandria.

Mr. Percy C. Barnard, formerly a partner in the Anglo-Egyptian stock and share-broking firm of Messrs. Reid, Barnard and Co., is serving with the naval forces as a Lieutenant in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve on H.M.S. "Cyclops."

The *London Gazette* announces that the King has been graciously pleased to approve of the grant of the Victoria Cross to Lieutenant-Commander Edward Courtney Boyle, Royal Navy: "For most conspicuous bravery, in command of Submarine E 14, when he dived his vessel under the enemy minefields and entered the Sea of Marmora on April 27, 1915. In spite of great navigational difficulties from strong currents, of the continual neighbourhood of hostile patrols, and of the hourly danger of attack from the enemy, he continued to operate in the narrow waters of the Straits and succeeded in sinking two Turkish gunboats and one large military transport."

The King has further been graciously pleased to approve of the award of the Distinguished Service Cross to Lieutenant Edward Geldard Stanley, Royal Navy, and Acting Lieutenant Reginald Wilfred Lawrence, Royal Naval Reserve, both of the E 14. Approval has also been given for the award of the Distinguished Service Medal to each member of the crew of E 14.

At the Royal Institution this evening at 9 o'clock, Sir John Jackson will read a paper on "Engineering Problems of Mesopotamia and the Euphrates Valley."

Under the auspices of the Eugenics Education Society, Professor Elliott Smith, M.D., F.R.S., will next Friday at 5.15 p.m., at the Grafton Galleries, read a paper on "The Influence of Racial Admixture in Egypt." Major Leonard Darwin will preside.

The death occurred last week, at Markyate, Herts, of Lieutenant-Colonel Charles William Ross Kitching, late of the Royal Marine Light Infantry, who served with the Sudan Expedition in 1884-5. He was present at the defence of Suakin, at the actions of Hasheen and Tofrek, and at the taking of Tamai. He had the medal with two clasps and the bronze star.

Lieut.-Colonel Wilfrid Robert Able Smith, C.M.G., commanding the 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards, who has died of wounds received on the 18th inst., served in the Nile expedition, 1898. With the 1st Grenadier Guards he took part in the battle of Omdurman, and for his services he was mentioned in despatches, and received the Fourth Class of the Mejidia and the Egyptian medal with clasp. He also served in the South African War.

Lieutenant-Colonel Eustace Robert Ambrose Shearman, 10th Hussars, who died of wounds received in action on May 13, entered the Army in 1895, in his nineteenth year. He was a grandson of General John Shearman, who fought in the Crimea.

Major Percy M. Dove, 2nd Battalion Sherwood Foresters, who is reported killed in action, was attached to the Egyptian Army from 1906 to 1914, and for work in the Sudan in 1910 he received the medal with clasp.

Major William Otto Gibbs, 10th (Prince of Wales' Own Royal) Hussars, who is for the second time reported wounded, is the eldest son of Mr. Henry Martin Gibbs, of Baron Court, Somerset. He obtained his commission in 1902, and from 1912 until June last year he was employed with the Egyptian Army. He is thirty-one years of age.

M. Papadopoulos, the Keeper of the Archives in the Greek Patriarchate in Constantinople, has been arrested on a charge of being concerned in the alleged Armenian plot. The arrest has caused a profound impression in Greek circles.

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M. George Picot, former French Consul in Beyrout, has left Cairo for Marseilles and Paris. It is understood that he has been recalled to France by his Government.

Boghos Pasha Nubar left Egypt on the 3rd inst. for Europe *via* Port Said. He was received in special audience by the Sultan at Abdin Palace prior to his departure.

A message from Teheran received in Petrograd last Friday states that the Persian Government has apologised to the Russian Minister for the murder of the Russian Vice-Consul, M. Kaver.

The Times correspondent in the Balkan Peninsula announces that M. Marghiloman has resigned the leadership of the Conservative Party, which has been offered to M. Titu Maiorescu, who was Premier and Foreign Minister at the time of the Bucharest Treaty.

The three brothers of Lieutenant Charles W. Peel, who (as already announced), was killed in action at Saint Julien, are all serving their country as officers at the present time. Mr. W. E. Peel is in the Camel Corps, Mr. E. T. Peel in the Wiltshire Regiment, and Mr. R. Peel in the Royal Artillery.

Miralai and Mrs. Burgess Bey, Captain and Mrs. Webb-Bowen, Colonel Stack, Major Worham, and Mr. and Mrs. Hickling are among the residents of Khartoum who have lately left for the North.

We regret to hear that Prince Ahmed Fouad, brother of the Sultan of Egypt, is seriously ill, and suffered a relapse after showing, for a day or so, a decided improvement.

We regret to learn, from Egyptian papers received this week, of the death of Mrs. Bliss, wife of the founder and first president of the Syrian Protestant College, Beyrout.

We regret to announce the death of Joseph Sakakini Bey, which occurred in Alexandria on the 14th inst. The deceased Bey was formerly in the service of the ex-Khedive, and was a prominent Freemason.

The King has sent the following message to General Sir John Nixon, commanding H.M. Forces at Busreh:—"I wish to express my admiration for the gallant manner in which the naval and military forces co-operating under your command have successfully overcome the repeated attacks of an enemy superior in numbers. Please convey to all ranks my appreciation of the spirit and endurance they have shown during the past month. At Home we all watch with pride and interest the work and progress of your columns."

Moulvi Syed Mohammed Roushan of Kumarkhali has received official intimation that permission has been granted him by his Majesty the King-Emperor to wear the Barbati-Si-Credentia medal bestowed by his Majesty the King of Roumania upon Mr. Roushan as a member of a sanitary mission which proceeded to Turkey in 1912 from India. Mr. Roushan holds many autograph letters and photographs presented to him by the King, Queen, and other members of the Roumanian Royal Family, in recognition of the services he was able to render to the Roumanian medical organisation during the Roumano-Bulgarian conflict.

During his recent Northern tour, Mr. Martin Harvey has been energetic in furthering the claims of the Wounded Allies' Relief Committee, which since the outbreak of war has given varied and valuable help to the wounded of Serbia and Montenegro. Mr. Harvey now further proposes to devote to the committee's funds the entire proceeds of the first night of Mr. Stephen Phillip's war play, "Armageddon," to be produced at the New Theatre next Tuesday. The committee is co-operating with Mr. Harvey by every means in its power, and the occasion promises to attract an exceptionally brilliant audience. Seats will be at the prices (7s. 6d to 1s.) which will be in vogue throughout Mr. Harvey's season, and they may be had from the usual agents, and from Miss May Lambert, Wounded Allies' Relief Committee, Sardinia House, Kingsway, W.C.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, etc.

A telegram from Cairo, received last Friday, states that Fethi Pasha has been appointed Minister of Wakfs, replacing Sidki Pasha, who has resigned. This change has no political significance.

Under date of May 14, our Cyprus Correspondent writes:—Captain A. E. Gallagher, D.S.O., has been appointed Chief Commandant of Police, Cyprus, in the place of Major W. W. Durham Hall, whose death in England was recently announced. Captain Gallagher has been for some years in the island, and has held the appointment of Local Commandant at Limassol and latterly at Nicosia.

Mr. W. G. Hayter, Counsel to the Legal Department of the Egyptian Ministry of Finance, has been appointed to the post of Commissioner of the Government on the Cairo Water Company's board of directors in place of Colonel Garner.

Kaimakam Pridham Bey, commanding the 2nd Egyptian Infantry, has been appointed to succeed Lewa Herbert Pasha as commandant of the Cairo garrison. Herbert Pasha has left for the front.

Bimbashi I. D'E. Roberts, Artillery, and Bimbashi H. D. Bentinck, 12th Sudanese, have been struck off the strength of the Egyptian Army.

Major Kenny Bey, A.D.C. to the Sultan of Egypt, and Major MacKintosh, Adjutant General of the Egyptian Army, have been appointed to the British Army.

The appointment of Mr. E. H. Lloyd as Director-General of the Cairo Drainage Department, in succession to Mr. Carkeet James, has been ratified.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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

BIRTH.

CROSSLAND.—On the 20th inst., at Oakfold, Windermere, to Catherine and Cyril Crossland (Sudan Civil Service)—a daughter.

MARRIAGE.

KINDER—BRAMALL.—On April 29, at All Saints', Cairo, Geoffrey Richard Kinder, of the Irrigation Department, to Winifred Ethel Flora, eldest daughter of Ernest E. P. Bramall and Mrs. Bramall, of Beni Souef, and Ticehurst, Sussex.

STOBART'S MOVABLE HOSPITAL in SERBIA.—Additional FUNDS are URGENTLY REQUIRED to purchase Horse Ambulance for above Unit.—Mrs. Bargrave Deane, 52, Eaton Place, S.W.

"ST. GEORGE OF MERRY ENGLAND," by Canon Parfit. This interesting account of our Patron Saint is an inspiration to patriotism. Price 2½d., post free. J. and E. M., Church House, Westminster, S.W.

The partnership formerly existing between Messrs. Joseph Cohen, Jacques Eskenazi, and N. Babani having been dissolved, the Han Halil shop of JOSEPH COHEN is now in the same road, near the Arch Way, Cairo, entrance from the Mousky. Friends and customers are respectfully requested to visit the new shop when visiting the Bazaar, where they will find a rich assortment of carpets, embroideries, etc., etc.—Advt.

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FRIDAY, MAY 28, 1915.

THE INTERVENTION OF ITALY.

For Italy the die is cast. She is now at war with Austria-Hungary and Germany, and is pledged, in common with the rest of the Allied Powers, not to conclude a separate peace. Thus the great historic factor of European politics for a whole generation—the Triple Alliance—is at an end. We know now the base purposes which that agreement served. To Italy's honour it has to be said that she has long chafed under the conditions of her pact. Dragooned into it at a time when she was labouring under a mistaken sense of fear, she has loyally kept her pledge even after the Alliance had become irksome. At any time she would have been welcomed as a partner of the Triple Entente, with whom she would have found herself in more congenial company; but her very friendliness with the latter provided a justification for the maintenance of the understanding with Germany and Austria-Hungary in the interests of the world's peace, which the balance of power in Europe seemed to guarantee. It was Italy's presence in the Triple Alliance, and the known honesty of her intentions, which gave it the moral standing which an agreement between Germany and Austria-Hungary alone would have lacked. The events of the last two years have proved that the two Central Powers were only prepared to tolerate the peaceful aspect of the Alliance so long as it suited their plans. Under the cloak of its defensive character they made ready to convert it into a powerful weapon of offence. In 1913 Italy was sounded tentatively on this point, but without hesitation she rejected the proposal. A year later Germany and Austria-Hungary decided that she should not be given a second chance of thwarting their plans. They threw down the gauntlet to Europe and trusted to browbeating Italy into supporting them, knowing that she was not in a position at that moment to oppose them by arms. Such a course was a deliberate breach of the spirit and letter of the Triple Alliance. Italy, conscious of her military weakness, reserved to herself complete liberty of action. She proclaimed her neutrality and, while perfecting her military organisation, watched the course of events. Although military operations were not productive of decisive results, the whole aspect of the political horizon rapidly underwent a change. The failure of the Germanic Powers to make good their claim to the hegemony of Europe and their moral unmasking made further co-operation with them impossible for Italy. When on the top of this came indications that the Southern Slavs were likely to come into their own as a result of the war, the Italian Government was forced to safeguard the interests of the country. Negotiations with Austria-Hungary followed; but in spite of Germany's active participation, they had to be abandoned owing to the impossibility of securing Austrian acceptance of Italy's claims.

It was left to Italy to secure by the sword what had been previously taken from her by the sword. On May 4, exactly nine months after the outbreak of the war, the Triple Alliance was formally denounced by Italy, and three weeks later war was declared. In the bitterness of the moment the people of Germany and Austria-Hungary are charging Italy with "a perfidy of which history knows not the like." The charge, as might be expected, takes no thought of what the Germanic Powers themselves did. Pledged to the maintenance of the peace of Europe, and having bound Italy to their side for that one object, they had not hesitated to go behind her back and plunge the Continent into a struggle of unprecedented violence. Not only had there been a technical breach of the Triple Alliance, but actual violence had been done to Italian interests. The fact was acknowledged by both Germany and Austria-Hungary when they showed a readiness to offer Italy compensations, which a year ago could not even have been hinted at within the Triple Alliance. The proffered reparation, however, was wholly inadequate to meet the new situation which the treachery of the Germanic Powers to Europe and their ally had brought about. Italy had to choose between becoming an accomplice in the treachery, and in the outrageous deeds with which that treachery had been crowned, and showing to the world in a way which could not be mistaken that she dissociated herself entirely from Austro-German policy and the methods of warfare employed by the Central Powers. The main significance of Italy's declaration of war lies in the fact that it denotes the condemnation passed by the world at large on all that Germany and Austria-Hungary stand for to-day. In it we may read at once a reference to the moral bankruptcy of Austria-Hungary as the trustee of subject nationalities, and an indictment of the German militarism and of the horrors into which it has plunged Europe.

While the justice of Italy's cause stands above challenge, the Powers of the Triple Entente have the additional satisfaction of knowing the value of the co-operation of her military and naval forces. She participates in the war primarily to settle her differences with Austria-Hungary, but at the same time she takes her stand on the broad basis of the principles for which the Allies are fighting. Hence the reason for the co-ordination of the Italian effort in the general scheme of the Allies' campaign. We may hope, therefore, that, if the step has not already been taken, at a very early stage in the Italian campaign an exchange of views between the Italian and Allied high military commands will prevent Italy's strength from being dissipated by political considerations. For the present the shortest route to Vienna lies through territory which figures in the Italian claims; but if the physical features of the country should be likely to offer too serious obstacles to be easily overcome by the Italian armies, we hope that Italian strategy will not be irrevocably committed to one route of advance and then shrink from abandoning it for fear of the enemy's reprisals on the inhabitants. The moral significance of Italy's intervention will not be complete until its influence has been felt in the Balkans. It is impossible to believe that any Balkan State can fail to be impressed by Italy's action or will any longer entertain doubts regarding the ultimate issue of the war. They are held back from participation in the struggle by both political and military considerations. The political aspect is of little or no concern to Italy; but her military operations can be brought into very close relationship with any advance against Austria-Hungary from the Balkans. If this were done in such a way as to give the Balkan States the fullest confidence that they would at no point be left to face single-handed any serious concentration on the part of the enemy, the military considerations that may be deterring them from action would be removed. The position created by the intervention of Italy and, before long, we may hope, Roumania, is that the Allies will be able to launch a formidable attack against the enemy from the south. Uncoordinated, that attack must be delivered from the south-west and south-eastern corners; co-ordinated, it might perhaps assume far more formidable proportions as a joint advance over the Hungarian plains between the Danube and Theiss Rivers. In the meantime political considerations have to be adjusted. But these in turn cannot fail to be affected by Italy's action, which tends to make Balkan co-operation less indispensable. For this reason the various States may find the Triple Entente unable to accept the high value which they themselves are inclined to place on their proffered assistance.

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JUSTICE IN EGYPT.

THE JUDICIAL ADVISER'S REPORT.—II.

(By Our Cairo Correspondent.)

The Mehkemehs and Mejlis Hasbys.

An interesting section of the Judicial Adviser's Report is devoted to the Mehkemehs (Religious Courts) and Mejlis Hasbys (Courts of Chancery). With regard to the former, as was explained at the time in The Near East, the overthrowing of the Turkish suzerainty involved the termination of the mission of the Grand Cadi, who held his powers from the Porte, and permitted the immediate introduction of some necessary modifications into the Organic Law of the Mehkemehs. Thus, henceforward, instead of one President—under the old regime the Grand Cadi—presiding over both the Supreme and Cairo Mehkemehs, each of these courts will have its own President and Vice-President; all the Cadis will be appointed by decree of the Sultan, instead of those chosen to fill certain Cadiships being selected by the Grand Cadi; whilst no special prerogatives will attach to any posts in the Mehkemehs. Altogether, these changes ought to spell more efficiency and straight dealing in the operation of these courts.

Last year it was announced that a law was under elaboration providing for the suppression of the Mejlis Hasbys and the transfer of their functions to the Native Tribunals, which would administer a special code regulating the general status of persons under disability. Unfortunately, a combination of circumstances has prevented effect being given to these intentions; but the Judicial Adviser is of opinion that the matter "is one of such great and increasing urgency, owing to the constant complaints as to the working of these bodies," that he considers it desirable to explain somewhat fully "the reasons which render this reform so pressing."

In the first place, the interests of orphans and persons under disability have been entrusted in Egypt to boards, which, while they correspond to the French Conseil de Famille, presided over by the Juge de paix, differ from it in that the latter is composed of relations and is presided over by a judge, whereas the boards are composed of leading members of the community, usually strangers, presided over by an administrative official. As a result, the members of the boards, having no interest in the matters referred to them, are disinclined to waste much time over work for which they receive no remuneration; and for more reasons than one are inclined to agree to anything proposed by the President, who is usually the Mamur or Mudir and who, being a busy man, is compelled to shelve for a long period all the questions which have to be dealt with by the board. The jurisdiction enjoyed by the various Mejlis is quite irrational, and so they are "quite unable to go properly into the question of selection of guardians or to supervise effectively the administration of the numerous guardians." The Ministry of Justice is supposed to supervise the Mejlis Hasbys, but it has neither the staff nor the money, nor, indeed, owing to the composition of the Mejlis, the effective power so to do.

The worst feature is that, owing to the lack of effective supervision, opportunities arise for the enrichment of unscrupulous persons who are appointed guardians or curators. In a country like Egypt, where large fortunes suddenly become exposed to the depredations of outsiders owing to the owners' death and the inability of the womenfolk to intervene actively in the matter, the guardianship of a rich estate is apt to become a lucrative office. "Nowhere probably, except in Egypt and Turkey, is the selection of a guardian for minors frequently made, not in the interests of the minors, but in that of the guardian. In this country the guardianship of infants and lunatics is a profession, and one which has the great advantage of not apparently requiring the possession of any technical qualifications whatever. The proof of this is that such guardianships are not distributed haphazard among the community, but concentrated in the hands of a few professionals. Thus we find that one person administers eleven estates, another seven, three others six each, and so on."

Such, in short, is the state of affairs that the Mejlis Hasbys give rise to; the Ministry of Justice has long striven hard to provide some remedy. Four years ago a Superior Mejlis Hasby was created to deal with appeals from the lower Mejlis Hasbys, but it did not prove the success that it was expected to be. One of the chief obstacles in the way of reform has been "the disposition to regard the whole law of personal status as a religious matter, which could not be touched by the lay reformer." But this disposition has lately diminished, and the new project having been drawn up with the assistance of some of the most enlightened of the religious authorities, would, if only it were introduced, give general satisfaction. Sir Malcolm adds that complaints against guardians appointed by the various Patriarchates are more numerous proportionately than those against the Mejlis Hasbys, "and it would certainly be very desirable that the new law should also be applicable to the various non-Mussulman communities."

Mixed Tribunals.

There has been a general decrease in the business of the Mixed Courts. The number of new cases set down fell off by 3,316, to 23,560. Civil cases dropped by 231, commercial cases by 313, and summary cases by 2,214. In accounting for this state of things the Judicial Adviser is of opinion 'that the general business depression in the last three months of the judicial year . . . and the consequent establishment of a moratorium here have had considerable effect on the situation."

With the exception of the Cairo Court all the Tribunals managed to reduce their arrears, the Court of Appeal by 124 cases, the Alexandria First Instance Court by 114, and the Mansura Court by 22. The arrears in the Cairo Court, which have long been an unsatisfactory feature, increased by 225 cases. It is curious to note that the total number of cases disposed of has decreased in about the same proportion as the number of new cases, and that the stock of arrears has remained almost stationary. Considering that the Mixed Courts disposed of 3,371 more cases in 1912-1913, there would appear to be something wrong in the arrangements.

Judicial sales, which had decreased so notably in 1911-1912 and 1912-1913, last year showed an important rise to 1896, and the number of new distribution proceedings introduced also considerably increased—909 as against 754. The state of affairs in regard to the latter is still unsatisfactory, the arrears, in spite of an increase in the number of proceedings disposed of, having risen to 1,206, of which more than half are in the Cairo Court. As Sir Malcolm says, "it is to be hoped that something will be done to check the continued increase in arrears in this branch of business."

Bankruptcies, which had decreased in 1912-1913, continued to show the same tendency last year, only 216 being declared, as against 380 in 1912-1913 and 573 in 1911-1912. In his report, annexed to the Judicial Adviser's report, the Procureur-General again returns to the vexed question of the defects of the existing bankruptcy law and to the effect of the moratorium, to which I shall hope to refer at some later date.

(To be continued.)

THE SERBIAN NEED.

The two famous novelists, Claud and Alice Askew, draw a very vivid picture of Serbia and her people in an article contributed to the *Sunday Times* (May 16). They have been struck with the enormous vitality of the Serbian soldiers, who pick up wonderfully after a few days' treatment in field hospitals, even when, first brought in, they have appeared to be at the last gasp. The inherent cheerfulness of their race is a very valuable asset in the hospitals. But even so, the writers have seen the terrible prevailing suffering, and add their appeal for funds to those of other English men and women who have recently visited the country. Supplies are urgently needed on every side. The concluding paragraph of the Askews' article gives an admirable picture of Skoplje, from where they wrote.

This is the strangest town. The streets are crowded with Serbians, Arabs, and Turks, and the bazaar, with its little booths and dark mysterious-looking shops, breathes of the East. Men are to be seen hammering away at copper, making trays and jugs and bowls; the shoemakers and cobblers have a little street all to themselves; great bullocks pace slowly up the cobbled streets carrying huge wains of hay upon their backs. One seems to have strayed into a new world.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

Accustomed though one is to look for banalities in the Egyptian Press (and in the Press of other countries for the matter of that) during the slack summer season, it is rather surprising to find that any paper should find room for frivolous idiocy in these stern times of war. But so it is. Some time ago a vernacular paper published in Cairo gravely announced that "the directress of a native girls' school, while on a round of inspection in the refectory, found several of the students seated round a table eagerly discussing various subjects . . . and a bottle of whisky." At first sight the story naturally appeared to be too wildly improbable to need contradiction, but the credulity of the papers, which apparently accepted the story as fact and reproduced it, has at length forced the Press Bureau to issue an official statement that the story was false from beginning to end.

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According to this statement, the tale had been issued with the deliberate purpose of throwing opprobrium on the laudable progress that is being realised in female education in Egypt. If this was the case, one is led to think that education is sorely lacking in some of the editorial rooms of Cairo, for anything more childish and futile than the form of such an attack it is hard to conceive. Unfortunately, however, Egypt has been rather singularly unlucky in those of her publicists who hold extreme views on any point, especially regarding the Government. It is an open secret that the first breach between the late Mustapha Pasha Kamel and a gifted and unsuspecting English journalist whom he had lured to Egypt in his service came about by an incident no less trivial than the present one.

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The story goes that the Englishman, having accepted his appointment and signed his agreement while in England on the advice of a "friend," found himself in a peculiarly awkward position when he arrived in Cairo. The "patriot" whom he had admired at a distance appeared in quite a different light when seen at headquarters in Cairo. Each day brought complaints that articles penned were not sufficiently direct, which meant, in plain language, that they lacked the seditionary touch necessary to the desires of the Pasha. This, coupled with a childish ignorance which found expression in continual complaints on unimportant subjects, drove the Englishman nearly out of his mind. The climax was reached when one day, in reference to affairs in Egypt, he wrote, "There is something rotten in the State of Denmark." Mustapha was furious. He saw in the sentence an attempt of a perfidious Englishman to involve him in trouble with the Danes, and, in a moment of fury, he broke the agreement which existed between himself and his dupe. This was very satisfactory to the Englishman, but it was hardly a testimonial to the boasted learning of his employer.

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I see that Mr. Ebbe Kornerup, the Danish journalist and painter, has gone to Australia, with the view of writing a descriptive and critical book. The last time I heard of him he was living as an Arab in the Sahara desert, and later, I understand, he went down into the Nile Valley, and lived for several months as a fellah. He holds to the opinion that the spirit of a nation can never find interpretation in the big towns, and that if you are searching for the soul of a people you must look for it in the open country, where the individual characteristics of men have room to expand. I think that he is right in this, but for some natures the Eastern mode of life is charged with many dangers. The Western mind that assimilates Eastern traits seldom regains its former strength without gaining the fresh virtues that the East has to offer, it seemingly halts half-way, losing its dominant Western characteristics, becoming weaker and uncertain. Almost the last time I lunched in Cairo, I had one of these men as my guest, and the impression left was not a pleasing one. This man had been living among the Bedouin, but I looked in vain for traces of their free and open bearing. Instead, I found my guest—an Englishman of good family—had become a man of unkempt appearance and furtive, restless glances. But, of course, there are notable exceptions to this rule, and among them is the brilliant young Dane, of whom I started writing.

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It will be remembered that when negotiations regarding the southern portion of the so-called Baghdad Railway were in progress, the Germans, rather suddenly, gave way on the subject of the terminus for the line, agreeing not to construct beyond Busreh. At the time, this "gave rise to no little surprise," although, to be sure, there was a good deal of rather loose talk about our "giving our consent" to an "extension" to Koweit "or some other point on the Gulf" at some future time, and under some sort of scheme for controlling the extension. How childish it all sounds now, to be sure! It makes one think that the war, after all, may prove a blessing to us, if only it helps us to face facts squarely in the future, and not to allow "interested parties" to persuade us to suicidal courses for any reason whatsoever. Well, I have heard this week, and on very good authority, that the astute Germans' reason for yielding on this point was that they had reckoned on being able, eventually, to use up so much of the waters of the Euphrates and the Tigris for irrigation purposes that, during part of the year at least, there would be so little water in the river that Busreh would become impossible as a port!

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I can see a good many obstacles in the way of carrying out this scheme. For one thing, the two rivers are not small, and even in the driest of dry seasons their waters would take a good deal of disposing of. To-day, much of the supply runs to waste, especially in the region between the hills and the junction of the rivers; but, even so, I imagine that a great deal of it finds its way back eventually into the Shatt-el-Arab, and would be likely to do so for many years to come, however hard the German philanthropists worked to prevent it. But it cannot be denied that the scheme was quite worthy of the German. And, of course, it would have been a comparatively easy matter to make navigation on the Tigris extremely difficult, if not quite impossible, during a considerable portion of the year. To that fact I called attention in these notes over a year ago. And as the navigation was expressly left to *us*, as our share of the bargain, we can imagine what energy the German would have put into his work of "revivifying ancient Babylonia," about which certain German politicians and professors were so fond of talking a few years ago. The whole "bargain" reminded one of the banquet of the owl and the panther in "Alice in Wonderland":—

> The Panther took pie-crust, and gravy, and meat,
> While the Owl had the dish as its share of the treat.

Verily, in the matter of the "Baghdad" Railway, Great Britain did play the part of an owl—*the* Owl, I mean, of course.

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Many of his friends in this country will have read with regret the news, published in last week's NEAR EAST, of the destruction of Mr. Mumford's house at Candilli. The whole story of the treatment meted out to Mr. Mumford by the Turks does them little credit. The house in question was a comparatively new one—that is to say, it was under two years old, and there was some dispute between the owner and the Turkish authorities as to its value and the amount of taxes Mr. Mumford was to pay. As the taxes had been increased 200 per cent. this was hardly to be wondered at; but the Old Turk would at least have allowed time for the settlement of the dispute. The Young Turk, however, did nothing of the kind; he stepped in, seized the furniture, and sold it up. And now, apparently through his carelessness, the house has been burned down. I may add that during the Balkan War a good deal of the furniture referred to had actually been lent to the Turkish hospital; and Mr. and Mrs. Mumford—with many other of our countrymen, of course—had worked, often day and night, feeding and clothing the families of Turkish soldiers. Truly the Turk has deteriorated rapidly under the tutelage of his Teutonic taskmasters!

CORSAIR.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Balkan Neutrals.

Writing in the *New Statesman* (May 15) "Plinthos" attempts to remove the impression, which he alleges is commonly held in England, that German diplomacy is of a negligible quality and a thing which we can afford to despise. He shows that although there was apparent blundering at the beginning of, or prior to, the war, the efforts of German diplomats since that time have been entirely successful, at least in the Balkans:—

> Not only have they secured the Turks and Albanians as Allies, but they have managed to play off their natural enemies, the neutral Christian States, against each other and hold them in check with complete success. This is no small feat.

In the meantime our enemies have profited by the supply of munitions and supplies of all kinds that have passed through Roumania and Bulgaria. The writer considers the continued neutrality of the Balkan States to be at least partially due to the influence of the richer members of the trading classes, who are making large fortunes out of the war. On the other hand, he shows that no consideration would have been sufficient to maintain neutrality in parallel circumstances "had not Germany and Austria secured so strong a personal hold upon the occupants of the Balkan thrones." Added to this, the writer points out that "our policy for generations has been one of bolstering up Turkey against Russia, to which end we sacrificed with little hesitation the interests of the Balkan Christians." Our diplomacy in the Near East during the eighteen months preceding the war has, in his opinion, only had the effect of increasing the resentment of the Christian States against us, although he admits that it was conducted in the main effort to prevent a general conflagration. He concludes:—

> They saw Germany and Austria imperious, aggressive, and successful, and if they were not induced to love those countries, they certainly learned to fear them. That feeling of awe for Teutonism has been a powerful influence against us during recent months, and we must not be astonished if it cannot be quickly overcome by young nations whose friendship we did not a year ago think it worth our while to secure.

Italy and the Balkans.

The following are extracts from a leading article which appeared in *The Times* on Wednesday:—

> The entrance of Italy into the war is a sign, as we wrote yesterday, that the old order in Europe has definitely passed away. That, we may be sure, is a truth clearly discerned by all the Balkan States whose position will have to be settled in the new order that will succeed. They know that the Allies have determined to carry out Gladstone's old policy, and to remove the Turks for ever, "bag and baggage," from Europe. . . . No permanent peace can be securely established until some solution of the Balkan problems has been found, and the terms of the solution will in part depend upon the attitude which the States concerned may assume in the remaining stages of the conflict. Serbia has rendered invaluable services to the Alliance, and the Russian Foreign Minister is able to assure her that her aspirations for ready access to the sea will be fully satisfied. . . . An interesting confirmation of M. Sazonoff's statement is afforded by the Italian Green Book, which shows from Baron Sonnino's dispatches that, so far back as February, Italy imposed a positive veto upon all military action by Austria in the Balkans until that Power should have made an agreement with her under the subsisting Treaty between them. . . . Now the eyes of Roumania are turned eagerly to Rome. Our experienced Balkan Correspondent telegraphed from Bucharest on Sunday that the news of the Italian mobilization had caused great satisfaction, and that in the general belief "Roumania is now on the brink of a war for the fulfilment of the national ideal." That national ideal is the liberation of the millions of Rumanes across the mountains who live under the heavy yoke of Hungary, and their incorporation with the rest of the Roumanian people. In Bulgaria, it would seem, opinion is also ripening in favour of action. Ten days ago the same Correspondent sent us the significant news that all the reserve officers of the Bulgarian Army had joined the colours for a month's training. . . Though Bulgaria has her disappointments and her unredressed grievances, it is inconceivable, as M. Sazonoff says, that, whatever happens, her people should throw in their lot with Russia's enemies. The Greeks will be called upon within the next few weeks to declare the national will at a General Election. . . . The late Prime Minister not only advocated an immediate intervention on behalf of the Allies, but he had the sagacity to suggest the possibility of raising sacrifices to Bulgaria, in order to free this intervention from perils upon the frontier and to secure large gains elsewhere. He himself described the opportunity for Greece as unique. It is for his countrymen, whom he so lately and so effectively saved from revolution and from anarchy, to say whether, in this critical hour, they will again place the fortunes of Hellas in his tried hands. The differences between the Balkan States are serious, but we have never believed that they do not admit of composition. If, however, there is to be a settlement, it must be made under the auspices and supported by the guarantee of the Allies.

Turkey and Germany.

Mr. A. G. Hales, in a general survey of the war contributed to the *People's Journal* (May 21) introduces a note of warning against undue optimism regarding the probable duration of the war. He has no doubt that victory will ultimately fall to the Allies, but even if the best happens he does not consider it possible that peace will be concluded this year. He compares the actualities of the Dardanelles against the speculations indulged in by a portion of the British Press when the expedition started. "Blood has run like rain on the Gallipoli Peninsula, and much more will have to be shed." It is the same on other parts of the far-flung battle line. But, the operations before Constantinople over, Mr. Hales predicts a bad time for the Germans in Turkey at the hands of their present Allies. In his opinion, the deluded and outcast Turk is not going to pass from Europe without turning to rend the people of the country responsible for his fall. In writing of the moment when our forces march through Constantinople, he says:—

> . . Then, if I know the Turk, as I think I do, the Germans resident in that part of the world are going to find the climatic conditions about the most unhealthy in creation; for as soon as the Bosphorus and Dardanelles are cleared, and the capital has fallen, the Sultan's subjects will realise how they have been tricked into a war that from the outset had nothing of worth in it for them.

Mr. Hales thinks that the Turkish nation will cease to participate in the war as soon as they are beaten out of, and beyond, their capital.

Greece and Bulgaria.

The differences between King Constantine and M. Venizelos, according to *Truth*, is less remarkable than the extraordinary way in which the Greek people have "acquiesced in the ostracism of the greatest statesman who ever ruled them." Events are moving swiftly now, and, according to the paper from which we quote, the Greeks are by their apathy in danger of losing all their chances.

> Unless they look out, they will find the Bulgarians coming off the fence before they do, and what chance will the Greeks then have of realising those "national aspirations" upon which King Constantine says they set so high a value?

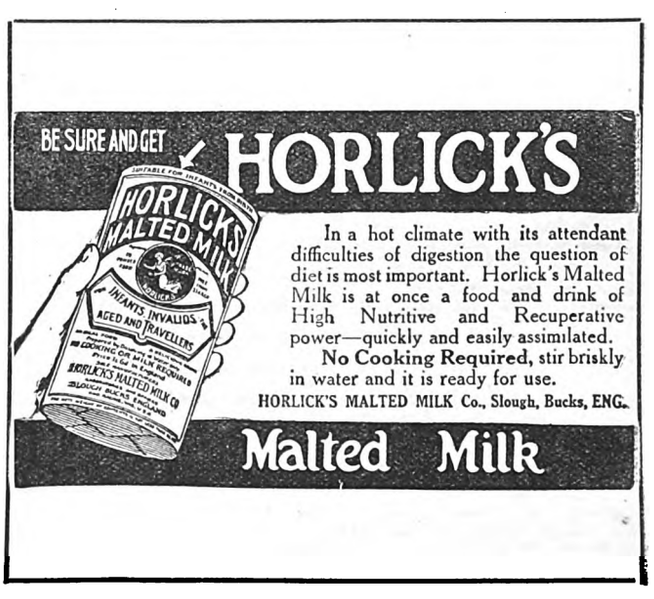
Articles to Note.

"Germany's Great Adventure," by Hector C. Bywater, in the *Naval and Military Record* (May 19).

"Ivan Meshtrovich, the Serbian Sculptor," by Count Miyatovich (illustrated), and "Reminiscences of Life in a Serbian School," by P. Kay, in the *Queen* (May 22).

"The Serbs and their Country," by Amy B. Barnard, in the *Lady* (May 20).

"A Place in the Sun," by Barrie Russell, in the *Car* (May 19).



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DIRECTORY

showing the present addresses of English residents in Turkey, who have left the country in consequence of the war, or have been prevented from returning there. Readers from Turkey whose names are not given below will oblige by forwarding to the Managing Editor their present addresses for inclusion (free of charge) in the Directory, which is intended to be of assistance in bringing friends together. Changes in addresses should be notified as early as possible. The "Near East" accept no responsibility for the correctness of the addresses given.

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BOND, Miss, 16, Wilton Mansions, Kelvinside N., Glasgow.
BOND, Miss Norine, 8, Slatelands Road, Glossop.
BOND, A. W., 16, Wilton Mansions, Kelvinside N., Glasgow.
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BROOKE, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur, 45, Savile Road, Dewsbury.
BROOKS, W. W., Royal Naval Torpedo Factory, Greenock, N.B.
BROOKS, Mrs. W. W., and daughter, Hotel Metropole, Athens.
BROWN, Canon J. Carnegie, 16, Lincoln's Inn Fields.
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CAMPBELL, Mrs. J. L., and family, Old Phaleron, Greece.
CAMPBELL, R. J., and family, Old Phaleron, Greece.
CAMPBELL, W. Gordon, c/o the Standard Oil Co. of New York, Pireaus, Greece.
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CERVATI, A. Edgar, care of British Insulated and Helsby Cables, Ltd., Prescot.
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CRAWFORD, Sir Richard, British Embassy, Washington, U.S.A.
CUMBERBATCH, Mr. and Mrs. A. H., Odessa.
CUMBERBATCH, H. A., C.M.G., St. James's Club, Piccadilly, W.
CUMBERBATCH, Miss Lillan, c/o Mrs. J. Gilbert, Manor Lodge, Egham, Surrey.
CUMING, Bombardier A. C., 262nd Battery R.F.A., 84th Brigade, Colchester.
CUMING, Mrs. J. B., "Fleet View," Fleet R.S.O., Hants.
CUMING, Miss M. Constance, "Fleet View," Fleet R.S.O., Hants.
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FAULKNER, Lieut. M., Admiralty House, Malta.
FERGUSON, F. Secretary's Office, G.P.O., London.
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GATER, E. A., Grosvenor Street, Cheltenham.
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GERBAULT, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel, 13, Rue de la Grange, Batelière, Paris.
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GOODWIN, Mr. and Mrs. R. H., Hill Cottage, Seaford, Sussex.
GORDON, Mrs., and family, Hotel Continental, Athens.
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JONES, Mr. and Mrs. W. J., 19, Clifton Gardens, Maida Vale, W.
KERNEY, Henry P., Ranelagh, Dublin.
KEY, W. H. M., M.D., care of Messrs. Coutts and Co. London, W.C.
KEYSERR, Mrs., Kefissia, Greece.
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LA FONTAINE, Miss Edith F., Elmfield, Esher, Surrey.
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LA FONTAINE, Miss Kathleen, Lammas Cottage, Esher.
LA FONTAINE, Richard, and family, Hotel Minerva, Athens.
LA FONTAINE, Mr. and Mrs. Sydney J. W., Devonshire House, Richmond Hill, Bournemouth.
LA FONTAINE, Wilfred, Hotel Minerva, Athens.
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LYSTER, Miss Edythe, 69, Edith Road, West Kensington, W.
LYSTER, Fred. J., 69, Edith Road, West Kensington, W.
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MACKRAY, E. D., Daira of H.H. Princess Emina, Bordein, Egypt.
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MALTASS, Thomas, Hotel Minerva, Athens.
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MASHAM, Mrs., Lower Eastwood, Ledbury, Hereford.
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MILLINGEN, Prof. and Mrs. A. van, c/o Banco di Roma, Rome.
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MITCHELL, E. A., Keyward House, Wells, Somerset.
MONCK-MASON, A., Ottoman Bank, Alexandria.
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MOUNTAIN, Mr. and Mrs. W. C., and family, 19, Royal Parade, Cheltenham.
MUMFORD, Newman, c/o Lloyd's Register, Piraeus.
MUMFORD, Mrs. N. c/o Mrs. La Fontaine, Lausanne, Switzerland.
MUNRO, 2nd Lieut. J. G., 4th Scottish Rifles, Fort Matilda, Greenock.
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NIAS, Arthur, Conservative Club, St. James' Street, S.W.
NIAS, M., care of Imperial Ottoman Bank, Throgmorton Street.
NOWILL, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen, Sandygate House, Sheffield.
O'NEIL, Miss, Hotel Grande Bretagne, Athens.
PALMER, S., and family, Old Phaleron, Greece.
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PARFITT, Harold, 176, Whitehouse Rd., Croydon.
PATERSON, Mrs. Alexander, Allanshaw, Hamilton, Lanarkshire, N.B.
PATTERSON, Mr. and Mrs. H., Hotel d'Angleterre, Athens.
PEARS, Sir Edwin, 24, Riverview Gardens, Barnes, S.W.; also Reform Club.
PEARS, H. E., and family, 12, Willow Road, Hampstead, N.W.
PEARS, Miss Lorna, Military Hospital, Gatcombe House, Newport, I.W.
PEDDIE, F., 109, Avenue de Villiers, Paris.
PISANI, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick, and son, Hotel Centrale, Rue du Stade, No. 22, Athens.
PISANI, Mr. and Mrs. Edward, Boulevard Constantin le Diadoque, No. 53, Pirœus.
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RAMSAY, Mrs. Alexander, and family, 18, Alwyne Mansions, Wimbledon, S.W.
RAMSAY, Mrs. G., and family, Old Phaleron, Greece.
RAWE, Reuben, Old Phaleron, Greece.
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RIZZO, Mr. and Mrs. Edgar V., and family, 48, Odos Hypocratis, Athens.
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ROUTH, R. A. C., 64, Torrington Square, W.C.
ROWELL, Mr. and Mrs. Robert, and family, 124, King Henry's Road, South Hampstead, N.W.
RUSSELL, J. MacDowall, British Postmaster, Shanghai, China.
RUSSELL, Mrs. J. MacDowall, care of Mrs. J. Bruce, Bogs of Blevrie, by Forres, N.B.
RYAN, Mr. and Mrs. A., Mountside Lodge, Caterham, Surrey.
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SAMSON, Major L. L. R., C.M.G., Junior Army and Navy Club.
SCRIMGEOUR, Dr. and Mrs., Maadi, Egypt.
SEAGER, Basil, c/o H. S. Sellar, Esq., 22, Palace Road, Streatham Hill, S.W.
SEAGER, Edward J. P., c.o. British Consulate, Dedeagatch, Bulgaria; or c/o H. E. Mountain, Hotel Minerva, Athens.
SEAGER, Lieut. John Owen, Public Schools Battalion, 16th Middlesex Regiment, B. Co., Woldingham.
SEAGER, Mr. and Mrs. Walter, and family, 12, The Promenade, Hoylake, Cheshire.
SELLAR, Miss, c/o F. B. Sellar, Esq., Underwood and Underwood, 104, High Holborn, E.C.
SILLEY, Alfred C., Agent, Khedivial Mail Line, Dedeagatch, Bulgaria.
SILLEY, Bernard, 37, Ellliscombe Road Charlton, S.E.
SILLEY, E. C., 37, Ellliscombe Road, Charlton, S.E.
SILLEY, Mrs. Alfred C., Miss Alice, and Miss Beryl, Dedeagatch, Bulgaria.
SILLEY, Mr. and Mrs. C. C., 70, Kingsdown Avenue, Ealing, W.
SILLEY, Mr. and Mrs. Walter and family, care of Imperial Ottoman Bank, Limassol, Cyprus.

(Continued on page 108.)

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

In connection with my remarks last week on the merits of a certain all-British typewriter, I should like to point out that the Egyptian War Office (see Trade Notes, page 114) is inviting tenders for the supply of typewriting material. I hope that the successful tenderer will be an all-British firm. Egypt and the Sudan are excellent markets for the typewriter, and a firm pushing their wares, *à l'américaine*, would be certain of success.

***

Salt and sugar (writes our Belgrade Correspondent) are important commodities, the supply of which sometimes runs short. The Government is giving its attention to the importation of these articles, and lately contracted for the supply of 4,000 tons salt and 1,200 railway waggons of sugar. Roumania is a great producer of salt, so that I hope the contract went thither. She is also, I believe, a producer of sugar, though not, perhaps, in sufficient quantities to export important shipments. Austria-Hungary is, of course, a great producer, and there is no reason, from a climatic point of view, why the Kingdom of the Lower Danube should not foster the cultivation of the beet on a larger scale than hitherto.

***

Our Belgrade Correspondent incidentally adds that the Serbian Government has fixed the selling price of sugar and other produce, thus preventing the sale at inflated prices. This notwithstanding, some sharpers have seen how to make money, even in these conditions. One dealer who had a considerable stock openly bought small quantities of sugar at Government prices, and re-sold large quantities at the same price, thereby hoping to escape police vigilance. Fates, happily, were against him and his stock has been discovered. But it would appear from the foregoing that clever manipulators of necessary commodities are not the pride of occidental countries only.

***

On April 30 we regretfully announced the death of Captain F. L. Dyer, of the 93rd Burma Infantry, whose services had been lent to the Persian Oil Company. He was shot by local Arabs at Darreh Khazine, on the Upper Karun River, on the 15th inst. It now transpires that he was appointed to the management of the company's transport arrangements on the pipe line. "He was," says the *Pioneer*, "a keen and valuable officer, and recently did excellent work in connection with the Turco-Persian Boundary Commission." I deplore the loss of a brave and capable officer, and regret that his services should have been lost, not only to his country, but to the Anglo-Persian Oil Company.

***

I wish to draw my readers' attention to a lecture to be given to-day by Sir John Jackson, the well-known contracting engineer, on "Engineering in Mesopotamia." The lecture will take place at 9 p.m. at the Royal Institute. A full report of the meeting will be published in next week's issue of THE NEAR EAST.

***

The interview with M. Sazonoff published in the Petrograd *Don* and reproduced in part by *The Times* is, in two respects, most interesting and important. M. Sazonoff, it is stated, "is convinced that no matter what happens, the Bulgarian people will never join Russia's foes." I have in these columns *always* maintained the same thing, in spite of what appeared to be adverse happenings.

***

Even more important is the great Russian statesman's reference to Serbia. He declared that "Serbo-Italian relations are most friendly, and that Serbia's former fears were wholly unfounded. Russia would not have fulfilled her task if Serbia had not been afforded an extensive access to the Adriatic, and therefore the rumour that Russia intended to give Italy all the Dalmatian coast was unfounded. *Serbia would receive good ports, and her desire for access to the sea would be fully satisfied.*"

***

Thus, has Serbia's "little window on the Adriatic" approached realisation! For, if M. Sazonoff asserts it, it has been decided in principle not only by Russia, but by her Allies, including ourselves. It is useless to speculate to-day which harbour will be chosen as Serbia's future port on the Adriatic, but it can be pointed out that, whichever it is, important harbour and railway works will be necessary (home contractors please note!), and that Serbia's future mercantile marine will need to be built and fitted out, or otherwise acquired. On the other hand, the possession of a port means direct waterway trade relations with other lands. Hitherto Serbia has been as badly off in this respect as Switzerland—or worse, because she was less known. This has been a great drawback for Anglo-Serbian trade, because we are not keen traders there where our ships cannot anchor. But all this will change after the war is over, and the two nations, the unweaned sea infant and the great Empress of the Seas, will get to know each other more thoroughly and learn to appreciate each other's qualities.

***

We publish this week two grievances from our island colony in the Mediterranean. With one of them my readers are already acquainted, namely, with the Cyprus motor transport service. The letters which we reproduce on the subject on the following page are an indication of the opinion prevailing on the island as regards the vital necessity for keeping up the service, and I again hope that, if it be not already too late, the Government will do its utmost to come to some arrangement whereby the service can be kept alive. Admittedly, it will cost something—more than it has cost hitherto, considering that the working of the concession has up to the present proved a dead loss—but whatever it is, it ought to be paid cheerfully.

***

The second grievance concerns the orange trade. If it is true that Cyprus dealers have been hampered in their exports owing to a glut of Jaffa oranges being shipped to Egypt under special Government permission, then most decidedly we have again been guilty of forgetting that charity begins at home. I see that steps have been taken by the Cyprus authorities in the matter, but are they not tardy? If damage has been done a remedy will be difficult to find; the danger should have been averted in the first instance. Now, it is too late until next season. Personally, I should much rather have seen our Cyprus traders profit this year at the expense of Jaffa, than vice-versa, because, after all, Jaffa is enemy territory, in spite of the many admirable and commendable people who live there.

***

A self-imposed moratorium seems to have been imposed by the Jew merchants of Meshed, if the evidence of our correspondent on the spot is to be trusted. According to him, Jewish merchants, who formerly had good credit, are "taking advantage of war conditions to postpone repaying their liabilities to an unjustifiable extent. They are men who carry on trade with Turkestan in opium, cotton, and wool, and with Constantinople in rugs. They could probably, even under present circumstances, meet their bills if they wished to. This," adds our correspondent, ingenuously, "is having a very bad effect on local trade, and is a hindrance to re-establishing normal conditions in the market." With which I entirely agree. I am only surprised to find that such enlightened traders as the Oriental Jews have always proved to be, should jeopardize their future—credit.

***

The grain movement in Egypt and the Sudan is on the ascendancy. According to a report which appeared in an Egyptian paper, the Government have given British Consular officers abroad particulars concerning Egyptian grain and bean crops, with a view to the placing of orders for either or both. The paper in question considers it surprising that the Government should have shown such an acute business acumen, and heralds this welcome change as one of the "most surprising war-babies to have been born." Though pretty in its way (writes a correspondent), the insinuation is hardly fair, and I must say this—that there are many governments who take less interest in their country's welfare than the Egyptian Government, which I have always found open to suggestions of a practical nature. I hope that this new venture on their part will prove successful.

***

Turning to the Sudan, I find that she is increasing her cattle exports to Malta considerably. More, still, can be done in this line. Malta is a great collecting and distributing centre of cattle—sheep, beeves, and swine—and will continually tend to increase her importance in this respect—that is to say, given favourable conditions. In this connection, it may be mentioned that the first commercial agent ever appointed by Serbia was sent to Malta to look after Serbian cattle—chiefly swine exports; the second, incidentally, was appointed to Alexandria.

***

However that may be, and, returning to the Sudan, I also notice with pleasure that our great possession in the Tropics is exporting more and more gum to England. This is an excellent sign. Months ago I pointed out in these columns that Germany, by means both fair and foul (as is her wont), had almost acquired the monopoly of the gum trade, Hamburg being the great distributing centre. Frequently gum from the Sudan was imported into Hamburg and re-exported into England! One of the lessons which I hope the war will teach us is that no foreign importing market should ever be allowed to control *any* of our colonial raw produce markets. Sudan gum is a case in point.

COMMENTATOR.

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Cyprus, The Cinderella.

Communications and Crops.

In connection with the article published by us on May 14 on the "Cyprus Motor Transport and Development Company," and with our editorial notes on the same subject, we print below two letters which we have received from Cyprus correspondents. The first is dated May 8, and the second May 17 :—

"There is some apprehension that the motor service of the Cyprus Transport and Motor Company between Nicosia-Larnaca-Limassol is likely to cease in consequence of the Government grant not being increased. Petitions have been addressed to Government from the leading inhabitants of these three towns praying that steps may be taken to avert such a possibility. A motor service is felt to be a real benefit to the community at large, and it is hoped that its continuance on improved lines may be secured."

"The benefits introduced by the motor service which connected the principal towns of Nicosia, Larnaca, and Limassol, having been fully appreciated, the suspension of its operations has been much felt, and the people urgently desire a re-establishment of the traffic. The state of Cyprus roads and other local causes entail relatively large expenditure for maintenance of such service, and it is hoped that the Government will agree to the necessary and, indeed, moderate sacrifice required to keep it going."

We refer to the above matter again editorially on page 107, and likewise to the following grievance :—

Orange Trade.

We have received several letters from traders in Cyprus, protesting against the export of Jaffa oranges from Cyprus. We reproduce the following two complaints as voicing the general protest in the island :—

"Keen disappointment is felt by those interested in the orange trade. It was regarded as certain that the export from Syria to Egypt of Jaffa oranges would be stopped during the war. There has been in consequence great activity here, and high prices have been anticipated. These hopes have been dissipated, as the Egyptian Government allows large importations from Jaffa. Members of the Legislative Council, in a recent interview with the High Commissioner, begged that he would move in the matter, and his Excellency, recognizing the grievance, at once telegraphed to the authorities in Egypt. The reply indicated that the Jaffa exporters were not enemy traders, but Jews, to limited numbers only of whom facility was granted, so that it was hoped the Cyprus trade would not be much affected. To the traders referred to, however, the loss is estimated as considerable. It is seldom indeed that a wind, from whatever quarter, brings any good to the poor island. The Jaffa variety of orange, especially in the Famagusta district, where it is largely grown, is of excellent quality."

"The export of oranges from Cyprus into Egypt was active last month in consequence of the high prices then ruling. This appears to have been short-lived owing to large shipments having been made from Jaffa into Egypt. This may be due to the Jaffa trade being in the hands of Greek and Arab merchants, although it does not seem clear, if the facts are as alleged, why it should not be regarded as dealing with an enemy country."

CYPRUS TRADE RETURNS.

(From a Correspondent.)

An analysis of the import and export returns for the year ended December 31, 1914, as compared with those of the previous year, is interesting. The total imports (including specie, £72,472) amounted to £496,744, as against £619,338 (including specie, £55,807), showing decreases of £141,242 and increases (including specie, £16,665) of £35,313.

The exports totalled £550,239 (including specie, £53,463), as against £699,913 (including specie, £79,322), and the decreases amounted to £189,823 (including specie, £25,859), and the increases to £40,149.

The imports include the following decreases :—Bran and peas, £1,372 (while the export of these increased by £3,001); raw coffee, £5,161; vetches, £4,269; flour, £24,219; sugar, £6,277; machinery parts, £9,278; cotton yarn and thread, £4,549; cotton piece goods, £10,614; woollen manufactures, £6,656; leather manufactures and sole leather, together, £8,383; stationery, £1,634; and Government and military stores, £6,867. The increases in imported goods were trifling.

The exports showed decreases in most animals, except goats, which showed an increase of £1,638; wheat, £15,167; flour, £4,118; raisins, £31,583; spirits, £3,791; wines, £13,578, cotton, £13,083; silk cocoons, £22,656; hides and skins, £6,155; asbestos, £7,791; cotton manufactures, £4,819. The increases include barley, £10,377; oats, £3,611; potatoes, £4,738; onions, £2,475; beans and peas, £3,001; carrots, £3,427; wool, £2,883.

The diminutions in exports were mostly in those goods which are usually exported to enemy countries. It will be seen that the vine, the silk, and the cotton industries have been the most seriously affected.

A correspondent writes :—

Gold medals have been awarded at the exhibitions held this year in London and Paris of modern arts and industries to the following Cypriot exhibitors :—

Messrs. Haji Pavlo and Brothers, Limassol, spirits.

Messrs. Eug. Ph. Colakides, ready-made clothes.

Mr. Ch. Gavril, boots and shoes.

Some success seems to have been attained by the Artesian boring operations conducted by the Public Works Department at Prastion, near Morphou. It is reported that the boring has been carried to a depth of 950 ft., and that sweet water in fairly good quantity has been found. The water was raised to within 8 ft. of the surface of the ground.

EGYPTIAN SHIPPING IN 1914.

The annual shipping return issued by the Egyptian Ports and Lights Administration shows that during the year 1914 7,166 vessels, of a total net registered tonnage of 19,084,222 tons, entered Egyptian ports, landing 4,140,057 tons of cargo and 125,061 passengers. Similar figures for the year 1913 were 8,313 vessels of 21,857,296 tons net register, which landed 5,074,836 tons of cargo and 161,864 passengers.

The clearances from all Egyptian ports during 1914 were 7,169 vessels of 19,087,419 tons net register, which took away 1,230,225 tons of cargo and 125,734 passengers. The corresponding figures of clearances for the year 1913 were 8,288 vessels of 21,815,765 tons, with 1,412,893 tons of cargo and 150,095 passengers.

These figures relate to steamers only, says the *Egyptian Gazette*, and do not include foreign and coasting trade sailing vessels. Of these latter 2,878, of a net registered tonnage of 223,961, visited Egypt during 1914, as against 3,759 vessels (281,823 tons) during 1913. During 1914 2,885 sailing vessels, with a tonnage of 223,549, cleared from Egyptian ports, as against 3,747 of 274,445 tons during the previous year.

Last year 1,580 steamers with cargoes and 107 in ballast entered Alexandria, as against 763 and 19 respectively at Port Said. Of cargo landed, 2,172,257 tons came ashore at Alexandria and 1,738,058 tons at Port Said. Of passengers, 76,816 favoured Alexandria as a port of entry and 37,090 Port Said. Turning to clearances, 1,265 steamers with cargo and 434 in ballast left Alexandria, taking 944,004 tons of goods and 80,173 passengers, while 535 steamers with cargoes and 214 in ballast, taking 137,606 tons of goods and 36,142 passengers, preferred Port Said. Alexandria, also, showed a similar lead with regard to sailing craft.

The return shows how useful the Mahmoudieh Canal is to Alexandria. During the year 3,472 Nile sailing vessels, boats, and steamers entered the canal from the port, with a tonnage of 230,544, and bringing in 204,181 tons of goods. During the same period 3,627 vessels of similar type came into the port from the canal, tonnage being 222,910, with, however, only 265 tons of outward cargo.

Turning to the nationalities of the steamers using Egyptian ports, it is satisfactory to note that, as was, of course, to be expected, Great Britain still holds a long lead. Thus of the total number of steamers—2,920—which did not transit the canal, 1,249 with cargo and 162 in ballast flew the British flag, their tonnage being 2,305,744 out of a grand total of all nationalities of 5,137,448. In point of both number of vessels and tonnage, Italy comes second with 357 steamers of 650,096 tons burden, and Austria-Hungary third with 193 steamers of 423,967 tons. In point of tonnage, though not in number of vessels, France is fourth with 132 steamers of 417,161 tons, with Russia fifth with 161 steamers registering 400,935 tons burden.

Seven months of traffic, up to August, 1914, served to place Germany sixth with 135 vessels of 337,306 tons. Had it not been for the war, which has now, happily, ended German shipping activities, she would undoubtedly have stood second on the list.

Under the Greek flag 279 steamers of 270,064 tons came to Egypt, placing that country seventh on the list.

DIRECTORY—*continued from page 106.*

SIMMONS, Gunner H. C. (56,799), No. 123, Heavy Battery R.G.A., Woolwich, S.E.
SIMMONS, George H., c/o Imperial Ottoman Bank, Larnaca, Cyprus.
SKRIMSHIRE, C. R., Sand Haven, Weston-super-Mare.
SMITH, A. H., c/o Mrs. Gwilt, Hillsboro,' Izan drindod,
SMITH, F. W., "Heathcote," Bexley, Kent.
SMITH-LYTE, Mr. and Mrs. William, 30, Westbourne Terrace, Hyde Park, W. Tele., Paddington 7191.
SOPIANO, Mrs. Alexander, and sons, Rue Nikis, No. 11, Athens.
SPROWSON, Mr. and Mrs. William, and family, The Ferns, Harrow-on-the-Hill.
STELIANIDI, Mr. and Mrs. L. N., and family, Hôtel Métropole, Athens.
STRONG, Miss K. M., Thorpe Hall, Peterborough.
STREATER, Mr. and Mrs. Frank, British Consulate, Dedeagatch, Bulgaria.
STOCK, Mrs. H. W., and family, 13, Norland Sq., Holland Park, W. Tel.: Park 3770.
SUMMERS, Misses L. and M., Old Phaleron, Greece.
SWAN, Mr. and Mrs. Angus T., 25, Claremont Terrace, York.
SWAN, Mr. and Mrs. T. Angus, 12, Ramshill Road, Scarborough.
SWAN, Mrs. Charles, 43, Lythoe Road, Finchley Road, N.W.
SYKES, Mrs. W. Norman, and family, 24, Osborne Road, Birkby, Huddersfield.
THEWLIS, Frank, 33, Randolph Crescent, Malda Vale.
THOMAS, Mrs. L. J., and family, "Glack," Browning Avenue, Boscombe, Bournemouth.
THOMPSON, William A., Glenmore, Avenue Road, Falmouth.
THOMPSON, Mrs Harold, Glenmore, Avenue Road, Falmouth.
THOMSON, Mrs., 124, King Henry's Road, South Hampstead, N.W.
THOMSON, Miss Gladys, 124, King Henry's Road, South Hampstead, N.W.
THOMSON, J. Crabtree, Cairo
TRISTRAM, Mr. and Mrs. U. B., and family, 84, Worple Road, Wimbledon, S.W.
TUBINI, Mrs. T., 84, Worple Road, Wimbledon.
TUCKER, Thomas C., and family, 18, Odos Kehaya, New Phaleron, Greece.
TUCKER, Thomas J. V. Ferid, c/o A. H. Brace, Esq., 46, Goldshill Road, Handsworth.
VIDOVICH, Nicholas, and daughter Hotel Centrale, Rue du Stade, No. 22, Athens.
WATT, Mr. and Mrs. A. B., Grand Hotel, Larnaca, Cyprus.
WEAKLY, E., C.M.G., Norfolk Hotel, Kensington, W.
WEALE, W., Foreign Office S.W.
WEALE, Miss Mary, 10, Upton Road, Slough.
WHALE, Miss Norah, Lydgate House, Hunstanton.
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WHEATLEY, Miss N., "Falklands," Birkdale.
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WHITTALL, Hugh E. C., Royal Societies' Club, 63, St. James's Street, S.W.
WHITTALL, Reginald, and family, 60, Scarsdale Villas, Kensington, W.
WHITTALL, W. J. H., Lammas Cottage, Esher.
WHITTALL, Lady, Moda Cottage, Esher.
WHITTALL, Kenny, 62, Princes Square, W.
WHITTALL, Edwin, and family, 16, North Road, Surbiton.
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WHITTALL, Miss Lucy, 60, Scarsdale Villas, South Kensington, S.W.
WHITTALL, Mrs. Jack, Hotel Minerva, Athens.
WILKINSON, J., and family, Old Phaleron, Greece.
WOODS, Mrs. Harold, Baynton House, Westbury, Wilts.
WOODS, Harold, Continental Hotel, Cairo.

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Sudan Notes.

The following are extracts from the most recent issue (March) of the *Monthly Report* of the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Sudan :—

Gum.

718,994 kilos of gum, valued at £20,334, were exported via Port Sudan, and 2,050 kilos of gum, valued at £30, were exported via Halfa during March, 1915.

During the month gum arrivals improved in the Kordofan, but were below the average of previous years. 29,719 kantars of 120 rottles (54 kilos) were sold in the El Obeid market during the month, against an average for the last three years of 33,417 kantars in March. The price has been fluctuating with a tendency to fall. The highest price during the month was £T64, and the lowest £T48 per kantar. In the Sennar Province gum has been quiet, the monthly return showing that 684 kantars of hashab were sold at £T36 to £T40 per kantar of 100 rottles (45 kilos), and 325 kantars talh were sold at £T16 to £T17 per kantar.

Cotton.

Arrangements have been concluded for the sale at a satisfactory price of the whole of the Kassala cotton crop. In the Berber Province three khalis (foremen) arrived from Egypt, and preparations are being made for extensive ploughing and distribution of cottonseed, all Zeidab American. It is estimated that about 1,700 saklas will grow cotton this year. Tokar Cotton.—The prices continue to rise, greatly to the satisfaction of the cultivators. Owing to sunshine, the late cotton is maturing fast, and is of good quality. The payment of pickers at 1 millieme per rottle has been universally insisted on, and the demand for nickel has consequently been large. A crop of 9,000,000 kilos is estimated. There was a strike among the cameimen transporting the cotton from Tokar to Trinkitat, which was, however, settled after a couple of days, a slightly increased rate being now paid. Extra camels have been sent from Suakin, etc.

The Inspector of Agriculture at Tokar reports that the following quantities of cotton had been brought into Tokar cotton market up to the end of March. A comparison with the same period in 1914 is shown :—

	1914. Unginned. Kilos.		1915. Unginned. Kilos.
January	82,177	....	—
February	584,956	....	249,573
March	718,574	....	2,269,982
	1,385,707	....	2,519,555

This year's cotton was classified as follows :—

	Afifi. Kilos.		Assili. Kilos.
1st Class.....	1,233,693	....	60,377
2nd Class	986,433	....	50,404
3rd Class.....	168,559	....	9,928
4th Class.....	9,703	....	314

Grain.

There is every prospect now that grain will remain plentiful and cheap throughout the summer. Some 5,000 ardebs were exported from the northern districts of Sennar Inspectorate, but from Singe and South the export has been negligible, and the vast proportion of the crop is still in this province.

New Currency.

On March 26 the Inspector of Kosti, with a party of labourers, proceeded to Senetaia (White Nile Province) to start work on the causeway there. This trading station will serve the west bank in the same way that the station at Jebelein serves the east, and will tap the valuable country of the Seleim and Ahamda. The station has increased largely during the last year, even without a causeway, but it is difficult to approach it before January. The causeway as designed will provide dry access to the station under all conditions, and form an excellent mooring place for steamers.

Cattle.

A March report states the number of sheep and goats sold in Damer market, Berber Province, during the month totalled 3,146 and cattle 395, a falling-off in the former, but an increase in the latter. There has been a considerable export of cattle from Shendi.

White Nile Province can now be regarded as free of cattle plague; otherwise there has been no material change since the issue of last month's report. Cases of contagious pleuro-pneumonia continue to be met with, but this disease is confined chiefly to Kordofan and Nuba Mountains Provinces.

Sudan Customs Duties.

With reference to the regulations prescribed for the collection of Customs duties on merchandise imported into and exported out of the Sudan under "The Customs Ordinance, 1913," the Board of Trade have now received copy of a further Ordinance (No. 2 of 1915), which was made by the Governor-in-Council on March 23 last, and which amends the above-mentioned Ordinance of 1913. The present Ordinance provides, *inter alia*, that the "Customs (Duty on Alcoholic Beverages) Ordinance, 1914," shall apply to alcoholic beverages of whatever origin imported from Egypt into the Sudan, but in assessing, under the said Ordinance, the duties on alcoholic beverages imported into Egypt deductions shall be allowed in respect of the duties, if any, paid or accounted for on the import of the same into Egypt, and regulations may be prescribed as to the assessment of the duties, the calculation of the deductions and the mode of proof of the amount of duties paid or accounted for on import into Egypt. With regard to the fees on travellers' baggage, it is provided that "declaration and porterage fees and other fees to be charged on travellers' baggage, in addition to import and export duties, if any, may be prescribed, provided that porterage fees shall be chargeable only on packages carried by porters. The scale of fees shall be kept posted up in clear and legible characters in English and Arabic in the examination office."

The full text of the Ordinance, which amends various other regulations relating to the management of the Customs, may be seen by British traders interested on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

Owing to the efforts of the Veterinary Department considerable encouragement has been given to the export of Sudan cattle to Malta. Since the outbreak of war 1,573 head of cattle have been exported to Malta, with satisfactory results.

The adjudication held on May 4, 1915, for the supply to the War Office, Cairo, of Newcastle coke, to be delivered into the Abbassia and Tura supply stores, has been approved in favour of the Cairo Gas Co. at the total cost of £E760.

According to a telegram received in Paris from the Governor of French Somaliland, the railway connecting Djibuti with Adis-Abeba was completed on the 21st inst.

The *Messagero* (Rome, May 12) stated that the Italian Government has established a new law forbidding the re-exportation of cotton from Italy under any pretext. The text of this law is a guarantee to Great Britain that no cotton will go through Italy into Germany or Austria, has been communicated to the British Government.

All persons, says the *Cyprus Gazette* of May 13, having any interest in cargoes other than enemy cargoes laden on enemy ships captured as prizes and requiring a release of such cargoes or portion of cargoes should make inquiries in Nicosia at the offices of the King's Advocate, and at the ports of Cyprus, at the offices of the Collectors of Customs. The King's Advocate will require proof of ownership and particulars as to freight, whether paid or unpaid.

The Egyptian Government has decided to send samples of Egyptian corn to all the British consuls in Allied and neutral countries in order that they may be placed on the corn exchanges with the produce of other countries. It is said that the Egyptian crop is a particularly good one this year.

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New Trans-Grecian Route.

Approaching Completion.

The railway line that is to connect Greece with the rest of Europe is now rapidly approaching completion, says the U.S. Consul-General at Athens, and from an authoritative source it is learned that it will be opened to traffic in August. The rails and locomotives for this line have been purchased in the United States. When this short link of about sixty miles is opened it will be possible for a traveller to go from Piræus to Paris in something less than sixty hours; for the Indian Mail Service the new line will be not less important, effecting a saving of about thirty hours each way.

In order to care for the anticipated passenger traffic the Ministers of Finance and Communications of the Greek Government have recently concluded contracts with La Compagnie Internationale des Wagons-Lits et des Grands Express Européens, providing for (1) the necessary sleeping and dining cars for the new route; (2) for the establishment of a tourist and ticket office of the company named at Athens; and (3) for appropriate advertisements of the new line and other railways in Greece by means of the company's offices and agencies, in its cars, etc.

For a day trip of twelve hours the holder of a first-class ticket will pay for his seat in the sleeping car twelve francs; the holder of a second-class ticket will be taxed 4.50 francs; for night trips, the first-class fare is unchanged, while the second-class fare is doubled. By paying 50 per cent. extra the holder of a first-class ticket may reserve for his exclusive use a compartment for two persons. The prices charged in the dining cars will first be approved by the Hellenic Government.

A copy in Greek and French of each of the three contracts referred to accompanies the report alluded to; from the first of these it will be seen that a daily dining and sleeping-car service from Piræus to the Serbian boundary, with extensions to Belgrade and Vienna, is provided, together with a daily service of sleeping-cars from Piræus to the Serbian boundary, and a dining-car service from Piræus to Salonika. Provision is made for extension of the service, as occasion requires. The contract for the dining and sleeping-car service is for thirty years, from July 14, 1915, subject to cancellation after fifteen years, on five years' notice, at the pleasure of either party.

GREEK CEREAL IMPORTS.

Mr. Eulambio, writing from Athens in the *Economist* on May 15, says:

One of the most important problems created by the war in Greece is the cereal question. For account and under the responsibility of the Government, the National Bank has undertaken the financing of the wheat and flour purchases made in America. This question has been handled entirely by the bank, through a committee consisting of the two present sub-governors, Messrs. D. Maximos and J. Drossopulo, and the three councillors of the bank, Messrs. G. Eliopulo, J. Damalas, and A. Moutzounis. Later the bank requested the Government to form a committee of officials of the State and the bank. To-day it comprises the Director of the Ministry of Finance, Mr. G. Coffinos; the Director of the Home Office, Mr. G. Chomatianos; the Chief of the Police, Mr. D. Palamaras; the Director of the Bank, Mr. S. Loverdo; and two high functionaries. The successful solution of this question is shown from the following:—(1) Thanks to the gold reserves of the bank, the rate of exchange remained unmoved at par. No gold shipments were necessary. (2) From the total bank purchases of 270,000 tons wheat and flour the two-thirds have been bought in the autumn at low quotations and at freight rates mostly under 30s. per ton

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Near East Markets.

SPECIAL REPORT.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cyprus. May 8.

Hail storms have caused damage in the north-west of the island to crops and fruit trees. A year seldom passes without some destruction from this cause to vines or other produce. Happily cereal crops are secure, and there is no longer anxiety regarding the bread supply for a year to come.

Later.

Harvest is now in full swing, and promises to be a good one. The olive crop should also be very satisfactory. The weather until the last day or two has been unusually cool, but a "khamseen" has been prevalent during the last forty-eight hours, and may do harm to the fruit blossoms if it continues.

EGYPTIAN CROP NEWS.

The following notes are from the *Monthly Journal* (May) of the British Chamber of Commerce of Egypt :—

Onions.

Harvesting is proceeding normally with favourable weather and sufficient water supply. Slight damage is reported in the Fayoum province from locusts.

The arrivals at Alexandria from March 1 to April 30 total 312,879 cantars compared with 345,839 cantars for the same period last year, the exports for the two months amounting respectively to 262,050 and 311,155 cantars.

Prices have reached a very low level, quotations at the end of April being P.T. 38-48, as compared with P.T. 120-140 a year ago. The market this season opened at P.T. 100-105, the subsequent slump being largely due to the prohibition of exports to Italy except where shippers are able to produce certificates from the British Consul at port of destination to the effect that shipments will not be re-exported.

The Locust Invasion.

From a report issued by the Ministry of Agriculture we are glad to note that the authorities in Upper Egypt have now got complete control of the locust invasion. The plague of locusts has been exceedingly severe this year—in fact, it is many years since Egypt has been troubled to such an extent with this pest. The Government is to be congratulated on the result of the energetic steps that have been taken to deal with the invasion; in spite of the vast masses of locusts met with, the damage done to crops in Upper Egypt has been negligible, while in Lower Egypt the swarms in most localities have been got well in hand. Up to April 23 about 6,780 tons of adult locusts and 146,980 okes of eggs have been destroyed. (An oke contains about 100,000 eggs.)

TRADE WITH ARABIA.

The total prohibition of trade between Egypt and Arabia has hit the Suakin merchants somewhat badly, but no difficulty is anticipated by them in getting the money owed them by Jeddah merchants when the veto is removed (says the *Egyptian Gazette*).

In spite of the strict orders issued by the Turkish authorities to the contrary, British, French and Turkish gold continues to be sent over from Jeddah to Suakin by sambuks for the purchase of foodstuffs.

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PRODUCE REPORT.

London, May 27.

The produce market, owing to the holidays, in some instances have been inactive.

Currants.

The spot market is again dearer from 6d. to 1s. per cwt. on the week, Pyrgos fruit having experienced the greatest advance. The s.s. "Teano's" cargo turned out satisfactory, and is mostly cleared. No further steamer is reported afloat, but large sales for shipment continue to be made. Present spot quotations are :—Provincial 25s. 6d. to 26s. 6d., Amalias 27s. 6d. to 29s., Patras 30s. to 31s., Gulf 29s. to 31s., Vostizza 32s. to 36s., Islands 29s. to 30s., smalls 27s. to 35s.

In Liverpool the few parcels of Vostizza remaining were sold at full prices, so that the market is now absolutely cleared of stock. The "Britannia," with 1,500 tons will relieve the market, but it is doubtful whether any samples will be available this week.

Sultanas.

No further arrival has taken place. There has been a large business during the week, resulting in a further rise of about 2s. per cwt. Duty paid clearances continue extremely large, and this in addition to considerable Government purchases. In Liverpool, the s.s. "Pontiac" and s.s. "Anastassios Koroneos" arrived, bringing together 9,000 boxes. The s.s. "Britannia" has brought 17,000 boxes.

Figs.

There is no business of importance in this market, whilst in Liverpool bags of Naturals are wanted.

Dates.

They are only in small demand at late rates.

Seeds.

Linseed is firmer; London-Calcutta spot quoted 56s., afloat, also April-May and May-June, 56s. Rapeseed is dull. Cottonseed is quiet, but steady: London-Egyptian spot, £8 10s.; May, £8 17s. 6d.; and June, £9 per ton.

Oils.

Linseed Oil.—The market shows a firmer tendency, and there is more business doing. On the spot, pipes, £28 15s.; barrels, £29 10s.; June-August, £29 15s.; Sept.-Dec., £31 5s. Rape oil is dull and easier, ordinary brown on the spot marked £38 15s.. Cotton Oil.—Crude is lower, but refined is unchanged. Crude on the spot, pipes, £31; refined on the spot, pale, pipes, £33; sweet, barrels, £37 to £39.

Egyptian Onions.

Arrivals show a falling off at the moment, all offerings meet with a ready outlet, rates being even higher than a week ago.

Egyptian Eggs.

Supplies still continue short from all sources, and higher prices are expected during next week. Egyptian are selling 8s. 9d. to 9s.

EGYPTIAN ONIONS.

Mr. Tickler asked the President of the Board of Trade whether he was aware that Egyptian onions were being bought up largely by Dutch agents on the London market, and were being shipped in large quantities to Rotterdam by the Batabier line of steamers and thence to Germany, in consequence of which the market to English consumers was considerably inflated, and our enemies were being supplied with a valuable source of food; and whether he would take prompt steps to stop the exportation of onions.

In a printed reply, published on Tuesday, Mr. Runciman stated: I am informed that the export of onions from this country to the Netherlands has recently shown a tendency to increase. The matter is being investigated, and the hon. member may be assured that such action will be taken as may prove to be necessary.

THE RESTRICTION OF COTTON EXPORTS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, May 16.

Much heavy weather has been made in certain circles over the action of the Egyptian Government in prohibiting the export of cotton to Mediterranean ports excepting those of France, Russia, Spain, and Portugal. The agitation has died down somewhat, since it is now realised that this country is only following the policy of the British Government. There can be little doubt that Egyptian cotton has been going to Germany and Austria by indirect route, just as, until recently, produce was being sent into Turkey via Dedeagatch, where Turkish merchants and agents had been and still are particularly active. The indirect route for Egyptian cotton is via Italy and Switzerland, and the fact that it has been followed is abundantly clear from the statistics. Between August 1, 1913, and April 25, 1914, Germany took 79,704 bales, Austria 43,178 bales, Italy 29,946 bales, and Switzerland 31,116 bales; but whereas in the corresponding period of the present cotton campaign the two first-named took but 2,612 bales between them, Italy and Switzerland have jumped to 44,792 and 99,084 bales respectively. In fact, these two countries have in the period taken an extra quantity, a little more than equal to that of Germany during the preceding corresponding ten months. Switzerland is by far the greater purchaser of cotton, and since it is not possible that she can have suddenly trebled her output of manufactured articles, it is only natural to infer that she has merely acted as a transit house for Germany. Possibly neither Germany nor Austria is short of raw cotton at present, and they may have a sufficient stock for some little time to come. There is little doubt, however, that both countries may in the near future be handicapped if their supplies from abroad are cut off. Egypt's loss through the war is far more than is represented by her exports of cotton to the four countries mentioned in this paragraph, and the longer the war lasts the greater, proportionately, is bound to be her loss. Consequently she has every interest in assisting to curtail the duration of the war. The wisdom of the policy of the Egyptian Government, supported as it is by the action of the British Government, is incontestable, and those who, after a clear explanation of the motives, still continue to criticise the imposition of this prohibition, lay themselves seriously open to the suspicion that they have been trading by indirect route with the enemy, and are annoyed at the enforced stoppage of the profits they were thereby earning.

LIVERPOOL REPORT.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Liverpool, May 27.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report :—

Egyptian Spot.—There has only been limited business done, of which Sakellarides forms a large proportion. Quotations for all descriptions are reduced ten points. The sales are estimated at 1,100 bales, against 2,600 bales last week.

Manchester Trade Report.—Owing to the intervention of the Whitsuntide holiday, and consequent closing of Exchange for practically the whole period under review, no trade review is published this week.

SWISS COTTON IMPORTS.

Egyptian cotton exports to Switzerland from September, 1914, to April, 1915, were as follows (in bales), as compared with the same period of 1913-1914 :—

	1913-14.		1914-15.
September	1,860	....	799
October	4,665	....	6,332
November	5,611	....	15,921
December	6,399	....	15,671
January	3,771	....	15,446
February	3,063	....	29,779
March	2,273	....	16,387
April	2,069	....	11,070

Djavid Bey, Turkish Minister of Finance, accompanied by the Director of the Anatolian Railway, has passed through Bulgaria on his way to Vienna and Berlin (says a Reuter message from Sofia, May 21).

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Roumanian Petroleum Industry.

The *Petroleum World* publishes the following interesting details regarding the export and storage of oil in Roumania:—

At the end of 1914 the Roumanian State petroleum installation at Constantza consisted of forty reservoirs; thirty-nine large ones, each of a capacity of 5,000 cubic metres, and one of 1,250 cubic metres. The total capacity of these reservoirs amounts to 203,000 cubic metres. There were also opened for exploitation during the year two reservoirs of the Credit Petrolifer, one of the Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields, Limited, and one of the Aquila Franco-Romana. Another reservoir has now been erected by the Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields, Limited, of the capacity of 5,000 cubic metres. Among the above reservoirs twelve are for kerosene, one for distilled kerosene, fifteen, of the capacity of 71,250 cubic metres, for benzine, and twelve for lubricating oils.

The above reservoirs are in use by the following enterprises:—

	Reservoirs.		Capacity. Cubic Metres.
Steaua-Romana	13	....	65,000
Astra-Romana	8	....	40,00
Romano-Americana	5	....	25,000
Credit Petrolifer	7	....	35,000
Aquila Franco-Romana	4	....	16,050
Colombia	2	....	10,000
Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields	1	....	5.000
	40		196,050

The exportation of petroleum products from the port of Constantza during 1914, as against 1913, is shown in the following table:—

	1913. Tons.		1914. Tons.
Germany	63,634	....	31,994
England	214,624	....	77,536
Austria	38,472	....	19,585
Belgium	11,804	....	13,587
Denmark	8,483	....	9,831
Egypt	119,167	....	62,697
France	145,901	....	45,393
Greece	—	....	4,263
Italy	124,219	....	113,746
Holland	51,309	....	32,694
Norway	20,670	....	12,512
Turkey	28,196	....	15,802
Russia	4,284	....	6,489
Transit Prodeal	—	....	4,928
Total	846,968	....	451,057

The reduced exports during 1914 are, of course, entirely due to the war and owing to the closing of the Dardanelles, from which no exports whatever were made during the last five months of the year. In addition to the above installations, which are the property of the State, there are at Constantza four private installations, situated at Medea, as follows:—Steaua-Romana, twenty-seven reservoirs, of a total capacity of 38,000 cubic metres; Astra-Romana, nineteen reservoirs, of a total capacity of 52,000 tons; Romano-Americana, six reservoirs, of a total capacity of 25,000 tons; Aquila Franco-Romana, thirteen reservoirs, of a capacity of 32,000 cubic metres. All these installations are connected by means of pipelines with the State installations.

Besides the above installations, land has been acquired at Medea by the Credit Petrolifer and Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields, Limited, where they intend to erect installations, and after the completion of the pipeline Baicoi-Constantza, the principal enterprises will build their own refineries in the port of Constantza.

The bulk of petroleum production is exported viâ Constantza, but there are export installations in the ports on the Danube, namely, at Braila, Giurgevo, and Oltenitza, and at the first of which the Credit Petrolifer has an installation of ten reservoirs, of the total capacity of 22,500 tons, and at Giurgevo the Steaua-Romana has an installation of ten reservoirs, of the total capacity of 11,000 tons, and at Oltenitza the Romano-Americana has an installation of two reservoirs, of the capacity of 3,500 tons, and the Astra-Romana an installation of four reservoirs, of the capacity of 3,000 tons.

The Roumanian petroleum industry has at its service a total of 4,022 tank wagons, of which 252 belong to the State, and the remainder to private concerns. The principal owners of tank wagons are Steaua-Romana, who have 927 wagons, Astra-Romana 578, Credit Petrolifer 458, and Romano-Americana 414.

The storage accommodation for petroleum and products of the principal companies on the field and at the refineries was, at the end of the year, 919,000 tons, as the following table shows:—

	Tons.
Steaua-Romana	22,000
Astra-Romana	172,000
Romano-Americana	124.000
Vega	125,000
Orion	92,000
Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields, Ltd.	44,000
Auroa (Baicoi)	28,000
Auroa (Targovishte)	10,000
Aquila Franco-Romana	28,000
Creditul Petrolifer	24,000
Colombia	24,000
Standard	15,000
Soc. des Petrol Roumains, Plopeni	8,000
Total	919,000

The repartition of this storage accommodation between various companies, together with the storage accommodation owned by the smaller concerns, amounts to the total of 1,450,000 tons, and another 1,000 tons of storage accommodation is owned by the administration of the Roumanian Railways.

ROUMANIAN TRADE OUTLOOK.

In an article which appeared towards the beginning of the month in *Kelly's Monthly Trade Review* on Roumanian trade, the following summary of the situation and of the commercial outlook is continued and will be of interest to British exporters:—

The outlook, says the article, is distinctly favourable. When once the present crisis is over Roumania is likely to forge ahead, for side by side with the attention being paid to agriculture and forestry, there is a marked advance in industry, commerce, and the polite arts. The people have much of the Latin vivacity combined with the stubborn characteristics of the Balkan races, so that with the gradual spread of education energies are being directed to practical ends. In Bucharest and the other cities there is an intense social and intellectual activity, quite on a par with the more central countries of Europe. This makes for progress and expansion of commercial exchange. In rural districts there is much that is very primitive, but business and banking are organized on a sound footing, so that trading is facilitated. Some of the difficulties of transport will doubtless be smoothed away as soon as the Dardanelles and Bosphorus are opened, for this will give a spurt to the already busy ocean traffic in the three largest Roumanian ports.

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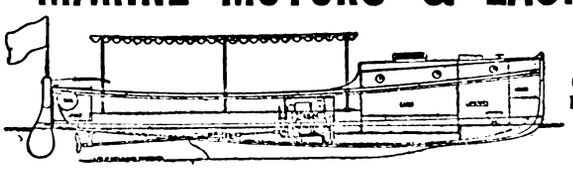
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In the main, the 7,000,000 of Roumanians to-day demand cheap goods, and this naturally applies specially to such lines as textiles and tools, and to some extent to agricultural machinery. Numerically and economically, the importance of the wealthy classes is steadily on the increase, which means that there is an all-round rise in the average price of imports, and the demand for the more expensive is bound to keep on growing. This does not apply alone to luxuries, but to industrial machinery, cycles and motor vehicles as well. Indeed, with the opening up of Roumania and the neighbouring States by means of good roads, there is a very bright future for the trade in horseless vehicles, including both automobiles and motor-cycles.

Publicity either in the public Press or by means of showrooms is certainly advisable in order to counteract some of the disadvantages of distance. One point in our favour is that we already possess a not inconsiderable re-export trade with the country, which testifies to the soundness of our business relations.

With the opening for free traffic of the Dardanelles, the importance of the Black Sea port of Braila is evident. This town has a large, highly industrial population, and the establishment of permanent British store and show rooms would bring a livelier intercourse in trade and commerce between Roumania and the United Kingdom.

ROUMANIAN TIMBER TRADE.

The timber trade is the third most important industry of Roumania. The forests are extensive, contain valuable timber, and are carefully exploited. Timber is exported in the rough, dressed, and in a manufactured state to the average value of over £1,200,000 annually. Some of the sawmills are large and well equipped. Their number is increasing and greater expense is being incurred in equipment. Timber-working appliances, lathes and tools are also wanted for the joinery and carpentry shops which are being established. While more woodwork is being exported, there is a flourishing import trade of certain timber products, especially the choicer kind of cabinet work and furniture, the value reaching about £400,000 a year. Part of this comes from England, but France and Austria were more favoured in these lines.

ENGINEERING PROSPECTS IN GREECE.

Greece's commercial importance has vastly increased as a result of the last Balkan war. While we take very nearly one-fourth of the exports of Greece proper, a little over one-fourth of their imports comes from Great Britain. This means over £2,500,000 to us in direct trade, and about £60,000 in re-exports. This is not taking into account the trade done with Macedonia, Crete, and other outlying parts, which has not hitherto been included in Hellenic returns. It is probable that with expansion will come better systems and a demand for agricultural machinery. Indeed, in the matter of iron and steel and machinery we are in an inferior position. At present our total sales of metal and machinery only amount to about £90,000 annually out of a total of over £350,000. Yet we are Greece's best customers for currants, figs, raisins, fruit juice, olive oil, wine, tobacco, and a few other products of the land. The metal trade is all the more peculiar as we are also considerable buyers of iron and zinc ores, as well as lead in pigs and sheets. As against this, we sell almost the whole of the large imports of coal.—*Kelly's Monthly Trade Review.*

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Engineering Notes.

Ice-making Installations.

In our notes last week we described a small type of machine which is generally used for cold storages for making ice, etc. For the latter purpose buyers in the East will find that the British ice-making plants are much simpler, easier to work, and comparatively cheaper than the German. There are several methods of making ice, but the two generally used are the can and the cell systems. In the can system, the ice box consists of a wrought or cast-iron tank, lagged with wood, and filled in with some insulating material. This tank is filled with brine. The brine is cooled down to a temperature of 5 degrees to 15 degrees F., according to the quality of the ice required, and the quantity to be turned out in a given time. In this brine tank are placed galvanised iron ice moulds, which are filled with water. When clear ice is required agitators are provided. These are usually made of wooden blades mounted in frames above the ice moulds and keep the water in continual motion until it is frozen. When the freezing is almost completed, the agitators are removed and the moulds frozen up solid. The ice moulds are then lifted out by means of a traveller and carried to the relieving tank, in which they are placed for a few minutes, afterwards being drawn out and reversed, when the blocks of ice fall out.

The Cell Ice System.

The cell ice system is usually recommended for making clear or crystal ice from ordinary water. The ice-box consists of a wood tank with a partition at one side containing the agitators. In this wood tank are placed iron hollow walls, from 6 ins. to 12 ins. apart, with hollow cross-pieces bolted on to same. Below these is a perforated iron false bottom. Cold brine is circulated through the hollow walls, and the water is kept in motion by means of agitators in the side partition. Ice gradually forms on the walls, and when the two sides meet and a solid block is formed the cold brine is shut off, and a supply of warm brine is passed through; this quickly relieves the ice from the walls, and it is then lifted out by the crane. The principal advantages of this system are that, owing to the method adopted for agitating the water, and thus removing the air, a perfectly clear and crystal ice is obtained, and, in addition, the blocks are all of an equal size and weight. These plants are usually made from 5 cwt. capacity upwards. The cost of production varies with the size of the plant; roughly, with, say, a 10-ton plant, it amounts to 3s. 6d. to 4s. per ton of ice.

Power from the Sun.

The idea of utilising the sun's energy as a source of power is not, by any means, new. Many attempts have been made in that direction during the last century, but all without any practical results. Hence the problem has not been very attractive to modern scientists and engineers. Last year, about this time, Mr. S. E. Ackermann, addressing the Society of Engineers, said that "the time will come when Europe must stop her mills for want of coal, and Upper Egypt then, with her never-ceasing sun-power, will invite the European manufacturer to remove his machinery and erect his mills on the firm ground along the sides of the alluvial plain of the Nile, where an amount of motive power may be obtained many times greater than that now employed by all the manufacturers of Europe." Engineers, however, were sceptical of the possibility of harnessing the sun's energy; and it must be admitted now that it was a triumph for Mr. Ackermann when, a few days ago, in giving an account, before the Royal Society of Arts, of the latest sun power plant established in Egypt, he proved that such a thing can be done, and those who heard him admitted that sun-power must be regarded now as quite within the range of practical engineering.

The Plant.

The plant consists of a series of rectangular boilers or absorbers placed on edge in a channel-shaped reflector of parabolic cross-section, so that the solar radiation is received on both their surfaces. Cast-iron boilers of this type have been erected at Meadi, on the Nile, seven miles south of Cairo. The reflectors, their axes placed north and south, are arranged automatically to heel over from an eastern aspect in the morning to a western one in the evening, so as to follow the sun. Thus the same number of solar rays are caught all day long, the small decrease in steam production in the morning and evening being due almost entirely to the greater thickness of the atmosphere through which the sun's rays have to pass.

Experiments lasting some weeks were made by Mr. Ackermann on this plant, the total area of sunshine collected being 13,269 square feet. The boilers were placed at the focus of the reflectors, and were covered with a single layer of glass enclosing an air space around the boilers. Each channel-shaped reflector and its boiler was 205 feet long, and there were five such sections placed side by side. The concentration was 4½ to 1. The maximum quantity of steam produced was 12 lb. per 100 square feet of sunshine, equivalent to 183 square feet per brake horse power, and the maximum thermal efficiency was 40.1 per cent. The best hour's run gave 1,442 lb. of steam under atmospheric pressure, hence (allowing 22lb. of steam per brake horse power hour for the low pressure engine used at Meadi), the maximum output for an hour was 55.5 b.h.p., a result about ten times as large as anything previously attained, and which was equal to 63 b.h.p. per acre of land occupied by the plant. A satisfactory result was that the output did not fall off much in the morning and evening. Thus on August 22, 1913, the average power for the five hours' run was no less than 59.4 b.h.p. per acre, while the maximum and minimum power on that day was 63 and 52.4 b.h.p. per acre respectively. Mr. Ackermann's opinion is that the problem of the utilisation of solar energy is well worthy of the attention of engineers, for even now it is very nearly a solved problem where there is plenty of sunshine and coal costs £3 10s. a ton. In Egypt this price has lately been almost reached owing to the quadrupled freightage charges. It is fortunate that where coal is dear, sunshine is often plentiful, and it is to be remembered that coal will gradually get dearer, while the cost of manufacture of sun-power plants should decrease.

Possible Purposes of the Plant.

Sun power plants are admirably suitable for pumping in connection with irrigation, for where there is a great amount of sunshine, a great amount of irrigation is necessary, and the slight variation in the quantity of water pumped throughout the day is of little consequence. Moreover, when there is a temporary shortage of sunshine (due to clouds), little or no irrigation is required.

Alexandria Harbour.

In spite of the war, and the necessity for retrenchment, necessary works are being pursued in Egypt as if nothing untoward was happening, says the *Egyptian Gazette.* One of the most important needs of Egypt is a large and safe harbour. The Government is fully aware of this necessity, and thus we are not surprised to see among the latest expenses authorised £E10.000 for the completion of Quay K, £E2,000 for that of Quay E, £E1,500 for a protecting mole for the timber quay, and £E7,000 for the work of strengthening the breakwater.

The Khedivial Steamship Company has been authorised by the Cyprus Government to increase its passenger and cargo freights by 25 per cent. until June 30 next.

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Trade Notes.

Egypt.

Tenders will be received at the office of the Inspector, Central Gharbia Drainage Projects, Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, up to noon on June 19, 1915, for the supply and erection of a swing bridge on Salahib Lock, at Hamul Barari, in Kafr-el-Sheikh district. The approximate quantities are as follows:—

Steel work	tons	12
Concrete	cubic m.	70
Wood work	,,	16
Cast iron (including balance weights)	tons	18

Drawings and specification may be consulted at the office of the Central Gharbia Drainage Projects, Cairo, on all days on which Government offices are open, between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Tenders should be submitted in sealed envelopes, addressed to the Inspector, Central Gharbia Drainage Projects, Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, bearing the inscription: "Tender for swing bridge."

Tenders will be received by the Director, Physical Service, Dawawine Post Office, Cairo, up to noon on June 15, 1915, for the supply of balances and weights required by the Postal Administration. Copies of specification and conditions of contract may be obtained free of charge on application to the said service. Tenders should be addressed to the Director, Physical Service, in sealed envelopes, bearing the inscription: "Tender for the supply of balances and weights for the Postal Administration."

The following tenders will be received at the Financial Secretary's office, War Office, Cairo, before 11 a.m.:—June 9, 1915—Supply of 30,000 Indian grain bags at Suez Docks; June 15, 1915—Supply of typewriting requisites at the Citadel Stores, Cairo. Persons wishing to tender can see the conditions of contract at the above office any day from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., except Fridays and general holidays.

The following tender was published in the *Journal Officiel* on May 13:—Tenders are invited for the supply of 120,000 one-ardeb sacks and of 80,000 half-ardeb sacks required by the Ministry of Agriculture for cotton-seed. Tenders must be in conformity with the general conditions for Government contracts, and with the special conditions and specification laid down for this adjudication, copies of which can be obtained on application at the Ministry of Agriculture in Cairo during ordinary office hours. (No date given.)

Tenders will be received by the Department of Public Health, Cairo, for the supply of three double cylindrical watering carts, necessary to the scavenging and watering service, Bulâq, in accordance with the specification and conditions of tender. Intending tenderers may apply for all information to the Director of Stores every day, Fridays and holidays excepted, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., when conditions of contract may be seen and signed. Tenders should be made on the special form, supplied free of charge by the Administration, and should be addressed to the Director-General, Department of Public Health, Cairo, in sealed envelopes bearing the inscription: "Tender for the supply of double watering carts." Tenders must reach the above address on July 5, 1915, at noon, at latest.

Tenders will be received by the Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of the Interior, Cairo, not later than noon on June 26, 1915, for the supply of petroleum for lighting required by the police for one year commencing on July 1, 1915, and ending on June 30, 1916. A copy of the conditions of tender can be obtained on application to the Personnel and Equipment Department, Ministry of the Interior, Cairo. Tenders will be submitted on the printed form provided for the purpose, in double sealed envelopes, each marked: "Tender for the supply of petroleum, 1915-1916," and should be addressed to the Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of the Interior (Personnel and Equipment Department), Cairo.

Tenders will be received at the Ministry of Finance for the supply of 170 okes of silk "Shantung Chappa" and 300 okes of silk "Winche" or "Mayoung," required for the making of the Holy Carpet. Persons wishing to tender should apply to the "Economat Central" at the Ministry of Finance, in order to consult the conditions and specification of the supply. Tenders will be received at the Economat Central up to June 20, 1915, at noon.

The Ministry of Finance in Athens has published a report of the Greek Consul in Cairo dealing with the present needs of Egypt in relation to certain goods of which the country has run short owing to the war, particularly cotton goods, iron, engineering tools, oil, fats, leather, boots, ties, beer, glass, scents, shirts and clothes, supplies of all of which Egypt obtained before the war from Germany and Austria. The report states also, says the *Egyptian Gazette*, that Egypt is in need of cements, soap, and straw hats, which were formerly obtained from France and Belgium.

The Egyptian Delta Light Railways, Ltd., invite tenders for the purchase of the undermentioned material which may accumulate at the company's stores at Damanhour, Tantah, and Mit Ghamr during the year ending June 30, 1916:— Scrap cast iron, scrap wrought iron, old tyres, axles and steel, burnt iron castings, iron and steel turnings, steel files (second hand), empty oil barrels, empty paraffin wax barrels, empty oil drums, empty petroleum tins. Quotations should be given for each item separately, as the company reserves the right to divide the contract. Tenders should be submitted not later than June 20, 1915, to the Chief Storekeeper, No. 15, Rue de la Gare P.O. Box No. 261, Alexandria, from whom any further particulars may be obtained on application.

Salonika.

Local dealers in electrical appliances and accessories are now trying to induce American exporters to send samples and price lists. "With our knowledge of the Greek market" (says *Kelly's Monthly Trade Review*) "we advise that, unless British manufacturers see their way to invoice at 90 or 120 days, no business will ensue."

WAR ON GERMAN TRADE.

In connection with the campaign undertaken by the Board of Trade, on the advice of their Advisory Committee on Commercial Intelligence, to assist British manufacturers and merchants to secure trade formerly in the hands of German or Austro-Hungarian firms, the Board continues to receive a very large number of inquiries for the names of sellers or buyers of articles.

Special arrangements have been made in the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade for dealing with these inquiries, and lists are prepared and circulated of articles which inquirers desire (a) to purchase, and (b) to sell. List 22 is now ready, and may be obtained by United Kingdom manufacturers and traders.

The U.S. Consul at Mersina, writing on March 20 on Adana cotton exports, states that exports greatly increased during the past month, and total over 30,000 bales. About 90,000 bales still remain from last year's crop, of which the greater portion will be available for export. The cotton-yarn mills in Adana have restricted their operations, but the cotton goods factory in Tarsus is working on a large scale. The two cottonseed-oil mills in Mersina are also being operated to their full capacity. The price of local cotton has doubled since the outbreak of the war.

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Greek Finances.

The following are extracts from a letter written by M. S. Eulambio, of Athens, to the *Economist* (May 15):—

To illustrate the monetary conditions of the country, the present state of the issue departments of the National Bank of Greece may be set out in comparison to the period preceding the war:—

	July 13, 1914. £ Stg.	April 13, 1915. £ Stg.
(*a*) Cash in gold	1,080,000 ..	1,704,000
(*b*) Balances abroad	6,840,000 ..	6,485,000
(*c*) Notes issued	11,240,000 ..	10,428,000
(*d*) Notes in circulation	8,412,000 ..	10,024,000
(*e*) Proportion of *a* + *b* to *d*	94%	81½%
(*f*) Rate of exchange	100⅛ ..	100⅛

These items may be analysed as follows:—

(*a*) Cash in Gold.—As a consequence of the Gold Export Prohibition Acts of last July-August, gold is still flowing into the vaults of the banks. No smaller fractions of notes have been issued.

(*b*) Balances Abroad.—The diminution of the bank's balances abroad is due to the large payments made by the bank during the last two months for cereals and other foods. Large stocks of wheat, flour, sugar, and coffee have been accumulated everywhere. For many months to come we are well provided for. The reserves of the bank are therefore expected to receive considerable increases by the export of the still remaining old stock of currants (about 20,000,000 Venetian pounds) and tobacco (about £200,000). Both articles are in brisk demand owing to the impossibility of any other exports from the neighbouring countries. Very great reinforcements are to be derived out of the profits of the merchant fleet. A large tonnage was engaged in the importing trade of the country, but now the greater portion of our merchantmen are available for international commerce.

(*c* and *d*) Notes issued and notes in circulation.—The bank's issue is threefold:—

I. Privileged Notes.—The old contingent amounts to £2,640,000 sterling. According, however, to a recent convention between the bank and the Government, the issue is increased to £5,840,000, and the privilege extended to the new provinces. One-eighth of the notes to be issued must be covered by gold, another one-eighth by Government securities. The National Bank is practically the only bank of issue. The Ionian Bank notes (about £400,000) are to be withdrawn at the expiry of this bank's privilege, while the Bank of Crete's notes (about £300,000) are only circulating in Crete. This bank is a foundation of the National Bank, and is to be incorporated very shortly.

II. Forced Currency Notes or Government Notes.—Their total amount comes to £2,440,000. £80,000 are yearly withdrawn.

III. Gold Notes.—On April 13 they amounted to £5,348,000 (£6,160,000 on July 13). They must be entirely covered.

The total bank's issue on April 13 came to £10,428,000 (£2,640,000, plus £2,440,000, plus £5,348,000), against £11,240,000 on July 13 (£2,640,000, plus £2,440,000. plus £6,160,000). While the note issue shows a decrease of £812,000, there is an increase of £1,612,000 in the notes in circulation. A portion of the increase is due to the inflow of gold (£624,000). The realisation of the wheat and flour stocks of the bank (about 100,000 tons) will contribute to the withdrawal of notes of the value of about £1,600,000.

(*e*) Proportion of the Gold Reserves to Circulation.—Besides the gold notes, the notes circulating on account of the bank are entirely covered. Of the forced currency notes £2,239,000 (out of £2,440,000) were uncovered on April 13. Thus the proportion of the total gold reserves (£8,189,000) to the notes circulating on April 13 (£10,024,000) came to 81½ per cent.

(*f*) Rate of Exchange.—In spite of the European perturbation, whereby the currency of nearly every European country has depreciated, the foreign exchanges here remained unmoved. The following table shows the fluctuations of the rates during the last ten years:—

Year.	Maximum.	Minimum.
1905.....	132·75	114·75
1906.....	116·75	107·00
1907.....	113·25	107·00
1908.....	113·00	103·75
1909.....	106·50	100·00
1910.....	100·56	99·50
1911.....	100·09	99·92
1912.....	100·00	99·94
1913.....	100·25	99·75
1914.....	100·25	100·00

By the Law ΓΧΜΒ of September, 1910, the bank obtained entire control of the market. According to this law our first institution has been empowered to issue notes for the exclusive purpose of buying gold and foreign bills at a rate not above par. The bank has been, on the other hand, obliged to sell the gold at a maximum rate of 1 per cent., and the foreign bills at ¼ per cent. to ½ per cent., until all notes issued to this purpose have been withdrawn.

GREEK LOAN TENDERS.

Messrs. C. J. Hambro and Son announce that tenders of Greek Four Per Cent. Loan of 1889 (Rentes) for the sinking fund at 47¾ per cent. were accepted to the extent of 33 per cent. of the amount tendered, and below that price in full. Tenders of Greek Five Per Cent. Loan of 1893 (Funding Loan) at 56 per cent. were accepted to the extent of 66 per cent. of the amount tendered, and below that price in full.

GERMANY'S LOAN TO BULGARIA.

Our Sofia Correspondent, writing on May 11, states that, according to a public utterance of one of the Cabinet Ministers, only six million francs have so far been received from Germany on account of the 1914 loan issued last June in Berlin.

NEW COMPANY.

A Roumanian syndicate of four members has been formed to develop a concession in the commune of Lopatari, department of Buzau, Roumania, acquired from Mr. Emile Costinesco, Mr. A. Darvari, and Mr. M. Blank by a deed registered at Buzau (No. 12, January 27, 1915). The syndicate has an initial capital of 100,000 frs., distributed as follows:—N. C. Oteleshano, of Bucharest, 25,000 frs.; Mica Ferero, of Bucharest, 12,500 frs.; A. Polizu-Micshunesti, of Bucharest, 12,500 frs.; M. Stambler, of Bucharest, 50,000 frs. The capital can be increased as found necessary (says *Petroleum World*).

COMPANY NOTES.

Agricultural Bank of Egypt.

Rather too much, perhaps, is being made of the fact that the Agricultural Bank has for the past two weeks been resuming its operations after their suspension since the outbreak of the war, says the *Egyptian Gazette*. While this no doubt represents a very welcome and hopeful development, it is hardly safe to assume that it reflects any particular improvement in the general financial position of the country. This is a question which, as far as the bank itself is concerned, has yet to be proved. From an official source we learn (continues the *Gazette*) that the bank is at present conducting its business on a very restricted scale. The amount of the loans being made are, in fact, limited to certain surplus funds which the directors found at their disposal for lending purposes when the annual accounts were completed.

The extent to which the bank will be able further to extend its credits must depend, for a time, very much upon the interest payment now due. The more money that flows into the bank in respect of those payments the more generously will the directors be able to accommodate their clients, while, as is quite obvious, their confidence in the actual financial position and outlook will be influenced accordingly. It will thus be seen that in some measure the borrowers have it in their own hands to determine what proportion of their further loan requirements are to be satisfied.

Land and Mortgage of Egypt.

The report of the Land and Mortgage Company of Egypt, Limited, states that the one bright feature as regards the company has been that the status of Egypt has been changed. Turkish suzerainty has ceased, the Khedive has been deposed, and the new Sultan of Egypt reigns under the ægis of Great Britain. Yet the company cannot hope to benefit by this change before the termination of the war and until the economic conditions of Egypt have once again become normal. While fully alive to the inconvenience entailed on shareholders by the suspension of dividends, the directors have no hesitation, taking into consideration the difficulties of encashments and all other circumstances, in recommending that the whole of the profits of the year be carried forward. The gross earnings for the year amount to £32,981; deducting total expenditure, including interest on Debenture bonds and Debenture stock, £27,518, the net earnings for the year are £5,462, to which add balance brought forward, £1,087; the balance to credit of profit and loss is £6,550.

Deutche Orientbank.

In the House of Commons on May 18, Mr. Pennefather asked the Secretary for Foreign Affairs if he would say whether the Deutsche Orientbank in Alexandria was confined to the liquidation of affairs actually in existence at the outbreak of war; and whether it was with the consent of the British controller undertaking new business, receiving deposits and loaning money.—Replying, Mr. Primrose said: I have no information respecting the conditions under which the Deutsche Orientbank in Alexandria is being permitted to carry on business, beyond the fact that the Egyptian Government have appointed a controller, whose principal duty is to safeguard the interests of the depositors in Egypt. I will make inquiries regarding the points raised by the hon. member and inform him of the result.

NATIONAL BANK OF GREECE.

ESTABLISHED IN 1841.

CAPITAL - Dr. 20,000,000. RESERVES - Dr. 13,500,000.

Head Office: ATHENS.

BRANCHES.

Aegion, Agrinion, Almyros, Amalias, Amphissa, Arta, Atalante, Calamata, Calavryta, Céphalonia, Chalkis, Corfu, Corinth, Cythère, Dimitzana, Gythium, Ithaque, Janina, Karditza, Kyparissia, Lamia, Larissa, Lévadia, Mégalopoli, Messina, Missolonghi, Naupacta, Nauplia, Patras, Paxos, Piræus, Poros, Pylos, Pyrgos, St. Maure, Salonika, Santorin, Sparta, Syra, Thèbes, Trikkala, Tripoli, Volo, Zante.

Every kind of Banking Business Transacted.
Cable Address—NATIONALBANK, ATHENS.

Correspondents in all Parts of the World.
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Burmah Oil Company.

The profit for the year, showing an increase of about £47,890, amounts to £1,411,279, out of which the directors have made the following allocations:—Depreciation, £464,013; fields reserve, £80,000; insurance reserve, £20,000; general reserve, £200,000; written off investments, £40,000. There have also been charged against the year's profit the following exceptional items:—"Emden" bombardment of Madras installation, £7,812; payment on account of plant ordered in Germany and not delivered, £7,549; donations to war relief funds, £14,666. The directors recommend a final dividend of 1s. 6d. and a bonus of 2s. 6d. per share, both free of tax, on the ordinary shares, making 27½ per cent. for the year, leaving £72,600 to be carried forward. This distribution is the same as last year.

Reuter's Telegram.

The report for the year ended December 31 last states that after payment of current charges, and deducting rebate on unexpired subscriptions to news services, the net profits amounted to £14,849, including £8,912 brought forward. The great falling off in revenue is largely due to the disturbing influence of the war on the company's business. The severe restrictions imposed by the military authorities upon news from the seats of war and the total prohibition of the company's code for private telegrams have greatly diminished the revenue from these sources.

COMPANY RESULTS, &c.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN.—Gemsah production for the week, 302 tons (last week, 234 tons), and recovered from sediment, 203 tons; Hurgada production for week, 20 tons (last week, 37 tons).

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.—Receipts for the ten days ended April 30 amounted to £E3,724, as against £E6,332 for the corresponding period of 1914.

IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA.—The directors announce an interim dividend for the half-year to March 20 of 3s. per share, free of income tax.

SUEZ CANAL.—The annual meeting of shareholders will take place on June 14, in Paris, 8, Rue d'Athenès, at 2 p.m.

NATIONAL BANK OF ROUMANIA.

BALANCE-SHEET, MAY 25/8, 1915.

ASSETS.

Metallic reserve	Gold (specie)	157,697,155	
	On deposit..	12,610,000	
	Gold (bars) .	140,000	
	Foreign bills payable in gold.....	71,144,991	241,592,146
Silver and other coins			718,832
Roumanian and foreign bills			225,006,955
Advances against Government securities		28,049,500	
On current account		50,048,100	
Unused balance ..		26,442,042	23,606.058 } 51,655,558
Loan of 15 millions to the state			11,273,958
Loan to Government on 4 per cent. Treasury Bonds (1914)			171,131,195
Bank's capital invested in Government stock			11,493,075
Reserve invested in Government stock			16,476,677
Reserve, depreciation of buildings, furniture and printing machinery			3,965,281
Premises			6,733.709
Furniture and printing machinery			1,096,656
General expenses			1,134,312
Government and other securities deposited			129,794,041
Four per Cent. Gold Treasury Bonds as security for loan to State			200,000,000
Securities held against advances or temporarily lodged			162,907.254
Current accounts			21,599.336
Security accounts			22,429,388
Sundry accounts			29,286.336
Total Lei			1,308,294,709

LIABILITIES.

Capital	12,000,000
Reserve	39,714,199
Reserve, depreciation of buildings, furniture and printing machinery	5,768,306
Notes in circulation	629.358,920
Profit and loss account	5,430,479
Current accounts and drafts at sight	56,120,223
Securities, etc., held on account of customers	492.701,295
Sundry accounts	67,201,287
Total Lei	1,308,294,709

Bank Rate, 6 per cent.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Situation au 31 Mars, 1915, publiée en conformité de l'Article 8 des Statuts.

SERVICE DE BANQUE.

Titres d'Etat et Titres garantis par le Gouvernement Egyptien		£E. 641,097
Titres divers		406,609
Comptes-Courants		311,979
Avances sur Marchandises		1,222,371
Avances sur Titres Locaux et Etrangers		1,909,353
Avances sur d'autres garanties		1,150,824
Effets sur l'Etranger		1,600,480
Effets sur l'Egypte		401,329
Immeubles et mobilier		244,543
Placements à courte échéance		921,375
Comptes Banquiers		465,019
Gouvernement du Soudan		475,528
Encaisse:		
Espèces:		
Or	£E.132,540	
Argent et nickel	£E.25.649	
	£E.158,189	
Billets de Banque	£E.518,147	676,336
Divers		96,634
		£E.10,523,477
		£E.
Capital		2,925,000
Réserve:—		
Statutaire		1,267,500
Comptes-Courants, Dépôts et autres		3,951,732
Tribunaux Mixtes		1,336,481
Ministère des Finances		457,520
Ministère Compte spécial		7,320
Comptes Banquiers		88,066
Chèques et effets à payer		174,127
Divers		315,731
		£E.10,523,477

SERVICE D'EMISSION DE BILLETS DE BANQUE.

Espèces	£E.5,454,732
Titres	2,445,268
	£E.7,900,000
Billets émis	£E.7,900,000
	£E.7,900,000

AGRICULTURAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Situation au 30 Avril.

Prêts Existants:

	1914. £E.		1915. £E.
Prêts à court terme	33,026	..	6,103
Catégorie "B"	6,16.,818	..	5,485,156
Total	6,200,844	..	5,491,259
Echéances:			
Dues	4,777	..	3,087
A échoir	1,202,730	..	995,454
Total	1,207,507	..	998,541

Perceptions:

	1914. £E.		1915. £E.
Arriérés au 31 janvier	704,977	..	1,394,516
Restant	619,381	..	1,293,317
Perçu	85,596	..	101,229
Echéances:			
Perçu	173	..	269
Total perçu sur annuités échues	85,769	..	101,498

GREEK DEBT.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders issues the following information compiled from figures published by the International Financial Commission at Athens with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek Debt from January 1 to March 31, 1915 (New Style: January 14 to April 13, 1915):—

—	Monopolies, Tobacco, Stamps, Stamped Paper, Naxos Emery.	Pirœus Customs.
	Drachmæ.	Drachmæ.
Gross Receipts, Mar., 1915	2,547,310	1,930,555
Do. do. do 1914	3,537,287	2,789,556
Estimated Receipts for 3 months (Law of Control)	7,225,000	2,675,000
Actual Receipts, 3 months, 1915	9,606.970	6,637,613
Do. do. do., 1914	10,815,031	6,593,844
Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 3 months 1915	+ 2,381,970	+ 3,962,613
Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 3 months 1914	+ 3,590,031	+ 4,918,840

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

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE	Mean Price. July 27.	Min. Price. Mar. 20.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	—	90
Do. 5 % Gold Loan, 1902	—	—	—
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907	82	—	—
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909	80	—	65
City of Alexandria 5%, 1909	99	—	90½
City of Constantinople 4% Bnds	96	—	—
Egypt. Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan	93½	87⅛	87⅛
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	85	89½
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	88	78	78
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82⅛	73½	78½
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	80½	75	75⅝
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	52	57
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	52	56½
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	45	49⅛
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	40	45
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	52	56
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	—	54
Do. 4 % Rails. Loan, 1902	77	—	70½
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	94	—	95
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	—	76⅛
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	91	—	81xd
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913, 8o., £60p.	92	—	—
Servian 4 % Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855	103	97	—
Do. 4 %, 1891	94½	—	85⅜
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	—	79½
Do. 4 % Loan, 1902	82½	—	—
Do. 4 % Unified	79	—	59½
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	65½	—	52
Do. 4 %, 1909	69	—	—
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4⅛	—	3⅝xd
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	—	7
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.	80	—	78½
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red.	83	—	79⅜
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	—	10⅜
Bank of Abyssinia	½	—	—
Bank of Athens	£2	—	1⅜
Bank of Roumania	8½	—	—
Eastern Bank	5	—	85/9
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅜	—	6
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	—	—
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅜	—	72/6
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	—	5
National Bank of Egypt	13¾	—	12⅞
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½% C.P.	8	—	6½
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8½	—	6⅝
Do. do. 5 % Debs., Red.	98	—	96
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I.	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88½	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord	17⅜	—	14
Do. do. 6 % Cum. Pref.	22	—	16½
Do. do. 4 % 1st Deb.	87	—	62
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb.	101	—	67½
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	—	—
Pirœus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	90	—	—
Do. do. 3 % Bonds	61	—	—
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1⅛	—	⅝
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	—	95
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	¼	—	—
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	—	2½
Do. Do. Def.	¼	—	—
Béhéra Co.	8½	—	7⅜
Do. Pref.	4⅜	—	4
Daira Sanieh	2/2	—	1/9
Do. Def.	⅜	—	⅜
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	—	7/-xd
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tst.	98	—	92
Do and Foreign Trust	5/-	—	4/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	—	1⅛
" " Founders	¼	—	—
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—	—
Do 5 % Debs. Red.	—	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	9⅜	—	8½
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	—	91
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	—	⅜
Sidi Salem Co.	⅛	—	⅛
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1⅛	—	⅛
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	—	1/1
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	—	11⅞
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt	97	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	—	—
Egyptian Hotels	1¼	—	—
Do. 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—	—
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅛	—	1½xd
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	99½	—	99
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	⅛	—	14/3
Do. 5 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	96	—	98
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	—	10/-
Do. do. Prefs.	3⅜	—	3½
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt.	90	—	85
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (fr.500)	£179½	—	£—
Upper Egypt Hotels	2½	—	—

OIL.	Price on July 30.	May 26-15.
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	⅜	14/-
Anglo-Persian	22/1⅜	21/6
Cyprus Oil Trust	2/3	2/3
European Oilfields	4/9	3/6
Roumanian	20/-	15/6

PARIS BOURSE.

	Jan. 4.	May 26-15.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane	—	475
Canal de Suez	4050	4379
Credit Foncier Egyptien	639	—
Turkish Unified 4%	61.50	64.15
Egyptian Unified 4%	87.75	89.65
Serbian, 1895	—	65.15

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 213.—Vol. IX. FRIDAY, JUNE 4, 1915.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

To many people it will have been a matter for surprise to learn that at this stage the Bucharest Government and the Powers of the Triple Entente are still engaged in negotiations on the subject of Roumanian participation in the war. When it is remembered that no country in the Near East has its aspirations so clearly defined as Roumania, and that seemingly both Government and people made up their minds quite early in the struggle to strike a blow for the realization of the national ideals, the delay on Roumania's part to throw in her lot with the Allied Powers appears the more remarkable. The only explanation that has been given for the new turn of events is that at the last moment Roumania sought to improve upon the terms she had already obtained from the Triple Entente. If this be so, and there is no reason to doubt the explanation, we must suppose that she rests her justification on the offer made last January to Greece of a considerable section of Asia Minor as a reward for rendering aid to Serbia in accordance with the spirit of her treaty with that country.

The maintenance of relative values in the Near East is a matter of considerable moment to the Balkan peoples. At present Roumania enjoys a superiority over the other States in extent, population, and economic resources. Any readjustment of territory which would enable this superiority to be challenged must naturally cause the liveliest apprehension at Bucharest. Even if Greece with the addition of territory in Asia Minor could still not hope to rival a Greater Roumania, which would include Transylvania, the fact that the Greeks had been offered a very substantial reward for assistance in no way comparable with the military effort which Roumania hopes to make would prompt the Roumanians to reconsider their bargain with the Triple Entente. This they appear to have done, and neither their military readiness nor their anxiety to go to the rescue of their Transylvanian kinsmen has prevented them from exhausting the resources of diplomacy to secure the best terms possible before participating in the war.

The present negotiations, as we learn from our Bucharest Correspondent, turn on the somewhat extensive interpretation placed by Roumania on the term Transylvania. Now, the principle of nationality makes the proper basis for all settlements after the war, but it is certain that it cannot be carried out to the extreme limit of making provision for the last national among those who are under alien rule. Any rectification of the Roumanian frontier must almost inevitably offend against the principle, because in Transylvania, at no great distance from the present Hungaro-Roumanian boundary, are to be found Magyar and Saxon colonies, which could not well be excluded if the surrounding country became Roumanian. Accordingly, the territory to be incorporated in Greater Roumania cannot necessarily include the farthest dweller of Rouman descent in Hungary. Of the Banat itself, the western portion, adjoining the Theiss River, has to be reckoned as Slav. The whole question proves the necessity for careful investigation, with such attention to detail as cannot be expected from the already over-taxed Governments of the Triple Entente. When once the principle of nationality as the main basis of demarcation has been accepted, the actual alignment of each new frontier could be left for subsequent adjudication. Roumania, with the experience of her neighbours before her, can hardly be anxious to lay up a heritage of unrest for the new kingdom by the inclusion of large numbers of unwilling subjects of alien nationality. Already her failure to do justice to the Jews within her present borders has given rise to the demand for special guarantees for the Magyar and Saxon communities which she may have incorporated within her dominions. If still greater numbers of non-Roumanians were to be affected, the guarantees which would be demanded, and would have to be granted, might prove a greater source of weakness to the new Roumania than the total exclusion of the territories concerned.

One result of the delay in Roumania's decision is certain to be that Germany will redouble her efforts to prevent the Bucharest Government from abandoning its neutrality. We saw the use that was made of the Austro-German successes in Galicia in the vain hope of deterring Italy from allying herself with the Triple Entente. The manœuvre failed, but that will not prevent it from being repeated for Roumania's benefit. That sensitive barometer of German diplomacy, the Press, has already given a warning of the brow-beating methods which are likely to be used against the Roumanian Government and people. No disappointment

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felt by the Triple Entente with Roumania, however natural, should prevent it from giving the Roumanian Government all the protection and encouragement of which the Allies' diplomacy is capable. Above all, the need for a full service of reliable news reaching Roumania at this juncture is paramount. The story of the Austro-German operations in Galicia will be sent to the Roumanian Press in a guise which will make it unrecognisable to those who draw their information from Russian official sources. It behoves the Western Powers, and particularly France, which has maintained such close touch with Roumania in the past, to see that the Roumanian public is able to check the intelligence it receives from German sources by more reliable news emanating from the countries of the Triple Entente.

The difficulties of forcing the Dardanelles have not been minimized by the transfer of the main operations to land. In spite of the heroism with which the landing of our troops on Gallipoli Peninsula was carried out, we have been forced to admit that the German claim of impregnability for the defences still holds good. Not only is the Turk proving a stubborn fighter on the defensive, but he is able to rely on numbers, which render the strong positions prepared under German instructions very formidable obstacles to any attacking force. It need not be supposed, however, that the British and French forces have yet exhausted all their available means of getting through to the Sea of Marmora. That the operation will not justify an unlimited sacrifice of life is apparent, for it remains, after all, a side issue, however important. We need, therefore, no longer look for any rapid solution of the problem, but must reconcile ourselves to seeing it solved gradually and possibly by indirect means.

In addition to the steady toll of officers and men exacted by the attempts to eject the Turks from their strongly fortified positions, we have suffered the loss of two more battleships, the "Triumph" and the "Majestic," which have fallen victims to German submarines. Fortunately, in each case the loss of life was small; but the weakening of the British fleet in these waters by two units within three days is no light matter. The arrival of one or more German submarines in the Ægean Sea had previously been reported, and it was to be feared that the nature of the operations in which our ships were engaged would render them a comparatively easy prey to submarine attack. But as in the North Sea our men-of-war have contrived to find immunity from submarines, so in the Mediterranean it should be possible to cope with the same menace, and, indeed, more easily. With the mouth of the Dardanelles in the hands of the Allies, it ought not to be difficult to prevent the entrance of these craft into the Straits. Their shelters in any other part of Turkish waters are exposed to attack, and it should be only a question of time before every submarine lent by the Germans to the Turks has been captured or destroyed. One such shelter was reported in the vicinity of Aivali, on the west coast of Asia Minor. On May 30 the place was bombarded by British men-of-war, and thus the first step has been taken towards making the continued presence of submarines in these waters impossible.

The success of the German submarines in Turkish waters has only been inadequately countered by the exploits of one of our own submarines, E.11, which entered the Sea of Marmora and sank a vessel carrying a 6-in. gun and a great quantity of ammunition. A second ship, carrying a cargo of stores, was chased, and finally torpedoed alongside the pier at Rodosto. E.11 then proceeded to Constantinople and discharged a torpedo at a transport alongside a quay. The moral effect of these exploits has probably been so far greater than the material achievement. At the same time, a few submarines in the Sea of Marmora ought to be able to interfere seriously with the reinforcing and provisioning of the Turkish troops on Gallipoli Peninsula, and so assist the efforts of our troops on land.

While the improvement in the relations between Bulgaria and Roumania is regarded as being likely soon to take the form of a definite *entente*, the Greeks are seizing the opportunity of emphasizing their inability to make territorial concessions to Bulgaria or any other Power. In view of the fact that the country is confronted with a general election the announcements need not be taken too seriously. The followers of M. Venizelos have resolved not to allow the retirement of their leader to interfere with the electoral activities of the party. As things stood, the supporters of the Government could be relied upon to exploit M. Venizelos' offer of territory to Bulgaria, in order to convince the public that Greek interests had only been saved in the nick of time by the appointment of M. Gounaris as Prime Minister, and by his repudiation of M. Venizelos' policy in regard to Bulgaria. No amount of explanation of the conditional nature of M. Venizelos' offer would have carried weight at election time, and the Venizelists have decided to cut the ground away from under their opponents' feet by announcing that their party is entirely at one with the anti-Venizelists in opposing territorial concessions to other States.

It would be impolitic for the Powers of the Triple Entente to pay any attention to electioneering devices in Greece at the present moment, or to take any step that might play into the hands of one or other of the political parties. The attitude of the Greek public, however, ought to confirm the Allied Governments in a resolve to settle the Balkan question over the heads of the States concerned. It is obvious that when both Government and Opposition emblazon "No Concessions" on their standards, even though it be for electioneering purposes, at a time when the whole of Europe is virtually committed to mutual concessions in the cause of a permanent peace, Greece is not in a position to throw any light on the problems of the day. With the retirement of M. Venizelos her statesmanship has ceased to be of an order calculated to be helpful to the Powers with whom she is on friendly terms. The loss is hers, and her well-wishers will hope that after the elections she will be able to revive the reputation for political wisdom and far-sightedness which the country has enjoyed for the last four or five years.

The latest reports confirm the improvement in King Constantine's condition, and general confidence is now felt that the illness will have a favourable issue. The German and Austrian specialists summoned to attend the Royal patient have been able to issue a satisfactory bulletin, endorsing the treatment already adopted by the Greek physicians. To Western minds the introduction into the King's bedroom of the miraculous ikon from the pilgrimage church of Hagia Evangelistria at Tenos will seem to offer a strange contrast to the other course of sending to Germany and Austria for two of the foremost men in the medical profession. In Greece, however, it would not be considered that all that could be done for the sick King had been tried, if recourse had not been had to the miraculous ikon, which, with the church in which it is kept, means perhaps more to the Greek world at large than Lourdes does to the French. The King's illness has been the means of emphasizing the devoted affection in which he is held by the Greek people; but there can be little doubt that his recovery after the employment of the ikon will still further endear him to a very large portion of his subjects.

Our Sofia Correspondent, in his letter this week, calls attention to a point which has been repeatedly insisted upon in these columns—the necessity of greater energy on the part of British diplomacy in Bulgaria. To energy might also be added sympathy and tactfulness. The Oriental capacity for bargaining is always trying to Western patience, and becomes almost exasperating when carried on to the obvious prejudice of the interests of the party concerned. In dealing with Bulgaria, however, Great Britain has laboured under additional disadvantages. The net result of our diplomacy in the Balkans after ten months of war is that not a single country—Serbia not excluded—has complete confidence in the diplomacy of the Triple Entente. If the Allies were indifferent to Balkan help, we should not need

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to be troubled by this fact; but to maintain diplomatic negotiations along the old ruts of prejudice and indifference, while professing anxiety for the military co-operation of one or more of the neutral States of the Balkans, is no credit to a Great Power.

If it be true that Bulgaria is only waiting to be invited to attack the Turks—on conditions—it is very clear that the situation at the Dardanelles calls for a sympathetic investigation of her terms in the light of the Allied position as a whole. The improvement in the relations between Bulgaria and Roumania, to which reference has already been made, is an indication of a return to reasonableness on the part of some of the Balkan States. It should simplify the task of the Allies in imposing on them all the terms of a common agreement which is to lay the foundation of the future prosperity of the Near East. While a breach in the relations between Bulgaria and Turkey is always possible, and must have been near when the Turks commandeered Bulgarian rolling stock and left the goods consigned to Bulgarian merchants lying on Turkish railway stations, we could hardly have expected that Germany would take any step to facilitate the abandonment of Bulgaria's neutrality for hostility against the Central Powers. But a cargo of rifles bound for Bulgaria from Copenhagen is reported to have been seized by the Germans. No doubt Germany's action has been inspired by the feeling that, as all the world is against her, she has no need to be squeamish in her treatment of any single State. It will be easy, if Bulgaria should make representations in Berlin, to explain away the mistake and to arrange for the dispatch of the rifles overland. The time taken by the consignment would, perhaps, indicate the degree of reliance placed by Germany in Bulgaria's assurance of neutrality.

The fate of Przemysl still hangs in the balance at the moment when these pages are going to press. In other directions the long line of the vigorous Austro-German thrust in Galicia has been held, if not actually thrown back. But in spite of a Russian success a score of miles north of the fortress, where the enemy have been repulsed from the San River, the grip on Przemysl is maintained, and the capture of three forts is claimed by the Germans. The attempt to close the investment on the east has so far not succeeded. Our Allies still hold the railway line to Lvoff, and have been able to keep the enemy's forces at some distance from it, though not out of range for the latter's heavier guns. Another Austro-German report speaks of the storming of Stry, which lies due south of Lvoff. If this should prove to be correct, it would still further embarrass the Russian counter-offensive, which has not yet gathered sufficient momentum in any one part to affect the issues along other portions of the line.

So far, it is apparent that the Italian menace has not had the effect of detaching any of the troops massed by the enemy on his eastern front in the endeavour to inflict a crushing blow on Russia. The difficulties of the country over which the Italians are operating facilitate its defence, and the Austrians are probably still hopeful that a definite result may be achieved in the east before the Italian advance has assumed formidable proportions. Their expectations are hardly likely to be realized; but it is impossible to withhold admiration for the stupendous efforts now being made by the enemy to achieve their object. The thrust on Przemysl has been in progress for three weeks. It has been checked for the most part, but it still retains sufficient momentum to threaten the forts surrounding the town. Before the Russians can extricate themselves from this menace a vigorous attack is launched once more against Warsaw. Over a front of fifteen miles the Russian line on the Bzura was subjected to a fierce onslaught on May 31. The attack, says the Russian official report, was characterized by extraordinary tenacity, and it was heralded by the extensive use of poisonous gases. It was, however, repulsed, and the line, which has been described as one of enormous strength, remained intact. Confirmation of the complete failure of this particular movement is to be found in the omission of the German official reports to refer to it.

The fierce nature of the enemy's attacks in the East and the growing evidence of the weakness of his line in many parts in the West indicate that we are witnessing a supreme effort on the part of Germany and Austria-Hungary rather than the normal development of an offensive based on a superiority of strength. This fact renders the Russian capacity to hold these terrific assaults, while inflicting enormous losses on the enemy, almost as valuable as a successful offensive. In any case, it prevents the Allies from taking a very pessimistic view of the situation. The position in the West is far from being one of stalemate, thanks to the successful tactics of the French; in the East Germany continues to spend her resources in men and munitions at a prodigious rate, and all the while the Italian offensive is gathering momentum. If we can bring ourselves to think in yards and weeks instead of miles and hours, we shall obtain a truer perspective of the war.

During the week the Italians have made progress in the Trentino, where they are converging along three fronts on Trent. They are also established on the left or eastern bank of the Isonzo, while the Italian navy is paying attention to the Dalmatian coast and is supporting the advance of the army on Trieste. A blockade of the Albanian coast has been declared. The chief effect of this step should be to restrict the opportunities of the Austrians for creating diversions in their favour in Albania. At the same time, it should convince the Albanians that, as far as they are concerned, the power of Italy is a sterner reality than that of Austria-Hungary, when the two countries cease to see eye to eye with one another in regard to Albanian affairs.

Progress in the construction of the Baghdad Railway continues. A month ago we referred to a German statement regarding the piercing of the Taurus Mountains at Bilemedik and the approaching completion of the most important tunnel in that region. In February a section, forty miles in length, from the Euphrates Bridge to Tel-el-Abiad, was thrown open to traffic, and now this railhead has been advanced another forty miles eastwards to Tuan. Events at the Dardanelles have probably tempered the satisfaction felt in Constantinople over the progress of the work on the Baghdad Railway. At an earlier stage of the war such progress was hailed as a valuable asset in the prosecution of schemes of conquest in Egypt. At the best now it may afford a little help to the Turkish forces operating in southern Mesopotamia.

CYPRIOTS AND THE WAR.

A Cyprus correspondent writes:—

Cypriots, especially the Greeks, take the liveliest interest in the war, and look eagerly for news from the Dardanelles, the importance of events there being keenly realised. It is considered that these operations must inevitably bring Italy, as well as the Balkans, into active partnership with the Entente Powers. Greece, as a local paper states, is more particularly interested, as "the so-called Turkish question is in reality a Greek question, since it relates to lands and cities which belong to our sacred inheritance." It is hoped here that negotiations now pending will speedily bring Greece into the fray.

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NEWS FROM TURKEY.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Athens, May 22.

The State of Constantinople.

Constantinople is in a rather disturbed state just now. The movements of troops, the enormous influx of wounded, the arrests of Armenians, the persecution of the Greeks, the searching of houses for arms, the exodus of the Italians, the exile of some of the English and French residents, and the aggressiveness of the police and spies combine to create a veritable reign of terror. It is easy to understand that for European's life in the capital is extremely uncomfortable in these circumstances.

All the hospitals are full, and the schools and private residences are now being occupied by wounded soldiers from the Dardanelles. The Bosphorus passenger boats and many transports convey troops to Gallipoli and return with wounded. On the day of the famous ceremony at San Sophia when the Sultan was proclaimed Ghazi the authorities had spread the report that a transport laden with English and French prisoners was expected; but on returning from the ceremony the officials and high dignitaries in full uniform met trams, motor-cars, and other conveyances full of wounded soldiers and not prisoners as expected.

A short time ago two aeroplanes flew over Constantinople, and as they were taken for Russian, they were fired on and were successfully brought down, but to the consternation of the military, they found they were their own aeroplanes, and that they had killed two of their best aviators. The entry of a British submarine into the Marmora caused some excitement, and it is reported that boats of all descriptions are now cruising about the Marmora on the look-out for it.

According to latest advices, there is a report that the Government has decided to make no resistance when the Fleet arrives at Constantinople, in order to avoid the destruction of the city.

In spite of the blockade of the Bosphorus by the Russian Fleet, coal still finds its way into Constantinople, the old steamer "Sabah" having got through the other day with 4,000 tons, and it is reported that the light railway between Zoungouldak and Ada-Bazar, near Ismidt, is almost completed.

The police have been placing difficulties in the way of Italians who wanted to leave the country.

Mr. Weyl, the Director-General of the Tobacco Regie, has been relieved of his functions by the Government, who have replaced him by a certain Nouri Bey. Talaat has been made President of the Constantinople Club. This was evidently done by the German members of the club. Tokatlian's Hotel is full of Germans, who indulge in much merry-making and giving of dinners and entertainments.

The Glorious "Goeben."

A Turkish *communiqué* issued last week stated that a Russian fleet, consisting of five battleships, two cruisers, twelve destroyers, and some transports approached the Bosphorus, but was surprised by the Goeben, and fled in disorder towards Sevastopol, under the uninterrupted fire of the Goeben.

The *Tanin* has been publishing, under the title of "A Political Comedy," a long account of the doings of Sherif Pasha, Ismail and Sadik Beys, and the other opponents of the Union and Progress Committee. There is one amusing paragraph which describes a supposed interview between Sadik Bey and Lord Kitchener, on which occasion Lord Kitchener promised Sadik £20,000 to kill Talaat!

An announcement appears in the papers that two mitrailleuses and several other arms purporting to have been taken from the British at the Dardanelles are being exhibited at the Military Museum.

"Artistic Productions."

The *Tanin* announces that Djavid Bey has handed to the Minister of Finance the convention and other documents respecting the issue by the Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt (sic!) of the issue of notes as well as specimens of them. The notes will be of the value of one and five liras. On the face of the notes appear the words: "La contre-valeur a eté entièrement versée en or," and on the back the words: "La dette publique s'engage à payer en or au porteur ces billets à Constantinople six mois après la conclusion de la paix." The *Tanin* adds that the notes are highly artistic, and their superiority over the notes of the Ottoman Bank is very striking, the designs of the mosques and other monuments being extraordinary. "The artistic perfection of the designs of these notes," says the *Tanin*, "proves that Germany is not only superior to her enemies in power and grandeur, but also in her progress in all branches of science and civilisation." It is possible that the public will be deprived of the double pleasure of seeing and possessing some of these artistic productions of German *kultur*, as the notes are not expected to arrive in Constantinople before the end of July, (Old Style), by which time it is to be hoped that Constantinople will have been purged of the Huns.

Communications with Smyrna have been almost closed, as Vourlah is practically blockaded by the Allied Fleet. It is rumoured that the German submarine has succeeded in reaching Smyrna. The British Legation here has increased from £500 to £2,000 the reward for information which will lead to the destruction of this submarine.

A Postscript.

Since the above was written the writer has received the following letter from Constantinople, dated May 11:—

". . . . wrote you hurriedly in his last that he was probably leaving, but things turned out differently afterwards. Although he was told by the policeman who came to the office that he must leave the country, when the usual permit was asked for they refused to grant it; and he was told that he must be ready on Thursday morning to leave for an unknown destination and for an indefinite period. All this created much excitement, inasmuch as all Frenchmen were also advised to be likewise prepared. Finally, through the intervention of the Ambassador, only those under forty were to be sent away; then at the last only twenty-five Englishmen and the same number of Frenchmen were sent away, all being young men under thirty years of age. They were accompanied by an attaché from the Embassy, Mr. Hoffman Phillip, and the English chaplain, Mr. Wigram. The destination is Gallipoli, although rumour states that it may be Mudania. They are still there, but we all hope that they may be back soon. All this created a deal of emotion amongst all classes, and now many are trying to leave. I doubt if permits will be given by the Turkish authorities, but the Ambassador is trying to obtain same."

A valued correspondent at Dedeagatch writes under date of May 21:—

Mr. Judelson, Dragoman of the American Embassy at Constantinople, arrived here two days ago, in charge of the party who brought down the body of the late captain of the American *stationnaire* "Scorpion," who was recently drowned at Constantinople. The U.S. s.s. Vulcan, a vessel which has been coaling the units of the American fleet now in the Levant, arrived here yesterday and embarked the body. She also landed two or three American Red Cross doctors, some nurses, and, I believe, a newspaper correspondent. Mr. Judelson returns with all these in his charge, so I presume they will pass the frontier without any trouble. You can have no idea of the trouble the frontier officials give to travellers, both outgoing and incoming. As an example, I may say that Mr. Dickson, an American, director of the American Tobacco Co. at Kavalla, was detained six days at Kuleli Burgas, on the presumption that he was an Englishman. There is also great difficulty in sending and receiving letters or post cards.

Bosphorus Fortifications.

Travellers declare that everyone in Constantinople is very much depressed, and it is said that Enver and Co. intend resisting and defending the city to the last. (This is not my opinion.) They have dug trenches all round the city and are fortifying. The ground outside the Chatalja lines is mined. The villages from Anatoli Kavak and Rumeli Kavak, at the mouth of the Black Sea, as far as Therapia and Beicos, inclusive, have been evacuated and are being fortified.

Petroleum, wood and coal are practically not to be had, and no supplies are coming in; bread is now very dark in quality, and one has to send to the bakeries for it.

Police Pin-pricks.

I wonder if you heard of the farce which occurred on April 27, the anniversary of the Sultan's accession. Messrs. Baker's, Hayden's, Harty's, and the Economic Stores (all British), and the Bon Marché (French), not feeling inclined to display any bunting, decided as an alternative to close their establishments. The police promptly arrested one of Baker's men, one of Hayden's, Mr. Wills, of the Economic, Mr. John Harty, and Mr. Albert Wright (an Englishman) and his co-director Mr. Boccognagno (French), both of the Bon Marché, alleging that last year these establishments were not closed, and their closing this year constituted an offence! As soon as Mr. Morgenthau was informed of this fact he took steps, and orders were sent to Bedri Bey, the now well-known Chief of Police, to release the prisoners. But that wily individual managed, before

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getting the order, to make out his report and have all the captives transferred to the Court Martial. They were consequently locked up in premises adjoining the War Office, where, however, they were all well treated, kept in a room, and allowed to see their wives every day. After six days' detention they were all acquitted!

The 50 Hostages.

You will, of course, have read all about the twenty-five British and twenty-five French who had been sent to the front at Gallipoli, and of their happy return to Constantinople, thanks to the energy and *savoir faire* of Mr. Morgenthau. Dr. Wigram, the *locum tenens* of the Crimean Memorial Church, is a brick—excuse the expression when speaking of a clerical! It appears that he insisted on accompanying the party, and that one of the party should be allowed to remain behind; and this was allowed.

Crowded Hospitals.

Constantinople is overcrowded with wounded, all hospitals, barracks, schools, etc., etc., being full. Up to the 18th it was estimated there were about 50,000—and fresh arrivals daily. Many of the poor fellows are dying daily from gangrene, for lack of doctors, nurses, bandages, gauze, etc., etc. The University of Galata Serai alone accommodates between five and six thousand, the Zappeion, Pallas, Saint Benoit, etc., are all full without exception; the slanting lids of the desks have been shored up with wood to serve as beds. I hear that there is only one British amongst the wounded, and he is at the Maltepe Hospital, and, curious to say, the Turk who bayoneted him is also wounded, and occupies the bed alongside.

The arrival of the first lot of wounded in six transports was a disappointment and an eye-opener for the Turks, it having been reported that British and French prisoners were expected. As the transports approached the quay the crowds, and particularly the Turkish women, raised their voices against the Government and the Germans, and went and demonstrated at the War Office and at the Sirkedji Railway Station, where many wounded were arriving overland.

We hear a good deal of the bombardment here. At night time we see the flash, or reflection of same, very distinctly, also the searchlights. The booming of the guns or explosives, even at this distance, is awful, and the firing is sometimes continuous and without interruption for hours. Whilst I am writing I can hear the booming.

THE TURKS' "HOSTAGES."

By the kindness of a correspondent we are enabled to publish extracts from two letters written by one of the Englishmen resident in Constantinople who was amongst those selected by the Turks for distribution amongst the "unfortified places" which the Allies were bombarding in connection with the Dardanelles operations. In the first letter, which is dated May 4, the writer says:—

After a long dreary spell I have good hopes of this letter getting through to you, and it will evidently be the first since January. . . It will also be unfortunately my last for some time; for to-morrow at nine I am leaving for Gallipoli as a hostage, together with the few Englishmen left here. It appears that the Allies have bombarded open towns, and in order to retaliate, we are to be quartered in these open towns. The Ambassadors are doing their best for us, but so far with no success, and the police are now waiting for me.

I have always done my best to get away, and my passport has been endorsed three times for departure, but the authorities would never let me leave. . . will give you full details about all that when he sees you. . .

. . . I am leaving with friends who are now very intimate ones, namely . . . and besides these are several clergymen and Englishmen who were in the interior.

From the time the war started until now, the Turks behaved splendidly towards us, and were perfect gentlemen. We had our full liberty of action and could not have been treated better. It is hard, therefore, for me to realise that they can take the extreme step they are taking, and I still hope that at the last minute we may be sent to the interior instead.

I feel sad on account of . . . and . . . but apart from that am quite cheerful, and we will without exception show that Englishmen know how to behave with dignity under all circumstances.

Happily, second thoughts—induced by the Ambassadors and by the vigorous action of Sir Edward Grey—led the Turks to return to a more correct attitude, as is now well known. But they appear to have run things rather close. In the second letter, dated May 9, the writer says:—

You will be very pleased to hear that at the last minute, when I was leaving the house with my bag for the boat which was to take us to Gallipoli, the Ambassadors were able to have the married men exempted, so that . . . and myself are still free.

The unfortunate single men, fifty-five in all, left, together with . . . from the Embassy, who volunteered to go with them.

NEWS FROM BEYROUT.

(From a Correspondent.)

Beyrout, April 22.

Economic Difficulties.

Syria has never experienced such an acute crisis as that through which it is now passing. Practically all people in the vilayets of Beyrout, Damascus, and Aleppo, and the privileged Mutasarrifiat of the Lebanon are involved in very serious difficulties, especially from an economic point of view. The country is becoming as dry as a desert owing to the spread of military sway throughout the land, paralysing the most vital communications in the provinces; and every day that passes accentuates the crisis. The country is already suffering from deficient resources, and since the outbreak of war money has ceased to come to its inhabitants from emigrants; yet the Turkish Government continues to strip people of their possessions in different ways.

Besides the extraordinary war taxes imposed, the military authorities, now vested with absolute powers, have adopted a peculiar method of extorting money from the public, especially travellers to and from Beyrout and other ports. Anyone who leaves Syria for a neutral country is bound not to carry more money with him than is considered enough to take him to his destination, with a slight amount for temporary expenses. A man leaving for the United States, for instance, is only allowed to have £50 in gold on him; and the returning emigrant can pass, under the same rule, with only one-tenth of his money. Those who possess small amounts are allowed to keep from £10 to £25, and the Government pockets all that exceeds the above limits. The harbour officials entrusted with the collection of money give the payee some sort of receipt entitling him to receive his own back from the Government Treasury after the end of the war. But nobody attaches much importance to such documents.

Cereals and other foodstuffs are now under the control of the military authorities, who supervise the exportation of corn from the Hauran and other regions in the interior to the seaport towns, and prohibit all transactions with outside countries.

In the Lebanon.

The inhabitants of the Lebanon are somewhat more fortunate than the people of the vilayet in this respect, for the privileged hill country is exempted from military service, but people are experiencing a rather greater economic difficulty owing to the complication of public transactions, the deficiency of the Lebanese resources, and the suspension of all communications with the outer world.

As stated above, communications have been paralysed even between the vilayets. Instead of the daily trains which used to run between Beyrout and Damascus passing through the Lebanon, there are now only one or two trains every week. The lines are in constant requisition for the transport of troops from place to place. The Turkish troops stationed in the Lebanon number about five thousand, and are distributed among the *kazas*, especially the districts inhabited by Maronites. The native communities in the province are fortunately living in complete harmony with each other, thanks to the wise attitude of the leading men. It has been noticed, however, that the Turks are conferring more favours on the Druses (traditional friends of England) than on the Maronites (friends of France), doubtless in order to create dissension between them; but the enlightened members of both communities have come to a good understanding as regards the policy that suits the country best.

The properties of the British missions in the towns of Shueifat, Shimlan, Ananoub, Baaklin, Ain Zhelta, Brummana, and other places in the Lebanon are all safe, and in some places are specially cared for; but in the vilayet, where German officers are exhibiting more authority, everything English is in danger. Indeed, the Germans express bitter animosity against the British, and care not at all if English property be damaged or sold in the street.

Stagnation in Beyrout.

The Beyrout Government is doing its utmost to maintain the harmony prevailing amongst the various communities, but the town is inactive owing to the absence of the ordinary trade movement in the harbour and the markets. All schools are closed, with the exception of the American Protestant College, which has overcome the present difficulties and continues to work peacefully, thanks to the neutrality of the United States and the able management of Dr. Bliss, President of the institution. Several days ago three professors of the medical school in the college—Dr. Graham, Dr. Webster, and Dr. Day—were summoned by the military authorities to Damascus, and it was thought that, as Canadian British subjects, they were going to be banished or kept as hostages, like many other enemy subjects; but Dr. Bliss intervened in their case, and succeeded, owing to his popularity and influence, in bringing them back to the college three days later.

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BULGARIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Sofia, May 18.

Bulgaria and the Entente.

It is generally believed that a critical moment is approaching in the relations between Bulgaria and the Entente Powers.

It seems almost inconceivable that the importance of the aid which Bulgaria can render them at the present moment should not be recognised by the various Governments of the Allies, or that they should not take the right steps to secure it. With the entrance of the Bulgarian army into Eastern Thrace Turkish resistance at Gallipoli would soon collapse, even if the Turkish military authorities resolved not to oppose the re-occupation of Adrianople by the Bulgarian troops and their advance to Rodosto. In any case, communications between Constantinople and the Turkish troops concentrated at Keshan and the neighbourhood would be severed, and intercourse between the capital and Gallipoli could only be maintained by sea. This mode of communication, however, is already threatened by the presence of British submarines in the Sea of Marmora. The military situation is thus dominated by the Bulgarian army, and its co-operation with the Allies would probably decide the fate of Constantinople in some weeks.

The Preparedness of the Bulgarian Army.

According to the most competent military judges here, the Bulgarian army is now far better prepared for war than it was in 1912 for the Balkan War. Bulgaria has ready for immediate action a force of four divisions, or more than 120,000 men, and in a few days she could mobilize another ten divisions, or 300,000 men, ready for action in case of need. And if necessity arises for calling the whole nation to arms, as during the Balkan War, according to the new Military Act recently passed by the Chamber, the above force can be more than doubled.

The Bulgarian Terms.

In a previous letter, I have already described the nature of the Bulgarian demands, and they may be taken as the terms on which Bulgarian aid can be secured. It is important to notice that Bulgaria only wants the really Bulgarian portion of Macedonia and its natural outlets to the Ægean Sea—Kavalla, etc. She no longer demands Salonika. Her claims are small compared with those of the other Balkan nations, and are strictly in conformity with the principle of nationalities, which British statesmen have proclaimed as their watchword. If an understanding cannot be arrived at on this basis there will be a lamentable failure of diplomacy.

Bulgaria's hesitation to join the Entente is due partly to the paralysing effect of her former misfortunes, partly to suspicion of her neighbours, partly to fear of an Austro-German invasion through Serbia. But she would take all these risks if she were assured of the satisfaction of her reasonable claims in Macedonia, and would not wait for action by either Italy or Roumania. It is high time for Great Britain—who enjoys the confidence of this country, and possesses great influence here—to put more energy into her diplomacy at Sofia in order to secure Bulgaria's assistance.

Sofia Municipal Election.

Owing to irregularities, in which the majority of the City Council were stated to be implicated, the Law Courts decided on the dissolution of the former Council. The elections for the new Council were held last Sunday, and for the whole of the previous week the attention of politicians here was entirely absorbed by the business. All the old political parties and one new one took part in the campaign, and some of them employed the most up-to-date methods in their electioneering—dropping appeals and bulletins all over the city from aeroplanes, to the great amusement of the citizens. The result of the election was favourable to the Government, its coalition securing eighteen seats, as against twelve by the opposition parties. The capital thus marks its approval of the present Government's policy, and this will result in further strengthening the hands of Dr. Radoslavoff.

The newly-elected Council will probably be summoned to its first sitting about the 28th inst., when the Kmet (mayor) will be chosen. In all likelihood the choice will fall upon the former Vice-Kmet, M. Radi V. Radeff, a leading Radoslavist, while the two Vice-Kmets are likely to be Dr. Spirkoff (Radoslavist) and Dr. Petcoff, the son of the late Prime Minister, M. D. Petcoff (Stambolovist).

Policy of Dr. Gennadieff.

In certain political circles it is stated that the leader of the Stambolovist party, Dr. N. Gennadieff, will shortly address a letter to the King, giving his views upon Bulgaria's foreign policy. In this, it is understood, Dr. Gennadieff will point out in detail the arguments which lead him to maintain that the country should follow a policy of *rapprochement* with the Powers of the Triple Entente.

Queen Eleonora on Bulgarian Sympathies.

Recently, in the course of an audience which she granted to an English correspondent at Samakov, the Queen made the following statement:—

The question which we have to decide is: Whether the territory that we hope to obtain is worth the sacrifice in money and men that it must involve. Independent of this, the diplomatic questions involved are very complicated. We cannot be entirely sympathetic to Greece, Roumania, and Serbia after they have so unjustly deprived us of territory which our army won from Turkey.

I have many friends in Petrograd, and all Bulgaria cherishes deeply felt gratitude to Russia for what she has done for us in the past. How can we explain to Russia that if we join Austria against Serbia we should not also be acting against Russia? But, on the other hand, Bulgarians have much sympathy with the methods and the development of Germany; and consequently Bulgarian co-operation with Germany's enemies would be contrary to the national feeling.

It is possible that thoughts of our obligations towards Russia may outweigh our admiration of German ideals. But against these factors we must set the consideration of our own loss or gain.

First Bulgarian Horse Show.

Last Friday the first Horse Show ever held in Bulgaria was opened at Eski-Jumaya. The opening ceremony was performed by M. Dintcheff, Minister of Agriculture, and M. Bakaloff, Minister of Commerce and Industry, was also present. There were 450 exhibitors, and the show attracted a very large number of visitors.

BRITISH REFUGEES IN ATHENS.

The attention of ex-British residents of Constantinople at present in Athens is drawn to the fact that "The Near East" is on sale every week at M. Th. Vafiades' Bookstore, where subscriptions are also received.

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ROUMANIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, May 16.

The Political Situation.

The political situation is somewhat clearer than it was a week ago. The sudden calm of the last fortnight is said to be due to the fact that the Entente Powers enquired when Roumania actually intended to make a move; to which Roumania replied that she desired written assurances regarding the reward she is to receive, at the same time formulating her desires, which include the Tiza (Theiss) as her western boundary and the Pruth for her northern boundary. To-day most papers say that the Russian reply to these suggestions is awaited, and that upon that reply will depend when Roumania will move—if ever!

According to the *Dimineatza*, Russia objects to a frontier so far north, being anxious to retain Czernowitz and the surrounding country. At the same time Serbia puts forward claims to the territory of the Banat, which is inhabited by Serbs, and is regarded as necessary to the proper defence of Belgrade. Russia's reply is awaited with some impatience, not to say apprehension, as fears are entertained that her proposals will fall far short of Roumania's requirements. In any case, some tough bargaining may be looked for.

The party opposed to action is making itself more prominent just now, if not increasing in numbers. The arguments it puts forward are: that in any case Transylvania must sooner or later come under the Roumanian flag, and that the rest must naturally follow; and that if any military action at all be needed, an occupation at the end of the war will suffice. For the rest, strict neutrality is the burden of their song. Whether their attitude is due to fear of German arms, or whether they were spoilt by the easy acquisition of Bulgarian territory in 1913 it is hard to say.

Relations with Bulgaria.

A much more friendly spirit seems to be perceptible of late in the relations between this country and Bulgaria. This is doubtless due in part to the satisfactory issue of the negotiations regarding the transit of goods over the railway systems of the two countries, and partly to steady diplomatic spade-work. It now appears that the assurances of her peaceful intentions that have been given repeatedly during the past nine months by Bulgaria were perfectly sincere; though little weight was given to them some months ago, when Roumania seemed to be on the verge of joining in the war, and was only deterred from doing so by fear of an attack in her rear on the part of Bulgaria. There is undoubtedly a feeling in the latter country that should Roumania find her national aspirations fulfilled in the general shuffle that must take place after the war, she ought to make some concession to Bulgaria in regard to part, at least, of the territory she took over in 1913. And this feeling, it may be stated, finds an echo in more than one quarter in this country.

Students' Anti-German Manifestation.

The students of Bucharest continue their anti-German agitation, and on the 5th inst. a party visited M. M. Mortzino, the Minister of the Interior, whom they begged to suspend the issue of the journals *Ziua* and *Minerva*, and to forbid the *Moldava* to pass the frontier. The Minister replied that the question could not be discussed; he judged it inadvisable to manifest one's opinions by acts of violence; and he assured the delegation that all measures would be taken to guard against the disturbance of public order. The students withdrew, after assuring the Minister that they should fulfil what they regarded as a national duty. A large meeting took place the next day at the students' club, the Central Studentesc, to discuss the situation.

*** When communicating with Advertisers, Readers will greatly oblige by mentioning

"THE NEAR EAST."

SERBIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Nish, May 21.

The Tsar's Birthday.

The Emperor of Russia's birthday was celebrated here as usual, the fact of being at war not being allowed to interfere with the customary illuminations, etc. The shops were closed in the forenoon, services were held in all the churches, and the Austrian military band, the members of which were dressed in Serbian uniform, played in the park.

The Situation at Belgrade.

The lull in the fighting in this theatre of war has not been of the same advantage as if this country had been able to take the offensive, as the soldiers remain idle and always in a state of expectancy, unable to return home and unable to go forward; while provisions and produce of every sort and manufactured goods get daily more and more scarce and dear. The trains running to Belgrade cannot approach near the city, and this makes the traffic difficult and expensive. The town is also liable to be bombarded by the enemy at any moment, which alone prevents the better class of inhabitants from returning. Some days ago a large sugar factory in the environs of Belgrade was fired upon by the Austrian artillery, which hammered at it resolutely, and utterly destroyed it.

It is only in the event of an offensive movement on the part of Serbia clearing away the Austrian troops on the Serbian frontier that Belgrade will become habitable and safe as formerly.

King Peter and the Crown Prince.

Having completed his cure at the Serbian bathing resorts, King Peter continues to lead a quiet life of retirement at Topola, the birthplace of his grandfather, the Liberator of Serbia. Though away from the din and bustle of active political life, and desirous of recruiting his health in the enjoyment of peaceful solitude, he cannot entirely sever the links that bind him to the concerns of his country at this important epoch of its history; so that it is not surprising to learn that apart from the ordinary channels of political communications he has received a welcome visit from his son, Prince Alexander. The Heir-Apparent has been taking a most active interest in the government of the country, and to his visit must be attached an importance beyond that of simple filial duty and affection.

The Question of Dalmatia.

The mission of M. Vesnitch, Serbian Minister Plenipotentiary at Paris, who went to Rome to sign the *concordat* agreed on with the Holy See, as it was he who conducted the pourparlers at the Vatican, gave rise to false reports with reference to an understanding between Italy and Serbia concerning Dalmatia.

The excitement aroused by the rumours of the proposed annexation of Dalmatia still lingers, and the Serbian Press continues to publish leading articles on the subject with the object of justifying Serbian aspirations. Two days ago long arguments appeared in the *Odjek*, one of the semi-official organs.

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SERBIAN CAMPAIGN.

According to an official *communiqué* from Nish, on May 25 Serbian artillery dispersed an enemy battalion which was entrenching itself north-east of Kupinavo, together with a cavalry detachment and some gun teams which were surprised there. On the same day, in the direction of Dobra, Serbian guns dispersed with a few shots a detachment of hostile infantry which had fired on the Serbian outposts. On the same day, moreover, the enemy attempted to land soldiers on the island of Tsokliana, but they were driven off.

Italy's Intervention Welcomed.

The *Times* special correspondent in Nish, cabling on May 25, stated that he was authorized to say that the Serbian Government cordially welcomes the intervention of Italy, being confident that it will shorten the war. The Government is also confident that Italy and the Allies, in the final adjustment, will be guided by the principle of respecting nationalities. Serbia meanwhile freely recognizes that Italy is not without her legitimate rights and interests on the Adriatic coast.

Italy's action will doubtless influence Serbian military plans in the immediate future. Renewed activity is generally expected very shortly. The Serbian army is thoroughly rested, and all deficiences in men and material have been fully repaired. There are abundant supplies of reserves, and all the troops are impatient to strike another blow at the enemy.

Lady Paget's Hospital.

A correspondent writes from Lady Paget's Hospital, Skoplje, Serbia, May 17:—

I am now quartermaster at the typhus hospital, one and a-half miles outside Skoplje. It is more like a health resort than a den of pestilence. We have a very capable set of nurses, and everything runs with the regularity of clockwork. Typhus never seriously affected the civil population of Serbia; but the army and its Austrian prisoners have been literally decimated. As regards this town and its immediate neighbourhood, the epidemic has spent its force; but there are still plenty of cases in outlying villages. But the typhus season (November to April) is past; we may expect cholera, typhoid, and dysentery, but are well prepared to meet them. On the other hand, if military operations take place in Albania, we shall probably be turned into a surgical unit; and should the Allies invade the southern districts of Austria-Hungary, our hospital may be shifted to Belgrade. So you see our future is uncertain. I suppose it is common knowledge that the Serbians will attack Albania, should Italy come into the war. . . . Lady Paget suffered severely from typhus, and has left Skoplje for London to recoup her health. She is a splendid organizer—just the sort of person to control a large hospital unit.

Misery and Pestilence.

The following extracts are from an account of relief work in Serbia, which has been compiled from official and semi-official reports, and is published, says the *Morning Post*, with the consent of the War Office:—

The great rally by which the gallant army of little Serbia drove the invader from its country has excited the admiration of all the world except its enemies, but less is known of the price which was paid for that victory. For weeks afterwards Serbia lay under the shadow of death, compelled by an iron necessity to conceal her wounds and her sufferings. The time has come when it is possible to lift the curtain on this period and to describe some of the measures taken and the results achieved. Early in February the Serbian Relief Fund was already hard at work. It had at its disposal two hospital units, Lady Paget's and Lady Wimborne's, each with about fifty doctors, nurses, and orderlies, as well as smaller contingents under Dr. Moon and Mrs. Hardy. There were, further, two Serbian units, provided by the Joint Committee of the Red Cross Serbian Relief Fund, under Colonel Barrie and Captain Bennett respectively, the latter proceeding in Sir Thomas Lipton's yacht "Erin." There was also a Wounded Allies' Relief Hospital and a Scottish Women's Hospital. All these were working at the highest pressure, and heroically doing their utmost to cope with the terrible conditions around them. But it soon became evident that further steps would be necessary to deal with the root of the mischief, and on February 17 the British Army Medical Service sent out a sanitary department under Colonel Hunter and Lieutenant-Colonel Stammers.

Colonel Hunter and his colleagues landed at Salonika early in March, and proceeded to Nish, where they put themselves at once into communication with the Serbian Government, which gave them the warmest welcome and put all information at their disposal. They quickly found that the reports which had come through to London were in no wise exaggerated. Apart from the wounded, there were 37,000 sick in the army, including 15,000 cases of fever, of whom more than 8,000 were suffering from typhus. There were also nearly 8,000 cases of relapsing fever and nearly 1,500 cases of enteric. By all indications typhus and relapsing fever were increasing rapidly; there were rumours of plague, and an obvious danger of cholera, unless effective measures could be taken before the warm weather set in. The Serbians had beaten the Austrians, but the latter had taken a grim revenge. For the infection of typhus and relapsing fever could be clearly traced to Valievo, which had been evacuated by the Serbians and temporarily occupied by the Austrians. When the Serbians retired from that place they left it free of disease; when they returned they found 3,000 Austrian wounded and sick, many of them suffering from typhus and relapsing fever.

AN ARCHIDIACONAL VISITATION IN CYPRUS.

Archdeacon Potter has just returned from his annual visitation in Cyprus, where, with Mrs. Potter, he spent six weeks, and had the great advantage of meeting Bishop and Mrs. MacInnes, and discussing many important questions with the Bishop on the spot.

We are indebted to him for permission to publish the following account of his visit:—

Cyprus was very quiet, and apparently less affected by the war than most places in the British Dominions. The presence of 500 Maltese Militia, an excellent body of men, was the chief indication of anything unusual. A rumour was current in March that a large number of refugees were coming from Smyrna, and provision was being made for their reception; but they did not come. Many individual refugees, however, from Syria, Asia Minor, and Constantinople were there, and on the whole they spoke well of their treatment by the Turks. It is satisfactory that several offers have been made by members of the Greek community to raise and maintain a corps for the front. They also volunteered to provide accommodation for the wounded, and if necessary to find and equip volunteers for home defence. The Turkish feeling was also as good as can be expected; and under the leadership of that thoroughly loyal, practical, and sensible man, Irfan Bey, the Turks have not been moved to disloyalty by the dragging of their nation by unscrupulous leaders into the war.

Church of England affairs are on the whole satisfactory, and the visit of the new Bishop will doubtless result in making them more so. It is to be hoped that means may be found in the near future to strengthen and enlarge the scope of Canon Newham's school. This is doing good work; but it could do much better if it were sufficiently financed to make possible the appointment of at least three masters of high university qualifications.

One great need in Cyprus is higher education, a need all the more pressing now that England has definitely taken over the country. The island may now well become a centre for higher education (based upon true and real principles of genuine religion) in the Near East. In Cyprus the Greek Gymnasium and Turkish Idadi school do good work; but the former is considerably marred by political sentimentalism, and the latter suffers under the disadvantages from which a Moslem school in the twentieth century must suffer. But a really higher education on sympathetic lines with national sentiment, and yet raised above political propagandism, would have the great effect of preparing the people for a greater share in what it is rightly the constant aim of British policy to grant, greater self-control in home affairs, and bringing as a result less disaffection and increasing loyalty.

The services in the Anglican district churches throughout the Island are well maintained by our staff of licensed laymen and three resident clergy. Limassol church is now being completed, making three small churches and two vicarage houses secured during the past twelve years.

The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals still prospers under the excellent secretaryship of Mrs. Nicolls. But the poor relief funds which since 1905 have combined English and Greek and English and Turkish aid on behalf of the native poor have collapsed for the present, largely owing to the adoption of a policy of doles, which was found to be dangerous. However, their place is being taken by other organisations, English and native. At Nicosia the Mayor has formed a large Greek Committee for this work, and Lady Clauson and other English ladies are organising English work of a similar kind. The Mayor at Nicosia has also in hand a scheme which he proposes to put in operation after the war for establishing a municipal tax for poor relief. This is a brave thing to try, as it means risking re-election. But if it is successful it will prove the wisdom of the action of the Government in giving independent powers to the municipalities. The Mayor proposes establishing a poorhouse for 100 people, and a workhouse with a work test for those out of work.

The journey to and from Cyprus, through France and the Mediterranean, was full of interest, very often of a sad kind. The number of wounded and maimed soldiers and of women in widows' weeds in France was simply appalling. The country is taking very quietly and soberly her great trial. Women take the place of men as omnibus conductors, etc., dressed in attractive uniforms. In Paris one hears of mothers telling their children that if they are not good they will not be allowed to see the Zeppelins; and people seem quite disappointed if these destructive machines do not show themselves. The Germans certainly have succeeded in bringing out the best qualities of the French nation.

At Marseilles were to be seen groups of German prisoners working on the quays, not altogether a pleasant-looking lot. In the Mediterranean there were rumours of the omnipresent submarine; and precautions were taken against possibilities. At Malta one had the great privilege of visiting the Australian wounded, just arrived from the Dardanelles, and keen to recover so as to return to help their brothers there. They are in a magnificent hospital built by the Knights.

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THE SUDAN VETERINARY SERVICE.

(From A Correspondent.)

Of the several Sudan Government administrative branches none has been organised or conducted with greater care, nor, it may be added, met with a greater amount of success than that of the Veterinary Department. There has been cattle plague in the Sudan at all times—both before the British Occupation and afterwards—and it may be assumed that, notwithstanding all the care and prevision of the authorities, it always will exist to some extent. Within recent weeks the disorder has again broken out in the Nuba Mountain Province, especially in the Eliri and Talodi districts, where as many as 5,060 different inoculations have been made at one visit by the surgeons. This particular form of the malady is known locally as the "Abu Gineit" disease, and it is sufficiently serious to engage the closest amount of attention upon the part of the authorities. Not the least of their difficulties in dealing with it is the fractious opposition shown by the native cattle-owners to their interference. Instead of welcoming the assistance offered, and which is rendered almost entirely free of expense to them, the ignorant Arabs believe that the surgeons instil, instead of exterminating, the complaint, and nothing will ever convince them to the contrary. Even if a cure be effected, the ungrateful proprietor of the sick beast or beasts declares that it was "Kismet"; while if by chance the animal or animals should die, then it is the English devil-doctors who have killed them. The average Arab, indeed, often recalls the witty saying of Disraeli, who once declared that "Mr. Kremin himself was distinguished for ignorance, for he had only one idea, and that was wrong."

The Sudan Government Veterinary Department entails an annual outlay of something over £E27,000, while, as the receipts fall short of £E10,500, it will be recognised that the branch is carried on at a substantial loss. Nevertheless, it is one of the first importance, and could not be abandoned or even reduced in regard to its complement were the loss entailed to amount to double. The receipts earned are in the form of quarantine fees, which usually account for the greater part of the revenue, viz., between £E8,500 and £E10,000 forming the total receipts of £E10,500. The remaining payments include inspection fees (in 1913 these actually amounted to about £E1,250), charges for loading and unloading animals, and other small demands.

On the other hand, the department maintains a very considerable staff of competent and experienced veterinary surgeons, in addition to one director, whose annual "allowance" is £E450. The department is divided up into six sections: the veterinary, the quarantine, the veterinary survey, the breeding, the accounts, and the stores. Each of these sections has an assistant director or inspector, who is assisted by either a British or an Egyptian officer. The highest regular salary paid in this department is one of £E840, received by the two assistant directors of the veterinary and quarantine sections, while the lowest is one of £E150, received by the storekeeper, who usually is a British non-commissioned officer. Naturally the number of officials allotted to each province varies with the particular size of the province and the number of cattle to be found there. Thus Kordofan has the services of two veterinary inspectors, while all the rest have but one. Latterly there has been an increase in the cost of almost all the supplies and equipments of the department, due to the rise in the prices of practically everything required. For instance, the amount allocated in 1913 for forage stood at £E570, while for 1914 it had increased to as much as £E1,000; travelling allowances advanced over the same period from £E700 to £E925, drugs from £E150 to £E200, grooms' allowance from £E180 to £E256, and climate allowance from £E200 to £E260. The economies effected included a reduction in the purchase of serum from £E2,160 to £E1,698; extra pay for medical and veterinary officers for inspection of meat, cattle, etc., from £E400 to £E94; and special expenditure in connection with cattle plague from £E540 to £E400.

At the time of the second British Occupation the Sudan was found to be reeking with disease, both among cattle and human beings. By the end of 1906, however, an immense improvement had manifested itself in both, and particularly among the dumb brutes. Colonel Griffith, writing on the subject, declared that "at the present time cattle plague seems to be nearly eradicated from the Sudan." As has already been pointed out, however, the country can never be considered as free from danger of infection, as the disease is enzootic in Erythræa and Abyssinia. The only means of stopping infection is by having strict cattle plague supervision on the frontier. However vigilant this may be, it is practically impossible to detect cattle being passed at night across the border, especially in dense, bushy country; while an additional danger arises from infection through game and other wild animals. The posts established by the Government, and served by both mounted and unmounted police, for the purpose of watching what goes on undoubtedly have proved useful if—for the reasons explained—only partially successful.

Unquestionably the most effective step taken by the Administration was that in 1913, when there was established a clearer division of duties of the officials, then only made possible by an addition to the staff of six inspectors, while the service at the same time was sub-divided into the four main channels: general veterinary, veterinary survey, quarantine, and breeding—already referred to. Now each section inspector is made responsible for the interests with which his particular section is identified. The six additional inspectors who joined the Government service were Captains E. C. Webb (serum expert), who is established at Cairo; J. R. Bosley, at Gedaref, in the Province of Kassala; L. Danels, at Merowë, in the Dongola Province; A. C. Anderson, at Halfa, in the Halfa Province; F. Roche Kelly, at Wad Medani, in the Province of the Blue Nile; and W. F. L. Bright, who is stationed at Shendi, in the Berber Province. The director of the whole Veterinary Department is Major F. U. Carr, who has been in the Government service since September of 1908. The assistant director is Captain G. P. Knott, who boasts of but one year's service less to his credit, having joined in January of 1909. Five of the staff are stationed at Khartoum, and altogether the department has the advantage of seventeen British officers, several British non-commissioned officers, and two Egyptian officers, seconded from the Veterinary Department of the Egyptian Army, and who are now employed in the Red Sea Province.

The department was framed—as have been so many others of the Sudan Administration—with great vigilance for the future requirements of the fast-growing country. Thus, in regard to organisation, it was from the first looked upon as imperative that, as funds were forthcoming, a foundation in the shape of a British staff should first be established; this having been accomplished, there came the super-structure, a staff to satisfy requirements, selected and trained from among the inhabitants of the country. The object aimed at has been achieved with great trouble and much success; the progress hoped for has been attained to an altogether remarkable degree, and the excellent work undertaken and pursued—not unseldom in the face of the most tiresome and discouraging conditions—goes steadily forward.

THE BALKANS AND THE WAR.

On Wednesday of last week Dr. R. M. Burrows lectured at King's College on the "Balkan States and the War," the chair being occupied by Dr. Cheddo Miyatovich, formerly Serbian Minister at the Court of St. James's.

Dr. Burrows said that it had not been clear until about Christmas last that Turkey was in a state of complete decadence, nor was it very long before that date that it had become apparent that Serbia would probably come out of her troubles so triumphantly that she would without doubt become the centre of a great Jugoslav kingdom. Previously to the happening of these events it was not practical politics for Greece or Serbia even to consider the question of giving up to Bulgaria any part of the territory which had been ceded to them by the Treaty of Bucharest. When it became apparent, however, that there was a possibility of Greece acquiring in Asia Minor a tract of country more extensive than all her present area, while Serbia might reasonably hope to be united with the people of her own race now under Austrian rule, it was not only practicable, but it was desirable that Bulgaria should have an accession of territory also. The principle which should guide any re-arrangement of frontiers after the war should be mainly the national one. But partly the matter would have to be settled by economic and strategic considerations. If, for example, Adrianople and the adjoining district of what is still Turkey were to be added to Bulgaria, it would not be because the inhabitants were Bulgars. The inhabitants of the district in question were partly Greek and partly Turkish; but the country was too far from the Greek base to make it desirable that it should be added on to Greece. On the other hand, the hinterland of Salonika was undoubtedly Bulgarian, but it could not be expected that the Greeks would cede this territory. The best way to deal with the problem arising when, after the re-arrangement of frontiers, any considerable number of people of one nationality found themselves included in a state of another nationality, would be for the new Government of the acquired territory to purchase all their property, thus leaving them free to migrate to the country of their kindred. This might be rather a difficult plan to apply to a country so developed as Dalmatia, but even there it was along this line that there was the best hope of success.

The Chairman said, speaking, of course, quite unofficially but as one who knew the mind of the Serbian people, that they were willing to make reasonable concessions to Bulgaria. The Bulgars were their cousins, and the two peoples ought to be friends. He looked forward to the freeing of all the Balkan nationalities and to the formation of a powerful Balkan federation.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE HISTORY OF PERSIA.*

Persia is now fallen upon evil days, and it is well to be reminded that she has an ancient and glorious past. The present naturally assumes exaggerated proportions, and, looking at the catastrophes of recent rulers, one is apt to forget that Cyaxares, Achaemenes, Cyrus, Darius, Shapur, and Abbas the Great were also Shahs of Persia. Happily, the modern Persians do not forget. In the midst of revolutions, "reforms," and anarchy they are still proudly conscious of their ancestry, and if they dwell most lovingly on the heroes of the legendary age as they hear their deeds recited in the immortal verse of Firdausi, and delight to believe themselves the heirs of Jamshid and Feridun, of Zal and Rustam, they also keep a place in their Valhalla for Ardeshir, Shapur, and Nushirwan the Good. That they cherish this national heritage is the best augury for their future at a time when most of their omens are sinister; and if only their consciousness of a great place in the world's history lead them to new energy and a virility worthy of their Parthian conquerors, instead of wasting itself in foolish conceit and languid complacency, there may yet be a future for Persia.

We have had to wait long for such a comprehensive history as Colonel Sykes has now given us. Sir John Malcolm's famous work was published a hundred years ago, and during that century exploration and research have reconstructed our knowledge of the Middle East. The immense field embraced in the present survey of Persian history, ranging from the kingdom of Elam, thousands of years before our era, to the twentieth century, is, of course, far beyond the compass of one man, however accomplished and industrious; and an author who attempts to trace the development of the Persian empire in all its phases and in all its foreign relations, as Colonel Sykes does, must necessarily rely upon expert authorities for much of his narrative. The chief point is to choose the best authorities and to know how to use them. As to this, we can only express our admiration both of Colonel Sykes's skilful compilation and also of his critical judgment. As a rule, he follows the best modern authorities, but uses his own judgment. For example, whilst depending upon special scholars for the details of the invasions of Darius and Xerxes, he has his own view as to their object. He believes that, with armies that may even compare in numbers with the vast forces now engaged in conflict, theirs was a larger design than the mere conquest of little Hellas, and that Greek megalomania has exaggerated their importance in the eyes of the Great King. Again, in dealing very fully with Alexander's campaigns, he is able to identify certain points in the conqueror's march from his own local knowledge, though differing from another local expert, Sir T. Holdich.

This thorough knowledge of the country is of the utmost service to the historian. Many things in Persian history are inexplicable until one has a clear grasp of the geographical conditions. Colonel Sykes has lived in Persia for more than twenty years; he had travelled a thousand miles there before he published his great book thirteen years ago, and how many more he has since journeyed his reports to the Royal Geographical Society testify. Above all, he loves the country, and if his official position as Consul debarred him from relations with revolutionaries and Babis, except as protector of the persecuted, it gave him unrivalled facilities for exploration, and offered no serious obstacle to an intimate knowledge of Persian peasant life, as his charming description of a Persian village and its daily doings amply proves. We miss, it is true, that close touch with Persian intellectual life, with poetry and philosophy, which makes the latter part of Professor Browne's "A Year Among the Persians" the most vivid picture of Persian life and thought with which we are acquainted, but Colonel Sykes had enough to do to get his enormous subject into reasonable compass without indulging in modern impressions. His introductory chapters on Persian geography are of peculiar interest and value. When it is considered that the frontiers of Persia are ruggedly inaccessible, that the sea coasts, both on the Caspian and on the Persian Gulf, are climatically intolerable to the dwellers on the main plateau and forbid maritime enterprise, that there is only one navigable river in the land, and that if the great deserts are subtracted from the area, only a very small country remains, it is marvellous what Persia, in her great days, achieved in the face of natural obstacles. Even if the deserts have increased and the land become more arid since those days, the achievements were still amazing.

In many respects, as Colonel Sykes points out, she resembles another country which also has fallen from her high estate. The great treeless plateau of Spain, with its jagged sierras, though not so elevated or so arid as that of Persia, leads down to the "hot country" of Andalusia, like the Garmsir of Southern Persia.

> Again to the North, as if to complete the analogy, the provinces bordering on the Biscayan Sea differ as much from the Spain of the plateau as the Caspian provinces do from the rest of Persia. Moreover, although the Persians are termed the French of the East, it would be more apt to compare them with the Spaniards, whose customs and whole manner of life are akin to the Persians.

The author even sees in Xeres, or Jeréz de la Frontera, an echo of distant Shiraz, and thinks that there the descendants of Persians in the conquering Arab armies "made the wine which, as the familiar sherry, still preserves its Persian name." Here we venture to think that his warm imagination has misled him, for whether Jeréz be the Municipium Seriense or not, it was certainly spelt Sheres in Arabic, and the Persian invaders appear to be unknown to Dozy. But the general analogy holds, and the geographical conditions have governed many things correspondingly in Persia and Spain. The delight of the Persian poet in gardens which we should not think beautiful, with their ugly water channels and few varieties of flowers, is understood when we recall that many of the chief poets were men of Khorasan, used to barren rocks and treeless plains, to whom shade and running water, roses and jasmine, and the song of the bulbul were a delicious relief.

> On the other hand, they had the advantage of living in one of the finest and most delightful climates in the world, with abundance of brilliant sunshine and absence of extremes of heat and cold, and, above all, a most stimulating atmosphere, which has helped to endow the gifted sons of Iran with the marked personality that has been their heritage throughout the ages.

How much the world owes to Persia has never been fully admitted. Turning over Colonel Sykes's splendid volumes, with their beautiful illustrations—which only need detailed descriptions to be added to each to make them really illuminating—one is struck by the many-sided genius of the Iranian race. To take but one point, What do we owe to that eminently pure and lovely and reasonable religion of the Avesta? How much did the Jews learn from Persia, and how far was Mithraism, its arch-enemy, a disguised stimulus to Christianity? The complete subjection of Persia by Islam—for few indeed remained Zoroastrians—is counterbalanced by the thorough metamorphosis of Islam in the hands of the Persian Shi'a, when the mystical Aryan spirit revolted against Semitic formalism. Perhaps the Mohammedan part of Colonel Sykes's history is not quite equal to the standard set by the first volume, but the reason is that there is no good general authority for him to follow, and he has not, apparently, gone to the Arabic chroniclers, such as they are, or consulted the latest German, French, and Italian critics. The new "Encyclopædia of Islam" though only in progress, would have helped him. In a work of such wide range it was inevitable that some parts should be compressed, and the history of the various Persian dynasties during the Abbasid caliphate is not of general interest. Here, as elsewhere, we see the influence of geographical barriers in fostering the growth of independent States, and the wonder is that the Persians have ever been a united nation, and that such chapters as those on the great Sasanian kings—among the best in the book—could have been written.

On the other hand, if the earlier Moslem period is rather slurred over, and omissions occur which would call for criticism in a more detailed review, nothing could be better than the account of the Safavi Shahs, and especially Abbas the Great, the beginning of European influence, and the struggle for the Persian Gulf. The story of the many embassies to the Court of Teheran makes sad reading, in view

* "A History of Persia," by Lieut.-Col. P. M. Sykes, C.M.G., C.I.E. With Maps and Illustrations. 2 vols. Macmillan.

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JOHN LANE: THE BODLEY HEAD, W.

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of the melancholy results; but Colonel Sykes tells it with full knowledge and with the literary skill which is evinced throughout his laborious but never laboured work. His chapters on Persian literature are written *con amore*. He has freely used Professor Browne's original and breezy volumes; but he might, in future editions, mention the names of the translators whose versions he quotes, correct a number of small slips, and append chronological tables. The maps are excellent, and owe much to Mr. Guy le Strange's invaluable "Lands of the Eastern Caliphate." In fine, we have now a general history of Persia, from the earliest times to what has been termed "the great bust," and the experimental Constitution of 1906, such as has never before been attempted. It bears the fruits of very hard work, and, what is quite as important, of very high and special qualifications. We congratulate Colonel Sykes warmly on a conspicuous success.

STANLEY LANE-POOLE.

FROM SMYRNA TO YPRES.

The following are extracts from a letter written by an Englishman now serving with the Essex Yeomanry, and refer to incidents that occurred in the fighting near Ypres on May 13. The writer is the son of a very well-known resident of Smyrna, who is now staying in London, and was himself born at Boudja. We are indebted to his father for permission to reproduce these extracts, which will be read with particular interest by those of our countrymen who find themselves exiled from Turkey as a result of the war, many of whom will doubtless be able to identify the writer.

The horses were left behind in the care of men told off for the purpose, and we were brought up in 'buses. At 6 a.m. on the 13th there was a deuce of an artillery duel with our guns just behind us, and before long two or three of the regulars from the front trenches rushed up with the information that the Germans had shelled them like hell and pushed through, etc. We at once fell in, fixed bayonets, and waited for the attack, which never came, as the front trenches were kept intact. Later on a bullet from a shrapnel or a piece of shrapnel went through my hat without touching me. At about 2 p.m. we were ordered to take off all our paraphernalia except our two bandoliers with 150 cartridges, rifles, and bayonets; and off we started through an open field in a perfect hail of bullets. Our losses were very heavy; but you should have seen the Germans run! We never had a chance with the bayonet.

About 3 p.m. some 30 of us were lying in an open field between two ruined houses, some 50 yards from the German trenches; it was raining, and we all crawled into holes, from where we could shoot a little more safely. We stuck our faces in the mud except when firing, and there we lay till dark when, our object, to repel the enemy, having been achieved, we retired. The Germans evidently had the range of these two ruined houses, as from 3 until dark we were shelled like mad. As I lay on the ground with my face and chest in a small hole I could hear the shells whizzing overhead and bursting a few yards one side or the other, throwing a cloud of dirt over us. Every now and then one would bury itself in the ground without bursting and would shake the ground just like a miniature earthquake. One "Jack Johnson" burst near seven of our fellows, leaving two unhurt, whilst it buried the other five in its hole, which was big enough to bury four or five horses. About 7 o'clock I crawled into this hole, where I waited until dark, and then, with the help of another man, dragged one of our wounded to the road nearly a quarter of a mile, throwing away rifle and bandoliers, as I was far too fagged to carry both. As it was, when we got the poor fellow to the road we went for help, as we could not carry him another inch. The fellow was wounded in the thigh and could not bear to hop along, so after pulling him out of the hole he lay on his back, whilst we two dragged him by degrees to a stretcher. We would pull a yard or two when up would go a star shell, making day of night, down we would flop in the mud, hoping not to be seen; at last we got back to safety. . . . The Brigadier sent his thanks and said it was the finest charge he had ever seen. . . . I believe an Englishman is worth two Germans, any day.

Captain B—— led us with a walking-stick (our major was away), and when we took up our last position, between the two houses, he picked up a rifle and used it with good effect. . . .

Our Sergeant ——'s "Come on, Chelmsford boys," carried us on as nothing else would. (The writer is in the Chelmsford troop.)

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

THE BALKAN PARALYSIS.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—The irritating neutrality of the three outstanding Balkan States—Roumania, Bulgaria, and Greece—who have so much to gain by the success of the Allies, is largely due to the action or inaction of Bulgaria according to many people's views. That State, in their opinion, blocks the way. But, in reality, its claims are capable of easy and quick adjustment, and would be by this adjusted if M. Venizelos had only been allowed to have his way and his really statesmanlike policy not frustrated by German influence. Greece it is that not only keeps the other States out, but helps to prolong the war unduly. Prompted by Potsdam, Greece has thrown aside for the moment the truly great man who led her to victory and to greatness, and she to-day covertly sides with Germany. Family ties and Court claims are to prevail over racial ties—Greece is bidding fair to forfeit all claim to consideration from the Allies. By stupidly refusing to make the necessary and fair territorial concessions to Bulgaria which Bulgaria secured by the Treaty of London and lost by the Treaty of Bucharest, it keeps the new Balkan League which its late Premier recreated and reconstituted from being effective. That latter Treaty of Bucharest, and the trouble that led to it, were the fruit of German or Austrian diplomacy, and to that sinister influence the Balkan war was due. The setting up of the wretched State of Albania, under a German princeling, wrested from Serbia its share of its conquests and compelled it to seek compensation in Macedonia and to get from Bulgaria what it had fairly won by the sword and had acquired as its share in the conquest. Germany, it is clear, is again at work in stiffening Greece in its opposition to surrender any province or part of its recent acquired territory in Bulgaria, even though she should in the end get larger additions of territory in the islands and in Asia Minor. Greece is now playing the German game, but it should take warning by the fate of Turkey and Austria. These two now rapidly disintegrating Empires foolishly followed German advice, and they already bitterly regret their folly in so doing. Already Germany is prepared to sacrifice them, as the price of the patched-up peace which it is vainly trying to bring about, so that it may recover from its reverses at no loss to itself or any surrender of its present territory. German diplomacy would readily hand over Turkey and Austria to the Allies if it could thereby come scatheless itself out of the struggle it brought about and if thereby it might preserve Alsace-Lorraine. Germany knows and never knew any scruples, and is not troubled by any misgivings. It induced those two Empires who are its unwilling partners, and who now, day by day, are losing so heavily, to enter into a conflict which it alone engineered and which it alone directs. It is now getting Greece, through its Sovereign, to aid, and utilizing his intimate connection with the Kaiser as his brother-in-law, to throw over its one great statesman, M. Venizelos. He, with far-seeing wisdom, largely brought about the Balkan League some five years ago, and as a result he secured for his country large accessions of territory and the defeat of Turkey. Again, he saw to-day that Greece's interest lay in its support of the Allies, and he wisely proposed aiding them by active participation, having previously settled all outstanding differences with Bulgaria. This masterly policy was frustrated by German influence, and a grand opportunity for the moment lost to Greece. Had M. Venizelos succeeded, Constantinople would probably be in the Allies' hands to-day, and Adrianople would be Bulgaria's once again. The intervention of Greece would have brought in the other two Powers at present checkmated by its action. Surely the Machiavellian diplomacy of Germany is not to be allowed to succeed in its purpose and keep the Balkan States from actively helping the Slav cause which they have so much at heart, and which it is so obviously their interest to help. The intervention of Bulgaria can be readily secured, as M. Venizelos saw, and as he provided for by the proposed settlement of its territorial claims which all parties concerned had practically agreed to. Serbia, most affected in the matter, was willing to concede what was required of it to satisfy Bulgarian claims. Greece alone stands out. It is acting in this matter not in its own interest or guided by racial sympathies or inclinations, but it is being directed and influenced by Germany acting in this matter through Royalist intrigues. Greece is standing in the way of settlement against its own interest, against the wish of the majority of its people, against all Europe except the pro-German parts, and against the advice and policy of the one great statesman that led it to greatness. Surely the Allied Powers should make it plain to Greece that if she persists in this pro-German policy she will be regarded as hostile and as forfeiting all claims to future consideration and generous treatment at their hands. Greece cannot be allowed to be playing the German game under the guise of neutrality. The mask must be thrown aside, and Greece must not be allowed to be making false pretensions of friendship for a cause which she is doing her best to jeopardise if not imperil.

M. Venizelos—the only truly great statesman of Greece—should be therefore induced to remain in active politics, and so doing circumvent the already too successful efforts of Germany to keep the neutral Balkan States from helping the liberation of Slavdom from Turkish, Teuton, and Magyar domination.—I am, etc.,

R. J. KELLY.

45, Wellington Road, Dublin,
May 27, 1915.

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1915.	1915.		1333.	5675.
June	May		Rejeb.	Sivan.
4	22	Friday	21	22
5	23	Saturday.....	22	23
6	24	Sunday	23	24
7	25	Monday	24	25
8	26	Tuesday	25	26
9	27	Wednesday	26	27
10	28	Thursday	27	28

Writing on May 18, our Sofia Correspondent informs us that on the previous Saturday, the name-day of the Crown Prince Boris, a Te Deum was sung in the Cathedral. This was attended by the Russian Minister, M. Savinsky, and the staff of the Legation, all the Cabinet Ministers, M. Dobrovitch, of the King's private Cabinet, General Savoff, and a large number of citizens.

In the Greek Church, Moscow Road, Bayswater, on Sunday an intercession service was held for the recovery of the King of the Hellenes. The Great Archimandrite, Dr. Constantine Pagonis, officiated. He was assisted by the Archimandrite, the Rev. Agathangelos Moschovakis.

Lady (Ralph) Paget, who has been laid up with typhoid fever in Serbia, is now recruiting on the Riviera, and is staying with her aunt, Miss Paget, at Garibondy, the villa which belonged to her grandmother, the late Lady Alfred Paget.

The King has been graciously pleased, on the occasion of his Majesty's birthday, to appoint Field-Marshal the Right Honourable Sir Horatio Herbert, Earl Kitchener of Khartoum, K.P., G.C.B., O.M., G.C.S.I., G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E., to be a Knight of the Most Noble Order of the Garter.

Amongst the other Birthday Honours announced the following will be of particular interest to our readers:—Lieutenant-Colonel Percy Molesworth Sykes, C.M.G., C.I.E., Indian Political Department, Consul-General, Kashgar, to be a Knight Commander of the Order of the Indian Empire.

Herbert George Chick, Esq., Commercial Adviser to the Resident in the Persian Gulf, to be a Companion of the Order of the Indian Empire.

Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Henry Dudley Ryder, D.S.O., Royal Engineers, Deputy-Superintendent of Survey of India, and lately in charge Turco-Persian Frontier Commission, Survey Detachment, to be a Companion of the Order of the Indian Empire.

His Excellency the Right Honourable Sir James Rennell Rodd, G.C.V.O., K.C.M.G., C.B., his Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to his Majesty the King of Italy, to be an Ordinary Member of the First Class, or Knight Grand Cross, of the Order of Saint Michael and Saint George.

Charles Louis Des Graz, Esq., his Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to his Majesty the King of Serbia, to be an Ordinary Member of the Second Class, or Knight Commander, of the Order of Saint Michael and Saint George.

Lieutenant-Colonel Oswald Arthur Gerald FitzGerald (Personal Military Secretary to the Secretary of State for War), to be a Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George.

John Mackinnon Robertson, M.P., to be sworn of his Majesty's most Honourable Privy Council.

Baron Uxkull, of the Russian Embassy in London, has been transferred to the Legation at Athens, where he will act as First Secretary. He will take up his duties on the 10th inst.

Prince Koribout Voronetsky has been appointed Secretary to the Russian Embassy in London. He left the Legation at Cairo on Monday for England, and is expected to arrive at the end of next week.

General d'Amade, who was till recently in command of the Expeditionary Force in the East, is, says the *Morning Post's* Paris correspondent, mentioned in Army Orders for his disembarkation of troops at Kum Kale and at Sedd-el-Bahr in the teeth of a strongly-entrenched enemy greatly superior in numbers and equipped with formidable artillery. He only succeeded, the order states, in solidly establishing his forces on the southern portion of Gallipoli as a result of repeated attacks, in which he personally took the most brilliant part. Such a result obtained with young troops, most of whom had never seen fire, was due to his lofty conception of duty and to his personal ascendancy over his men, to whom he communicated his tenacity and indomitable energy.

A correspondent informs us that Mr. E. D. Mackray, of Constantinople, left the Daira at Bordein, Egypt, about April 20 to join H.M. Forces. We understand that he is now serving in the Intelligence, at the Dardanelles.

Colonel W. R. B. Doran, C.B., D.S.O., who has been appointed an Inspector of Infantry, while continuing to hold the rank of brigadier-general, served in the Egyptian Expedition of 1882, being present at the actions of Kassassin and Tel-el-Kebir, and receiving the medal and clasp and the bronze star. In 1884-85 he took part in the Sudan Expedition, serving with native levies and being employed on special service at Berber, earning another clasp; and, after serving in India, he was in 1897 employed in the Nile Expedition, being engaged at the battles of the Atbara and Omdurman, being promoted major and brevet lieutenant-colonel and obtaining the British and Egyptian medals for the campaign.

The engagement is announced of the Rev. Henry Charles Robins, chaplain, Khartoum, son of Henry Lambley Robins, of Beccles, to Dorothy, daughter of the late S. Zachary Lloyd, of Areley Hall, Worcestershire.

A message from Cairo reports the sudden death in that city, from pneumonia, of Colonel Frederick Alexander Wilson, Indian Staff Corps, who was Consul-General at Bushire and British Political Resident, Persian Gulf, from May, 1894, to June, 1897. He was a son of the late Andrew Wilson, Inspector-General of Hospitals, India, and was born in 1842.

At the request of the commandant, 21st General Hospital, Alexandria, Lady Allenby and Lady Henry earnestly appeal for funds and comforts for the inmates of this hospital of 1,040 beds. Pyjamas (cotton and thin flannel), shirts, shirts for helpless cases, air cushions are especially asked for. Parcels and money may be sent to Lady Allenby or Lady Henry, 29, Campden House Court, Kensington, W.

The death is announced of Mr. Richard Frederick Birch, of Maes Elwy, St. Asaph, in his eighty-first year. He was the father of Mr. John Somerville Birch, who was a Pasha in Egypt and British Commissioner of the Egyptian State Domains, and who died two years ago.

The Earl of Jersey, who died on Monday, had travelled extensively in the East.

Under date of May 27, Reuter's correspondent at Nish reports that the King of Italy has sent the following telegram to King Peter:—"At the moment of entering the field against the common enemy, I send to your Majesty a friendly greeting, wishing renewed victory to the brave Serbian nation. —Victor Emmanuel." King Peter replied:—"In common with all Serbians, I have hailed the entry of Italy into the alliance against our ancient and common enemy with joy. Your Majesty's Army will cover itself with glory while fighting with its Allies for justice and right in Europe."

Captain Leslie Phillips, the Welsh Regiment, who is this week reported to have been killed in action, joined the Welsh Regiment in 1908, and served with it in Egypt before proceeding to India in 1908.

We regret to announce that news has been received in Liverpool that Captain F. S. Brown has been killed in action at the Dardanelles. Captain Brown was a partner in the firm of Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson, and a well-known and popular sportsman. He was an officer in the 5th Battalion of the Manchester Regiment, with which he had been connected for many years.

The Rev. John Hackett, formerly a chaplain to the Forces, died at Lyme Regis on Saturday. Amongst other places in which he had served as chaplain were Malta, Egypt, Cyprus, Tangier, and Gibraltar. He retired from the Army in 1913, and became rector of Orlingbury.

Yesterday evening Mr. H. C. Woods delivered a lecture, "The Near East and the War," to members of the Geographical Circle of the Lyceum Club.

An appeal has been made to the Armenian Red Cross and Refugee Fund by a Russian doctor, who has recently been caring for the wounded in the fighting line in Armenia, to send out a supply of drugs for the use of the Armenian volunteers there. Donations may be sent to Miss Emily J. Robinson, at 35a, Elsham Road, Kensington, or to the Hon. Treasurer, H. A. Godson Bohn, Esq., 17, Holland Villas Road, Kensington.

The Wounded Allies Relief Committee (Sardinia House, Kingsway) has appointed as head doctor of its typhus hospital unit, shortly to proceed to Montenegro, Dr. Gerard Carré, who has held the appointment of Medical Officer to the Uganda Relief Expedition, and senior Medical Officer to the Fashoda Expedition and to the Boer prisoners of war, Simons Town, South Africa. The medical staff will also include Dr. Isabel Ormiston, Chief Medical Inspector of Schools to the Government of Tasmania, sent to Montenegro by the committee some time ago, and Dr. Lillias Hamilton, head of Studley Horticultural College. The unit will consist of 200 beds with full equipment, and the nursing staff will number twenty.

Mr. Edward T. Agius, 3, Belsize Grove, N.W., will be glad to receive books and magazines for the use of wounded now in hospital at Malta.

The Joint Committee of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John notify the public of the need which exists for helping the British wounded in Egypt and Malta due to the fighting in the Dardanelles. The mission of the Joint Committee is to supplement wherever required the work of the Royal Army Medical Corps, and to supply the added comforts and smaller luxuries which mean so much to wounded men. The committee invite contributions of money and stores, earmarked "For Malta and the Near East." In addition to garments (such as shirts, pyjamas, socks, vests, and pants for summer wear, and also blankets), tobacco, pipes, and cigarettes, and gifts of books and magazines, playing cards, puzzles, and games, will be very welcome if sent to Sir William Garstin, at the Stores, 83, Pall Mall, London. Gifts of money should be addressed to the Hon. Arthur Stanley, M.P., Chairman of the Joint Committee, in the same building. A weekly supply of stores will be despatched if the response to this appeal is as generous as the committee hope and expect it to be. A demand is also making itself felt for motor ambulances and motor-cars for Malta and

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Egypt. Offers of cars, or of money wherewith to purchase cars, should be made to Mr. A. F. P. Roger, at 83, Pall Mall.

The wedding of Miss Irene Noel and Mr. Philip Baker will take place quietly on Saturday, June 12, at St. Nicholas Church, Worth, Sussex.

Amongst recent appointments notified in the Cyprus *Gazette* are those of Mr. W. H. Giles and Mr. T. H. Wilson as probationary Assistant Surveyors in the Land Registration and Survey Department.

Owing to the splendid response to the appeal of the Women's Emergency Corps for wool, and knitted or crochet squares, 12 by 12 inches, to make into blankets for the Serbian hospitals, the corps has been able to forward over 1,000 blankets to date. The need is still urgent, and wool, or squares, will be gratefully received at the corps' headquarters, 8, York Place, Baker Street, London, W.

The typhus hospital unit which the Wounded Allies' Relief Committee is sending to Montenegro left England on Thursday. The hospital will consist of two hundred beds, and its initial work will be to assist in stemming the typhus in the Ipek and Djakova district. Later it is to be hoped that the decline in the epidemic may permit of the unit being adapted for surgical purposes, a transformation which is already contemplated in the case of the Committee's Serbian unit now stationed at Kragujevatz. The personnel of the unit consists of Dr. Gerard Carré (medical superintendent); Dr. Lillias Hamilton, Warden of Studley Horticultural College, who served as a doctor through the Afghan War, and has had exceptional experience of typhus in many parts of the world; Dr. Slater, a lady who has practised for many years in Lucknow; and fourteen nurses. With the party will also travel Colonel Joseph A'hearne, V.D., who has been appointed medical superintendent of the Committee's Serbian hospital. Other nurses will follow at the earliest opportunity. The party is accompanied by large quantities of stores and equipment, the unit being entirely self-supporting.

"General" Bramwell Booth, head of the Salvation Army, has dispatched "Colonel" Govaars to Serbia on a mission of relief. A sum of money has been placed at the service of the Army for the purpose, and will be distributed according to the necessities of the situation. "Colonel" Govaars, who is an experienced Salvation Army officer and an excellent linguist, has had a long acquaintance with Salvation Army work on the Continent and elsewhere, having originally joined in Holland. The enterprise of the Salvation Army in undertaking this relief for Serbia has been warmly welcomed by the authorities.

ROLL OF HONOUR.

British Subjects from Turkey in H.M.'s Forces.

ASHE, Lance-Corp. R., R.E.
ATKINSON, Bombardier G. M., 266th Battery, 85th Brigade, R.F.A. Colchester.
ATKINSON, Gunner T., "A" Co. Royal Field Artillery.
BAKER, Lieut. A. Warden, 7th Royal Scots Fusiliers.
BARRON, Lance-Corporal J. B., First Canadian Contingent (formerly of the St. George's Boys' School, Jerusalem).
BINNS, Rifleman Edward, 8th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
BINNS, Bombardier Harold H. (49,567), Battery Office, 34th Reserve Battery, R.F.A., 6b Reserve Brigade, Piershill Barracks, Edinburgh.
BINNS, Lieut. C. E., R.M. (Interpreter to Mediterranean Forces).
BOLTON, Alfred, Naval Brigade.
BOND, Private H. C., 7th (Reserve) City of London Regt.
BOND, Gladwyn J. T., Inns of Court O.T.C.
BOND, Trooper S. (1779), Royal Horse Guards.
BOND, Corporal R., Royal Field Artillery, Durlston House, Park Road, Swanage.
BORRELL, Rifleman Alfred, 8th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
BOWMAN, Private Henry J., R.A.M.C., Duke of York's Barracks, Chelsea.
BROOKS, Corporal G., Royal Field Artillery, Swanage.
CASTELL, Rifleman Henry, 8th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
CAUCHI, Act. Corporal Henry (6113), 19th Service Battalion, C Company, Royal Fusiliers, Epsom, Surrey.
CLIFTON, Capt. Ernest H., Durham Light Infantry.
COLES, Dr. D. A., R.A.M.C. (formerly of the English Hospital, Haifa).
COLLEY, Trooper Isaac E., Royal Horse Guards.
CRAWFORD, Private James, 7th (Reserve) City of London Regiment.
CUMBERBATCH, Lieut. A. Noël, 9th East Yorkshire Regiment, Fulford Barracks, York.
CUMBERBATCH, 2nd Lieut. H. D., 9th Batt. the Buffs.
CUMBERBATCH, Lieut. and Adjutant R. C., 15th Batt. Rifle Brigade.
CUMING, Bombardier A. C., 262nd Battery R.F.A., 84th Brigade, Colchester.
DAVIDSON, Bombardier C. T., 266th Battery, 85th Brigade, R.F.A., Colchester.
ELLIOTT, Eric C., 2nd Lieut., Essex Regiment, 11th Batt.
EPPSTEIN, Lieut. W. R., Durham Light Infantry.
FAULKNER, Lieut. M., Admiralty House, Malta.
FROMANT, Private F., Grenadier Guards.
GALLIA, Rifleman M., 7th (S) Batt. Rifle Brigade.
GOODACRE, Miss C., Red Cross, Shoreham.
GOUT, Lieut. Charles L. 4th (R) King's Own Yorkshire L.I., Drill Hall, Bank Street, Wakefield.
GOUT, Rifleman Evelyn, 8th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
GOUT, Rifleman Richard, 8th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
HADKINSON, Rifleman Vivian, 8th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
HIGGS, Private J., 6th Dragoon Guards.
HOLTON, Alfred, Naval Brigade.
HOLTON, Trooper John, B. Squadron, Essex Yeomanry.
HOYLAND, 2nd Lieut., H.A.D. (Interpreter to the Mediterranean Forces).
IRELAND, Private D. J. (3346), 15th County of London Regiment.
JACKSON, Rifleman Edward, 8th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
KERR, Miss E., Army Nursing Corps, France.
KEYSER, Lieut. A.G., 8th Batt. King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry.
KEYSER, 2nd Lieut. R. N., 10th Batt. East Lancashire Regiment.
KEYSER, 2nd Lieut. Henry, 2/10th Batt. Middlesex Regiment.
KEYSER, 2nd Lieut. J. C., 2/9th Batt. (D.C.O.) Middlesex Regiment.
LA FONTAINE, Rifleman Fred., 8th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
LA FONTAINE, Lance-Corporal Hugh, 7th (Res.) City of London Regiment.
LA FONTAINE, Sub-Lieut. J. S., Royal Naval Division, Crystal Palace, S.E.
LANDER, 2nd Lieut. Arthur.
LORIMER, Private D., Army Service Corps, Aldershot.
MACKINNON, Private Eric, 9th Royal Scots Highlanders.
MACKINNON, Dr. J. M., Captain E.A.M.S., British East Africa.
MACKINNON, Patrick, Sapper, Divisional Engineers, 1st Canadian Contingent.
MACKRAY, E. D., Dardanelles Expeditionary Force.
MICHEU, Bombardier C. G., Royal Field Artillery.
MOORE, Miss K. M., St. John of Jerusalem, France.
MORRISON, J., O.T.C., Inns of Court.
MORTON, Private Stanley, 2nd Sportsman's Battalion.
MOSS, 2nd Lieut., Public Schools Battalion.
MUNRO, 2nd Lieut. J. G., 4th Scottish Rifles, Fort Matilda, Greenock.
NOWILL, Private Sidney, 7th (Res.) City of London Regiment.
PARKER, Trooper G., Royal Horse Guards.
PATERSON, Lieut. Alexander, R.A.M.C., 3rd Batt. Black Watch, Tain, N.B.
PEACOCK, Sapper Frank, R.E.
PENGELLEY, Sapper Walter, R.E.
RAMSAY, Corporal F. R. F., 14th Service Batt. Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.
REES, Trooper R. (1709), Squadron D (in Egypt), Herts Yeomanry, c.o. G.P.O., Southampton.
ROBINSON, Lance-Corporal J. E., Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment (formerly of the C.M.S. College, Jerusalem).
RICE, Rifleman Cecil, 8th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
ROUTH, 2nd Lieut. C., 3rd/8th (D.C.O.) Middlesex Regiment.
SACKVILLE-WEST, 2nd Lieut. Hon. B., R.N.V.R.
SEAGER, Lieut. John Owen, B. Co., Public Schools Batt., 16th Middlesex Regiment, Woldingham.
SHAW, 2nd Lieut. T., R.E.
SIMMONS, Gunner H. C. (56,799), No. 123, Heavy Battery R.G.A., Woolwich, S.E.
STOCK, Lieut. H. W., Royal Marines. (Serving abroad.)
SUNDERLAND, Interpreter (at the front).
THOMPSON, Lieut. Harold H., R.N.V.R.
THOMPSON, Commander W. A., R.N.V.R., H.M.S. "Egmont."
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VEDOVA, Rifleman Lionel, 8th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
VERE, Lieut.-Commander Harry, R.N.
WARREN, Act.-Corporal R. M., 7th (S.) Batt. Rifle Brigade, Guadeloupe Barracks, Bordon Camp, Hants.
WHEATLEY, Miss, Sister Q.A.I.M.N.S.R., No. 3 Casualty Clearing Station, British Expeditionary Force.
WHEELER, Lieut. P. F. C. d'Erf, 1st Dorset Regiment.
WHITTALL, Captain G., 1st Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry.
WHITTALL, 2nd Lieut. Arthur, 7th (Res.) City of London Regiment.
WHITTALL, Lieut. Hugh, Royal Marines. (Serving abroad.)
WHITTALL, Private Kenneth, 10th Batt. Royal Fusiliers, Colchester.
WHITTALL, Private Roland, 10th Batt. Royal Fusiliers, Colchester.
WHITTALL, Rifleman Walter, 8th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.

*** *The Directory of the present addresses of residents in Turkey who have left the country in consequence of the War will be published in our issue of next week.*

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FRIDAY, JUNE 4, 1915.

TOWARDS A FINAL SETTLEMENT.

For more than a generation the Near East has been recognized as the powder magazine of Europe. It has justified its designation, for the explosion which has shaken the Continent to its foundations was fired in the Balkans, where the spark first applied four years ago ran its course along the well-laid fuse. Even now, when the six Great Powers of Europe are at death-grips, it is the Near East which forces itself upon the attention of the European Chancelleries, and one aspect or another of the Near Eastern Question that keeps the military strength of the Triple Entente below the maximum which the Allied cause ought to be able to command. If the war were to end to-morrow, with the total collapse of the Germanic Powers, the Near Eastern Question would still be unsolved, and it would remain a menace to the peace of Europe. If ultimately the three States which for the present are neutral throw in their lot with the Triple Entente and Italy, after arriving at an agreement on general lines in regard to the indemnification they may expect at the end of the war, a multiplicity of details would still await settlement, before such an agreement were ready for incorporation in the Treaty of Peace. No harm can be done by attempting at this stage to visualize the Peace Congress, however far off it may, unhappily, prove to be. If the cause of justice and good faith among the nations triumphs, we shall see the two Germanic Powers on one side of the Congress, with the unhappy figure of their Turkish vassal behind them, and on the other side seven or more States on whom as victors in the struggle will devolve the task of drafting the terms of settlement which offer the best guarantee for the lasting peace of Europe. We may suppose that in regard to the main terms of that settlement, in so far as they concern the protagonists in the war, agreement will have been reached among the Allies on the one side, and their terms will have to be accepted, *nolentes volentes*, by the vanquished. But a treaty which is to serve as the peace charter of Europe must incorporate every international readjustment resulting from the war, and in particular the special settlements arranged among the Allies as the bases of their co-operation. It would be the height of folly if these settlements were allowed to come up for discussion in any form in the presence of Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Turkey. The representatives of the Allied Powers must enter the council chamber in absolute and final agreement upon all matters affecting territorial, political, or economic adjustments amongst themselves. Failure to adopt this course would serve as an incitement to the Germanic Powers to strain every nerve to sow discord in the ranks of their late opponents.

The value of organisation for every task and in every sphere is accepted without challenge. Those countries which omitted to organize for war have had reason to rue their mistake. They will do well to profit from their lesson, and lose no time in organizing for peace. The Near Eastern Question is still the most complicated problem with which Europe is confronted. Even if various points of it are adjusted as each fresh Balkan State joins the Allied Powers, there will remain more than could be dealt with satisfactorily in the short time that might elapse between the firing of the last shot in the war and the first meeting of the Peace Congress. We would urge, therefore, the appointment without delay of an Advisory Commission in relation to the settlement of the Near Eastern Question. The Commission would consist of representatives of the Powers of the Triple Entente, who would be charged with the task of sifting all the available evidence bearing on the rival claims of the Balkan States. Experience has shown that there is no chance of these States arriving at an understanding among themselves. Of their own free will they will not consent to any territorial adjustment necessary to the establishment of permanent peace in this region. On the other hand, they profess devotion to the cause of peace, and there is reason to believe that they would accept any terms dictated to them by a higher authority in the interests of the Balkans as a whole. For this reason these States do not require to be represented on the Commission, which would be formed to advise the Powers of the Triple Entente on the terms that ought to be imposed on the Balkan States in their joint interests. It would be the duty of the Commission, after collating all the relevant information, and, if necessary, examining on the spot points at issue, to draw up an equitable scheme of agreement which would form the last word of Great Britain, France, and Russia on the Balkan Question.

The proposal, it may be urged, constitutes too violent a departure from the ordinary methods of diplomatic procedure. As the Balkan Question has resisted for forty years all the attempts of European diplomacy to settle it along established lines, there ought to be a prejudice in favour of innovations. For ten months, even under the pressure of the worst conflict the world has ever seen, the centrifugal forces in the Balkans have defied the admittedly potent factors for a common understanding, until there is no alternative to an agreement being forced from without upon the States concerned. The exclusion of Italy from the Commission would not reflect upon her character as a Great Power, for it would be due to the fact of her being a territorial claimant in this region. It must be supposed that on general lines an agreement has been reached between the Italian Government and the Powers of the Triple Entente regarding the terms on which Italy has thrown in her lot with the Allies. Any details that still remain to be decided might come within the proposed Commission's terms of reference, as the equity of any readjustment of Serbia's south-eastern frontier must depend to some extent on the amount of territory she receives on her north and western borders. But the question of Italo-Serbian relations stands in a different category from that of the relations between Roumania, Serbia, Greece, and Bulgaria. The points at issue between these States form the Balkan Question proper, which existed before the Great War, and which, unless settled now, will continue to trouble European diplomacy even after the defeat of German militarism. It has, therefore, unlike the Adriatic problem, an existence apart from territorial conquests which have yet to be made in this war. True, the prospect of such conquests is a strong incentive for a settlement; but the first link in the chain which must ultimately bind the four States together was forged when the Triple Entente made Serbia's cause its own and intervened to save her from Austro-Hungarian aggression. The importance of a final settlement of the Near Eastern Question justifies the application of special measures; the intricate nature of such a settlement calls for more elaborate investigation than can be made with the ordinary resources of the European Chancelleries. The appointment of a special commission, whose report would be available for the Balkan Governments, would satisfy each of the States concerned that its case had received adequate attention, while the enforcement of the Commission's findings by the authority of the Triple Entente would silence clamour in the different countries by removing it from the power of any political party to allege that the interests of the State had been sacrificed by unpatriotic concessions on the part of the Government in office. Finally, if the Commission could carry out its work promptly, it might be in time to influence the attitude of one or more States which remain neutral in action long after their sympathies have been given unreservedly to the Triple Entente.

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JUSTICE IN EGYPT.

THE JUDICIAL ADVISER'S REPORT.—III.

(By Our Cairo Correspondent.)

Administration.

Under the section "Administration" Sir Malcolm McIlwraith deals with various matters of interest. He touches therein on the question of law reform, and states that the recent change in Egypt's political status must bring about far-reaching modifications in the judicial organisation of the country, and that "whenever it becomes possible to effect an amalgamation of the existing courts, some corresponding fusion of the existing Egyptian Codes, Mixed and Native, and considerable amendments in them, will evidently be also necessary." Under "Personnel" a well-merited tribute is paid to the two English judges, Mr. Sandars and Mr. Halton, who have replaced the two Germans as Presidents of the Court of Appeal and the Cairo Tribunal. The Adviser, in mentioning that the contracts of the German and Austrian judges have not been renewed, and that as a consequence the Mixed Courts are somewhat short-handed, states that measures are now under consideration for improving the situation in this respect. So far, however, only three of the six vacancies have been filled. And, in conclusion, Sir Malcolm records the serious loss which the Native Court of Appeal has sustained by the death of Mr. Wakeman Long, who "was one of the best judges who have sat in these courts, able, conscientious and hard-working, in spite of constant ill-health, and he was very much respected both by the public and his colleagues."

Legislation.

The various laws promulgated after submission to the Legislative Assembly, as also the decrees issued in connection with the situation created by the war, are all dealt with in some detail in the Judicial Adviser's report; but as they have at one time or another already been fully explained in these columns, there is no need to refer to them again. Sir Malcolm is of opinion that, "thanks to these prudent measures, a normal condition of affairs was restored without much difficulty," and that, despite the noisy declarations of traders keen on exploiting the facilities for payment accorded by the moratorium, "it will be seen from the statistics of bankruptcies and protests given by the Procureur-General of the Mixed Court . . . that if due allowance be made for the months preceding the resumption of normal business, the figures do not exceed the average of the last few years."

School of Law.

It is interesting to note that of the 262 students of the school who were examined in 1914, 235 passed, as against 218 out of 268 last year, and that whereas in previous years the larger percentage of failures in the fourth year has been on the English side, this year the tables were turned and the French side proved less successful. A sign of the times may also be seen in the fact that the two Scott prizes for the students obtaining the greatest number of marks in he Final Diploma examinations fell to two students on the English side. Sir Malcolm is inclined to think that the marked reduction in failures is due as much to diminished severity on the part of the examiners as to improvement in the quality of the candidates, and he warns the former against the tendency to excessive leniency.

The Judicial Adviser reverts to the unsatisfactory situation created by the external candidates at the annual examinations. As last year, the examiners of the three first years again complain of the bad state of preparation of these candidates. In view of the fact that a large number of external students do not intend to proceed to the Bar or the Bench, but desire to obtain the diploma so as to secure certain advantages in their administrative career, Sir Malcolm suggests that it would be preferable to organise at the Law School a course of studies intended to bestow the more advanced education that is sought, and at the same time a special knowledge of the subjects more directly bearing on the branch of the Administration in which entry is desired. He hopes "that before long it may be found possible to give effect to these recommendations."

As can be seen, the Judicial Adviser's report is as full of interest as it always has been; what makes its perusal particularly easy, and renders its statements all the more understandable in the sections that are not always an open book to the reader with the ordinary non-mathematical mind, is the remarkably clear and intelligent manner in which the divers statistics are set out. I referred to this feature last year, but in the report under review it is even more noticeable.

GORDON MEMORIAL COLLEGE.

The most recent report of the Gordon Memorial College at Khartoum which has just been issued brings the statement of affairs and accounts in connection with this institution up to the end of 1913. The report, unfortunately for the last time, is issued above the signature of Mr. James Currie, C.M.G., who for many years acted as Director of Education in the Sudan and as principal of the college. In his letter forwarding the report to the hon. secretary, Sir Reginald Wingate pays the following tribute to the retiring official, a tribute that will be endorsed by all who have been interested in the wonderful educational progress of the Sudan in the last fifteen years:—

"The number of schools established throughout this country which look for direction and inspiration to the institution, of which he has been for fifteen years the principal, testifies to the scope of his administrative genius. It is difficult to assess the value of his personal contribution to the notable results obtained, and the important influence that his wide knowledge, zeal, and enthusiasm exercised on all who were brought into contact with him. That the connection of Mr. Currie with the Gordon College has been preserved by his appointment to the governing body is a source of gratification to myself and to all those who have been witnesses of his energies and of his achievements."

Although signed and forwarded by Mr. Currie, the report was actually prepared by Mr. M. F. Simpson, who was acting Director pending the appointment of Mr. Crowfoot to the post. The record is in every way a satisfactory one. The general health of the students was good, and the examinations showed better results than in the previous year. The instructional workshops form one of the most important departments of the college, and we emphatically endorse Mr. Simpson's remarks in this connection:—

"It is desirable that these workshops should be more closely allied to the employing departments in Khartoum, who might take their 'improvers' mainly or only through the college, as this would in the end insure a higher level of craftmanship and improved general intelligence, besides making it easier for the college workshops to regulate their numbers according to probable demand."

Another point which seems to merit the immediate attention of the Government is that mentioned by Dr. Chalmers, director of the research laboratories, who urges the publication of a full report concerning this section. He points out that no full report has been issued since 1911, and that the "life of the laboratory depends upon its publication," and that without this "the position which Dr. Balfour made for the laboratory in the scientific world cannot possibly be maintained."

Research work is being carried steadily on, not only by actual members of the staff, but also by distinguished visitors from Europe, and several new discoveries have attended the investigations made in the bacteriological section regarding human diseases.

The Governor-General, in the letter to which we have alluded, makes the following reference to the loyalty of the Sudanese, loyalty that is due in no small measure to the influences of this educational body of which he writes:—

"Allusion is made to the frequent references in the native declarations of loyalty, received since the outbreak of the war, to the great benefit to the Sudanese of the college and the educational system connected therewith.

"I need hardly point out the value of this native recognition in its relation to the development, moral and material, of this country; and that such references, of the sincerity of which there can be no doubt, are a source of pride and gratification to all those who have been associated with the progress of education in the Sudan."

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EIGHTEEN MONTHS AGO.

(December 30, 1913.)

A DIARY OF TRAVEL.

By Mary A. Poynter.

It is interesting to sail westward and southward again from Constantinople, with the Balkan War just over, and to note the changes that a few months have wrought to Turkish possessions. Events long threatening and slow in coming, came quickly at the last. Nor can one say that this period of rapid history-making is ended. Perhaps it has only just begun.

Constantinople, the recent storm-centre, we left with a peaceful sunset glow upon it, a glow that would transfigure even a city far less beautiful of outline, and one that will leave Constantinope warm in memory when the domes and minarets of other storied Eastern towns have long since lost their colour and faded into the sombre background of forgetfulness. There was a patriotic celebration in progress at the time, and flags afloat and processions of all sorts, even of little girls marching gravely through the streets accompanied by their veiled mothers and guardians. This celebration was in recognition of some anniversary connected with the founding of the Ottoman Empire.

Processions or large gatherings of any kind were not encouraged by Abdul Hamid, to say nothing of Moslem womenkind taking part in them, and this shows how far we (for are not we two a part of this Near East some nine years or more?) have journeyed toward freedom of movement since that Sultan was deposed.

The rather monotonous stretch of the sea of Marmora was sailed in the night, and in the early morning of December 31 our boat made its slow progress down the Dardanelles, through the narrow path among the mines left open for steamers to travel. Only just recently have the Turkish troops been withdrawn from Bulair on the northern side of these straits of the Hellespont. Once clear of the neighbourhood of mines our boat made quick passage down the coast, Mount Ida lifting mistily in the distance, and on the right Tenedos, of wooden horse renown, suggesting the proximity of old Troy somewhere in that misty mainland. On what was a few months ago the little undefended Turkish fort at Tenedos, the Greek flag now floats, and covetous eyes are turned to the broad lands across the narrow strip of water, as they may have looked from that same isle in the days when Helen first raised an acute Near Eastern Question. On all of Turkey's islands, bleak, rocky, and always unfilial, that face or are near the Dardanelles, the Navy of Greece has unfurled the Greek flag. Were Lucifer to fall from heaven to Lemnos isle at this moment I fancy he would find all the old landmarks unchanged in spite of strange flags and navies new and weird!

Mytilene (Lesbos), of all the isles of the Ægean, can be said to smile—that is, can smile after the green pleasant fashion of landscapes blessed with much verdure, with bright-roofed villages set amid olive groves, and with mountains hovering in the background protectingly, not threateningly. Sappho's birthplace is some distance from the town where the steamers cast anchor, but the magic of her name still seems to dominate the island.

> A slender maid to win the centuries,
> And keep them faithful to her memory.

The coins of her period, with the head of the poetess on one side and a lyre on the other, are still treasures to be picked up by collectors; and the poets and philosophers who were Sappho's contemporaries are read and revered by cultivated latter-day Greeks, who have the patriotism, at any rate, of the old Hellenes.

From the picturesque old Genoese fortifications at Mytilene, appropriated by the Turks some hundreds of years ago, the Greek flag floats at this moment, as it also floats from Chios, the neighbouring isle that claims the glory of being the birthplace of Homer. One knows that other places put forward this claim, but perhaps none with so good a chance of authenticity. Chios is a sterner, a less smiling isle than Mytilene from which to float a country's flag, but tradition makes it dear to the Greeks and worth the claiming and the holding.

Greece truly has been a great victor in the late struggle. She has won back what she claims was once hers. Will she be able to keep it? The last word has not been spoken, but what country is going to war with Greece in order to take these islands from her—islands largely Greek in population—simply to give them back to Turkey?

In the meantime the mainland of Asia Minor lies within an hour's distance, not dimly, but clearly outlined from Lesbos' isle. Mytilene commands strategically the entrance of the Gulf of Smyrna. Can Turkey return to the peaceful arts, resigning even nominal claim upon these islands, and live in amity with these uncomfortably near neighbours? The warships she is making such sacrifices to buy are certainly a threatening protest.

Smyrna's setting, its mountain amphitheatre background, can have changed little with the passing of the centuries, just as its name has come down together with those of Iconium and Damascus, with little change since the dawn of history. But there is little in the Smyrna of to-day, mostly a modern, bustling maritime town, to suggest the old city or cities that have occupied this site. Were one to go on to Ephesus, he must go inland and around a mountain in order to see the ruins of the once stately city of Diana. Once, we were told, one might have gone by sea, but the sea has long since receded, leaving the town to its loneliness far inland.

One thinks of railways as furnishing the most rapid means of transit, and yet it is possible to touch by boat, and not by swift boat either, three continents—Asia, Europe, and Africa—within a period of four days!

From Smyrna we steamed in a single night and part of a morning through the Ægean, passing many islands and Sunium point, with its lone, sightly temple, to the Piræus, the harbour of Athens. We took advantage of the several hours our boat was coaling to go up by electric train to Athens, stopping at the Theseum, one station short of the modern town. There, on leaving the station, the traveller is introduced at once to the "Glory that was Greece," and no matter how often one has made the pilgrimage (and we two were pilgrims of many visits standing) be it at dawn, at full mid-day, or at sunset time, summer or winter, one approaches always with a spirit of eagerness, of sure reward, that spot where the loftiest word in architecture was spoken so long ago. I wonder if anywhere the century plant grows more appropriately or blossoms more vigorously than along the winding road that leads up to the Acropolis.

Visiting that citadel, without passing through the town, one seems to be alone with old Athens. Violet-crowned that city was and still is. What if her mountains are bare, her valleys burned, her Parthenon a ruin—they still command the admiration of the world, and a world far larger, far more discerning and appreciative than the circumscribed area known as the world in the days of Pericles.

THE MONTENEGRIN RED CROSS AND RELIEF FUND.

The friendship between Great Britain and Montenegro is an old one, and the two peoples have long had a sincere regard for one another. The qualities of the Montenegrin character are just those which the average Briton heartily likes and admires, and King Nicholas has a warm place in British regard, which is due as much to the fact that his courage and strong common-sense are held to be typical of the people of the Black Mountain as to the force of character and warmness of heart that his worst enemies would not deny him. Thanks to the exertions of Sir Roper and Lady Parkington and the committee of influential ladies and gentlemen who work with them on the Montenegrin Red Cross and Relief Fund, the goodwill of the British people has been manifested in this hour of the little country's need in a very substantial form. That it is appreciated the following extract from the official Montenegrin journal, the *Glas Tzrnogortza*, serves to show:—

"We have received from the Montenegrin Red Cross and Relief Fund, London, large quantities of surgical and medical necessaries for our sick and wounded, and this has been followed by the hospital contingent above referred to. The Montenegrin Red Cross and Relief Fund has also sent us, through the intermediary of our Consul-General in London, 250,000 francs contributed by the large-hearted people of Great Britain, a welcome gift indeed in our trouble and distress. This amount is being carefully distributed as arranged between his Excellency the Count de Salis, the British Minister at Cettigne, and the Red Cross Society at Cettigne, amongst the many victims of the war, and the hapless refugees driven across our frontiers by the Austrians. The noble and charitable English nation has never ceased to testify her traditional sympathy for Montenegro, and at this moment their helping hand is doing much to dry the tears of our little ones and relieve the poverty stricken, the sick, and wounded. All honour and gratitude to the sons of Great Britain! Lady Roper Parkington (wife of our Consul-General at London), who is the founder of the Montenegrin Red Cross and Relief Fund, and who did so much for us during the Balkan War, has again been indefatigable in her efforts to assist, by collecting money, clothing, and medical necessaries, and we have already had splendid proof of her work on our behalf."

THE COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE OFFICE OF EGYPT,
23, Sharia Soliman Pasha, Cairo.

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

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

A few days ago London was for a short time aflare with posters about the Italians landing at Rhodes—"Italians Capture an Island" was, I think, one of the most prominent. Most of the papers very quickly realised their *gaffe;* but not so the *Daily Chronicle.* The first paragraph of the column contributed by the gentleman who surveys life from "The Office Window" began with the statement:—

> "In landing on Rhodes the Italians are renewing a military acquaintance with the island which began in the thirteenth century, and under the sovereignty of Venice lasted for half a century."

And after touching lightly upon some of the salient features of the island's history, the writer concluded his note thus:—

> "Rhodes, as Great Britain is to-day, was at one time the greatest naval power in the world. It was Rome that shattered her power. Rome to-day is preparing to free her from the Turkish tyrant, who fixed himself upon the island in 1523, and has remained the master ever since."

Which almost tempts one to suggest that Rip van Winkle has taken to journalism.

***

I should hardly have thought that the Gallipoli Peninsula would appeal to anyone as a health resort just now. But, as a friend of mine remarked the other day, "we all have our weaknesses." I have just received a letter from a friend on one of the now famous "beaches," from which I quote a few sentences:—"This beach is highly unsafe, and I as nearly as possible qualified for an obituary notice this morning. Indeed, we have been under fire every day for three weeks—sometimes nearly all day. . . . In two days three shells burst within eight or nine feet of me. This morning shrapnel sang into my dug-out. But the *climate is nice and life is quite enjoyable.* . . . We get less news here than anywhere else—except perhaps in prison, so I can neither tell you anything important nor comment on what is happening." The italics are mine. But in spite of my correspondent's praise of the climate and the possibilities of enjoyment in that particular cove, I do not anticipate that the shipping companies will run excursions—for non-combatants, at least—thither, at any rate for the present.

***

I am glad to learn from a correspondent in Busreh that all the British in Baghdad are reported to be well, though it is bad news that there appears to be no immediate prospect of their being set at liberty just yet. My correspondent—who wrote on April 28—remarks:—"We had a fine fight a fortnight ago, ending, as all the world knows now (except probably 99 per cent. of the Turks and their allies) in the complete rout of the army that the Turks have been collecting for months past. Our men fought magnificently, and the final charge, which native Indian and British white troops made together, and which finished the whole business, was, I believe, as fine a thing as the British Army has ever done. We were greatly outnumbered and drove some of the finest troops in Turkey out of a strong position at the point of the bayonet. We had very heavy losses; but such a fine victory had to be paid for." My correspondent is level-headed and by no means given to "gush," and I take it that the charge he refers to was worthy of more notice than it has received. But for anything like a complete picture of the operations at the head of the Persian Gulf we shall, apparently, have to wait until the war is over. I only hope that when we get it full justice will be done to all the brave men who in that region have so splendidly upheld our best traditions.

***

I learn from a trustworthy source that there are—or were ten days ago—in Constantinople sixty nuns in prison or under trial by court-martial. Of these, twenty-eight are German subjects, eighteen are Austrian, and the remainder are Italian; and they are all charged with carrying on correspondence with sisters in France. One or two priests are also imprisoned on a similar charge. I cannot pretend to be surprised at this state of affairs; for the Turks are in a state of "nerves," and ready to imagine danger for themselves in everything. But since the Germans are now all-powerful in Constantinople, it is rather astonishing that their countrywomen should have fallen under suspicion. Perhaps the fact of their being nuns accounts for the unfortunate prisoners' plight.

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That even this sorry business has its humorous side is shown by the following story, sent by the same correspondent who reports the imprisonment of the nuns:—"Some young ladies are arrested, and being shown some postcards, are asked if they recognised the handwriting. 'Yes.' Then, 'What does *this* mean?' referring to the two letters 'p.c.' The young ladies, terrified and confused for the moment, reply that they do not know; but the father comes to their assistance, and explains to the Chief of Police that the mystic symbols signify 'post card.' 'Oh, thank you!' says the Chief of Police, and discharges the young ladies, feeling much wiser, and—let us hope—relieved."

***

The report that the miraculous ikon of Tenos was brought to Athens in order to be placed in the sick-room of King Constantine reminds me of an instance of faith-healing connected with the pilgrimage church of that island, which came under my own notice some fifteen years or more ago. An English lady, resident at that time in Athens, was interested in the unhappy lot of a Greek youth subjected to what was known locally as demoniacal fits—I do not know whether the expression is allowed by the medical world. These fits were of repeated occurrence, and the youth had to be kept under constant supervision. Generally he was aware of their imminence, and his warning enabled his nurses to put him under physical restraint before the fit was actually upon him. If this were not done he became possessed of extraordinary strength, and broke everything within reach, even to iron bars. When visiting him one day my friend was warned by the nurses that he was suffering from hallucinations and was asked not to encourage him. The hallucinations turned out to be nothing more extravagant than a dream which the youth said he had had, telling him that he would be cured if he went to Tenos. Far from discouraging him, my friend made it possible for the poor youth to go to the island, where he went through the prescribed ritual, which, if my memory serves me, entailed little more than sleeping in the church, together, no doubt, with the payment of appropriate fees. He returned to all outward seeming cured, and certainly for the next two years was free from fits.

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"Brat yé mio koïé viéré bio." I wonder how many of my readers know the meaning of that sentence. Translated it means: "A brother is always dear, whatever the religion may be." And that is a proverb of the Serbian people, to whom Europe owes such a large debt for their bravery and devotion during this present war. It is the wonderful unity of the Serbian race that has carried it all triumphantly through the horrors and anguish of these dark months of trial. "A brother is always dear," and while a brother remains to fight for, the Serbian man will fight. Perhaps the two extremes of the ambitions and purposes of war are best exemplified by Serbia and Germany; and there can be no question as to which is fighting on the side of light. The little Serbian nation struggled, and is struggling for the ideals that have come down to her in the songs of her bards, through the ages. Marko Kralyevitch, the deathless hero, was still sleeping in his mountain grotto, awaiting the hour of Serbian deliverance and unification. The people fight for his release; for the deliverance of their own people; for freedom and the right to live. Germany strikes because of the lust that is in her. Once, her people, too, cherished their dreams and their mysteries, but these have been crushed out blindly, leaving only a material ache for gain. No country can live when its ideals are either dead or transformed by greed. And so it is that when the people of Serbia return to their zadrougas, sad with loss, but victorious, the Prussian Empire may quite conceivably pass away, and its people divide to take up again the early lessons of their hills and rivers.

CORSAIR.

MONTENEGRO WELCOMES ITALY'S ACTION.

Sir J. Roper Parkinson, Consul-General for Montenegro, has received the following official telegram from Cettinje:—

The news of the declaration of war between Italy and Austria has been received throughout Montenegro with the greatest enthusiasm. The President of the Council of Ministers publicly read the following telegram addressed by H.M. the King of Italy to H.M. the King of Montenegro:—"At the supreme moment when the Italian Army commences its march with full confidence against our common enemy, I hasten to offer your Majesty and your brave people my most ardent wishes for our united victory."

A reply was immediately dispatched by His Majesty King Nicholas to H.M. the King of Italy as follows:—"At this solemn moment when your great country has drawn the sword against our common enemy, my heart and also my people's is filled with joy that henceforth we shall march shoulder to shoulder in the cause of liberty and justice."

Demonstrations were subsequently held outside the Legations of England, France, and Russia, the flags of our great Allies being enthusiastically cheered.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Italy and the Balkans.

According to Mr. M. H. Donohoe, special correspondent of the *Daily Chronicle* in Rome, Bulgaria is contemplating an immediate change of policy in favour of one more in sympathy with the Quadruple Entente. The initiative taken by Italy is already causing the Turks to fear active intervention on the part of Bulgaria also:—

Turkey evidently fears Bulgarian intervention now that Italy has sided against Austria and Germany. For some days . . . the Turks, under the direction of German officers, have been reinforcing and strengthening their positions at Chatalja and Kirk Kilisse, in readiness for any sudden Bulgarian offensive movement.

The military correspondent of the same paper (June 1) considers Roumania's "partial mobilisation" is probably partial only in the sense that the full strength of the last line has not been called out. He continues:—

Altogether Roumania has approximately 600,000 men, trained or partially trained, at her disposal. Probably a striking force of at least 400,000 will have been concentrated by the moment that Roumania decides to enter the European arena. The date of that moment depends entirely upon the diplomatic success of the Allies at Sofia.

The *Daily Telegraph's* (June 1) own correspondent at Athens sends to his paper extracts from some of the vernacular Press, from which we quote. The *Nea Hemera* says that negotiations between Greece and the Entente Powers are suspended pending the anticipated return of Mr. Venizelos to power and also because of the King's illness. It considers that the co-operation of Greece is still desired in order to help in the operations at the Dardanelles:—

The journal comes to the conclusion that the question of Greece's withdrawal from neutrality will be decided by the Government as the result of the coming elections, but that no Greek Government can agree to concessions being given to Bulgaria, or to sending Greek troops to the Dardanelles before receiving certain indispensable guarantees.

The *Patris*, the organ of M. Venizelos, contradicts the idea that M. Venizelos would be disposed to agree to territorial concessions of any kind being given to Bulgaria.

The Dardanelles.

Colonel F. N. Maude, writing under the above heading in the *Contemporary Review*, shows himself to be a warm supporter of the policy that directed the Allies to a strong offensive against the Dardanelles. He does not minimise the difficulties which are to be surmounted before we reach Constantinople, but he considers the expedition to have been unavoidable, and one which will ultimately prove to be worth all the heavy sacrifices entailed. The gallantry and devotion of our over-seas forces he treats of in the following paragraph:—

In spite of the losses suffered, one welcomes them for the magnificent opportunity they afforded for the New Zealand and Australian troops to prove to the enemy and throughout the world that in superb dash and endurance they stand no whit behind the Canadians and their British comrades, who in Flanders wrung from a not too generous foe the warmest appreciation of their courage that I remember to have read in all military history.

The Balkan States and the War.

The sixth of the series of articles under the above heading, which appears in the *Quarterly Review* (May), deals for the most part with Bulgaria's position in relation to the other Balkan States. "The European conflict began in the Balkans," writes the author of this article, "it will probably end in the Balkans." He considers that, unless the distribution of territories in the Peninsula can be replaced by a "more reasonable and equitable arrangement in conformity with the principle of nationalities," a fresh war in the Balkans is inevitable. The writer finds the ultimate cause of all the trouble in the Treaty of Berlin, the proximate cause in the Treaty of Bucharest. Greece, Serbia, and Bulgaria especially, he regards as having suffered heavily at the close of the war of 1877-1878:—

The denial of Crete to Greece was a crime which entailed a heavy retribution. The appropriation of Bosnia and Herzegovina by Austria was a gross wrong to Serbia, which had twice taken up arms on Russia's side. But the treatment accorded to newly-born Bulgaria was the greatest crime of all. Scarcely two million Bulgarians received political independence under Turkish suzerainty; some 800,000 were given autonomy under a Turkish governor; while more than a million unhappy beings were handed back to Turkish tyranny with nothing to console them but the promise of reforms.

The seeds of future trouble were sown in Macedonia, and the writer dwells upon the doleful harvest that was reaped during the next three decades. But the disastrous consequences of the action of the Powers when they withdrew their officials from Macedonia at length drew the Christian races together, and the Balkan Alliance became a reality. In dealing with the various phases of Balkan diplomacy, the writer considers that the statesmanship of the victorious nations was unequal to the task before them when it became necessary to provide a reasonable division of the liberated regions. Bulgaria, hampered by a love of protracted bargaining, and meeting offers and demands with an astonishing lack of consideration, he regards as especially culpable. The following quotation shows, however, that the writer is at least impartial in his judgments:—

A nation must bear the consequences of the blunders of its rulers. But whether it should be condemned to permanent dismemberment as the penalty of a rash act is a question which may at least be argued. That question in the present case possesses more than an academic interest, inasmuch as the sentence passed upon Bulgaria by her enemies at the Conference of Bucharest will come up for revision before the reconstituted European Areopagus at the close of the great war.

The Neutral Balkan States.

In a leading article of exceptional interest the *Manchester Guardian* (May 31) turned again to the question of Balkan neutrality, and emphasised the importance of possible Balkan intervention at the present time. United intervention would complete a ring around the Germanic Empires, and mark the beginning of the end. The *Guardian* thinks that the Balkan States are holding back for three reasons. The first of these, uncertainty as to the final issue, is fast disappearing, and the action of Italy will serve to reassure the Balkans upon this point, but the second and the third reasons for hesitancy remain. The States are not yet certain what gains would accrue to them as the result of armed action on their part. Roumania has aspirations in Transylvania, she has also anxieties regarding access to the Mediterranean if Russia comes to Constantinople. The paper intimates the possibility of a commercial union in the Balkans which might satisfy Roumania regarding her outlet to the sea, and looks forward to the return of M. Venizelos when, it assumes, the Balkan league might be re-formed with Roumania as an added member. "The peculiar position of Bulgaria and her influence upon her immediate neighbours" is given as the third and more special reason for Balkan neutrality at the present moment.

Even if satisfied on every other point, Roumania would be very loath to enter the fight with Bulgaria on her flank as a possible enemy. . . . Now, what influences Bulgaria? The facts are well known. The Treaty of London gave her certain territory which was hers by the principle of nationality and in part also by the agreement of 1912 with Servia and Greece. The Treaty of Bucharest took away large portions of that territory, and, in addition, a slip of old Bulgarian land which passed to Roumania.

The *Guardian* goes on to admit that Bulgarian statesmen were responsible for her disappointment, but urges that even this fact cannot justify the unjust territorial transfer which followed the second Balkan war:—

Bulgaria ought to have that part of Macedonia which is inhabited by Bulgarians restored to her by Servia. She ought to have the slip south of the Dobrudscha restored to her by Roumania. On these terms amity and co-operation could be restored in the Balkans, and the European war would enter on a wholly new phase. Servia and Roumania can both afford to be just, for both stand to gain great accessions of territory and material strength.

Articles to Note.

"The Life and Poetry of Sheikh Haroun Abdullah; a Turkish Poet," by Henri M. Léon, M.A., Ph.D., etc., in the *Asiatic Review* (May).

"Austria-Hungary and Serbia," by G. M. Trevelyan; "The Operations at the Dardanelles," by H. Charles Woods; "The Future of Serbia," by "Politicus"; and "The Greek Testament," in the *Fortnightly Review* (June).

"The Growth of Mohammedan Doctrine," by John S. Banks, in the *London Quarterly Review* (April).

"Roumania and the War II.," by R. T. C., in the *British Review* (June).

"Diary of a Dresser in the Serbian Unit of the Scottish Women's Hospital," by L. E. Fraser, in *Blackwood* (June).

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

Sir John Jackson's lecture, the most salient points of which are reproduced on the following page, was a most interesting exposé of a somewhat intricate question. One or two points not mentioned elsewhere can be referred to here. Speaking as to the disposition of the natives of Mesopotamia to the English, the lecturer said that he had found the Arab sheikhs generally favourable to the English, while it was common knowledge that the Germans working in connection with the Baghdad railway were in anything but favour with the natives. For hundreds of years the country had been worse than misgoverned by the Turks, and to his personal knowledge not only people of Arab blood, but a large proportion of the more enlightened Ottoman subjects had expressed themselves as only anxious that the whole country should be brought under the influence and control of Great Britain. This brought Sir John to one of the most vital paragraphs in his lecture—so much so that I feel almost inclined to italicise it. He hoped, he said, "that the British Government and British public would not take a narrow view or be deterred by the prospect of larger responsibilities when dealing with the question." We shirked our responsibilities on one tragic occasion, and Gordon died a martyr's death at Khartoum. Let it never occur again.

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As for the lecturer's reference to the Baghdad Railway, it would appear that he favours the German tracé through the Taurus to Constantinople, with an additional line linking up Mesopotamia with Syria, via Damascus and Beyrout. It seems to me that, with the line constructed from Baghdad to Aleppo, Alexandretta will become the natural port, and the Beyrout alternative will be superfluous. On the other hand, the suggestion that the line should be continued to the Persian Gulf, even as far south as Koweit, cannot be easily discussed. There are many, thoroughly acquainted with the region and far-sighted in their political views, who hold that in no case should the line reach the Gulf. As long as we are masters of the Gulf I do not think that it matters much from a strategic point of view whether the line stops at Baghdad or not, whereas, from a commercial standpoint, the railhead on the coast would be a distinct advantage. A much more dangerous proposition, to my thinking, is the trans-Persian project.

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While on the subject of railways a few words anent the reported completion of the Jibuti-Adis Ababa line in Abyssinia will not be out of place, more particularly as its achievement is a signal victory of France over Germany. It is true that, at a given moment, we were opposed to the scheme for reasons which need not be gone into now. But the arch-intriguers against the French concession at the Court of the Emperor Menelik were the Germans, who strenuously endeavoured for years to create trouble in Abyssinia to their own advantage. Their Consuls in Adis Ababa were political agitators, neither more nor less, and one of them was such a notorious pan-German agitator that he had to be removed. I have forgotten his name, but that does not matter, because in a few years the very name of Germany will have been forgotten in Abyssinia.

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I think it is significant that, as reported by *The Times* New York correspondent, the Rumanian Government has placed an urgent order for half a million pairs of boots with a factory at Binghampton, New York.

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The Imperial Institute series of short public lectures on the British Empire is meeting with most gratifying success. The lectures are delivered by the Official Lecturer to the Imperial Institute, Dr. H. B. Gray, formerly headmaster of Bradfield College, and are chiefly explanatory of the resources of the British Dominions and Colonies and of India. They are delivered in the Exhibition Galleries of the Imperial Institute on Wednesdays at 3 p.m., and are illustrated by the exhibits of the resources of every country in the Empire which are to be seen there. On June 23 the lecture will include Cyprus and Malta.

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The first annual meeting of the British Imperial Council of Commerce was held at the London Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday, Mr. Stanley Machin being in the chair. The attendance was a good one, but the aims and objects of the Imperial Council are better still. "Unity in Commerce and Unity in Defence" is the motto chosen as applicable to all the realms and dominions and dependencies owing allegiance to H.M. King George. In its essentials it strives at the organisation of all trade elements within the Empire and the sincere co-operation between all commercial factors therein. Only thus can we stand united and offer a bold front to the enemy.

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The idea is a brilliant one, I was almost going to say a genial one. Its scope is tremendous, its possibilities vast, but: (1) it must be sympathetically viewed by any and all British Governments, including the Governments of the Dominions, must be consulted by them, given a more than platonic hearing whenever necessary, and its objects furthered whenever possible; (2) it must have the support of all British Chambers of Commerce within the Empire and in foreign lands; (3) it must have the backing of all business men, of financiers and big investors, of the Consular service abroad, and of legislation throughout the Empire; and (4) it must use the platform frequently. Legislation, in the sense of the protection of our vital commercial interests, will follow.

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The above stipulations need some further explanatory remarks. As regards the first point, it has hitherto been noticeable how little those who rule us cared about the opinions of business men as opposed to those of barristers and sentimentalists. All this must be changed if, after the war is over, we are to continue to "capture" German trade, and the British Imperial Council of Commerce contains the germs of an organisation which can do more in this direction than any other institution I know of. An Imperial Parliament may still be somewhat Utopian, but an Imperial Commercial Parliament, under the auspices of the Council, seems to me to be a more immediate possibility. This brings me to the second point—namely, the backing required. The Chambers of Commerce must be the first to step into line, and I am astonished to see how few of the Chambers in foreign countries have responded to the call, and yet my experience in the past has been that the staunchest of Imperialists are Britons abroad, because they have more opportunities of viewing things with a broadmindedness rarely met with at home. I am even more than surprised to see that neither Egypt nor the Sudan, among our possessions beyond the seas, have become affiliated. Why not? Their aid is more essential now than ever, and I hope they will not linger.

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The third point to which I wish to refer has to do with the financier and the big investor. He must toe the line just the same as the merchant and tradesman if complete success is to be achieved. Hitherto his aid has been lackadaisical; he has preferred high-sounding speculative investments, and has scorned industry, in which he differed from his German foe, with the results we know. It was mainly owing to the close co-operation between finance, trade, and industry in Germany, backed by a thoroughgoing Consular service, that German trade went up by leaps and bounds. The same policy must be adopted in the United Kingdom, and this is all the more necessary in view of the likelihood that, after the war, big speculative "booms" will be slow to mature. After the war I predict an era of intense quiet on the Stock Exchange, with, on the other hand, increased national investments in industries and trade. I pray that I may be right, because, if I am wrong, it will mean that our greatest assets and the backbone of our prosperity will again be starved, to the great benefit of our enemies.

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However, the capitalization of industries and trade must not be restricted to the Empire. Admittedly finance must aid primarily in strengthening our Imperial situation by enabling us to throw the whole weight of our incalculable resources into the field. When that is done, the foreign markets must be wrenched from the enemy's grasp, but this, again, can only be achieved with the aid of capital. The industrialization of Serbia, alluded to elsewhere, is a case in point, and as such there are many others. The creation of commercial banks abroad (note the article on American finances on page 143), frequently urged in these columns, is another instance where capital can be of the greatest use to trade. These are all points which must be taken up by the Imperial Council if it is intended that Imperial trade, and not only British trade, is to be championed. Nevertheless, these are subjects for future deliberation, the home organization of our forces being the first step. But never let it be thought that the extension of the Council's sphere to foreign trade should only then begin, when the home organization is perfected. Both policies must be pursued simultaneously, the one conplementary to the other under the protection, let us hope, of an Imperial preferential tariff.

COMMENTATOR.

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Engineering in Mesopotamia.

Sir John Jackson's Views.

On Friday last, at the Royal Institution (Mr. J. H. Balfour Browne presiding), Sir John Jackson, M.P., read a paper dealing with engineering problems of Mesopotamia and contiguous parts of the world. He said that first of all much needed to be done to improve the navigation of the Persian Gulf. This was most dangerous, particularly at its south-eastern end—where it was full of small islands only a little above the water level and sunken rocks in many cases only a few feet below the water level—but when he made his voyage from Bombay via Muskat to Mohammerah he had not seen a single lighthouse between Muskat and the head of the Gulf. Entering the Shatt-el-Arab the little steamer by which he travelled was impeded by a great sandbar, to cross which it had to go astern and practically ram its way through the sand for probably two or three feet in depth. Large steamers often had to lie exposed outside this bar and transfer their cargoes to small craft for delivery at Busreh; so that the removal of this obstruction to navigation was a first problem to be dealt with. He did not think dredging away of the bar would be sufficient without a proper system of training-walls to narrow the stream and increase its scour. An alternative and, he thought, a better plan would be to carry the Baghdad railway to Koweit and make the harbour there. Between Fao at the entrance of the Shatt-el-Arab and Gurnah at the junction of the Euphrates and Tigris the river could easily be made a good channel. At Mohammerah the river Karun branched off with a more or less good channel for river boats of not more than two or three feet draught up to Ahwaz, an old Persian town whence started the main caravan routes into Persia. The Anglo-Persian Oil Co., in which the British Government had acquired an interest of about £2,000,000, had to rely mainly on the Karun for its water transport. At Mohammerah ample provision should be made for the transfer to deep sea steamers of goods coming down stream in river boats; and at Busreh, unless a new harbour were made at Koweit, there should be proper port works—with ample warehouses and transit sheds for trans-shipment to ocean steamers, whether from the shallow draught craft coming down the river or for goods coming over the projected railway from Baghdad. From information at hand, the Euphrates was a much more awkward river to navigate than the Tigris. Although the very shallow paddle-wheel boat in which he had travelled to Baghdad had gone aground thirteen times on the voyage, he had no doubt that the river up to that point at any rate could be made quite easy for vessels of moderate draught. In view, however, of the very large quantity of water proposed to be taken from both rivers under the proposed irrigation schemes it was a question whether it would not be better more or less to neglect improving the navigation of the rivers and rely upon railways for transport. If the railways were constructed either before or simultaneously with the proposed irrigation works, they would afford a means of transport for materials, besides providing an immediate solution of the problem, which must arise as soon as the irrigation works were in operation, of how best to deal quickly and cheaply with the transport of cereals, fruits, and other products.

Baghdad Railway.

Referring to the construction by the Germans of the Ottoman Baghdad Railway to link the Anatolian Railway at Konia with Baghdad and the Persian Gulf, Sir John said: "Once we have peace and the Germans are out of control of Turkey this railway should be completed across the Taurus Mountains on to Baghdad and thence to Busreh at any rate, if not further on to Koweit. With the railway completed and a direct line of only some 450 miles in length from Baghdad through Damascus to Beyrout, huge trade would be opened for the whole of this Mesopotamia district and through Busreh to the Persian Gulf and the East.

Irrigation.

To have carried out in its entirety the great scheme got out by Sir William Willcocks for the Turkish Government would have involved an expenditure of some £18,000,000 or £20,000,000, and, as the financial position of Turkey would not permit of such large responsibilities being undertaken, it had been considered that the best plan would be to proceed bit by bit with the construction of the most urgent works. The first section of the scheme taken in hand was the erection of the great barrage across the Euphrates at Hindieh, and Sir John Jackson's firm had taken this work over in the month of February, 1911, and completed it by December 12, 1913. They also cleared out and deepened about 65 miles of the Hillah Canal and carried out other works at Felujah. At Habbania they had commenced the construction of the escape works, by which, through a canal cut from the Euphrates to a great depression in the ground, water could be held up and reserved until in the dry months it was passed into the river again.

Mesopotamia and India.

In the state of nature the country was almost desert, producing nothing but a scattered growth of brushwood, but wherever water could be supplied it was wonderfully fertile. On land easily irrigated that fringed the Shatt-el-Arab ten million palm trees grew, producing a crop of dates estimated as being worth £500,000 per annum. According to Sir William Willcocks's scheme the total area to be irrigated and put under cultivation would be not less than 3,500,000 acres; but there could be no doubt that any outlay upon these irrigation works would be most amply repaid, as had been the case with the great works of the Nile and of the Chenat Valley in India. According to the laws of Turkey, it was almost impossible for Christians or non-Turkish subjects to hold land; but under a new and more enlightened government, with reasonable inducements to capitalists with regard to the ownership of land and otherwise, this district, fitted as it was to be a granary of the world, would become as in ancient days one of the busiest and most productive parts of God's earth, with the further advantage of being able to give an outlet for the surplus population of India.

Hindieh Barrage.

The object of the Hindieh barrage was to restore the supply of water to the Hillah Canal, which passed near the ruins of Babylon and ran to Diwaniyeh, irrigating a district of immense agricultural value. The erection of the barrage had been completed in two and three-quarter years. No portion of it had been built in the original bed of the river. On account of the importance of careful examination of foundations it was decided to divert the river and have the dam wholly constructed in the dry. Only when it was entirely completed were the banks removed and the river allowed to flow in its new course. The barrage was built mainly of brickwork with a certain amount of cement concrete. The bricks were manufactured on the site, and on the whole were very good. The lime came down from the old quarries of Hit (some said the Hit of the Bible), in the neighbourhood from which no doubt the pitch came for the building of Noah's Ark. The barrage was 815 feet long and had 36 openings, each 16½ feet wide. There were two sluice gates in each opening, each gate being 8 feet high. At one side of the barrage a lock was built for the use of river craft: it was of a width of about 26 feet and a length of about 325 feet, divided by gates in the middle. The Hillah head regulator was very similar in construction to the main barrage, but had only six openings, each 9 feet 10 inches wide. The main barrage raised the ordinary summer level some 16 feet, allowing an ample supply of water to flow into the Hillah channel. The dam across the old river was constructed by a system learned from the Arabs. Brushwood was collected from many miles up stream and formed into what might be called great "sausages" hundreds of feet long. These were constructed on the river bank, rolled into the water, floated into position, and sunk by weights.

Among the special difficulties that were encountered was the absence of good fuel. There was, of course, the brushwood, but coal for the locomotives was brought from England. The Bedouin labourers, too, did not at first take kindly to European methods. They were accustomed to dig the earth with a kind of grocer's ladle, fill it into a bag, and then carry this bag to the bank, where the earth was tipped. If the ground happened to be wet this work gave the labourer rheumatism. It occurred to Sir John that it would be much better if wheelbarrows pushed along planks were used, in the manner of western Europe. Wheelbarrows and planks were accordingly obtained, but it was not easy to get the Bedouin to accept the innovation, one of them when advised upon the subject replied as follows: "You people from the west, why, a thousand years ago no one knew you; my people have been here since before the time of Moses. Are you going to teach me how to carry earth?" However, notwithstanding protests, the superiority of the new method caused it to be adopted.

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British Industries Fair.

In connection with our Editorial Notes on the above subject two weeks ago, the follow- extracts from the official summary published by the *Board of Trade Journal* will be of interest to Near Eastern buyers as showing how completely the British manufacturer can adapt himself to new conditions, and how able he is to produce fancy and other articles as good as, if not better than, those produced hitherto almost exclusively by the world's great "dumpers" of inferior goods, Austria and Germany. Moreover, and as regards more particularly the Near Eastern market, the exhibition proves conclusively that import merchants of the goods exhibited need no longer believe the statements made by German travellers that we are unable to compete with them. We can, and not only compete with them, but outdo them both as regards originality of design and thoroughness of workmanship.

The effort of the Board of Trade (in organising the exhibition) was frankly experimental. It was promoted at this juncture for the purpose of stimulating the imagination of British manufacturers, of arousing in them a live interest in the prevailing opportunities for broadening the basis of their manufactures and for modifying the form and design of their wares so as to appeal more sympathetically to the taste of people in remote parts who have not been cradled under the grey skies of Great Britain. How far this International Exhibition has broken down the traditional conservatism of British manufacturers cannot of course be accurately measured, but there is strong presumptive evidence that a great deal of good work has been accomplished in this direction. There were instances of a keen desire on the part of manufacturers to appoint agents abroad, to send out travellers to foreign countries, and to deliver goods at destination on terms satisfactory to buyers, whilst some firms displayed neat catalogues printed in various languages. In spite of the fact that manufacturers are naturally prevented at present from opening up foreign trade to any very large extent owing to the abnormal conditions prevailing, the experience gained in meeting a large number of bonâ fide buyers from practically every quarter of the globe has been invaluable to exhibitors, inasmuch as first-hand knowledge of colonial and foreign requirements has set them thinking about the almost unlimited opportunities which exist for developing colonial and foreign trade if they will only go to the trouble of studying local conditions and predilections in a broad and sympathetic spirit.

Toys.

It was evident from a cursory examination of the various stands in this section that British manufacturers are rapidly awakening to the immense opportunities for developing the manufacture of toys to take the place of the enormous trade in these articles which has previously been so well controlled by Germany. It was interesting to observe that a large quantity of toys, which during the last eight or nine months have formed the subject of enquiry at the office of the Commercial Intelligence Branch, were represented at the Fair. In the manufacture of the better class toys, British firms are, of course, well able to hold their own, but it is to be sincerely hoped that great efforts will be made to wrest from Germany the practical monopoly in the manufacture of the cheapest type of toys. It appeared as if some difficulty had been experienced in obtaining some of the materials required for dolls, such as heads, hair, eyes, stockings and shoes, and it may be presumed that there is a good trade to be done in such "properties," if only firms can be induced to assume the initiative.

Fancy Goods.

The better classes of British-made goods were fairly prominent in this Section, and whilst British makers have little to fear in the way of competition so far as high-priced goods are concerned, it is greatly to be hoped that attention will be directed by manufacturers to those cheaper forms of leather, metal and wood articles which have been so conspicuously exploited in the past by German firms. It is certain that a very large business indeed can be done in these articles, both in the United Kingdom and abroad. Ladies' handbags are especially in great demand, and a very good export trade can undoubtedly be done by enterprising firms who will take up the manufacture of cheap leather goods, etc. There was an excellent display of substitutes for the well-known casein products.

Glass.

Evidence of the enterprise of British manufacturers since the war broke out was clearly shown in this section. Amongst the most interesting exhibits were those of laboratory glass ware, miners' lamp-glasses, and electric light bulbs. The laboratory glass ware was of particular interest owing to the fact that practically all the glass ware of this type had previously been imported from Germany. Since the war broke out firms in this country have experimented with this class of ware and have produced an article which under the severest tests is said to surpass the German type. A representative selection of lighting glass was also exhibited. This trade has recently suffered severely from German competition in cheaper productions of British designs. In many cases manufacturers have supplemented their own lines since the war by the addition of articles similar to those produced in Germany and Austria.

Crystal Goods.

The majority of the exhibits in this section consisted of high-class crystal goods, both table and decorative. In this department of the industry British manufacturers do not fear competition, since British production of fine glassware is everywhere recognised as the best in the world. The cheaper lines of table ware, particularly pressed and moulded goods, were, however, represented. The abnormal conditions which exist in the glass trade at the present time, such as lack of material and labour, make it difficult for manufacturers to take orders for very large quantities of any kind of glass, and hamper their developing, as they are in many cases prepared to develop, the production of articles which would satisfy the demand previously supplied from Germany. If prices quoted were relatively high, this is due, in some measure at least, to the abnormal conditions now prevailing.

Cutlery, Silver, Electro-plate, etc.

The exhibits of these goods were thoroughly representative of what is being done by manufacturers in the United Kingdom to supply the markets both at home and abroad. While they were illustrative of the high quality and finish for which British goods of this class have always been famous, they also showed that our manufacturers are capable of turning out those articles which have generally been considered as German specialities. It is to this latter feature of the exhibits that particular attention is directed, as being of most interest in connection with the trade campaign.

With regard to knives, there is ample evidence that the requirements of all markets are being studied, and it is safe to say that there is no important market in the world into which British knives do not enter. One is forced to the conclusion that our manufacturers ought, in the immediate future, to secure more and more of the world's trade. Exhibits of special interest were the pocket knives with handles of iron in imitation of horn, such as are in demand for trade with the natives of Africa and other countries, for which there should be a large demand when it is generally known that they are to be obtained in this country at competitive prices. Articles which should win their way into all markets are the rustless table knives which are not even tarnished by vinegar. The solid-handled table knives, such as are used in hotels, cafés, etc., should also be in great demand. Mention must also be made of the combination knife, fork and spoon.

As for silver, electro-plate, and similar goods, it is hardly necessary to draw attention to the fact that the exhibits showed the excellent work which is being done now, as in the past, by British makers; but the fact that electro-plate with a dull finish, of the Würtemberg type, is now being successfully made in this country should be of interest to those who have orders from abroad for this kind of ware. Noteworthy, too, are the cheap cigarette cases of high finish which were exhibited.

There was one instance of a firm who formerly exported a certain class of knife through Hamburg to South America, but were unable to supply it after the outbreak of the war, as they were unaware of the market for which their goods were intended. As a result of the Fair, however, they succeeded in getting into touch with the actual buyers in South America.

China and Earthenware.

A very interesting exhibit in this section was one of laboratory porcelain of the type of Berlin porcelain, which has been evolved in London since the war broke out. This porcelain is of very high quality and can be sold at competitive prices. The general chinaware and earthenware exhibits at the British Industries Fair were remarkably good in the highest and most expensive class of tea, breakfast and dessert ware and ornamentals, and also in ware for hospitals, institutions, etc. The high-class ware exhibited at the Fair showed that the British manufacturer is still able to turn out the best china and earthenware in the world, and from the artistic point of view there is nothing lacking in the design of these goods.

The principles of manufacture as employed in Germany differ considerably from those employed in the United Kingdom. This is particularly to be noted in the production in Germany of hard paste porcelain, which has keenly competed with British earthenware.

That orders could have been taken in very much larger volume than firms are at present able to produce shows that British ware can still meet to a very large extent the existing demand. It remains to be seen how far they will be able to cope with the demand for the particular variety of article which Germany has supplied. In some cases goods were shown which sell at prices with which even German firms have been unable to compete, and it is gratifying at the same time to notice that the attempt to turn out cheap and artistic material is being made by many firms. The tiles shown at the Fair were excellent, and should apparently compete effectively in home and foreign markets with the German production.

Paper and Printing.

The few pure paper makers who exhibited were unanimous in stating that they had, rather to their surprise, derived great benefit from the Fair. They had discovered that many of their specialities were unknown to many of their customers. This peculiar fact has been noted in various industries, from time to time, by the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, and, with regard to this point, it is desirable that British manufacturers should make sure that their specialities are known as widely as possible, by giving full particulars of them to the Branch.

The printing exhibits, viewed from the standpoint of competition with Germany and Austria-Hungary, were too good. Practically every stand showed really fine examples of high-class colour printing, and this part of the exhibition in general effectiveness disproved the theory prevailing several years ago that the climate of England would not permit this class of work to be done here, and that for high-class printing one had to resort to the German printer. High-class catalogues were also in evidence. The photogravure work shown was of high quality, and could not have been bettered by any German firms.

As an exhibition of printing for the British firms the Fair was indeed a success, but a greater attempt ought to be made by the British printer to compete with the German in the cheaper three-coloured catalogues. Probably most of the firms exhibiting who can, and do, turn out really high-class work would refuse to take up this particular line on account of the danger of thereby lowering their reputation for higher class work; but it seems as if there ought to be a good opening for some of the small letterpress firms if they would only take up this work.

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Produce Report.

LONDON, June 3.

Currants.

There are no arrivals to report, but the s.s. "Princesse Clementine" and the s.s. "Salermo." are loading. The market is now practically cleared of all first-hands lots and business is, therefore, somewhat quiet. Further sales of Pyrgos have been made to arrive and prices are again higher. It is impossible to buy better qualities from Greece, as stocks there are now completely cleared.

In Liverpool, the s.s. "Britannia," which arrived with 1,500 tons for the market, has just started to discharge. In the meantime business is at a standstill, owing to lack of stock. The tendency is for higher prices all round.

Sultanas.

There is only one small arrival of about 9,000 boxes to record, and, so far as can be gathered, there is very little more to come. A large business has again taken place during the week both on account of trade and speculative buyers. A further rise of 1s. per cwt. has taken place, and with the exceptionally large consumptive demand it is generally expected that prices will go higher.

In Liverpool there has been no trade to report, but a brisk demand is expected.

Figs.

There is only a small business passing in London, while in Liverpool the market is now cleared of all stocks in first hands.

Seeds.

Linseed is quiet, but barely steady. London—Calcutta spot sold 56s. and afloat quoted also 56s. Rapeseed is firm and sparing offered. Pure Guzerat May-June is quoted 56s. 6d. Cottonseed is firm, but quiet. London-Egyptian spot is quoted £8 15s., June £9 3s. 9d. per ton. Rangoon beans command full rates, both for lots on the spot and to come forward.

Oils.

Linseed oil is dearer, but at the close the market is quiet. On the spot pipes £29 10s., barrels £30 15s., month and June-August £30 15s., September-December £31 15s. Rape-oil, brown and refined are unaltered, but Japan is lower. Cotton oil is firm. Crude, on the spot pipes £31; refined on the spot, pale, pipes £35 5s. to £33 10s. Sweet, barrels £37 to £39.

COTTON MARKET.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

LIVERPOOL, June 3.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report:—

Liverpool.

Egyptian Spot.—Since the last report the market has been quiet with a moderate general demand, but a fair business is reported. Prices have ruled in buyers' favour, and quotations of good and below in brown, brown upper, and Nubari, and fine and extra fine Joannovitch, Sakellarides and Abassi are reduced 10 points. The sales are estimated at 1,800 bales, as against 1,100 last week.

Manchester.

The market took full advantage of the Whitsuntide holiday, and during the past fortnight the exchange has only been open a few days. Interest has centred mainly upon progress of the war, on the efforts that are being made to prevent a general lock-out in the trade, and on the publication of the first instalment of the Washington Agricultural Bureau reports showing conditions of American crop up to May 26. From none of these important factors has the trade derived any encouragement. Egyptian Yarns.—The condition of this market is deplorable.

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The Industrialisation of Serbia.

Belgrade the Chicago of the Balkans.

The following are extracts from an article which appears in the June number of *Kelly's Monthly Trade Review*:—

Serbia, our ally, is about to cast off German, Austro-Hungarian, and Turkish trade and financial influence, and an important field of industrial expansion may, with enterprise, evolve. Her natural resources and conditions should now attract capital and enterprise from without, and big businesses that carry money may profitably be developed. But business will have to be done with an intimate knowledge of local conditions, if it is to meet with success.

Physically, Serbia is a country of uplands and highlands save in the valleys of the important rivers. She is essentially an agricultural country with a pastoral people. Her leading industries, apart from agriculture, have been meat-packing, flour-milling, brewing, and weaving of hemp, flax, and wool. Iron foundries, potteries, sugar, tobacco, and celluloid factories exist, but the whole of the industrial establishments in Serbia do not number seventy. Yet in Rumania, Bulgaria, and Turkey—contiguous countries—there are tangible returns on manufactures and mining.

Small Holdings.

The conditions of Serbia are peculiar but not impossible. Of her population of 2,800,000, approximately 2,250,000 work on the soil. This latter figure includes 245,000 small owners of from 12 to 130 acres. There are nearly 180,000 Serbian farms of less than fifteen acres. In addition, there are big farming areas owned by the State and by the various communes. No country in the world is more closely sub-divided for agriculture; none so easily capable of State organization. These thousands of small farming areas are in great part inadequately and lethargically worked. Crops, excellent in quality, are raised—potatoes, tobacco, maize, oats, beetroot, wheat, hemp, and legumes; 500,000 bushels of maize and 400,000 bushels of wheat are normal harvests; 600,000 tons of plums were raised in a year from 375,000 acres. Serbia is a rich field for apples, pears, and nuts. The mulberry-tree flourishes, and the industry of silkworm-breeding is well established. Nearly a tenth of the country is forest land, of which the communes own 1,610,000 acres, the State 1,300,000 acres, individuals 743,000 acres, and religious establishments 40,000 acres. Austrian oak, beech, and resinous woods grow in abundance. Serbia in a year exported nearly 1,133,000 cubic feet of fuel wood and unsawn timber and 13,600 tons of sawn timber.

Live Stock.

As to live-stock, the Serbian Ministry of Agriculture has established a State breeding stud and an institution for training live-stock breeders. There is a permanent commission dealing with all questions of cattle-breeding. Flesh-meat is a growing export, chiefly to Austria-Hungary and the contiguous Balkan States. There is little dairy-farming, cattle being raised for draught and slaughter purposes. There is a permanent horse-breeding establishment at Dobricevo. Large flocks of sheep and goats are raised, of which less than one-third are exported. Serbia's stock of pigs, rarely below 1,000,000, include the pure white, the Macva and the Moravian black; but white Yorkshires and Berkshires have been introduced with success. Maize, the natural crop of Serbia and an excellent pig-food, is raised in sufficiently large quantities cheaply. Upwards of 35,000 live pigs and quantities of salted pork, ham, and bacon are exported annually. Poultry-breeding is an important industry, and the exports of poultry and poultry products, comparatively speaking, considerable.

Such being the natural conditions, Serbia has stood almost still in external trade during recent years, both as to imports and exports. The former include cotton and wool fabrics, leather, sugar, iron, and machinery chiefly; the latter, named in part already, are chiefly to Austria, Germany, and Turkey. These countries are "off the map" for Serbia, at any rate, for a considerable period. Whence will come the bulk of her imports and whither go her important exports?

Industry and Labour.

Serbia must be approached from the agricultural standpoint. Attempts to get Serbians to work in mines or factories hitherto have almost failed. Seventeen years ago the Serbian Government passed a law to grant concessions on favourable terms to foreign capitalists willing to promote mining and manufactures in the country. Political reasons had much to do with the failure of that invitation. To take advantage of a prospect of industrialisation labour as well as capital will have to be introduced. Once industralise agriculture in Serbia with British or other foreign capital under the direction of the State, and profit must accrue with enormous advantages to the Serbians themselves. While lethargic and pastoral the Serbians are not wholly asleep. In twenty years 900 co-operative credit banks have been formed in that country with 50,000 individual members. Agricultural exports have increased almost 100 per cent. in twenty years, although but little during the last four or five years. The Ministry of Agriculture supports by grants viticulture, fruit-growing, breeding of silk-worms, stock-breeding, cheese-making, and poultry-rearing.

It is recognized by the Serbian Government that the whole level of agricultural method and result needs raising and improving. Serbians require organisation. British or foreign capital is needed, directed from such important centres as Belgrade, Nish, Pozharevatz, Vranya, etc. The nature and habits of a whole nation cannot be ripped up and transplanted in a day, but they can be improved and developed on existing foundations. Serbia can be industrialised by capital through her agriculture. She can yield trading results of tangible importance through her present meagre manufactures and mining only if labour as well as capital are introduced.

Agricultural Machinery.

Industrialise her agriculture and, taking a wide view, Belgrade might become the Chicago of Central Europe, the gathering-ground of vast flocks, herds, and crops, not alone of Serbia, but of the Balkan States and Hungary. Industrialize her agriculture and her communications will automatically be improved and an enormous demand for rails, engines, bridges, and rolling-stock would follow. Cheap agricultural machinery of every kind, harness, stable and other furnishings, the equipment of pig and cattle abattoirs, sawmill and flour-mill machinery, and agricultural implements would be needed which Great Britain could well supply. With the introduction of better tools and quicker transit the whole level of agriculture as an industry in Serbia would be raised.

Scientific Improvements.

Raised from within, five bushels of maize, five of wheat, five of barley, five tons of vegetables, five beetroots, five fruit trees, five silk-cocoons, five pigs, five cattle, five horses, and five bottles of wine, where one of each of these is now produced, would solve Serbia's most pressing problem. She needs a decided extension of horse, cattle, sheep, and pig-breeding. She urgently requires the organisation and direction of similar industries—crop-producing, timber-sawing, cheese-making, and the like. She wants scientific treatment of exports and quicker and cheaper transit. In view of the splendid live material in the country the potted-meat industry and the manufacture of pork foods could easily be brought to perfection.

Belgrade as the Chicago of Europe, and Serbia as an industrialised country pouring forth with energy into the British and other foreign markets the best from her fruitful fields, is a business proposition. Active co-ordination and co-operation between British merchants, traders, and capitalists, and the Serbian Government will effect it to the lasting advantage of the Balkan kingdom.

TRADE OF PATRAS.

The following information is from the report by H.M. Consul at Piræus (Mr. W. J. Norcop) on the trade of that district in 1914, which will shortly be issued:—

The commission usually paid to agents in the Piræus district for the sale of goods, such as yarns and piece-goods (of cotton, wool, flax, etc.) is as follows:—Manchester and Bradford goods, 1 to 1½ per cent.; machinery motor-cars, 5 to 10 per cent. The commission is due only on goods actually paid for, and applies to all orders, whether placed through the agent or direct. A local agent has no responsibility unless he acts contrary to instructions. The credit usually given by foreign firms through agents is four to six months, and a discount of 2½ per cent. is usually allowed for cash payments. Prompt and punctual delivery of orders is very essential, as local merchants have the habit of waiting to the last moments to give orders, and should there be any delay in delivery, acceptance is often refused. Commission business is in the hands of persons who are energetic, but some do not present the necessary guarantees of solvency. For this reason H.M. Consul thinks that the following measures should be taken:—

(1) Agents should be entrusted with the collection of sums of money in special instances only, and when they can furnish sufficient guarantees.

(2) When orders are dispatched, the firm should ask that the orders be signed by the merchant who orders the goods, as otherwise it is easy for disputes to arise as to quality, etc.

(3) Bills of lading should be sent through a bank, to be delivered on payment of the goods, or in exchange for a draft signed by the merchant. In the latter instance, and in case of non-payment, proceedings could be taken, and also application could be made to the court to make the merchant bankrupt.

As a general rule, the above steps should be taken; there are, however, commission agents in whom full confidence can be placed.

Commercial travellers are not required to go through any formalities in order to be able legally to exercise their calling in Greece, nor are they required to take out a licence, provided they come and go merely as bearers and receivers of orders. Agents of British firms resident and trading in Greece are, however, required to take out trade licences. Certificates of origin are not required on the importation of British goods into Greece.

Import duties in Greece are levied on the net weight of merchandise, which is generally calculated by deducting from the gross weight a certain fixed percentage for tare, varying according to the nature of the packing and the kind of merchandise. If, however, the consignee is dissatisfied with the scheduled tare allowance, he may have the actual net weight ascertained by means of unpacking and weighing the goods, provided that he indicates his desire in the Customs declaration. In the case of delicate or fragile goods, or in cases where the process of separating goods from their wrappers and packings is inconvenient (*e.g.*, flowers, ornamental feathers, silk lace, fine trimmings, glassware), the net weight is ascertained by weighing a part only of the consignment and estimating the net weight of the whole consignment from the result. For this purpose the Customs officers select, empty, and weigh one or more packages of the same weight and size.

In the case of certain goods the dutiable weight includes the weight of the immediate receptacles and packing as follows:—Edible farinaceous products (sago, tapioca, etc.), in paper, glass, thin wood, or tinplate; mineral waters, medicaments, and ready-made clothes of linen for women and girls, in ordinary and common packing of all kinds; sewing thread, white or coloured, in paper receptacles or packages; steel sewing needles, in ordinary or common packages or cases; opera glasses, knives, forks, and razors, with handles (not of iron), in ordinary and common cases; medical syrups, in glass, stoneware, or china vessels; liquid perfumery, in glass, stoneware, or china vessels or in leather receptacles; non-liquid perfumery, in stuff sachets; goods of all kinds, in paper (except cardboard or fancy paper), with certain exceptions.

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Trade Notes.

Egypt.

The *Journal Officiel* of April 29 contains the following revised Tariff valuations for use in assessing Customs duties on coal and coke imported into Egypt, with effect from May 1 to June 30, 1915:—

Category.	Valuation per ton of 1,000 kilogrammes (2,204 lbs.).*
	£E.
South Wales coal—Cardiff, Newport, Swansea, etc.	3·100
Newcastle, Sunderland, and other North Country coal, South African and Indian	2·800
Lancashire, Yorkshire, North Wales and Scotland	2·530
Gas coal (Newcastle) for use in gas factories	2·500
Briquettes (patent fuel), from Swansea and Scotland	2·950
Dust slack coal and small coal of any origin, also rubbly culm and duff (excluding nuts)	2·200
Foundry coke and Cannel coal	3·500
Gas coke of any origin, including chemical coke	3·150
American, Belgian, French, and German coal	3·100
Anthracite coal of any origin	2·950

* Duty is leviable on these valuations at the rate of 4 per cent.

It is also stated that, by reason of the present circumstances, the reduction of 25 millièmes per ton on coal imported via Port Said, or in transit to that port, is suspended.

Cyprus.

The Chief Collector of Customs at Larnaca reports that a firm of merchants and general agents in Larnaca and Nicosia, with a branch in Manchester, desires to secure the sole representation in the island of United Kingdom manufacturers of glassware, iron, paints, provisions, etc.; also to purchase drapery, etc., for own account. Contrary to the usual Cyprus custom, all the firm's business is carried out on a cash basis, and payments for all goods will be made, if desired, through the Manchester branch of the firm. United Kingdom manufacturers and exporters of the goods mentioned should apply, in the first instance, to the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C., for the name and address of the inquirer in Cyprus and in Manchester. Further communications regarding the inquiry should be addressed to the Chief Collector of Customs, Larnaca, Cyprus.

Morocco.

With reference to a call for tenders by the Moroccan Adjudications Commission for paving the Zokko-el-Arba de Sidi-Aïssa road, near Alcazar, H.M. Agent and Consul-General at Tangier reports that the contract has been awarded, at a reduction of ½ per cent. on the estimated cost, to a Spanish subject, whose name and address may be obtained by United Kingdom exporters of paving material on application to the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade.

Greece.

The Patras market for staves used in the manufacture of barrels for shipping currants is very depleted, Austria having hitherto been the supplier. Lately the Austrian Government has laid an embargo upon the exportation of lumber and woods.

Roumania.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of information from H.M. Minister at Bucharest to the effect that the exportation of the undermentioned articles from Roumania has been prohibited:—Horsehair, pigs' bristles, aeroplanes and accessories thereof, including screws and motors, and all materials used for water-proofing wings.

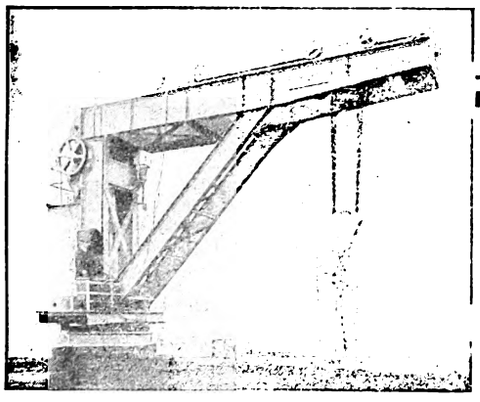
SUDAN GAME EXPORTS.

The Sudan *Government Gazette* for April 17, 1915, contains an Ordinance (No. 3 of 1915) made by the Governor-General in Council on March 30, which amends the "Preservation of Wild Animals Ordinances of 1908 and 1911" by enabling the Governor-General to prohibit the export from the Sudan of such wild animals or birds or any trophies, parts, or eggs of any wild animals and birds as may be thought desirable. The same issue contains an Order made under the provisions of the Preservation of Wild Animals Ordinances of 1911 and 1915 absolutely prohibiting the exportation from the Sudan of the hides and skins of all animals included in the 2nd Schedule, Part I., of the Order issued under the "Preservation of Wild Animals Ordinance, 1908," as amended by the Order published in the *Sudan Gazette*, No. 186, of October 11, 1910, viz.:—Wild ass; zebra; rhinoceros from the provinces of Kassala and Sennar; Miss Gray's water buck; white-eared cob and all other species of cob; kodu; Jackson's hartebeest; oryx leucoryx; ibex; water buck; roan antelope; tora hartebeest; oryx beisa; eland; giraffe; and, in addition, the following animals:—Buffalo, tiang, and ariel.

WAR ON GERMAN TRADE.

In connection with the campaign undertaken by the Board of Trade, on the advice of their Advisory Committee on Commercial Intelligence, to assist British manufacturers and merchants to secure trade formerly in the hands of German or Austro-Hungarian firms, the Board continues to receive a very large number of inquiries for the names of sellers or buyers of articles.

Special arrangements have been made in the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade for dealing with these inquiries, and lists are prepared and circulated of articles which inquirers desire (a) to purchase, and (b) to sell. List 23 is now ready, and may be obtained by United Kingdom manufacturers and traders.



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Engineering Notes.

Farm Machinery in the Near East.

American engineering firms, during the last eight or nine months, have been doing very good business in the Near East in modern ploughing machinery, and agricultural implements generally, and according to recent reports many urgent orders are now being booked by the same for harvesters and threshing machines. It must be admitted, however, that these firms, apart from the opportunities which the war afforded them, deserved the success they achieved in those markets for, as we have stated at various times in these columns, they have systematically studied for years the natural, as well as the economic and agricultural conditions of the various localities, and the most suitable class of machinery. They have sent for that purpose not clerk-travellers to sell from the catalogue, but expert agricultural engineers to see what is wanted, to guide buyers in their choice, and to sell what in their technical experience they think is suitable.

Small Type of Machinery Needed.

Large ploughing tractors, or steam-engine-ploughing sets were introduced from England, and used in the Near East many years ago, but the sale of such expensive machinery is very limited. Only large landowners can afford them; but the majority of farmers—and in the Near East seven-tenths of land proprietors are small farmers—require a small type of machine. A small ploughing machine, for instance, with cultivating tools operated direct from the engine instead of being hauled by a tractor, is in demand, more particularly if it could be suited for use between trees in orchards and vineyards, and between rows of root and ground crops in market garden plantations, as well as in the stubble of the open field. Such a contrivance would appeal to every farmer, small or large, in the Near East. If we are not mistaken, something similar has already been successfully tried in England, but there is no record that it has been introduced to the farmer in the East. The light weight of these small machines is a great advantage, and made in America cost between £100 to £120 each, whereas the British made one, referred to above, cost under £100. As regards harvesters we have frequently stated in these notes what class and type of machine is required in the Near East. It is time now for British makers, *who can deliver promptly,* to secure orders which are so urgently required in those markets.

Wood-working Machinery.

With the total blockade of the Adriatic Sea by Italy, the permission recently given by the Austrian Government for the exportation of timber (box wood) to Greece is valueless, and the latter country is faced with a very difficult problem. The currant season is approaching, and millions of boxes are required for the exportation of the fruit. The boxes are made to contain 1 cwt., ½ cwt., and ¼ cwt. of currants, and hitherto the box wood was supplied by Austria from Fiume and other ports in the Adriatic. It was sent in lengths of 10 ft. to 12 ft., 7-16 ins. to ⅜ in. thick. At this time of year, and until August and September, the seaports of Patras, Pyrgos, and Vostizza have the appearance of a huge fair in which carpenters with their assistants can be seen in every available space of ground planing and cutting boards, nailing and piling up boxes with an astonishing speed that would scandalize trade unionists, while cart-loads of timber and huge piles of empty boxes are moved about in every direction. It is very probable that there will be no such "hustling" in carpentry this year, for the only remaining sources for obtaining wood, after the closing of the Adriatic and the Dardanelles, are the forests in Acarnania, Epirus and, perhaps, Macedonia, from where a considerable quantity of large square logs can be obtained and cut into planks and boards by hand-saws, or the few existing power-frame saws in Patras, Piraeus, and elsewhere. The wood is rather tough and not so white as the Austro-Hungarian or Roumanian, but it answers the purpose. However, unless a fair supply of timber has been secured from Austria before the blockade of the Adriatic it will be very difficult, with the available supply of native timber and the existing means of turning it into boxes, to cope with the demand unless more wood-working machinery is employed.

Frame Saws.

A modern high-speed frame saw is required for the above mentioned class of work; and one which was shown in a recent exhibition, appeared to us very suitable. A special feature of this log frame is the design with double cranks, which is the only way of preventing the crank-shaft from breaking at the high speeds which are now becoming more and more common. The fly-wheels are placed in the centre of the machine, which facilitates the perfect balancing of the revolving masses and makes the machine run exceedingly smoothly. The feed rollers raise themselves automatically without any treadle or lever motion, and the width of the front roller is not too great to permit the man to superintend the working of the saw blades.

Planing Machines.

For a handy, quick, and cheap box wood planing machine, we would recommend one with a new automatic feeder, which eliminates the dangerous element of hand feeding, and multiplies the output. It is very compact in design and easy, as well as safe to be worked by an ordinary workman, or even a boy.

Nailing Machines.

Nailing machines are, of course, indispensable for turning out large quantities of boxes, and those of British construction have the latest improvements.

RAILWAY NEWS.

Baghdad Railway.

Reuter reports from Amsterdam (June 2) that a Constantinople telegram states that 40 miles of the Baghdad Railway line from Tell-el-Abiad to Tuan, east of the river Euphrates, have been opened to traffic.

This section, says *The Times*, corresponds to what is known as the Tell-el-Abiad—Ras-el-Main section, which forms, roughly, the western half of the Harran—Nisibin section (between Aleppo and Mosul). Harran lies south of Urfa and Nisibin is further off to the east. The section from the Euphrates eastward to Tell-el-Abiad, about 40 miles, was completed last February. The total length of line open to traffic now amounts to just under 600 miles, out of a projected total of about 1,350 miles to Basra.

Greek Developments.

The following are extracts from the report by H.M. Consul at Piræus which is shortly to be published :—

"The construction of the railway linking up the Piræus-Athens-Larissa line with the Oriental Railway has made good progress, and according to a statement made by the Minister of Communications in the Greek Chamber of Deputies in Athens, the line will be ready in August next. The necessary material—sleepers, rails, etc.—is being urgently carried to the spot, while twenty locomotive engines and the rest of the rolling-stock have been ordered in America, and will be delivered shortly. Owing to the war, several iron bridges which had been ordered in France cannot be ready in time, and in such a case temporary wooden bridges will be constructed where needed.

"A convention has also been signed for the purchase by the State of the old railway line. The purchase price agreed upon being 13,000,000 dr. (£520,000) less the dividend for 1913, say, 600,000 dr. (£24,000), this difference amounts to 12,400,000 dr. (£496,000) as against 19,980,000 dr. (£799,200), the sum for which, according to the old convention, the Greek Government was to have the right to take over the railway in 1927.

"The Greek Government intends to reorganise the various railways, and especially to take steps to render the management more efficient. A general scheme of railway extension in the New Territory and also in Old Greece is being considered. The lines to be constructed are those from Salonica to Anghista, from Kalambaka to Koshani, from Kalambaka to Sorovitchevo, and from Kalambaka to Janina."

Jibuti-Adis Ababa.

We announced last week the completion of the Jibuti-Adis Ababa line in Abyssinia. *The Scotsman* (May 25) gives the following particulars concerning the railway :—

"The railway is again the subject of active interest in French colonial circles. The line is no less important politically than commercially, and in days gone by, before the *entente cordiale*, it was the occasion of some amount of friction between this country and France, owing to the employment of British capital to rescue the original French company out of the difficulties into which it had fallen. All that is a thing of the past, but when French control was re-established by the intervention of the French Government, there remained the objection of the late Emperor Menelik of Abyssinia to an arrangement which made one of the Great Powers a party to railway construction in Abyssinian territory. So long ago as 1902 the line was completed from the Jibuti end to Dire Dawa—a distance of nearly 200 miles—but that was as far as it got for many years. In 1909 a new company was formed by arrangement with the French Government for the purpose of taking over the section already constructed, and building the 300 miles required to extend the line to the Abyssinian capital. Since then, in spite of continued difficulties with the Abyssinian Government, the work has gone slowly forward, until now the connection by rail between Jibuti and Adis Ababa is established. Two Bills respecting the financial position of the concessionaire company have lately been before the French Budget Commission, and the French Minister for the Colonies, in giving evidence about the railway before the Commission, has stated some interesting facts, which have been communicated to the *Depêche Coloniale*. It is hoped that the line will be opened to traffic throughout its entire length in September next. The financial arrangements between the concessionaire company and the French Government require that the latter should inspect the line and determine, for the purpose of fixing the capital cost of the enterprise, what further expenditure is necessary before the line can be regarded as finally completed. Owing to the war, it was proposed that this task should be postponed; but the Budget Commission has taken a different view, and has recommended the dispatch of one of the Inspectors-General of Colonial Public Works to examine and report on the line."

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TRADE OPENINGS.

The following trade openings, etc., are culled from the current issue of the *Chamber of Commerce Journal*. For further information, where address is not given, apply under the given number to the "Agency Department," the *Chamber of Commerce Journal*, Oxford Court, E.C.

Tunis.

Manufacturers' agent, with first-class connection, is open to represent makers and merchants in all kinds of pottery, hardware, ironmongery, iron tinned sheets, electric lamps and fittings, oil lamps, globes, sewing cottons, velvets, velveteens, fustian, corduroys, linens, fancy cottons, woollens, flannels, suitings, hosiery, produce, dried and tinned fruit, etc., Address, Joseph d'Is Bismut, 4, Avenue de France (Passage de Tunis), Tunis, North Africa.

Commission agent, with good business connections, desires to represent British firms in textiles and alimentary products of all kinds. Correspondence in English. Address, Nahum de M. Cohen, 16, Rue des Tanneurs, Tunis.

Agent in Tunis desires to represent, on commission, British manufacturers and exporters of hosiery of all kinds and cotton goods generally. Good references in England and France. Address, M. Bitan, 13, Rue St. Charles, Tunis.

Agent, established twelve years at Tunis, desires to represent British manufacturers and exporters of drapery, cloth, lace, haberdashery, ironmongery, paper and stationery, etc. Address, No. 272.

Well-introduced agents are desirous of representing British manufacturers and also exporters of colonial produce, such as wool, skins, honey, wax, oil, wheat, brewers' barley and grains. First-class references. Address, Rocco Licari and Co., 2, Rue St. Charles, Tunis.

Egypt.

Old-established commission agents in Alexandria desire agencies of British manufacturers and exporters, especially in hosiery, but also in any manufactured goods suitable for the Egyptian market. Address, Ben-Amozek Frères, Alexandria.

Company established in Cairo desires the agencies of manufacturers or exporters of any large line of goods suitable for the Egyptian and Sudanese markets. Address, N. V. Holland-Egypte Handel My. v/h. Th. F. van Vloten and Co., P.O. Box 461, Cairo.

A British company, established in 1908 as merchants and commission agents, having head office in Alexandria and branch office in Cairo, and agents in the principal towns of the Mediterranean, with English directors and manager, and trading throughout Egypt and in the Levant, is open to take up the sole agencies of first-class home firms for any article (machinery excepted) which does not clash with existing business, also insurance of all kinds, except accident and life. References will be given to important British firms now represented by the company. Address, The Commercial and Agency Company of Egypt, Limited, P.O. Box No. 691, Alexandria, Egypt.

Firm in Cairo desires to represent British manufacturers and exporters of all kinds of goods suitable for the Egyptian market, particularly of hats, boots and shoes, collars, shirts, stockings, flannels, neckties, etc. Address, Messrs. Cladakis Frères, 76, Bein-El-Harat, Cairo, Egypt.

Bulgaria.

Commission agent and merchant, established in 1898, desires to represent British firms in the following lines:—Cloth, cotton and woollen yarns, combed wool, boot leather, imitation astrakhan, and other English specialities. Special department for collection of debts and information of all kinds. Address, S. B. Nachmias, Roustchouk, Bulgaria.

Greece.

Well-established commission agent in Piræus wishes to represent British works or export firms for galvanised and black sheets, tin plates, ships and boiler plates, wire for nails, dry goods, Bradford and Belfast goods, woollen yarns, cloths, handkerchiefs, felt and straw hats, teas, biscuits, caramels, all sorts of textile goods, etc. Address, No. 155.

United States Finances.

A Plea for Banks Abroad.

In view of the very probable expansion of United States interests in the Near East, and the already considerable development given to her commerce, trade and finance in those regions, the following summary (as given by *The Times*) of a lecture delivered on May 27 at San Francisco to the California Bankers' Association, by Dr. E. E. Pratt, the official head of the American Government's Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, will prove interesting reading. More particularly is Dr. Pratt's plea for American banks abroad significant. It will be remembered that THE NEAR EAST has always taken up a firm attitude on the question of creating British banks abroad, and has insisted on the necessity for us to follow, in this respect, the German method. The American Government now officially advocates the same policy, and in view of the extraordinary development of American finance, as analysed below, it becomes imperative that we should lose no time in following the natural trend of events, and create British commercial banks in foreign lands. Otherwise, we shall again be ousted from the Empire's legitimate markets. We also refer to this banking question in our editorial notes on page 135.

Dr. Pratt pointed out that it had taken a great European war to show Americans their dependence on Europe. He estimated that the United States, for loans raised there, owed Europe, when war broke out, £1,400,000,000, of which 800 millions was represented by securities held in England, 200 millions in France, 250 millions in Germany, and 130 millions in Holland. Allowing for American holdings of European securities, probably the net indebtedness to Europe was not less than £1,200,000,000. If Europe required money, this showed the "tremendous break in the American security market" that might result. In addition, moreover, to American dependence on London as the clearing-house for international payments, both that and other European centres were the markets for certain staple products required by the United States, such as wool (1,100 million pounds of which were bought every year from Great Britain), rubber, tea, coffee, and even tobacco. The great European ports were also the markets in which American goods were purchased and transhipped throughout the world, Hamburg in particular taking more than £20,000,000 in value annually for re-export. Owing to the lack of a merchant marine, only 9.7 per cent. of American water-borne commerce was shipped in American bottoms. Finally, 62.86 per cent. of the total American exports went to Europe.

Dr. Pratt laid stress on the annual "invisible" American exports—£60,000,000 for interest on loans and floating debts, £50,000,000 for the expenditure of American tourists, £30,000,000 for remittances to European friends and relatives, and £10,000,000 for freights. Certain items here must now be considerably affected. But the great change from previous conditions is shown by his statement that, whereas on July 1, 1914, the United States had a balance of current indebtedness to Europe to defray, amounting to £11,000,000 over and above her exports of merchandise, in April, 1915, Europe owed the United States £90,500,000.

The new feature, as Dr. Pratt showed, in American foreign trade is that the United States is becoming a creditor nation, and must herself be prepared to loan capital abroad. This is seen in the low rate of sterling exchange, the imports of gold from Europe, and the actual development of "export capitalism" in the New York market. The low rate of sterling exhange, he insists, is not at all in the American interest; it is really equivalent to an extra tax on American commerce, and makes American commodities cost more to English buyers. Yet, unless some adequate means, other than the importing of gold, is found for settling the trade balances they must continue to "pile up" and keep the exchange low. The monthly sums which the American people need to send abroad for interest and other purposes are not much more than £8,000,000, but the actual monthly balances in their favour have lately been as follows:— September, £3,270,000; October, £11,326,000; November, £15,880,000; December, £26,200,000; January, £29,140,000; February, £35,000,000; March, £32,000,000. Dr. Pratt impressed on his audience of bankers that, as a creditor nation on current account to this extent, there was only one course now for the American people to take—namely, to finance the exchanges by lending capital abroad. This movement has, indeed, already begun, for since November foreign securities have been placed in the United States to the amount of over £40,000,000, apart from other credits exceeding £20,000,000. But Dr. Pratt's point is that it must go much further, and that American bankers must do their utmost to "popularize the issues of foreign securities."

As indicating the practical policy, Dr. Pratt went on to insist on the importance of the bankers taking advantage of the provision in the Federal Reserve Act of 1913, and establishing branch banks abroad for this purpose. Before that Act was passed, the American National banks were not allowed to extend their activities to foreign countries, but now Dr. Pratt emphasizes the importance of their doing so and backing these foreign branches with all "the prestige, influence, and resources of the home bank." One National bank, he said, had already established five foreign branches and was contemplating others.

Dr. Pratt's actual words, in his speech to the American bankers on this point, are worth quoting. He said:—

"A provision of the Federal Reserve Act of the greatest value to commercial interests is that which permits National banks to accept six months' bills drawn against actual shipments of merchandise in foreign countries, and which provides that these bills may be rediscounted, when within ninety days of maturity, with the Federal Reserve banks. The branch banks to be established must not, however, confine themselves to the foreign exchange business. To a considerable extent they must go in for local loans and discounts, and must take part in underwriting securities, and must occasionally render services in marketing products. In other words, the branch bank must be the outpost of American finance."

COMPANY MEETING.

LAND AND MORTGAGE COMPANY OF EGYPT.

The thirty-fifth annual general meeting of the Land and Mortgage Company of Egypt, Limited, was held on Friday, at the Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., Sir Walter Frederick Miéville, K.C.M.G. (chairman), presiding.

The Chairman said, *inter alia:* Since I had the honour of addressing the shareholders a year ago a world-wide financial upheaval has occurred, owing to the outbreak last August of the unprecedented war now convulsing Europe. The economic conditions of Egypt have been profoundly affected and the cotton trade badly crippled. The material prosperity of Egypt has inevitably declined, and, unfortunately, the principal cause of this decline—the sudden shrinkage in the world's demand for cotton and the consequent fall in the price of that commodity—has affected our company adversely. For the great proportion of the mortgagors, our clients, rely on the profits from their cotton crop to pay their yearly mortgage interest and annuities. The Nile flood of 1913 was the lowest on record, and the estimated crop this year is, consequently, considerably less than that of 1913-14. Added to that misfortune the price, owing to the war, is this year about 35s. less for 100 lb. weight, and this means a loss to Egypt on the whole crop of roughly from £14,000,000 to £17,000,000 sterling as compared with last year. Thus many of our clients have found it either difficult or impossible to meet the charges on their debts, and our "arrears" have greatly increased. Even judging from the loss incurred in farming our own estates, we can understand what a bad year many of

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our tenants must have experienced. Yet, notwithstanding the small proportion encashed by the company of earned profits and interest accrued, and in spite of the strained financial conditions generally, the credit of your company is so good both in London and Egypt that we have been able, without undue difficulty, to meet all our obligations and to carry on the current affairs of the company. Having enumerated the chief drawbacks of the actual situation, allow me to point out a brighter side. The present crisis in Egypt is not of a nature which affects the great productive powers of Delta lands. Gratefully also we must bear in mind that the value of land in Egypt will eventually increase—and this consideration will benefit our company in respect of our two estates and in regard to any other lands we may acquire—for land in a country under the declared protection of Great Britain must be worth more, other conditions being the same, than that same land was when the country was under Turkish suzerainty. You will observe that during the year under review we have paid off debentures amounting to £19,300. It is noteworthy also that, though the balance to the credit of profit and loss only appears to be £5,463, the real profits, had we included back interest, would have amounted to £10,740, the difference of £5,277 being accounted for by provisions made for possible, but not probable, eventualities. Our loans on mortgage are less by £16,690 than on March 31, 1914; but we could not make fresh loans until bank advances had been paid off and the balance of debenture stock issued. The market value of the investments of reserve fund has again fallen; but, as our securities are all gilt-edged, we may look for good recovery after the war. The item interest due or accruing now stands at £80,190, instead of £52,871 last year; but our managing director (Mr. Huri) is sanguine that practically all these arrears will ultimately be encashed. Your directors have adopted what they consider the only prudent, business-like course, namely, to make provision for eventualities from the year's profits and to propose to you to carry forward the balance.

COMPANY NOTE.

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields.

It is understood in the market (says the *Financial News* correspondent) that the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields Co.'s Hurgada well has become clogged, and that this accounts for the further heavy reduction of output, which had already been seriously curtailed in order that the production should not exceed the refinery's capacity. However, it is believed that the Hurgada stoppage is merely temporary. Meanwhile the management are devoting themselves more particularly to geological work on new properties rather than to the Hurgada and Gemsah production. The report of this company is due shortly, and we should imagine that an interesting statement will be made at the meeting.

"Pixion," writing in the *Financial Times* on May 28, recalls the fact that Mr. Samuel, M.P. for Wandsworth, and brother of Sir Marcus Samuel, chairman of the company, in the course of a speech in the House of Commons on June 18, 1914, when the Anglo-Persian oil deal was being considered, said he believed the Persian oilfields were good, but the Admiralty were evidently unaware of the developments in Egypt, and that the Anglo-Egyptian Oil Company, in which the Egyptian Government were shareholders, a thoroughly British company, was in a position, had it been approached by the Admiralty, to have given them much larger supplies than they had got by their contract with the Anglo-Persian Company.

COMPANY RESULTS, &c.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN OILFIELDS.—Gemsah production for week, 291 tons (last week 302 tons); recovered from sediment, 12 tons (last week 203 tons). Hurgada production, 52 tons (last week 20 tons).

EUROPEAN OILFIELDS.—Production for the week ended May 30, 85,900 poods, or 1,385 tons. Price of crude oil at Blacktown, 40¾ kopeks.

GREEK FIVE PER CENT. LOAN OF 1890.—Coupons falling due on June 15, 1915, should be presented for payment between the hours of 11 and 2, at the office of Messrs. C. J. Hambro and Son, for payment of 76 per cent. in gold of their face value, being 32 per cent. ordinary interest and 22 per cent. per annum augmentation on account of surplus revenues of 1914, payable on the coupon of the first half of the year.

NATIONAL BANK OF ROUMANIA.

BALANCE-SHEET, MAY 2/15, 1915.

ASSETS.

Metallic reserve	Gold (specie)	157,757,155	
	On deposit..	25,220,000	
	Gold (bars) .	165,000	
	Foreign bills payable in gold.....	71,143,491	254,285,646
Silver and other coins			714,579
Roumanian and foreign bills			222,373,841
Advances against Government securities		27,979,900	51,617,615
On current account		50,082,100	
Unused balance ..		26,444,385	23,637,715
Loan of 15 millions to the State			11,273,958
Loan to Government on 4 per cent. Treasury Bonds (1914)			161,638,495
Bank's capital invested in Government stock			11,493,075
Reserve invested in Government stock			16,476,677
Reserve, depreciation of buildings, furniture and printing machinery			3,965,281
Premises			6,734,709
Furniture and printing machinery			1,097,014
General expenses			1,158,163
Government and other securities deposited			130,054,941
Four per Cent. Gold Treasury Bonds as security for loan to State			200,000,000
Securities held against advances or temporarily lodged			162,780,388
Current accounts			21,697,219
Security accounts			22,219,048
Sundry accounts			31,005,151
Total Lei			1,310,585,803

LIABILITIES.

Capital	12,000,000
Reserve	39,714,199
Reserve, depreciation of buildings, furniture and printing machinery	5,768,306
Notes in circulation	632,036,735
Profit and loss account	5,718,757
Current accounts and drafts at sight	54,960,148
Securities, etc., held on account of customers	492,835,329
Sundry accounts	67,522,329
Total Lei	1,310,585,803

Bank Rate, 6 per cent.

BLACK SEA GRAIN.

It is stated in a shipping contemporary (says the *Morning Post*) that another factor which may shortly have to be taken into consideration is the possibility of the capitulation of the Turks coupled with peace with Hungary. The practicability of such a situation arising has not, as a matter of fact, roused more than an academic interest on the part of the shipping community up to the present. Such a consummation is, of course, ardently to be hoped for, and it is to be feared that it is the only solution by which the Black Sea grain can be released for shipment during the present season. The writer has all along discounted those optimistic forecasts which told of these shipments being in full swing before May was out or early in June. It was only with a knowledge of the Dardanelles that the enormous difficulties to be overcome could be realised, and now that the preliminary *faux pas* of those responsible for the operations has enabled the Turks to prepare for a more strenuous defence than was anticipated it may very easily be that the Straits will not finally be forced until it is too late for the Russian Black Sea ports to be used on account of ice. It is hardly likely, however, that matters will be so bad as that, and in any case such a discussion does not come within the province of this column. A consideration of such an eventuality, however, makes one realise how very much both grain and freight markets would be affected. The success of the Government's operations in India, and those of the French Government in connection with American wheat, would almost lead to the belief that an arrangement with the Russian Government to put the shipment of this grain on a similar basis would be the best solution of the obvious difficulties in the way of securing the necessary amount of tonnage for its transport without disorganising the other freight markets of the world.

WHEN WRITING TO ADVERTISERS
Readers are Requested
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"The Near East."

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE	Mean Price. July 27.	Min. Price. Mar. 20.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	—	92
Do. 5 % Gold Loan, 1902	—	—	—
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907	82	—	—
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909	80	—	65xd
City of Alexandria 5%, 1909	99	—	90½
City of Constantinople 4% Bnds	96	—	—
Egypt. Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan	93½	87⅛	87½
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	85	88⅜
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	88	78	78⅝
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82⅛	73½	78⅝
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	80⅛	75	75½
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	52	57
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	52	56⅛
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	45	49½
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	40	45
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	52	56
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	—	54
Do. 4 % Rails. Loan, 1902	77	—	70½
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	94	—	95
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	—	76½
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	91	—	81xd
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £60p.	92	—	—
Servian 4 % Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855	103	97	—
Do. 4 %, 1891	94⅛	—	86
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	—	78
Do. 4 % Loan, 1902	82½	—	—
Do. 4 % Unified	79	—	59½
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	65½	—	52
Do. 4 %, 1909	69	—	—
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	—	3⅝xd
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7⅜	—	7
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.	80	—	78½
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red.	83	—	79½
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	—	10⅜
Bank of Abyssinia	½	—	—
Bank of Athens	£2	—	1⅜
Bank of Roumania	8½	—	—
Eastern Bank	5	—	85/9
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅜	—	6⅜
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	—	—
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅜	—	72/6
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	—	5
National Bank of Egypt	13⅜	—	12⅝
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½% C.P.	8	—	6½
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8½	—	6⅜
Do. do. 5 % Debs., Red.	98	—	95
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I.	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88½	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17⅜	—	13⅜
Do. do. 6% Cum. Pref.	22	—	15
Do. do. 4 % 1st Deb.	87	—	62
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb.	101	—	67⅜
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	90	—	—
Do. do. 3 % Bonds	61	—	—
LAND.			
Abonkir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	—	⅝
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	—	95
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	¼	—	—
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	—	2⅛
Do. Do. Def.	¼	—	—
Béhéra Co.	8½	—	7⅜
Do. Pref.	4⅜	—	3⅜
Daira Sanieh	2/2	—	1/9
Do. Def.	⅞	—	⅝
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	9/-	—	7/-xd
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tst.	98	—	90
Do and Foreign Trust	5/-	—	4/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	—	1⅛
" " Founders	¼	—	—
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—	—
Do 5 % Debs. Red.	—	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	9⅜	—	8½
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	—	90
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	—	—
Sidi Salem Co.	1/16	—	1/16
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	—	⅞
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	—	1/-
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	—	11⅜
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt	97	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	—	—
Egyptian Hotels	1¼	—	—
Do. 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—	—
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅜	—	1⅛xd
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	99⅜	—	99
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	1/16	—	14/3
Do. 5 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	96	—	98
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅝	—	10/-
Do. do. Prefs.	3⅜	—	3½
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt.	90	—	85
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (*fr.*500)	£179½	—	£—
Upper Egypt Hotels	2½	—	—

OIL.	Price on July 30.	June 2.
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	7/16	13/6
Anglo-Persian	22/1⅛	21/6
Cyprus Oil Trust	2/3	2/3
European Oilfields	4/9	3/6
Roumanian	20/-	15/6

PARIS BOURSE.

	Jan. 4.	June 2.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane	—	473.50
Canal de Suez	4050	4400
Credit Foncier Egyptien	639	—
Turkish Unified 4%	61.50	64
Egyptian Unified 4%	87.75	90.10
Serbian, 1895	—	65.20

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 214.—Vol. IX. FRIDAY, JUNE 11, 1915.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Mr. Winston Churchill did well to devote a considerable portion of his speech at Dundee last Saturday to the Dardanelles expedition. Not only is his name associated with the planning of the enterprise, but for the moment the subject is probably exercising the mind of the British public more than any other matter connected with the war. He spoke optimistically, as is his wont; if he had been less optimistic in the earlier stages of the attempt to force the Dardanelles there might have been less need for a vigorous apologia now. But, if we are not mistaken, the country is not at all anxious to brood over past mistakes; it only asks for some intimation as to how it stands to-day, and whether the views now put forward in Government circles may reasonably be regarded as more reliable than those so lightly advanced when the Allied Fleet first opened fire on the unimportant forts at the entrance to the Straits.

The value of Mr. Churchill's utterances consists in the fact that they enable the public to view from a truer perspective the operations in this theatre of the war. It is no longer a question of "expecting" losses by land and sea. Statements of such losses are following one another far too rapidly to allow time for expectation. The question asked is, rather, whether these losses are justified by the importance of the object for the attainment of which they are being incurred, and if they are justified, can they be made good without prejudice to operations in the major theatre of the war. To this question Mr. Churchill gave a satisfactory answer. In the first place, he reminded his audience, the Fleet employed is our surplus Fleet, "after all other needs have been provided for. Had it not been used in this great enterprise, it would have been lying idle in our southern ports. A large number of the old vessels of which it is composed have to be laid up, in any case, before the end of the year, because their crews are wanted for the enormous reinforcements of new ships which the industry of the workshops is hurrying into the war. Losses of ships, therefore, as long as the precious lives of the officers and men are saved, as in nearly every case they have been, may easily be exaggerated in the minds of friend and foe."

On the question of the object to be attained Mr. Churchill was still more eloquent, and it is well that the nation should steel itself to face the heavy toll of life that the operations are exacting by sharing his views. "The army of Sir Ian Hamilton, the Fleet of Admiral de Robeck," said the ex-First Lord of the Admiralty, "are separated only by a few miles from a victory such as this war has not yet seen. . . . I am speaking of victory in the sense of a brilliant and formidable fact, shaping the destinies of nations and shortening the duration of the war. Beyond those few miles of ridge and scrub on which our soldiers, our French comrades, our gallant Australians and our New Zealand fellow-subjects are now battling, lie the downfall of a hostile empire, the destruction of an enemy's fleet and army, the fall of a world-famous capital, and probably the accession of powerful allies. The struggle will be heavy, the risks numerous, the losses cruel; but victory when it comes will make amends for all. There never was a great subsidiary operation of war in which a more complete harmony of strategic, political, and economic advantages has combined, or which stood in truer relation to the main decision which is in the central theatre. Through the narrows of the Dardanelles and across the ridges of the Gallipoli Peninsula lie some of the shortest paths to a triumphant peace."

It is to hoped that Mr. Churchill's rousing message will not be restricted to the nation at home, but will be sent as well to the gallant troops at the Dardanelles, whose exploits have stirred to the quick the whole Empire. In our anxiety for the success of their operations we must not overlook the physical strain which they are called upon to bear from day to day. There is little need to explain to the men in Flanders the part that they are fulfilling in the defence of the British Empire; but even there it will be noted that the Commander-in-Chief, with the instinctive sympathy which has always endeared him to troops under his command, takes it upon himself to explain in person to different units the value of the individual work they may have performed in the general scheme of his operations. At the Dardanelles, however, and in places where reinforcements are waiting to be sent there, misgivings may well arise as to whether there should not be a limit to the sacrifices incurred for a prize which must ultimately fall to us. Mr. Churchill's words supply the answer. The

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forcing of the Dardanelles must still be carried through for the attainment of a triumphant peace. We cannot look to other theatres of the war to simplify our task at the Dardanelles.

That the need for encouraging the men of the Dardanelles expedition is felt in certain quarters is proved by the "Special Order of the Day" issued by Sir Ian Hamilton on May 9, and published on June 9. After informing the troops that in all his experience he has never seen more devoted gallantry displayed than that which had characterized their own efforts, Sir Ian Hamilton stated that he had informed Lord Kitchener by cable of the bravery and endurance displayed by all ranks, and had asked that the necessary reinforcements be forthwith despatched. "Meanwhile, the remainder of the East Lancashire Division is disembarking, and will henceforth be available to help us to make good and improve upon the positions we have so hardly won." When it is remembered that a month has passed since this significant Order was issued, and that no appreciable improvement has been made in the military situation at the Dardanelles, it will be realized that the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, no less than the nation at home, requires all the encouragement that can be derived from such utterances as Mr. Churchill's.

At the outset it was intended, no doubt, that the forcing of the Dardanelles should act as a stimulus to the Balkan States to throw in their lot with the Triple Entente. When it was realized that the operations were likely to prove of a protracted nature, it seemed only natural that the order should be reversed, and that the neutral States of the Balkans, whose co-operation with the Allies was only a matter of time, should be encouraged to assist in the attack on Turkey. Unfortunately Triple Entente diplomacy did not appreciate the necessity of supporting the naval and military operations, or, appreciating it, did not know how to set about its task in the best way. The very fact that Russia was more directly interested in the Balkans than either of her Allies ought to have been a sufficient reason for relieving her of the onus of carrying on negotiations with the neutral States. Instead of taking this view and shouldering her responsibilities as the most disinterested of the three Allied Powers, Great Britain left it to Russia to act as best she could. The results of that policy are to be seen in the situation in the Balkans to-day.

It will be remembered that great expectations were formed of the appointment of Prince Trubetzkoi as Russian Minister to Serbia. He was understood to be empowered to bring about an understanding between Bulgaria and Serbia, and it was confidently supposed that Russia's influence over the latter State would be able to dispose of any obstacles in the way of co-operation between the two Balkan countries. If Prince Trubetzkoi were able to publish a statement of his diplomatic activities we should probably find that he had been hard at work all this time; but the fact remains that nothing in the nature of a *rapprochement* between Bulgaria and Serbia can be recorded as a result of his labours. Indeed, there is reason to believe that up to two or three weeks ago Bulgaria had received no promise of any prospective realization of her national aspirations on her southern or south-western frontier. Negotiations, it is understood, have now been opened between Great Britain and Bulgaria, and we shall hope to hear that they are making some progress towards a satisfactory settlement. So far, however, nothing has occurred to modify the opinion so frequently expressed in these columns that the only possible solution of the Balkan question lies in the dictation of the terms of settlement by the Triple Entente over the heads of the States concerned.

The fate of Przemysl was in the balance when our issue of last week was going to press. News of its fall, however, reached this country the same day. After a short resistance on the part of the outer forts the Russians evacuated the town. It was no longer a fortress, merely the skeleton of one. The destruction carried out by the Austrians before they surrendered it on March 22 had been very thorough, and the Russians had had no time to repair the damage. It was, therefore, in no condition to withstand the enemy's massed attack, supported as it was by numbers of guns of heavy calibre. From a military point of view its recapture by the Austro-German forces was of far less importance than its original capture by the Russians, when the garrison of 126,000 men fell into their hands. But the second fall of Przemysl has a special significance for the enemy. It is a valuable landmark for measuring the extent of their eastern advance, and it brings once more under their control the important oilfields of Galicia. For the Russians it means the thrusting back of their line to Lvoff, on which the Germans and Austrians are now concentrating their attention. So far the main object of the enemy, the piercing of the Russian line, has completely failed. Our Allies have fallen back before an onset which they saw no prospect of resisting. Each mile they have covered represents for them a strengthening of their line, for the enemy additional difficulties of communications. It has not been possible for the Austro-German forces to maintain their original momentum all along the line of their advance, and we may await with confidence the news that the advance has been everywhere finally checked.

If military operations alone are to bring the war to an end, the effect of the Russians being driven back from the Carpathians must be to prolong the struggle by many months. The secret of the enemy's success has been their superiority in heavy artillery. Russia is now learning what has gradually been borne in upon her Allies in the West, that for some time to come the question of munitions resolves itself into one of the supply of 16-in. howitzers. In the present condition of the war a more mobile weapon has little chance against these formidable engines, and for the next phase in the struggle it would appear that we must wait patiently until the Allies are supplied with a sufficient number of large howitzers to give the British and French gunners something like a reasonable opportunity of showing once more their individual superiority over the enemy.

The improvement in King Constantine's condition, reported in our last issue, has, unhappily, not been maintained during the past week. Dangerous fluctuations in the course of the illness have manifested themselves, and the only consolation that an anxious Greece can allow herself is that the latest bulletins report a more favourable turn. A telegram to *The Times* states that although the country is within a few days of the General Election, little interest is taken either in domestic or foreign politics. The theatres, it is added, are closed and the sole topic is the King's illness. In such circumstances it was evident that M. Venizelos could not carry out his intention to retire into seclusion in a foreign country, and a telegram now states that he was expected back in Athens before the elections. The King's illness has fortunately obscured the difference of opinion which had arisen between the ex-Premier and the Crown. At the same time it will have reminded the Greeks that, if they allowed the services of M. Venizelos to be lost to the nation, they were in danger of being left absolutely leaderless at one of the most critical periods in their history.

The invasion of Albania by Serbia may be regarded as justified from a military point of view by the capacity of the Albanians, under Austrian instigation, to administer pin-pricks across the Serbian frontier. They were last reported to be two days' march from Skutari, while a second column was following a more southerly route in the direction of Durazzo. The question of Albania, which not very long ago was in the forefront of European politics, has almost entirely disappeared as a problem of any but local interest. For a period the Albanians were given an opportunity to substantiate their claim to recognition as a political entity. They quickly revealed the fact that they were entirely devoid of the least capacity for self-rule, and it did not please

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the Powers of Europe to enable their nominee ruler to establish his authority over his subjects by force of arms. With the outbreak of the war the short-lived experiment came to an end, and the responsible seniors of Dame Europa's family washed their hands of this refractory younger member. There is no need at this stage to speculate on the ultimate fate of the territory known as Albania. Some is already in Greek hands; Italy possesses Valona, and the Serbians are marching on Skutari. The Italian blockade is said to have caused famine in the country, but the first thing to be starved out is clearly to be Austrian and Turkish influence.

The Turkish menace in Southern Mesopotamia has been very satisfactorily disposed of for the time being. In the second week of April the enemy delivered almost simultaneous attacks on Kurna, Shaiba (near Busreh), and Ahwaz on the Karun River. These attacks were repulsed, but the Turks remained established in Persian territory, and at no great distance from Kurna. About the middle of May a punitive expedition was despatched to deal with a number of hostile Arab tribes in the country between the Shatt-el-Arab and Karun Rivers. These operations were followed up by a combined naval and military attack on the early morning of May 31 against the remaining hostile force in position about a couple of miles north of Kurna. The position occupied by the Turks was seized by midday, and the enemy fled, leaving 16-pounder guns, complete with ammunition, and nearly 250 prisoners in our hands.

The complete collapse of the Turks encouraged our forces to press on. Continuing their advance up the Tigris on the following day, they found the camps at Barhan and Ratta evacuated, and the enemy were sighted retreating in steamers and native boats. The same evening a point a few miles north of Ezra's Tomb, some thirty-three miles north of Kurna, was reached by the main column, after further captures of guns and prisoners had been effected. But a small force under General Townshend, accompanied by Captain Nunn, R.N., and Sir Percy Cox, had already been despatched on board the "Comet" and a few small launches to follow up the Turks. When this force reached Amara, on June 3, the entire garrison of the town, numbering over a thousand, including the Civil Governor and the commandant of the Turkish forces, surrendered. In the meantime a second column, under General Gorringe, operating from the Karun River, had been driving the remnants of the Turks out of Persian territory. The advanced guard of the latter entered Amara shortly after its occupation, and were made prisoners; the remainder, estimated at about two thousand, fled, leaving a heavy gun in our hands.

The result of these operations is that Amara is now occupied by us in force, we have captured, in addition to a dozen guns, eighty Turkish officers and 2,000 of the rank and file, and the whole country south of Amara may be regarded as cleared of any hostile bodies capable of menacing our positions. No mention has been made so far in the official statements of the Sheikh Ghadban, whose headquarters have been in the past at Amara. The Turks have relied upon his hostility to the loyal Sheikh of Mohammerah to supplement such forces as they have been able to spare for Mesopotamia. If, as seems probable, he has shared in the discomfiture of the Turkish troops, it ought to be possible to win over to our side all the Arab tribes in this region. They will have witnessed the complete disorganization of the Turks, and will, perhaps, have been impressed by the rapid success of the British advance. Another satisfactory feature of the operations is that all but one of the Germans with the Turkish forces have been accounted for. Three are prisoners, and two were killed by marsh Arabs. The fate of the sixth is doubtful, says the official statement.

The collapse of the Turkish operations in Mesopotamia is a measure of the extent to which the Porte finds it necessary to concentrate the whole of its attention on the defence of the Dardanelles. We know also that the major part of the Turkish forces have been withdrawn from Sinai and Syria to assist in that defence. It is probable, therefore, that practically the whole of Turkey's armed forces will sooner or later be found in the neighbourhood of the Sea of Marmora. This circumstance will add to the difficulties of the Allies' task in forcing the Straits, but it will facilitate the elimination of Turkey as a belligerent when once the Narrows have been passed.

Prince Sabah-ed-Din has again telegraphed to the Sultan to urge that Turkey should cut her losses and make her peace with the Powers of the Triple Entente. The advice, it is to be feared, is addressed to the wrong quarter; for as long as Enver Pasha and his German masters control the situation Turkey will remain impervious to the wisest counsel. Even more eloquent of the disaster in store for her than Prince Sabah-ed-Din's prognostications is the assurance with which the partition of Turkey is now regarded as an inevitable result of the war. Speaking this week at the annual meeting of the British Syrian Mission, Viscount Bryce dealt with the future of Syria. He was sure, he said, that the old Turkish régime would never be re-established in that country. Its downfall, he believed, would be welcomed by many Mussulmans as well as by the Christians. What would come in its place, whether a Protectorate under some European Power or a mitigated form of Turkish rule under the control of some European Power or Powers, it was not possible to say, but in any case a new state of things would arise which would offer far greater opportunities for the development of the country than had existed at any time since the Arab conquest. While Lord Bryce was speaking in London the Italian Minister to Athens was making some outspoken remarks on the subject of Asia Minor. The future equilibrium of the Mediterranean, he said, might impel Italy to render her occupation of Dodecanesos permanent. In the event of a partition of Asia Minor, Italy could not remain impassive. But Asia Minor, he cheerfully assured his audience, was large enough for all appetites.

The reason for the change in the constitution of the Egyptian Cabinet, reported last week, is now given by our Cairo Correspondent. In view of what is vaguely referred to as an "affaire" with which his name was connected, Ismail Pasha Sidky, Minister of Wakfs, found it necessary to hand in his resignation to the Prime Minister. His post has been filled by the appointment of Ibrahim Pasha Fathy, a general in the Egyptian Army, who has done good work as Mudir of Assiut and Gharbia. Our correspondent speaks of it as a matter of great regret that circumstances should have arisen to render imperative the retirement from Government service of Ismail Pasha Sidky, whose talents marked him out for a career of special brilliance. The incident is not without parallel in other countries, and the Egyptians may derive what consolation they can from the reflection that their Government must claim from its members as high a standard of personal conduct as would be required in any other Cabinet.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Cairo, May 23.

The Sultan and Alexandria.

To-day H.H. the Sultan officially took up his residence for the summer in Alexandria. He was accompanied from Cairo by his household and the Ministers and the Financial Adviser, and will reside at Ras-el-Tin Palace, which has undergone considerable alterations internally and has been completely refurnished. Owing to the present situation in Europe the Sultan will remain in Egypt throughout the summer; but even if normal conditions were existent it is quite unlikely that he would have left the country for a summer holiday, as it is known that he strongly disapproves of the habit which Egyptians, led by the late sovereign, have of late years indulged in, of rushing off to Europe immediately the hot weather sets in. His Highness has on more than one occasion recommended his subjects to spend the summer season at the seaside in their own country, and he has determined to set them the example. In the case of the sovereign, an occasional visit—though not necessarily one of long duration—to Europe in order to pay his respects to his suzerain may be politically expedient, in the case of ailing Egyptians, an annual cure at an European watering-place may be imperative, but beyond that there is no more justification for the wholesale estival flight from Egypt that the natives of the country have in past years indulged in, than there is for the growing tendency to send Young Egypt to Europe to complete its education. Both practices are detrimental to the country in general, and to the persons concerned in particular, and the Sultan, who above all things has the interests and future of his people at heart, has very wisely given expression to his disapproval of these practices, and has shown them a lead that they perforce must follow.

The High Commissioner.

Continuing his series of visits to the provinces, Sir Henry McMahon proceeded to Upper Egypt at the end of last week. The High Commissioner first visited Assiut, where he was received by the Mudir and chief officials. He held a reception of the notables at the Mudiria, and afterwards inspected the Provincial Council's Girl School, the Ophthalmic Hospital, the Sporting Club (which he inaugurated), the Museum of Saied Bey Kheshaba, and the Industrial School. Sir Henry then continued his journey to Minia, where he inspected the various local institutions, and subsequently returned to Cairo. The High Commissioner is understood to have expressed himself as being highly satisfied with his tour. During his stay at Assiut he was not able to visit the American College owing to the preparations that were in progress for the celebration of its jubilee, but he inspected the students, and deputed Mr. Ronald Storrs, the Oriental Secretary to the Residency, to represent him at the festivities, which took place this week. On his return to Cairo the High Commissioner, accompanied by Lady McMahon, visited some of the military hospitals, including those at the Citadel and Gezira, and distributed cigarettes to the men, who much appreciated this kindly act.

The Hospital Question.

Since I last wrote there has been a marked lull in the arrival in Cairo of wounded from the Dardanelles, and the congestion in the local hospitals has been very much relieved owing to the despatch home of all those who will not be fit to return to their duties within two months, and to the discharge of many who are already cured. The hospital ships still continue to bring wounded to Alexandria and Port Said, but it is understood that the reduction in the numbers sent to this country is due, first, to the accommodation available at Malta, and, secondly, to the establishment of a field hospital on the Gallipoli Peninsula. Sir Courtauld Thomson, Chief Commissioner of the Red Cross Society in the Mediterranean, has now arrived, as also has Sir Frederick Treves, who will report on the hospital requirements of Egypt. The Military Hospitals Fund, which was started in order to assist the various hospitals, has issued a summary of what it has been able to do up to date. So far £E4,000 have been collected. Of this about £E3,000 have been earmarked, and assistance has in some form or another been given to every institution, including a grant of 5,000 francs to the hospitals where the French wounded are being cared for. The nursing problem, which at one time threatened to be serious, has been solved, thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor, and it is announced that twenty-four trained nurses are now on their way out. Much, of course, depends on the number of wounded that may be sent to this country in the near future. It is to be expected, however, that Egypt will be used as a hospital centre for some time to come, and, as the hot weather is now setting in and will entail additional discomfort for our wounded and sick, it is to be hoped that the funds at the disposal of the committee will soon be substantially increased, so as to enable it to meet all the calls that are being made on it for assistance to render the lot of our men somewhat easier. As it is, the committee has done wonders with the little it has succeeded in collecting.

A Ministerial Change.

For the past fortnight there has been much talk in semi-official circles of a change in the constitution of the Cabinet, rendered necessary by the discovery of an "affaire," in which one of the Ministers was understood to be implicated. The mystery has now been solved in part by the resignation of Ismail Pasha Sidky, the Minister of Wakfs, and by the appointment of Ibrahim Pasha Fathy as his successor. Although in his letter of resignation Sidky Pasha refers to certain imputations made against him, nothing has been divulged officially, but it is understood that those imputations were of neither a political nor a financial nature. Sidky Pasha, who is but forty years of age, is one of the most intelligent and capable officials this country has produced of late years. A great career, culminating in the highest post in the gift of the Sultan, was prophesied for him, and it is a matter of great regret that circumstances should have arisen to render imperative his retirement from Government service. His successor, Ibrahim Pasha Fathy, who holds the rank of Ferik (General) in the Egyptian Army, has done excellent work as Mudir of Assiut, and lately as Mudir of Gharbia; he should fill with dignity and success the new post to which he has now been called. It is to be noted that, although the Wakfs portfolio was only created eighteen months ago, Fathy Pasha is the fourth holder thereof, his other predecessors having been Heshmet Pasha, who retired with Said Pasha, and Moheb Pasha, who went for a "rest" to Italy when the Khedive's defection took place. One curious coincidence about the two last Ministers of Wakfs is that both of them entered the Cabinet as Minister of Agriculture, and were translated thence to the Wakfs. I do not mean to infer that there is in this any question of cause and effect; I merely draw attention to the coincidence. It is sincerely to be hoped that Fathy Pasha will succeed in breaking the spell of ill-luck that seems to have dogged the footsteps of his predecessors.

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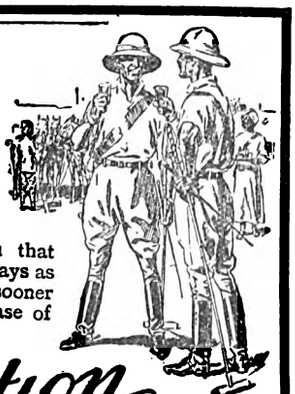

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ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, May 30.

The King's Illness.

The last few days have been most anxious ones for Greece. The grave development of the King's illness has filled the whole country with alarm, and has so absorbed the attention of the Government that the administrative machinery, as well as all political activities, have been almost entirely at a standstill. As there is no law nor constitutional disposition in Greece by which, in case of the King's illness, his power can be delegated to a Regent, or to the Heir Apparent, the Government was obliged, in the transaction of its most urgent business, to promulgate decrees in the name of the King without having his signature, which will have to be added later when his health is restored.

In consequence of his victories in the two recent Balkan wars, King Constantine has earned the gratitude and devotion of the people, who are firmly convinced that he is the one indispensable head of the army, and that, considering also the importance of his prestige as King, he is the only man to whom the leadership of the army could unhesitatingly and with full confidence be confided in time of war. This is one reason for the popular anxiety caused by his present illness.

The Alarming Phase.

People who are in the habit of seeing the King frequently affirm that he had had a bad cough for a long time. This seems to show that the prevalent pleurisy which ultimately developed was the result of a chill from which he had been suffering for some time. The doctors hoped that one incision would have been sufficient to give him full relief, but the mischief continued, and complications arose, with symptoms of a septicaemia necessitating a further incision. Even this was not successful, and the poison seemed to be spreading through the system. It was then decided to send for Professor Krauss, one of the leading doctors in Berlin, and Professor Eiselsberg, the renowned lung specialist of Vienna. In the meantime the King's condition became worse, and he lay in a comatose state.

The Miracle.

People were beginning to lose hope, and it was decided to send for the miraculous Ikon from the island of Tenos. This is a very ancient picture of the Annunciation of the Virgin, which was discovered about a century ago, and to which miraculous powers are attributed. Greek pilgrims in great numbers visit it twice a year, and many claim to have been cured of their maladies, paralysis, etc. The Metropolitan of Athens, therefore, sent for the Ikon, and last Wednesday he carried it at the head of a solemn procession to the Palace. Great crowds followed the procession, interceding with the Holy Virgin for the life of their King. The Ikon was received at the Palace door by the Queen, surrounded by all the Royal Princes and Princesses and by the Ministers of State. She carried it to the King's bedroom. As soon as the King saw the Ikon he raised himself with an effort, and, resting on his elbow, took it, made the sign of the Cross and kissed it with great emotion. At this moment the pocket of purulent matter which was causing all the mischief in his lung opened, and the discharge came away freely. This afforded great relief to his Majesty, who revived wonderfully, and asked for food, tobacco, and a barber. The fever then gradually abated until the temperature was normal again. Everyone realizes that this is a miracle performed by the Holy Virgin. It is said that the Queen has presented a diamond necklace of great value to the Church to which the Ikon belongs, and that as soon as the King has completely recovered, as it is hoped he will, he will attend the service in connection with the return of the Ikon to Tenos. The two foreign physicians arrived in Athens yesterday, and, after examining the patient, they approved of the diagnosis and treatment of the King's medical advisers, and agreed that no further surgical measures should be resorted to. In the bulletin which they published they consider the outlook favourable.

Participation of Italy in the War.

War having been declared between Italy and Austria, Serbia is now relieved from the danger of invasion by Austrian troops, and there is no longer that fear, expressed in certain military circles in Athens, that the Greek army might have to face German and Austrian troops on her northern borders if she decided to abandon her neutral position. In spite of this, the Government does not consider that Italy's entrance into the war will exercise any direct influence upon the attitude of Greece, and, even if it has some direct influence, this will not be the case immediately. On the other hand, the Ministerialist Press tries to reassure public opinion by affirming that the Powers of the Entente, and especially Great Britain, will not be disposed to accept the co-operation of Italy against Constantinople, because this would raise questions which both Great Britain and Russia are anxious to avoid. But even if this were not so, continue these Government organs, the compensations accorded to Italy in Asia Minor would in no way interfere with Greek aspirations in that quarter, for Great Britain would not tolerate any extensive Italian influence there. Besides, they add, it will be a question not simply of dismembering Turkey, but of dividing Asia Minor into different spheres of influence. In any case, the opportunity of Greece is not yet lost, and since the illness of the King makes any decision impossible at present, it will be the duty of the Government brought into power by the elections on June 13 to consider the situation, and decide whether it can accede to the request of the Entente Powers and send six divisions of troops to the Dardanelles.

The Venizelist Press is at pains to demonstrate the absurdity of the above assertions, especially in regard to the fate of Asia Minor, and to emphasise the fact that Italy's joining with the Entente Powers makes it very doubtful whether Greece will be able definitely to annex northern Epirus, and dashes to the ground her last hope of securing the Dodecanese. Finally, it argues, a rival Power will be establishing itself in the eastern basin of the Mediterranean, and Greece will lose her sovereignty over the Ægean Sea.

Blockade of the Albanian Coast.

Italy has to-day informed the Cabinet at Athens that the blockade does not extend beyond Aspri Rouga, on the border of Northern Epirus, occupied by Greece, except for a small contested area. Thus for a second time Italy has recognised the Greek occupation of North Epirus.

German Assurances.

As I mentioned in a former letter, since the beginning of the war both Germany and Austria have repeatedly assured the Greek Government that in return for Greek neutrality they would guarantee to Greece her territorial integrity, and that they would be favourably disposed towards her claims on the Dodecanese.

The *Patris* states that those advances have been renewed, and have been favourably received by the present Government. This paper then asks the Government whether Germany has reason to be fully assured of her own territorial integrity, that she should be so ready to guarantee that of others.

The Elections.

The forecasts of the results of the legislative elections, which are to take place on June 13, have assumed rather a different aspect within the last fortnight. The King's illness having been well exploited in favour of the Ministry, public opinion has certainly been influenced to some extent against the Venizelist party. Nevertheless, the situation may still undergo modifications before election day, according to the turn of events, especially at the Dardanelles, and it is generally believed that the Venizelist party will still have a majority.

The enthusiastic popular demonstrations in favour of M. Venizelos on the occasion of his resignation, and the hearty solicitude shown for the King during his illness, seem to show that the people would like to see them reunited and working together again.

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NEWS FROM TURKEY.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Athens, May 31.

Submarine E 11's Exploit.

The presence of British submarines in the Marmora has caused much perturbation in official circles, and when E 11 actually appeared in the port and torpedoed the German steamer Stamboul there was quite a panic in Constantinople, and shops were hurriedly closed. The Stamboul, which belongs to the Deutsche Levante Linie, was lying alongside the quay at Galata, and it is said she did not sink, but was beached off Leander's Tower, but that two lighters were sunk. The police appear to have arrested some of the proprietors of the shops that were closed, for having disturbed public confidence.

State of the City.

The state of the city appears to become more acute every week. No one is allowed now to travel on the Bosphorus steamers, or even go to Haidar Pasha or Kadikeui, unless provided with a police permit, and anyone wishing to leave Constantinople must likewise obtain special permission from the police.

According to latest reports, there is a great scarcity of bread, for, although there is plenty of wheat, the mills are unable to work owing to want of coal. What little coal remains is reserved for the navy and for running military trains.

Troops can no longer be sent to Gallipoli by sea owing to the danger of submarines, and are, therefore, now being conveyed part of the way by train and have to perform half of the journey on foot. The ordinary train services are consequently suspended.

The Goeben is in her usual berth in Stenia Bay. All the other warships have gone inside the Golden Horn to escape attacks by submarines.

The captains of the two Turkish torpedo boats who ventured down the Dardanelles and escaped the vigilance of the Allied Fleets have been decorated by the Sultan with the Order of Merit for their successful attack on the Goliath in Morto Bay at the entrance of the Straits.

Influx of Refugees.

In addition to the wounded soldiers who continue to be sent to Constantinople, in spite of absence of accommodation for them, shelter has now to be found for refugees, who are flocking into the capital from towns and villages in the Dardanelles. All empty houses are, therefore, being requisitioned without any ceremony, either for refugees or wounded, and bedding and linen are being seized. It is distressing to contemplate the state in which the British residents will find their houses on their return.

Numerous shops have been closed in Constantinople owing to the lack of business.

The feeling against Europeans is very bitter, and arrests are made on the slightest pretext.

An assault appears to have been made on the Italian Ambassador by a junior army officer, but the papers announce that the incident has been satisfactorily closed.

Smyrna and the Provinces.

The inhabitants of all Armenian and Greek towns and villages in Thrace and in Asia Minor are suffering great hardships, being persecuted and ill-treated by the Turks.

There is not much change in the situation at Smyrna, excepting that the practical stoppage of the train services makes it difficult to bring in grain from the interior. Coal is very scarce and is being exclusively reserved for the military trains. Petroleum in Smyrna, as well as in Constantinople, is very scarce and expensive.

A blockade of the coast from the Dardanelles as far as Samos has been declared.

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ROUMANIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, May 22.

Russo-Roumanian Negotiations.

The development of events in Italy has been observed with close attention here, and it was generally thought that Roumania would follow the Italian lead. Yet to-day, after months of agitation on the part of what may be called the "action" party—consisting of the entire Parliamentary Opposition, a large part of the Government, and seven-eighths of the people—and tergiversation and procrastination on the part of the "passives"—consisting of M. Bratiano and his followers and one-eighth of the public—things are no more advanced than they were last September.

The *Universul* gives an account of the situation to-day and of the events that have led up to it, which is generally considered as particularly well-informed. According to this account, the negotiations between Roumania and the Triple Alliance have become more precise in tone. M. Diamandi, the Roumanian Minister at Petrograd, had some time ago acquainted M. Sassonof with the conditions on which Roumania would take action against the Central Powers, and these conditions stipulated where the frontiers should be drawn in case of victory. As far as can be ascertained, the Pruth was to be the frontier in the Bukovina region, and the Danube and the Theiss to the south and west respectively. These conditions were accompanied by a map, as requested by M. Sassonof. They did not appear to M. Sassonof to harmonise with a preliminary agreement that had been reached a few months earlier betwen Roumania and Russia; and the reply took the form of counter-proposals, which were considered so unacceptable that the Government refused to open discussions upon them.

Yesterday (the account goes on to say) M. Blondel, the French Minister, called upon M. Bratiano, and in the name of the Triple Alliance informed him that the Allies were disposed to make further proposals to Roumania. He indicated—without presenting any special map—what these proposals were, and from what can be ascertained it appears that the suggested frontier in the Bukovina is a line between the Pruth and the Sereth; while with regard to the Banat, the Allies are prepared to reserve a smaller portion for Serbia than was suggested in the Russian counter-proposals. The Government replied that it stood by the conditions formulated in the first instance. That is the situation to-day, and no one can foresee what the result of this new phase will be, for the Government stands firm, and it is impossible as yet to say if the Triple Alliance has said its last word.

M. Bratiano's Critics.

Yesterday evening, when it was more or less generally known what the Allies had proposed, and that M. Bratiano had categorically refused what were, after all, very fair and just offers, murmurs of dissent arose, and this morning the Opposition papers freely criticize the Prime Minister's action, some even saying that he has made a mistake by asking too much and refusing good offers. His conduct, they say, is likely to cost him his position. At mid-day handbills condemning his action were freely distributed in the streets. "To-morrow," these bills say, "our army, hitherto undefeated, must defile in shame before this traitor," and they conclude: "Let us assemble each evening, at seven, in front of the Palace, and call upon the King to do his duty by turning out the Bratiano Government, to give us power to make a big Roumania, and so to wash away the disgrace that has fallen on us." To-night, save for a few loiterers watching the placing of the decorations for to-morrow's holiday, there was no unusual gathering of the kind suggested; but it is rumoured that the anti-Bratiano demonstration is held in reserve for to-morrow's ceremony.

Independence Day Celebration.

The final orders regarding the review on the 23rd inst. in honour of Roumania's Independence Day do not allow of any participation by members of the *corps diplomatique*. It is feared that the presence of the representatives of the Dual Alliance might give rise to "unpleasant incidents."

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SERBIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Nish, May 29.

Negotiations in the Balkans.

From trustworthy sources I learn that the Serbian Government has no knowledge of the negotiations which, it is said, are now taking place between the Russian and Roumanian Governments, but that it is uneasy on account of the statements in the foreign Press that Roumania demands the whole of the Banat, or the greater part of it; and it is feared that this question may create a serious Cabinet crisis in Serbia, and would probably in such case paralyze the action of the Government.

As regards Bulgaria, the efforts on the part of the Powers of the Triple Entente, and latterly more especially on the part of Russia, to effect a renewed alliance between Bulgaria and Serbia are persisted in and more energetically pushed than before, but they meet with but slight response on the part of Serbia. Here the general complaint is that Bulgaria has not ceased intrigues by the employment of *Komitajis* and other means, and this keeps up irritation and ill-feeling. Further, the whole population, and more especially the military party, are strongly opposed to any important concessions in Macedonia, and it is believed that Bulgaria's demands embrace a wide field; and that, therefore, in present circumstances the chances of the two countries coming to an understanding are infinitely remote.

The Serbian Press continues in its unconciliatory tone, writing against Bulgaria, and now that this country is under the impression that in certain contingencies the whole or greater part of Dalmatia will be ceded to Italy, political, commercial, and military circles have become still more indisposed to listen to suggestions of any sort of concessions whatever from Serbia as compensation to Bulgaria. The peasants and the people in general, influenced by the tone of the Press and guided by the sentiments of the higher classes, also betray an aversion against the cession of any of the newly acquired territory.

Alleged Bulgarian Intrigues.

Concerning the accusations that Bulgaria continues to intrigue against Serbia, the following statement, taken from Serbian official documents, will serve as an example:—

Everyone knows of the chaos which reigns in Albania. Murders take place there daily. The Bulgarian Press, indefatigable in its attacks and its frequent insinuations against Serbia, goes so far as to accuse us of the assassination of the Kaïmakam of Podgradetz. The *Narodni Prava*, the Bulgarian Government organ, in its issue of May 21, categorically affirms, without any proofs, that the Kaïmakam, Etheme Bey, is a Serbian sacrifice. Nevertheless, all Podgradetz knows that between Etheme Bey and Mehmed Bey, commander of the gendarmerie at Podgradetz, there had existed for a long time mortal hatred. The former has sought to supplant the latter. On April 14 Etheme Bey, going the rounds of the frontier, arrived at the Albanian blockhouse of Tousseniclité, and there he was killed by a shot from the gun of an Albanian frontier guard, Mahmoud, the son of the brother of Mehmed Bey, commander of the gendarmerie at Podgradetz. The assassin escaped, and to this day is a fugitive. Thus it is a vulgar untruth to declare that Etheme Bey was lured to a rendezvous in Serbia.

In New Serbia.

Another Bulgarian intrigue, says my informant, is the statement that the inhabitants of the new Serbian territories are discontented with the Serbian Government, and he invokes the journey of M. Jovanovitch, Minister of the Interior, which, it is said, he undertook in order to convince himself of the falsehood of these questions. The official report states that M. L. Jovanovitch has returned from his trip into the interior of Serbia, that he traversed the districts of Tickvesch and of Bregalnitza, and that after full inquiries he was convinced that the situation in these parts was completely satisfactory. I make no comments on the subject.

Bulgaria and the Porte.

It appears from what I gather from high diplomatic quarters that Bulgaria and the Porte are negotiating on the question of compensation to the former, whereby she hopes to obtain without going to war the territories which the London Conference accorded her, but which Turkey wrested from her when in a powerless state fighting against Serbia, Greece, and Roumania. But, even if this report be correct, it is difficult to say how far an accord with Turkey will influence Bulgaria in her attitude in the present European war. Should it be part of a scheme promoted by Germany, then it would signify an intention on the part of Bulgaria not to go to war against Turkey, and consequently not to take any part in the war.

Serbian preparations to enable her to fulfil the part she may be called on to perform have been fully made, and the public are eagerly awaiting the hour that will make known the beginning of coming events in Serbia. The army has been reposing and preparing during the whole of this protracted period of tranquillity since the last fighting.

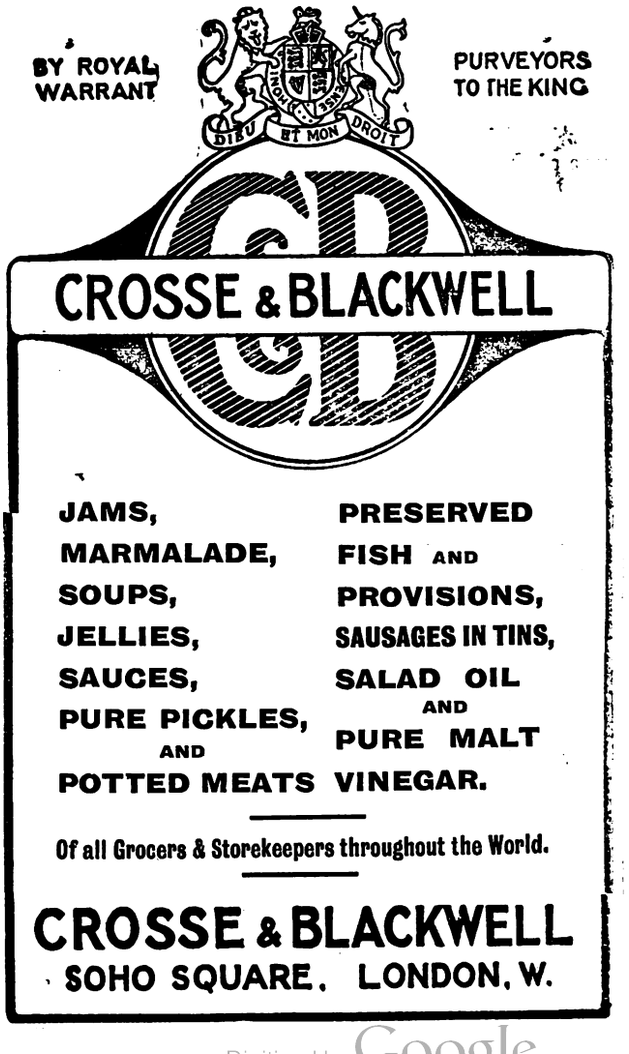
Serbian Successes.

A detachment of Serbian soldiers crossed the Sava near Koupinovo, and surprised a detachment of Austro-Hungarians, taking a sergeant, a corporal, and seven soldiers prisoners, and then recrossed into Serbia. Two days later the Serbian artillery dispersed a battalion of the enemy who attempted to fortify the north-east of Koupinovo. On the same day the enemy attempted to cross the river at the island Tsoklyana, and was repulsed.

SERBIA'S ACHIEVEMENT.

Dr. Seton Watson spoke on Wednesday on the military achievements of Serbia, at a meeting held, by permission of Lady Brassey, at 24, Park Lane, in connection with the London units of the Scottish Women's Hospitals for Foreign Service.

Serbia, he said, was the only one of the Allies who had expelled the enemy from her native soil. Her achievement was that she had struck a blow at the prestige of Austria, she had held tremendous forces at bay which might have been used on other frontiers against the Allies, she had accounted for the best part of half a million Austrians in killed, wounded and prisoners, she had blocked the way between Austria and Salonika and Germany and Constantinople and Asia Minor, she had prevented material and men reaching the Turks, and had prevented Bulgaria being driven willy-nilly into the arms of Germany. Serbia should be supported for political reasons, for humanitarian reasons, for her positive merit, and because she was fighting a war of liberation and for the union of the southern Slav race.



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BULGARIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Sofia, May 25.

Bulgaria and the Entente Powers.

Last week the British Minister here inquired of the Prime Minister, Dr. Radoslavoff, on what terms Bulgaria would be prepared to join the Entente. Dr. Radoslavoff replied quite frankly that the Bulgarian desiderata are: The purely Bulgarian portion of Macedonia, including both the "uncontested zone" and the "contested zone" of the Serbo-Bulgarian Treaty of 1912, and Kavalla, Drama, and Serres; the restitution of the New Dobruja by Roumania, who would retain only Silistria, according to the lines of the St. Petersburg Conference; and the Enos-Midea frontier. If all these were granted by the Entente Powers, said Dr. Radoslavoff, Bulgaria would declare at once for the Entente, and her troops would march immediately against Turkey, the hereditary foe. He added that the Bulgarian Minister in London had already been instructed to give Sir Edward Grey a similar assurance.

Now that the whole of Bulgaria's claims, or desires, have thus been tabled, and are understood to be under consideration by England and her Allies, it is hoped in well-informed circles here that the Entente Powers will shortly make concrete proposals to Bulgaria, and that negotiations will be begun thereon. In that case, their issue will, of course, depend largely upon the future attitude of this country.

The Intervention of Italy.

The news of Italy's declaration of war upon the Central Powers and Turkey created a profound impression here; and all political parties are agreed that the hour has come for Bulgaria to act in order to realise her ideal of national union. Feeling against Turkey is very bitter, as a result of recent provocation by the military authorities at Adrianople in stopping more than one hundred waggons of rice which were passing from Dedeagatch to Old Bulgaria. Most of the waggons contained rice sent from Italy, which the Turks wished to seize as contraband of war, under the pretext that it was destined for Roumania! The Bulgarian Government lodged at Constantinople a very energetic protest, which almost amounted to an ultimatum. Thereupon the Porte gave assurances to the Bulgarian Minister at Constantinople that what had taken place had been done without the knowledge of the Turkish Government; that immediate orders should be given for the free passage of the goods; that an indemnity should be paid for any losses sustained; and that the guilty officials should be dismissed and receive exemplary punishment. But the offence being repeated again, the other day the Prime Minister laid the matter before the Cabinet, and raised the question of eventually seizing the railway line between Kara-agatch (Adrianople) and Dedeagatch.

National Committee's Manifesto.

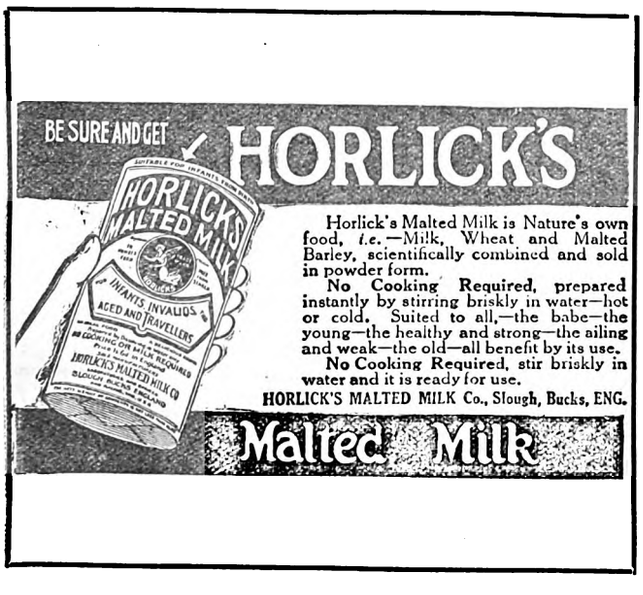
Yesterday the Bulgarian National Committee handed to the representatives here of the Great Powers a memorandum giving a historical sketch of the sanguinary struggles for the liberation of Macedonia from the Turkish yoke, and of the intolerable conditions existing under Serbian and Greek rule at present since the Treaty of Bucharest. The Committee asks the Great Powers to intercede on behalf of the reasonable claims of the Bulgarian nation—"granting freedom to Macedonia and to all Bulgarian lands, in order that they may unite under the sceptre of the common Bulgarian fatherland."

The Interview with Queen Eleanor.

Regarding the interview granted by Queen Eleanor to Miss Ernestine Thom, representing a Chicago journal, about which I sent you some details in my last letter, I have now to report that a disavowal of the political portions of the "interview" has been issued from the Palace.

Festival of St. Cyril and St. Methodisu.

The festival of the Slav Apostles, St. Cyril and St. Methodius (who were natives of Salonika, and to whom the Bulgarian nation owes the introduction of Christianity and the Cyrillic alphabet) was celebrated most solemnly yesterday, both in Sofia and throughout the kingdom. In the observance of this, the greatest of the national festivals and the fête day of national culture the young students took a prominent part. The students of both sexes from the gymnasia, the primary schools, and the University, and representatives of all the educational societies marched through the streets of the capital bearing their flags and banners—those of the Dobruja Society and of the Macedonian charitable societies were draped in black as a sign of mourning for the bereavement of their fatherland. In front of the Palace the processionists were greeted by the King, the Queen, and the Princes and Princesses, whom they cheered with great heartiness. The great feature of the celebrations, however, was a vocal concert given at the Military School in the afternoon by the cadets, with a choir of 200 boys. This was honoured by the presence of the Queen and the Royal children, the Cabinet Ministers and a great crowd of citizens being also present. The day being the name-day of Prince Cyril, all the Cabinet Ministers, members of the diplomatic body, and high officials signed the Palace reception books.



NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Dardanelles and Russian Wheat. June 7.

Replying to a question by Sir John Spear, who asked if the Government had taken any steps whereby, on the opening of the Dardanelles, Russian wheat would be secured for the direct use of consumers in this country, without the interference of any ring,

Mr. Acland said: The Government do not propose to acquire control of wheat from Russia, and they see no reason to anticipate the formation of a ring to deal with it.

Germany's Cotton Supply.

Replying to a series of questions put by Sir J. D. Rees regarding the steps taken to prevent cotton from reaching Germany,

Lord Robert Cecil said that it is hoped that the effect of the prohibition of cotton exports from Egypt will be to prevent Egyptian cotton reaching the enemy through neutral States.

Austria-Hungary and Roumania. June 8.

Lord R. Cecil, in reply to Mr. King, said that his Majesty's Government had no knowledge of any agreement now in force between Austria-Hungary and the Roumanian Government.

SPRING AT SKOPLJE.

A correspondent kindly authorizes us to publish the following extract from a letter which he has received from an Englishman who is now working with Lady Paget's Hospital in Serbia. The letter is dated May 23 and written from Skoplje:—

The weather is pleasant here; we all anticipated great heat in May, but, thank goodness, we are still in glorious spring. We receive little news; should fighting occur in Northern Serbia we may be shifted to Belgrade, a move which would entail on my poor self—storekeeper in Lady Paget's Hospital—an endless amount of trouble. Vast accumulations of stores would have to be sent somehow, and the railway line is in a state of hopeless congestion. First-class passengers have to spend twenty-four hours and more sitting in corridors between Salonika and Nish. Stores for various units are dumped down at Skoplje, and it falls to my lot to forward them. This is often impossible, because people in England are apt to send bales and packing-cases without sufficient address. Time and again I have seen bales of cotton wool lying for days together in pouring rain.

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THE "BRITISH USED ABROAD" POSTAGE STAMPS OF THE NEAR EAST.

During the late 'fifties, at a time when no other reliable facilities for postal inter-communication existed, some 150 branches of the British Post Office were established in certain Colonial and foreign places for the transaction of ordinary post-office business.

Up to certain periods these offices issued the contemporary postage stamps of Great Britain, and the only method of detecting whether the stamps were franked through these offices is by means of the official post-marks upon them, each office having an obliteration device bearing either a distinctive letter of the alphabet, or a numeral, or both. Stamps bearing such post-marks are commonly termed by collectors "British Used Abroad," and as those emanating from the branch post offices established in the Near East are quite plentiful, a few particulars regarding them may be of interest to readers of THE NEAR EAST. And here let it be remarked that these stomps must not be confounded with the specially overprinted or designed stamps subsequently introduced and issued at these offices.

The places of issue and the respective post-marks of the offices usually included amongst those of the Near East are as follows:—

Malta..M (at first), A25 (at a later period).
Gibraltar..G (at first), A26 (at a later period).

Constantinople	C	Suez.....	B02
Alexandria.....	B01	Beyrout	G06
Smyrna	F87	Nicosia (Cyprus)	969
Larnaca (Cyprus).....	942	Famagusta (Cyprus)	975
Baffo (Cyprus)	974	Kyrenia (Cyprus).....	982
Limasol (Cyprus).....	981	Salonika.. A circular place and date stamp.	
Polymedia (Cyprus)	D47		
Stamboul	S		

British Army Corps, Cyprus, 1878-80..D48

Malta, Gibraltar, Constantinople, Stamboul, Alexandria, Suez, Smyrna, and Beyrout possessed in addition circular obliterators indicating date and place.

It may be observed in passing that Austria and Russia had branch post offices in Turkey as far back as the eighteenth century. France established hers in 1812. Then came Great Britain (1832), Greece (1834), Germany (1870), Egypt (1870), and Italy (1873), whilst Roumania during 1896 had a floating postal agency on board a vessel moored in the Bosphorus. Of these, like Great Britain, France, Greece, and Italy have their own types of "Used Abroad," these countries having also employed their respective contemporary stamps prior to the introduction of distinctive postal issues.

The vogue of the "British Used Abroad" began in 1857, and, as regards Turkey, entered upon its eclipse in 1885, when the first British stamps were issued there, which bore upon their faces imprints in Turkish currency of their values. This became necessary because, owing to the difference in the rate of the money exchange, some cute arbitrageurs had been profiting to the extent of 20 per cent. by purchasing stocks of British stamps in Turkey and selling them in England.

Generally speaking, despite efforts to popularise the cult, British collectors ignore all "British Used Abroad," for three principal reasons:—(a) Because to the average collector they are of no consequence, since the stamps neither bear overprints nor possess any inherent distinctiveness from the ordinary stamps in contemporary use; (b) because of the great number of forgeries in existence; and (c) because of the very heavy cancellation marks which invariably deface them. Obviously collectors prefer lightly-cancelled to heavily-cancelled specimens, and it is no infrequent occurrence for collectors willingly to exchange their heavily cancelled "Used Abroad" for others—not "Used Abroad"—more lightly cancelled, well knowing the augmented value attached to the "Used Abroad" by philatelists collecting them.

Almost daily fresh specimens are coming to light, and many more will, no doubt, be found in the musty deed-boxes of the early mid-Victorian era in possession of solicitors, bankers, merchants, and others. Quite recently a certain firm of solicitors were induced to tumble out their correspondence of fifty years ago. The reward was immense from a philatelic point of view and quite considerable from the utilitarian standpoint. To those who would do likewise a word of caution may be given. One postage-stamp which in appearance resembles another may, in reality, not be quite the same. There may be just one of those differences between the two to give them distinctive philatelic values. For example: There are, to begin with, 175 varieties of the common "penny red" of Queen Victoria's day, because of there being as many different numbered plates from which these stamps were printed. No less than ninety-four different plate-numbered varieties have been discovered so far with the Constantinople post-mark, forty-two with that of Smyrna, and fourteen of Beyrout. Apart from these there are also numberless variations owing to certain differences in the perforations, shades of colour, papers, water-marks, and gums. This principle holds good in regard to stamps other than the penny red, and it would therefore be unwise for the successful fossicker to jump to hasty conclusions.

It may perhaps be as well to admit that of all the "British Used Abroad" those of the Near East possess the least value because of their comparative profusion, whilst those of the West Indies are of greater value because of their relative scarcity.

L. LOEWENTHAL.

MIXTURE OF RACES IN EGYPT.

At the Grafton Galleries, on Friday last, the occasion being the June afternoon meeting of the Eugenics Education Society, Professor Elliott Smith, M.D., F.R.S., lectured on the influence of racial admixture in Egypt. Major Leonard Darwin presided.

The Professor said that the effect on civilization produced by migrations and admixture of populations had not been sufficiently recognized. Modern anthropologists generally tended to emphasize the originality of mankind, but originality was one of the rarest of attributes; the great majority of people received their arts, practices, customs, etc., from their ancestors, or learned them by contact with their fellow-men. The history of sixty centuries—the period from which large numbers of human remains had come down to us—was essentially one of the admixture of races and the development of culture consequent on the contact of people of different regions and antecedents; and one of the most striking results of modern anthropological research had been the proof by positive evidence that 6,000 years ago the modern races had already assumed their distinctive physical characteristics. In ancient Egypt there were three distinct races of people, none of them peculiar to the country. The first, the proto-Egyptians, were the aborigines; it was they who began the Egyptian civilization. They were part of a race spread through the countries round the eastern Mediterranean, south-eastern Arabia, and India, and differing but very little from the people around the western Mediterranean. This type of man had a long head, a rather small, flat nose, and a weak jaw. Another race that came into Egypt from the north were called by anthropologists Armenoid. These were men with broad or roundish skulls, flat at the back, a high and narrow nose, and a square and powerful jaw. In their faces and persons they were more inclined to plumpness than the proto-Egyptians. The Armenoids were a notably powerful and energetic race. Mingled with other races, they had spread over a large part of the earth's surface, going as far even as New Zealand. Almost every people that showed any aptitude for maritime adventure had an Armenoid admixture. The inhabitants of the highlands of central Europe were largely Armenoid.

In ancient Egypt people of this race intermarried with the Egyptian upper classes, and the evidence of the skulls was that some of the greatest kings were of a mixed or even purely Armenoid type. About 600 B.C. the distinction between the upper and lower classes in Egypt was wiped out, and from then until the present day there had been no line of separation between them. Skulls at different periods showed an intermingling of races ending in what might be called a reversion to type, but this was rather the result of the intermingling of a small alien element with a much more numerous aboriginal population. To-day, if skulls of modern Egyptians were examined from such regions as Upper Egypt or the Fayoum, they were found to conform more and more to those of the aboriginal Egyptians of 6,000 years ago.

The third element that had affected the Egyptian population was negroid. At a time even earlier than the coming of the Armenoids people of the black race began to be introduced into Egypt from the south, chiefly as women slaves, and about the same time as the Armenoid influence began to wane this negroid element began to exert a potent influence. Thus the fact was accounted for that the modern Egyptian showed but little of the originality or inventiveness of his ancestors. That inventiveness and originality had been largely due to the stimulating presence of a race that had now been absorbed, while such influence as it might continue to exercise was neutralized by the infiltration of black blood from the south.

An interesting discussion followed. Replying to one of the points raised, the lecturer said it was assumed by most modern ethnologists that it was a natural thing for man to build himself a stone house, weave cloth, and so on, but really it was an extremely unnatural thing for man to do any work that he was not compelled to do. A study of the habits of any primitive people showed their whole activity as taken up by the pursuit of food or other necessaries of existence. It was an altogether artificial thing to engage in the arts and crafts which we considered essential parts of our civilization, and wherever we found a people resorting to such practices we could find that those arts and crafts had been introduced from somewhere else, and that somewhere else was ultimately Egypt.

FOR INSURANCES OF ALL KINDS.
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THE GENERAL INSURANCE OFFICE OF EGYPT.
ALEXANDRIA: 5, RUE AVEROFF.
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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

SERBIA AND THE SERBS.*

"The story of Serbia," writes the author, "ill known as it is to the majority of English people, is a record that might well move a man to tears or to curses; it might send him to his sword or to his knees. Battered about as a buffer State between the hosts of the Ottoman Empire and Austria or Hungary, with constantly alternating dangers from Bulgaria and Greece, the land of Serbia has suffered and sinned through years of varying fortune. The pitiful tragedies of its royal houses and the hideous lists of political assassinations have brought the kingdom under the bitter condemnation of the more highly cultured European States. Reprehensible and criminal as some of these *coups d'état* have been, the treatment meted out to the Serbians by the Great Powers of Europe has not been beyond reproach. Treaties have, on more than one occasion, been framed with a diplomatic forgetfulness of Serbian claims, which fact has been exasperating to a brave people, who had paid the price of consideration with the blood of its sons."

Mr. Church proceeds to deal with the ethnographic problem frequently analysed in THE NEAR EAST, and then states the object of the book he has written. Its purpose is "to trace, if possible, the leading events in the history of the purest Slavonic race in the Balkans, and by so doing to elucidate the principles which have led to its present honourable position among the nations." The object, we think, has been well achieved. It is modest and yet, in spite of its modesty, or rather because of it, the volume will appeal to that large class of readers in the British Isles whose knowledge of Serbia and the Serbians is limited, and who nevertheless wish to acquaint themselves with a people who are among the bravest, most democratic, and independent of any in Europe. Their history is a stage of daring deeds and tragedies, of glowing legends and epics that have scarcely a rival in the West, of mighty heroes and fairer patriots forever combating invaders and traitors, of humble peasants singing their national songs of valour and instilling in the minds of the young the record of glorious triumphs over the encroaching foe. In the book under review the class of readers appealed to will be able to assuage their thirst for knowledge.

In simple words Mr. Church examines the origin of the Southern Slavs, and, basing himself on the theories of Dr. Peisker, shows how the Slavs in the north, following in the wake of the nomadic Goths, settled in the fields vacated by them, ever gradually approaching the warm waters of the Adriatic. Those were the pre-Christian days of folk-lore and hero-worship, of myths and superstitions that still linger in the memory of peasants and hillmen, and have done more to mould the peculiar characteristics of the nation than centuries of Western culture. John Vladimir, saint and ruler, emerges from the mists of time, just as a beech trunk grows out of the mist on a lonely hill, only to be swallowed up again in the wake of the wanderer. Similarly does Stephen Voislav appear and disappear, and we pass on to the growth of Serbia, with its more tangible figures, such as Stephen Nemanya and Proventchani, who lived long enough to see their kingdom acquire an international status in the political maelstrom of those days. Then came the more glorious period of the Urosh, during whose reign the Tartars first emerged out of the East into, or along, the valley of the Danube. But a still more glorious epoch was dawning for the Southern Slavs, and its symbol is to be found in the acts and deeds of the Great Tsar, Stephen Dushan, the "Throttler" (circa 1350).

The study of the character and deeds of Stephen Dushan leave the mere student with a series of vague impressions, in which there appears at one time a mighty warrior with the loftiest patriotic ideals, at another time an unscrupulous soldier of fortune, and yet again an almost mythical hero whose deeds have been sung by countless bards, and whose very name is his nation's most splendid battle-cry. Perhaps it is in this last rôle that he has best served his people. With King Arthur and Roland of Roncevalles, he takes his place as the paragon of heroic virtues to which each successive generation of his countrymen has looked for inspiration and for courage. The mere recital of such a man of deeds is a poor substitute for those mighty epics which have been heard round many a Serbian camp-fire on the eve of tremendous conflict. To the mind that is coldly analytical, however, it is satisfactory to learn that the wealth of panegyric has a solid substructure of facts. So unbroken was his series of victories that he conceived the ultimate idea of winning for himself the imperial throne at Constantinople, and so reigning in unhampered supremacy over a Serbia that should embrace the whole of Eastern Europe.

At the doors of Constantinople death overtook the Great Tsar, and with him departed the greatness of Old Serbia. Its glory waned with the irresistible oncoming of the Turk, until finally, on the plains of Kossovo, the "Field of Blackbirds," it was nigh strangled, and, in spite of the valiant attempts made to save her by men like Milosh Obilitch, the two Lazars, Stephen Tvrtko, and John Hunyadi, the Turkish bonds tightened about her throat.

The spirit of the people was not broken, however. It breathed freely in the mountains of Montenegro, and it smouldered in the valleys of the Drin and the Morava, kept alive ever by the singing of those tremendous epics which are the pride of Serbian literature. It was centuries before freedom from the Turkish yoke dawned, but it did so at last, after many vicissitudes and blood-stained pages of national tragedy. Even in our days the first Balkan War was nothing if not the completion of the Serbian ideal, namely, the liberation of all Southern Slavs from Ottoman rule. Another enemy had, however, arisen to the north; the struggle between the two—between the small country fighting for its freedom and the huge giant bent on destroying it—became imminent, and in its wake followed the great European War.

Mr. Church has followed the whole trend of Serbian history with commendable lucidity, and has narrated the principal happenings in an easy style that ought to do much to popularise in England our little but valorous ally in the Near East. Incidentally be it remarked that a skeleton map would have enhanced the value of the work.

* "The Story of Serbia." By Leslie F. Church, B.A. (Kelly. 1s. net.)

BOOKS FOR OUR SOLDIERS.

The Camps Library is doing a fine work in sending out books, magazines, and papers to our soldiers in camp, whether at home, in Egypt, up the Persian Gulf, in India, on the Continent—to all parts where our soldiers are to be found. From an eloquent appeal for still more books for distribution which has reached us, we give the following extracts:—

"All through the long winter the letters of acknowledgment and thanks for the books given by the public and sent out to the front were the same—'so much spare time in the billets when the men are resting and have nothing to do.' But these last days a new phase comes constantly into the flimsy paper letters, written in faint pencil (these letters which we all know so well, and which every woman's heart is aching to get from her own dear lad, all through these long, long days), and the phrase is this. It is reiterated in almost every letter just now; it varies very slightly: '. . . Send us more books. We want them more than ever now. They help us to forget the horrors of the battlefield and all that we have seen. . . .' Books to enable the men to spend a quiet hour without their thoughts dwelling always on the horrors and scenes through which they have passed.

"Need more be said? It is such a little thing to pack and send a few of the books that are lying unread about the house, but it is no little thing to help 'Them'—our dear 'Them'—out there, in any way we can. And sending books is assuredly one very real way, and a way that is open to everyone, for many folk who are in these days prevented by financial circumstances from giving in cash can give in kind, and nearly everyone has a few books put away on shelves, read by no one in the house. . . .

"With so many different units asking for books, the supply required is really vast, and this supply depends entirely on everybody's generosity and willingness to help.

"The books most needed are novels of every sort and kind, stories of sport and travel, detective stories, magazines . . . illustrated weeklies (as up to date as possible), old yellow backs, paper novels, and above all 'Sevenpennies,' those little books that hold between their scarlet covers the best of modern fiction."

The appeal, which is headed "Please!" concludes:—

"Hence the word 'Please.' Please, you who read this paper, whether in house or train or office, send all the books you can spare, be it two or three books, be it books by the hundredweight, send them carriage paid to "THE CAMPS LIBRARY, 22, EARL STREET, WESTMINSTER," and the sooner they are sent the sooner will the men who ask for something to take their thoughts just for a short time off the horrors of war get what they are asking for.

AN IMPORTANT NEW BOOK ABOUT EGYPT.

By BARON DE KUSEL (Bey),

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AN ENGLISHMAN'S RECOLLECTIONS OF EGYPT. 1863 to 1887.

With an Epilogue dealing with the present time, 1914.

With thirty-two illustrations and a map.

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JOHN LANE: THE BODLEY HEAD, W

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

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

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

"UNION WITH GREECE."

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—For many years the question of the future of Cyprus has from time to time been discussed by all sorts and conditions of men. The Duke of Connaught landed, and union with Greece was shouted. Mr. Winston Churchill paid an official visit to the island, and the same cry was heard. The annexation of the island is publicly proclaimed, and a bishop, as the flag goes up, declares it is a stepping-stone to union with Greece. In the market place and in private houses the rights and the wrongs are perpetually discussed; arguments on both sides are brought forward and persisted in *ad nauseam*.

May I, with your permission, put the matter in a nutshell? Before the outbreak of the present war it was possible to admit that there was something to be said on either side. That position must now be altogether abandoned, and union with Greece be indubitably pronounced impossible.

On the conclusion of peace, France, Russia, and Great Britain will reconstruct the map of Europe and the map of a portion of Asia. Granted that the British Government were willing and anxious to cede Cyprus to Greece, France and, probably, Russia would decline to ratify the agreement. France, in possession of Syria, would not allow Famagusta Harbour to fall into the hands of a country whose Queen is a German and whose power to resist aggression was small. Famagusta in the hands of Germany would be a standing menace to Beyrout and Port Said. Hence union with Greece is impracticable.—I am, etc.,

GEORGE L. HOUSTOUN.

Kyrenia, Cyprus, May 20, 1915.

FOR OUR WOUNDED SOLDIERS.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—I am most grateful to you for the parcel of books, which arrived safely yesterday and were at once distributed amongst the men. They were delighted to get something to pass the time, especially in the wards reserved for the less seriously wounded, where they find it very dull waiting about. It may interest the kind contributors of cigarettes to know that the last you sent me were rescued when our hospital was shelled out and brought safely away, also how grateful we were for them when we re-established ourselves in a new place and were filled with patients before our own stores could come up.

There is something else we want very badly, and that is some small iron bedsteads . . . and I am sure if you knew the difference it makes to the comfort of the men you would make a very earnest appeal to your readers for a gift of at least six. As a clearing station, we are not provided with beds, but as we keep the dying and any too ill to travel in safety, such as men wounded in the chest and abdomen, until they are fit to be moved, the gift of a few beds would be an inestimable boon. You can imagine the difference to a wounded man between lying for days on a narrow stretcher and on a bed. A bedstead would be the kindest present I know of, and the most appreciated; of course, they must be portable. . . . . If people only could see the suffering we see and are almost powerless to alleviate!

I have not received a copy of THE NEAR EAST for three weeks, and I do miss it so very much. With many thanks for your kind thoughts for the men.—I remain, etc.,

K. H. WHEATLEY.

No. 3 Casualty Clearing Station, British Expeditionary Force, June 1, 1915.

[The Editor of THE NEAR EAST will be pleased to receive donations for the purchase of bedsteads such as Nurse Wheatley asks for. All contributions will be acknowledged in these columns.]

THE DESTROYERS OF TURKEY.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—When the Young Turks returned to power two years ago the doom of Turkey was sealed. I wrote a letter to this effect in Arabic to the late Mahmoud Shevket Pasha, telling him, concerning Turkey, that "Enver and Talaat Bey have killed her"; and when, looking for an omen, I reckoned the numerical value of the letters composing the Arabic sentence, "Enver ona Talaat Bey Katalaha," it gave me 1331, which was then the Mohammedan year, the present one being 1333.

None of the various subjects of this Power will regret its passing away, not excepting a large proportion of pure Turks, because at best it remained barbaric, dealing in torture, poison, or assassination whenever its rulers feared any dissatisfaction of the people with their acts. It is true that nations have the Governments they deserve; nevertheless the Turks deserved a better fate, especially in these times when they had only to will to became possessors of greater power and a brighter future than any their old barbaric state ever promised them, or any of their immediate neighbours, on personal merit, are entitled to. They represented the remnant of Islamic power, whose moral progress was, under the influence of a tolerant age, getting almost on a level with the highest moral institutions of the world, and they had the support of England and France, provided they administered their Empire justly and humanely. True it is that encroachments, now and then, were permitted to take place on their domain; but it is true also that they held more than they could manage, and common-sense required that they should make better use of what was left them. Unluckily for them the policy of Abdul-Hamid drew Germany to their side, actually as a counterpoise to Russia's influence in the Balkans, but the only result was to have a new master to propitiate.

Abdul-Hamid's misrule continuing under the supposed protection of the German Emperor, the Young Turks' revolution came, and Abdul-Hamid was deposed. England and France applauded the bloodless revolution which was to bring Turkey within the rank of European Powers for the good management and proper development of her enormous resources. Unfortunately again for Turkey, the Young Turks lacked moral power, and showed too much of the animal spirit let loose after being long chained by the ruthless hand of the previous ruler. The Balkan League was the unexpected consequence, and it further curtailed the Ottoman dominion. Constantinople itself was nearly falling before the victorious Bulgars, when England counselled reflection to the Turks, and they called in Kiamil Pasha to arrange peace terms. Dissension breaking out among the Balkan States forming the league against Turkey, peace was easily concluded, and the Turks were even then able to retake from the Bulgarians the town of Adrianople, ancient capital of the Peninsula of Gallipoli.

The struggle for Turkey had been exhausting, and her friends were looking for her for a long term of peace and recuperation, the only danger being from Greece's awakened appetite. But no sooner was Constantinople safe than the Young Turkish fools returned to power, through murder and strife, and because England did not prevent their territorial losses they plotted with disappointed Germany and Austria to bring on a European war, in which France and Russia, the Slavs' protector, would be crushed, and England be placed at the mercy of the Germanic coalition. In this they failed to see that whereas in the past they were masters of their destiny for good or ill, by their new dependence on Germany they lost all independence, and that, whichever way Germany's venture ended, their own fate would be no longer in their own hands, but in Germany's, or her enemies' hands, entirely, so clearly it was that they had nothing to gain and everything to lose by their association with that Power. This much was clear, that all reasonable Turks thought it and said it, telling us to the last that Turkey would not fight on Germany's side, and that her mobilization was a precautionary measure only against Greece. It was logic. But Enver and Talaat Bey had been bought by German gold, and Turkey was sold and delivered to her purchasers, bound hand and foot by a large number of German officers, assisted by the smuggling of the two German warships, the "Goeben" and "Breslau," through the Dardanelles.

To the last moment England, France, and Russia warned Turkey of the consequences of her joining in Germany's quarrel, which was not hers in any sense or way. Sundry friends and writers also advised Turkey to mind her own business and attend to the healing of her internal wounds and recuperation. But nothing availed, and since the army and the police were officered by Germans, the people, who saw the danger, were powerless to move against their oppressors. War being at last declared by Turkey, we now await the consequences. Cyprus and Egypt are meanwhile annexed by Great Britain, pending further developments in other quarters.

These developments can have only one result, which is the final disappearance of the House of Othman from the scene of its past activities. Not only in Europe, but in Asia too. The Italian accession to the Allies' cause and the increased importance of the Asiatic Continent in the hands of Europeans will have the effect of putting an everlasting bar to Greece's unwholesome ambition of becoming an imperial nation and a constant menace to the peace of the Levant. Greece will, in fact, tend to diminish, and be absorbed in the Continent, while Egypt will come to the fore as the new Sultanate of the Arabs and protector of Mecca.—I am, etc.,

ALEXANDER SEFI.

London, June 2.

THE COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE OFFICE OF EGYPT,
23, Sharia Soliman Pasha, Cairo.

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

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1915.	1915.		1333.	5675.
June 11	May 29	Friday	Rejeb. 28	Sivan. 29
12	30	Saturday.....	29	30 Tamuz
13	31	Sunday	30 Shaaban	1
14	June 1	Monday	1	2
15	2	Tuesday	2	3
16	3	Wednesday	3	4
17	4	Thursday	4	5

To-day is the birthday of H.R.H. Princess Olga of Greece, eldest daughter of Prince Nicholas and niece of King Constantine, who was born at the castle at Tatoi in 1904.

Monday is the birthday of H.M. the Queen of Greece, who was born in 1870.

Tuesday is the birthday of H.M. King Oscar of Sweden, who was born at Drottningholm in 1858.

A Larnaca correspondent writes (May 22): "The news of King Constantine's serious illness has caused a great sensation in Cyprus. The people flocked to the churches to offer prayers for the restoration of his Majesty's health."

Writing on May 25, our Sofia Correspondent informs us that on the 31st, in honour of the anniversary of King Ferdinand's accession to the Bulgarian throne, several colonels in the Bulgarian Army were to be promoted to the rank of General.

The *Egyptian Gazette* of May 18 states: The condition of Prince Ahmed Fuad, the brother of the Sultan, is now somewhat improved.

Lord Kitchener had an audience of the King on Tuesday.

H.E. the Roumanian Minister visited the Foreign Office twice on Monday, and called again on Wednesday.

H.E. the Greek Minister visited the French Ambassador on Tuesday.

H.E. the Serbian Minister visited the Russian Ambassador on Tuesday afternoon.

Baron Uxkull, of the Russian Embassy, leaves London this week for the Legation at Athens, to which he has been transferred.

Madame Pashitch, the wife of the Serbian Premier, has arrived in London from the Continent. She is accompanied by Mlle. Pashitch.

Miss Monsie Scott has returned from Serbia. For the present, her address will be Holcombe, Henley-on-Thames.

Prince Troubetskoi, the Russian Minister to the Serbian Court, passed through Bucharest on May 19 on his way to Petrograd.

Writing on May 22, our Bucharest Correspondent reports that a Belgian mission, headed by General C. de Witte, passed through the Roumanian capital on May 18 on its way to Petrograd, bearing decorations that have been conferred upon the Russian Commander-in-Chief and other Russian generals by the King of the Belgians.

We regret to learn that Lieutenant H. Pirie-Gordon, R.N.V.R., who has been doing good work in various parts of the Near East for several months past, and recently took part in the landing on the Gallipoli Peninsula, has been wounded. Happily, the wound is reported to be only a slight one.

Dr. Beatrice McGregor, of Wimbledon, and formerly of Teignmouth, South Devon, is leaving for Serbia, to take charge of a typhus hospital. She is accompanied by Miss Pares, who has for many years assisted her in charitable works in Wimbledon. At a meeting of the Wimbledon Borough Council last week a resolution expressing the Council's high appreciation of Dr. McGregor's action was unanimously agreed to.

Mr. T. D. Cree, one of the best-known and most popular members of the British community in Baghdad, who was last year, with most of the British residents, expelled from that city, is now in Busreh, whither, it will be remembered, he went to endeavour to secure the release of the remaining British in Baghdad. That mission has not yet met with success, and meanwhile the authorities at Busreh, recognizing the value of Mr. Cree's experience of the ways of the country and its people—to say nothing of its former rulers—have appointed him Blockade Officer. The duties of the post are, we understand, various and onerous, but Mr. Cree's friends will have no doubt of his making a success of his new work while waiting the chance to resume more peaceful avocations in Baghdad.

Mr. Maurice Carton de Wiart arrived in Egypt from the Dardanelles in the middle of May, having been wounded in the arm.

Mr. Albert Simmons, whose name appears this week in our directory of English refugees from Turkey, was probably the last Englishman able to leave Constantinople.

Mr. Keith H. Marsham, late secretary of the Khedivial Sporting Club, Cairo, who has been employed in the remount department in England, has been gazetted temporary captain.

Mr. David Rees, the Chief Agent of Reuter's Agency in Egypt, who has been unwell for some time past, is now practically restored to his usual health.

Mr. A. T. Cull, who was formerly agent of the Imperial Ottoman Bank at Minia, Egypt, has been granted a commission as Second Lieutenant in the 3rd Seaforth Highlanders.

An engagement is announced between Captain and Brevet-Major J. B. Wells, who is now serving on the staff of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, and Arabella, eldest daughter of the late W. W. Wright and Mrs. Wright, of Albury, Surrey.

On the 5th inst., at St. Sepulchre's, Holborn, the marriage took place of Maurice Arthur Canney, M.A., Professor of Semitic Languages at the University of Manchester, with Miss Gladys Myddelton, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Frederick Myddelton, of Colne Mead, Rickmansworth, Herts. The Rev. W. A. Cunningham Craig officiated, assisted by the Rev. R. Galer.

Mr. Thomas Usborne, formerly member of Parliament for Mid-Essex, and chairman of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, died on Tuesday at his residence, near Chelmsford, aged seventy-five years. He was the son of the late Mr. T. M. Usborne, of Blackrock, County Cork, and was educated at Harrow and Trinity College, Cambridge. He represented Mid-Essex from 1892 to 1902.

The death is announced of Major George Ramsay Elliot, late of the Seaforth Highlanders, who retired from the Army in December, 1901. He took part in the Egyptian Expedition in 1882, in the Hazara Expeditions of 1888 and 1891, and was present with the relief force in the Chitral Campaign in 1895.

Major A. G. Cowan, 74th Punjabis, attached 53rd Sikhs, Indian Expeditionary Force, who died on active service at Suez on the first of this month, was the officer upon whom the bronze medal of the Royal Humane Society was recently bestowed at a parade of troops at Suez. He was also gazetted major while serving at the same place.

Lieut.-Colonel Francis Alfred Earle, Royal Warwickshire Regiment, who has been wounded at the Dardanelles, is the only son of the Bishop of Marlborough. He obtained his commission in 1889, and saw service with the Nile Expedition of 1898. He was mentioned in despatches and received the brevet of major for conspicuous work at the battles of Atbara and Khartoum. He returned with the rank of major in 1905 and was gazetted to his present rank as a general staff officer of the second grade on the outbreak of war.

Captain Hugh Ince Webb-Bowen, Royal Welsh Fusiliers, who is reported as having died of wounds received while employed with the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, was from 1911 to 1913 attached to the Egyptian Army. For some time he held the appointment of Deputy-Assistant-Adjutant-General. He had also seen service in the South African War.

Captain H. H. Bolton, who died on May 25 from wounds received at the Dardanelles on the previous day, was the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Bolton, of Newchurch-in-Rossendale.

Captain T. A. Abbott, R.F.A., who was killed in action in France recently, was the only son of Lieutenant-Colonel H. E. S. Abbott, D.S.O., R.E., of Park Hill, Bagshot, Surrey. He received his commission in the Field Artillery in 1902, and later served for some time in Egypt.

Mr. J. N. Williams, elder surviving son of Colonel Sir Robert Williams, M.P. for West Dorset, and of Lady Williams, who was killed recently, enlisted as a private in the New Zealand Expeditionary Force and had served in Egypt. He had been recommended for a commission in a home regiment. He was among the first seven of his force to reach the firing line.

Captain Archibald James Hepburn, who was killed in action at the Dardanelles, received his captaincy in the Territorial Forces two years ago. Volunteering for active service in August last, he was sent to Egypt. For some time he was Officer Commanding Troops at Nicosia in Cyprus. He was 33 years old.

Lieutenant-Commander J. C. Wedgwood, R.N.V.R., M.P. for Newcastle-under-Lyme, who was wounded at the Dardanelles, has returned to Borlaston, Staffs. He was in charge of a squadron of armoured motor-cars, but when the entrance to the Dardanelles was reached it was found that they could not be used owing to the difficulty of landing. Lieutenant-Commander Wedgwood and his men therefore mounted their Maxims aboard the "River Clyde" to cover the landing party. Afterwards, he took part in the advance on Krithia and was wounded a fortnight after landing. He was removed to Malta, and thence brought home.

At a meeting of the Royal Asiatic Society on Tuesday, Lord Reay, the president, announced that the Triennial Gold Medal of the Society, presented for special eminence in Oriental research, has been awarded jointly to Mrs. Agnes Smith Lewis and her sister and collaborator, Mrs. Margaret Dunlop Gibson. These ladies are distinguished Orientalists, and are known particularly for their "Studia Sinaitica" and "Horae Semiticae." Mrs. Lewis is the discoverer of the Sinaitic palimpsest containing the most ancient Syrian text of the Gospels; and in conjunction with her sister she has produced the standard edition of the Palestinian Syriac Lectionary (London, 1899) based on two MSS. discovered by herself supplementary to those previously available. Her latest discovery of "Leaves from three ancient Qurans" (Cambridge, 1914) is of importance for the history of Islam.

A Sofia correspondent informs us that on May 21 Mr. Thomas Whitmore delivered in the hall of the American School a lecture on excavations in Egypt, which attracted a large and distinguished audience. Queen Eleonore attended, and amongst others present were Lady Bax-Ironside, Mr. Rice, Secretary of the British Legation, M. Gueshoff, and Professor Kiroff.

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Judge Cator and Mrs. Cator have arrived in England from Egypt, where Judge Cator has been presiding over the sittings of the Alexandria Prize Court.

Mr. W. H. Hill, who is now in England on a short visit, expects to return to Port Said in about a month.

The death occurred in Bucharest on May 15 of M. Alexandre Ghica, Director of the Museum of the Ministry of Commerce. He was a son of the late General J. A. Ghica, and grandson of Alexandre Ghica, reigning Hospodar of Moldavia from 1849 to 1856.

The death is announced of Mr. Charles Colson, late Deputy Civil Engineer-in-Chief to the Admiralty, and formerly Superintendent Engineer of Malta Dockyard Extension.

The annual meeting of the British Syrian Mission was held at the Holborn Restaurant on Wednesday. Lord Radstock presided, and Viscount Bryce was the principal speaker. Amongst others present were:—Dr. Zwemer, of Cairo, editor of the *Moslem World;* Miss Johnston, secretary in Syria; Miss Warburton, Principal of the Beyrout Training College; Miss Lord, from Tyre; and Mr. Charles Walker, the financial secretary. It was stated that two of the lady missionaries, Miss Kendall and Miss Oliver, are still in the Lebanon. Reference to the speech made by Viscount Bryce will be found in our Notes of the Week.

The British Relief Commission to Serbia has requested the Wounded Allies' Relief Committee to undertake the collection of 5,000 pairs of boots and 2,500 overcoats to be distributed among sick and wounded Serbian soldiers, especially among those recovering from typhus, whose original clothes have, of course, to be destroyed. These figures represent only the demands of the moment. So long as there is typhoid in Serbia a continuous supply will be needed. The Committee earnestly trusts that this work will commend itself to the British public, and asks that all money subscriptions should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, T. O. Roberts, Esq. (manager), London, County and Westminster Bank, 217, Strand, and that boots and overcoats, which may be new or second-hand, should be addressed to the Wounded Allies' Relief Committee, Sardinia House, Kingsway, W.C.

Meetings are being held in various parts of the country in support of the British Farmers' Red Cross Fund. The total of the fund is now about £26,000. A large number of agricultural jumble sales are being organised on behalf of the fund, and offers of further assistance in this direction are being received daily. The next £20,000 received will be appropriated for Red Cross work, either in hospitals or some other form, for the wounded of our Expeditionary Force in the Dardanelles, and towards this amount appeals are made for further donations. The secretary's office is Room 5, Tower Bridge Flour Mills, Shad Thames, Bermondsey.

On the afternoon of Tuesday, June 1, the annual general meeting of the Armenian Society was held at 7, The Boltons, S.W., owing to the kind hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Reynolds. Among the distinguished guests were the Right Hon. Viscount Bryce and Lady Bryce, Rev. William E. Rosedale, D.D., Sir Edwin Pears and Miss Pears, Rev. Henry Westall, Lieut.-Colonel Gregory, V.D., and Mrs. Gregory. The Right Hon. G. W. E. Russell, President of the Society, presided on the occasion. Speeches by Viscount Bryce, Sir Edwin Pears, Lieut.-Colonel Gregory and the President were listened to with great interest by the large gathering. The President proposed that a message of deep sympathy with the Armenian people in their troubles and of good wishes for the future be sent from the meeting to His Holiness the Catholicos at Etchmiadzin. The resolution was carried enthusiastically. Tea and talk brought the proceedings to a close. Particulars about this Society of British and American men and women may be obtained from the Hon. Sec., Miss E. J. Robinson, 35a, Elsham Road, Kensington, if a stamped addressed envelope is sent.

Under date of June 7, the Athens correspondent of the *Morning Post* reports:—According to messages from Constantinople, Captain von Müller, the commander of the Goeben, has been recalled from the Turkish service to Berlin, owing to sharp differences with Admiral Suchon, who throws upon Captain von Müller the blame for the serious damage suffered by the Goeben in the recent naval engagement in the Black Sea.

The Egyptian Government has decided to pension off Professor Dinkler, a German subject, who was formerly chief of the stores of the Public Health Department.

A Larnaca correspondent writes: "Nearly 100,000 cigarettes were recently sent from Larnaca to the French and British troops operating in the Dardanelles. The Senior Naval Officer has telegraphed to the High Commissioner thanking the donors. Larnaca has been more generous than other towns in Cyprus, as besides handsome donations sent direct or through the Government to the Red Cross and the Prince of Wales' Fund, subscriptions have also been collected for the Serbians and Montenegrins, and a subscription list has just been opened for the Belgian Relief Fund.

Sir Charles Macara has submitted to the Prime Minister proposals for a scheme of national organisation on the lines suggested by him in a recent communication to the Press. He suggests that a simple form of registration should be delivered to every house and a badge given to all who are doing satisfactory work of any kind, and to others as they take up the work promised. Registration, if not done voluntarily, should be made compulsory within a given date.

Mr. Habib Basta, A.M.I.C.E., A.M.I.M.E., of Sohag, Egypt, has been elected an Associate of the Royal Institute of British Architects. Mr. Basta is the first Egyptian to obtain this distinction, and is now practising as engineer and architect at Gray's Inn, London.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, etc.

The appointment of Mr. James Morgan to be H.M. Consul at Dedeagatch is gazetted.

The appointment of Mr. C. E. Heathcote-Smith to be H.M. Vice-Consul at Salonika is gazetted.

Our Athens Correspondent, writing on May 30, says: M. A. Caclamano, who, after directing the affairs of the Hellenic Legation in Rome with marked success, distinguished himself highly here as Director of Political Affairs in the Foreign Office, has been sent on a special mission to Petrograd, replacing M. Dragoumis, who has resigned in order to offer himself as a candidate at the coming elections.

M. Caclamano's successor here is M. Georges Caratja, who has been Director of the Press Bureau. He has shown much ability and tact in carrying out the duties of that somewhat delicate position, and he carries with him to his new post the best wishes of all journalists, and especially of the foreign correspondents.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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

BIRTH.

BARR.—On June 7, at 1, Wellington Terrace, Berwick-on-Tweed, the wife of John Barr, of Kafr-el-Zayat, Lower Egypt—a daughter.

DEATH.

THOMSON.—On June 4, at Dartmouth, "Daisy" Gertrude Francis Thomson, widow of Arthur Victor Thomson, of Cairo, and third daughter of the late Richard Woodland, of Richmond, Surrey, and Mrs. Woodland, of Southbourne, Bournemouth.

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FRIDAY, JUNE 11, 1915.

GREECE AND NEUTRALITY.

A shadow falls upon the Greek elections fixed for next Sunday. Under the feeling of grave anxiety to which King Constantine's condition unhappily still gives rise, it seems inevitable that the edge must be taken off the keen controversy around which these elections will have to be fought. Yet few elections in Greece can have been fraught with so much significance for the country as those which are to take place on June 13, 1915. For this reason they call for a clear appreciation by the electorate of the issues at stake, and it is essential that not even the national anxiety should be allowed to obscure those issues. M. Venizelos, it will be remembered, went abroad in order that he might avoid any semblance of a controversy with the Crown after he had been denied the reparation which King Constantine alone could give him. His intention at the moment was, without doubt, to retire from politics; but as soon as his followers decided to maintain their organization as an active political party, and to contest the approaching elections, it was apparent that such an intention would be overruled. In view of the King's serious illness, which began almost at the same moment, both M. Venizelos and his followers must have been convinced that they were adopting the right course. His resolve to leave Greece and settle in a foreign country has not been carried out; after a brief visit to Egypt, he returned to Greece and went to Mytilene, but was expected back in Athens before the elections. Circumstances have been too strong for him. If Greece believes in the existence of a lucky star, she may be able to persuade herself that it has not yet been dimmed. The sad illness of King Constantine, for whose recovery Hellenes the world over are now praying, availed more than M. Venizelos' voluntary exile to give a normal constitutional character to the controversy between the ex-Premier and his opponents. It was possible to forget not only the origin of the controversy, but to some extent also the inwardness of it. Politics in Greece have for long turned on personalities rather than on policies, and perhaps for the first time it is well that they should. The country is called upon to range itself on the side of the Venizelists or on that of the anti-Venizelists. When asked for their policy the followers of M. Venizelos reply that they see no need to elaborate one. Their party has stood for the doubling of Greece since 1911, and it stands to-day for the quadrupling of it in the future. As to how and when, they could have given no answer four years ago, and they know no reason for attempting to give one now. In the face of this strong position, it is perhaps no matter for surprise that the anti-Venizelists try to take cover behind the Royal illness on the not very creditable ground that anyone who desires the King's restoration to health must feel obliged to vote against M. Venizelos.

There is little chance, however, of the manœuvre succeeding, for if the Greek political prophets are to be relied upon, the Venizelists can count upon being returned by a substantial majority. If this should be the case, the Allied Governments will do well to guard against the anticipation of any immediate abandonment by Greece of her attitude of neutrality. M. Gounaris' Cabinet, in any case, will probably elect to remain in office until the Chamber meets next month. Even when M. Venizelos, in accordance with the general expectation, is once more in power, he may find it necessary to choose his path carefully. In January he recommended King Constantine to agree to a cession of a small strip of territory to Bulgaria as a *quid pro quo* for Bulgarian support, in order that Greece might avail herself of the offer made by the Triple Entente of a large extent of territory in Asia Minor. Surrender of territory is an unpopular course in any country. M. Venizelos' statesmanship convinced him of the necessity for such a surrender in Greece's case, and he trusted to his personal influence for securing popular acceptance of the *fait accompli*. When the question was submitted through the medium of political opponents to the decision of an ill-informed public, its rejection followed as a matter of course. The popular voice has had time to ratify its objection to territorial concessions of any kind, and if M. Venizelos should be returned to power, his liberty of action must be curtailed to some extent by this veto. Moreover, he may find that the conditions which prompted him in January to recommend the cession of territory to Bulgaria do not hold good in July. It was essential to M. Venizelos' policy that the Powers of the Triple Entente should be prepared to hand over to Greece practically all that part of Asia Minor which lies west of a line from Brussa to Fineka Bay. Since that offer was made, however, there have been important changes in the standard of assistance of which neutral countries are capable. In January, with Serbia threatened with a formidable invasion of Austro-German forces, such help as might suffice to protect the Serbian frontier seemed all that could be asked for from Greece, and in the stress of the moment some excuse might have been urged on behalf of the Triple Entente for offering her a blank cheque to be filled in with the sum total of her national aspirations. To-day not only is Serbia free from the menace of invasion, but the whole armed strength of Italy has been mobilized on the side of the Triple Entente; Roumania, when her present hesitation has been overcome, stands ready to strike a far more powerful blow than Greece could ever strike; while, above all, the Allies have been bearing the heat and burden of the day at the Dardanelles, while Greece has deliberately stood out of a conflict from the issue of which she cannot fail to benefit.

It may well be, then, that M. Venizelos will have to adjust himself to new conditions. His policy, there can be no doubt, will remain the same—to promote the immediate interests of Greece and to assure her future prosperity by seeking for her the opportunity of peaceful development. An accession of territory for Greece which left still exposed one sore in the Balkans, and possibly laid bare another, would mean less than the accomplishment of only half the Venizelist policy. It would stultify the whole policy and impair the claim to statesmanship which M. Venizelos' past record has won for him. He has shown before that he is able to impose his will on his countrymen before they have been able to recognise the soundness of his views; it may be that he will yet be able to override the doctrine of "No territorial concessions," to which the Hellenic people have cynically committed themselves at a time when their one object should be to make any sacrifice for Balkan unity and the interests of the Balkans as a whole. The more difficult his position, the greater the support that he ought to be able to rely upon both from other Balkan States and from the Governments of the Allied Powers. To Bulgaria M. Venizelos has revealed the extent to which he was prepared to meet her wishes for the sake of a mutual understanding. When he returns to power, the Bulgarian Government will have an opportunity of requiting his goodwill. For the Triple Entente the ex-Premier of Greece has probably been an embarrassment, for to his revelations may be attributed the eagerness of Roumania to improve upon the terms she was prepared to accept as compensation for her military co-operation. Much, however, will be forgiven M. Venizelos when the direction of Greek affairs is once more within his grasp. The Powers in the interval have begun to realise how much their policy of aloofness has been responsible for the chaotic state of the Balkans. If they adopt a firm attitude now, they can rely ultimately upon the wholehearted support of M. Venizelos, who could wish for no better *deus ex machina* than the unchallengeable edict of the Triple Entente, or, it may be, Quadruple Entente, enjoining upon Greece a line of action which of her own accord she would never take, but in which she would readily acquiesce under a strong leader.

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NOTES ON THE LEBANON.

By a Former Resident.

Ever since the massacre of the Maronites by the Druses, in 1860, the Lebanon, though still a part of the Turkish Empire, has had a separate government. By treaty the five European Powers (Great Britain, Russia, France, Italy, and Germany) agreed to protect it, and therefore appointed a Mutessarif, or governor. This year, as we know, has witnessed an utter disregard for this treaty on the part of one of the signatory Powers in the attempt to put the province under Turkish rule—which does not surprise us in view of what has befallen Belgium. Possibly this move was prepared for long in advance. In a former number of THE NEAR EAST it was stated: "Aley now dominates Beyrout;" a change, indeed, for Aley was formerly only a summer resort of Beyrout residents, and in no way a political centre. But, passing through the place last autumn, on my way to Beyrout, I noticed a new mosque and a number of Turkish soldiers in the neighbourhood, and possibly these things were an illustration of the saying about coming events casting their shadows before.

To return. The Mutessarif has always been a Christian: if a Syrian, a Maronite; if a European, a Roman Catholic. There have been seven governors in all, five of whom were Syrian and two European. The present Governor (to the best of my belief) is Ohannes Effendi Koyundjian, an Armenian. The appointment is for a period of five years, but the period can be extended, as was done in the case of Naoum Pasha, who held the position for ten years. It is not by any means a sinecure, for the differences of race and creed existing amongst the Lebanese call for the exercise of considerable tact and firmness, and occasionally present unique difficulties. But a strong man, having the welfare of the people at heart and not bent upon his own aggrandisement, could work wonders. Rustem Pasha, the first of the governors, appears to have been the wisest; and under his iron rule Lebanon prospered, and some of the older inhabitants still speak appreciatively of those palmy days, when justice was enforced. Since then, it appears, money has played a considerable part in the matter of the appointment, a rich man being counted "good," and bribery and corruption being the order of the day.

The jurisdiction of the Mutessarif of the Lebanon extends from the south of Tripolis (Tarabulus) to the north of Sidon, exclusive of Beyrout, and covers an area of some 25,000 square miles. The population is 400,000, distributed amongst 600 towns, villages, and hamlets; and Zahleh, the largest of the towns, has a population of 11,000. But, owing to emigration, many villages have been almost depopulated in recent years. The revenues of the province amount to £32,000, a sum which does not cover the expenses of administration. The seat of government is in winter at Ba'abda, six miles south-east of Beyrout, on the railway, and in summer at Bait-ed-Din. The latter place is reached from Beyrout in about nine hours' drive over a very good road. It may be noted that the roads in Lebanon are quite good, very different from those in Beyrout.

In normal times there is no regular military force in Lebanon, only the Gendarmerie, composed of Druses and Maronites, and numbering 100 mounted and 400 unmounted men. The larger towns are ruled by a mudir, the smaller villages by a sheikh. These officials try all minor cases, collect local taxes, and generally supervise all matters relating to the Government in their neighbourhood; but all capital cases are tried either at Ba'abda or Bait-ed-Din.

There is, in ordinary times, at least, no sympathy whatever between the Druses and the Maronites. As a rule they just tolerate one another, and sometimes hardly that, though I know of some rare instances in which Maronites and Druses have entertained respect for one another, and even been on terms of friendship. The Maronites are much more numerous than the Druses in the Lebanon, for, after the massacres, many of the Druses betook themselves to the Hauran. One of the most marked characteristics of the Maronites is their bigotry; another, their exclusiveness. The Druses, though exclusive in their religion, are not so in their social intercourse with others; and they are most hospitable and charming in their manners.

Politically, the Maronites are accustomed to look to France as their natural protector; while the Druses look to Great Britain. It was a great surprise to the Druses to find France was Great Britain's Ally when the present war began, and it is to be feared the surprise was not an entirely agreeable one. As one of them remarked: "The Maronites are too strong in the Lebanon," and they were afraid that in the event of a French occupation they would be compelled to leave the district. One of the reasons for their prejudice lies in the fact that their women are veiled and are not allowed to leave the country, and they fear that Frenchwomen would inculcate too many advanced ideas. They do not trust the Maronites, and therefore do not trust the French; while they do trust Great Britain and know that she would respect their customs. Their fears are, of course, due to sheer prejudice, and, given opportunity and time, they would be banished. With widening intercourse with other nations, they would discover that truth, honour, and uprightness are not the special prerogatives of any one nation.

Although the Maronites and the Druses form the largest and most important portion of the population, there are other sects strongly represented in the Lebanon. The Greek Orthodox Church has 150,000 members, and there are also Latins and Greek Catholics. The two last-named bodies, however, form a very small proportion of the population. The Greek Orthodox Syrians regard Russia as their natural protector, and they are usually on more friendly terms with the Druses than with the other bodies. Finally, it may be mentioned that there are some 2,000 Protestants, drawn from most of the Christian sects. They, sad to say, look askance at the Druses as a rule, but here and there one finds an exception. I remember when in a village inhabited by Druses, Protestants, and representatives of the other Christian sects, hearing the remark: "So-and-so"—naming a Druse—"is the best man in the village."

There is one very lovable trait in the Syrian character, common to all, Druse and Christian alike: the touch of nature that makes all akin in time of sorrow. At a funeral all the villagers are present, and I have seen a Protestant carried to the grave by Druses. In times of joy, too, all meet and mix, and creed is laid aside for the moment. Judging by the article from a Beyrout correspondent published in last week's NEAR EAST it would seem that the present time of stress and danger has served to unite the peoples of the province, and that in spite of the attempts "to create dissension between them," they are keeping their heads and the peace. Their friends will rejoice in the fact, and trust that they will continue to oppose a steady resistance to all insidious attempts to stir up strife between them.

BRITISH REFUGEES FROM TURKEY RELIEF FUND.

The following is a list of subscriptions to the above fund received since May 14:—

	£	s	d
Proprietors of "Daily Telegraph"	20	0	0
John Nowill and Sons, Sheffield	5	0	0
Neale and Wilkinson, Liverpool	1	1	0
William Crayford and Sons, Liverpool	10	10	0
Davey Paxman and Co., Colchester	3	3	0
SimplexConduits,Ltd., Birmingham	1	1	0
Lancelot Oliphant, Esq.	1	1	0
General Electric Co.	5	5	0
Levant Mineral Co.	10	10	0
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Glamorgan Coal Co.	50	0	0
Lady Wernher	20	0	0
F. W. Beckford, Esq.	2	0	0
G. Thomas and Co.	2	2	0
Mrs. Percy Harvey	3	0	0
Thomas Bott, Esq.	6	0	0
The Misses Bull	0	5	0
Messrs. Hawthorn, Leslie, and Co.	25	0	0
Messrs. Hammer and Thomson	5	0	0
Messrs. Derry and Toms	10	10	0
Messrs. Oetzmann	2	2	0
Messrs. Storey Bros.	10	10	0
Mrs. Grazebrook	1	0	0
Messrs. Bell and Scott, Belfast	5	0	0
Wm. Graham Abercrombie	0	10	0

Further subscriptions to the Fund are urgently required, and may be forwarded to the Treasurer, Mr. A. Baker, 5, Cromwell Road, Kensington, S.W.

"SNIPERS" AT ISPAHAN.

Reuter's Petrograd correspondent reports (June 8) that advices received from Ispahan state that the previous night a number of snipers fired on the British Consulate.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

The German papers are naturally very jubilant at the exploits of their submarines in eastern waters. Two British battleships on two consecutive days was certainly a bag to boast about, but apparently the truth is never sufficient for Germany. The Berlin Press is now busily engaged in trying to make our flesh creep by intimating that these submarines did the full journey from Kiel by water. Really, the Hun can be very childish at times. Possibly, however, his efforts were only directed to impressing his unfortunate Turkish ally with a sense of his power by sea and to diverting attention from the "Goeben" and "Breslau," for a while at least.

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It will be interesting to see what part these two ships will really be prepared to play when our battleships enter the sea of Marmora. The probabilities are that they will be sunk by their owners out of hand, in order to evade the greater evil of capture. There seems to be a fatality against the Turks ever possessing a reasonably efficient navy. Ever since the day of the immortal Turkish captain who, ordered to Malta for repairs, returned after a futile voyage of discovery with the information: "Malta *mafeesh*" (Malta is not) the Turkish navy has been the laughing-stock of her neighbours. The truth of the matter is that, while the Turks make brave and efficient soldiers, they have no stomach for the sea. Imagine a British sailor countenancing the connection of his gunboat with the shore by means of pipes to supply gas for cooking and lighting purposes. Yet the Turkish sailors thought this thing no shame, and the crew of a gunboat in Smyrna harbour lived in placid comfort for months in this manner. And now the two fugitive ships of the German navy seem to have fallen under the spell of inaction that is characteristic of the Turkish forces by sea. It may be that they are reserving their strength for a goodly fight before Constantinople, but I do not think so. I fancy that they have served their purpose, by intimidating the Turk in the days of his neutrality, and that their destruction will be wrought by German sailors rather than our own. At the first hint of active danger they will be sent to oblivion beneath the waters of the sea of Marmora—a fitting end, perhaps, to a career marked by only one heroic interlude, when, with band playing and colours flying, they took the open sea from Messina.

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The naval correspondent of the *Evening Standard*—or one of the compositors who set his copy—does not seem to have a very high opinion of the fighting quality of the Turkish forces in the Gallipoli Peninsula. In reading his notes in Monday's issue of the *Evening Standard* I came across this sentence:—

> "Then there is the Franco-British squadron assisting the troops in the Dardanelles in pishing back the enemy," etc.

The enemy, I fear, will take a deal of "pishing" yet. The turkey may not be a very wise bird, but lack of courage is hardly amongst its faults.

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Mr. H. W. Seton-Karr, who has been contributing a series of sporting articles to the *Field*, gives, in reply to a correspondent, some interesting particulars regarding his explorations in various parts of the world. One item interested me particularly. Mr. Seton-Karr visited the Issutugan River and was fortunate enough to discover a prehistoric factory of palæolithic implements, and was able to present series to more than 200 museums. But in the first place his generosity must have suffered a rude shock, for the customs authorities demanded, and, of course, received, export duty upon many of these implements, on the ground that they were "manufactured articles." These hard-headed officials of the State were evidently taking no risks in their interpretation of the law. Manufactured articles were manufactured articles, and a few hundred thousand years difference in the date of production mattered not at all. But I am glad to see that, thanks to the intervention of the Under-Secretary of State for India, Mr. Seton-Karr had his money refunded in the end. Perhaps he made a fuss about it. In dealing with the customs authorities of many countries it is usually safer to make a fuss at once whatever happens, just as one does with gas companies in England.

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Turkey was at one time notorious for the mule-like obstinacy of her customs officials when they were dealing with British visitors who had a greater regard for justice than for time. A friend of mine once recounted to me the difficulties which beset him when he first made his way through the custom-house at Constantinople. He had been forewarned that the judicious, if unlawful, expenditure of a few piastres would work wonders, but he was a Scotsman and he disliked unlawful proceedings. So, with a heart light with the knowledge that his baggage contained no dutiable articles, he entered the custom-house, to leave it, some five hours later, a hungry but victorious man. He only had a dressing-case, and he made his first mistake when he insisted upon carrying this himself. He was an object of suspicion long before an official deigned to question him. Besides the various articles of toilet and clothing necessary to a couple of days' stay he had only two or three paper-covered novels and two clocks. One of these was a fixture in his dressing case, the other was accustomed to sit beside his bed at nightime. But the official who at length opened the bag eyed them with great disfavour. "One clock, yes," he could understand that, "but two——" He passed on to other duties, giving the frantic Scotsman time to meditate. When he had left his victim sufficient time to grasp the advantages of a system of backsheesh, the Turk advanced again, only to find the Britisher fuming but obdurate. The official lazily turned over the various objects in the bag and seized upon the books as an excuse for further delay. "One book, yes, to pass the time pleasantly, but *three*——" As I have said, my friend conquered at last, but he has lived many years in the Orient since that day and has learned many lessons, among them being the fact that time may often be money.

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It is astonishing how seldom one can score off an Oriental in cases of this kind. No one can be more amazingly stupid than the Oriental official, when a rôle of stupidity is necessary to the furtherance of his aims. I remember scoring only once in all my travels, and that was at the Cairo post office. For some reason or another a postal clerk took a dislike to one of my servants. When I attempted to despatch parcels it invariably meant that the package was returned at least two or three times for some alleged non-compliance with the postal rules of packing. At length I got sick of it, and carefully mastering the regulations, prepared a parcel and sent it down to the office. It was returned as usual. Then I went down myself. The clerk complained of one of the seals. I altered it, sealing it with the crest on my ring. The man handed it back saying that he could not accept it, an initial was necessary. I said I was sorry; I had no initial seal, but I would take the parcel round to my friend the Postmaster-General and borrow one from him. Anything more abject than the discomfited clerk it would be hard to imagine. But it is only fair to say that his conduct was a marked exception to that of the usual Egyptian official, who is ordinarily the very soul of politeness.

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THE BALKAN COMMITTEE.

The following resolution was passed at a meeting of the Balkan Committee held at the House of Commons on Wednesday:—

"That the Balkan Committee, whose solicitude for the welfare of all the Balkan peoples alike is enhanced by the critical position in which they are placed by the war, appeals earnestly to the Governments and peoples of the five Balkan States to recognise that their existence as independent States and the realisation of their national union demand friendly co-operation, mutual goodwill, and reasonable concessions."

A deputation of Jugo-Slavs was introduced by Dr. Seton Watson, and placed before the Committee the views they hope to see realised in the ultimate settlement after the war. The following were present:—Dr. Trumbic, President of the Jugoslav Committee member of the Dalmatian Diet; Dr. Hinkoric, member of the Croatian Parliament and delegate of the Hungarian Parliament; Dr. Gregorin, member of the Austrian Parliament; Monsieur Stojanovic, member of the Bosnian Diet; Monsieur de Giulli, Dr. Vosnjak, and Professor Cvijic.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Roumanian Attitude.

According to a correspondent of the *Morning Post* (June 4), who writes from Budapest on May 26, "everything shows that a neutrality campaign has started in Roumania with even more determination than was the case when Prince Bülow was sent to Rome." He quotes at length from a Bucharest paper which vehemently disavows any sort of agreement between Italy and Roumania regarding the intervention of the latter. On the other hand, the following quotation shows that the most powerful influences are apparently combining to bear the country along to the abandonment of her neutrality:—

The fact that the Austrian and German Press are not hiding their feelings as to the immediate danger of Roumanian intervention, the military preparations going on on both sides, the international situation as a whole, and the belief that Austria cannot undertake another winter campaign among the mountains on three fronts, as well as many other reasons, lead one to the conclusion that Roumania will be the next Power to join the enemies of unfortunate Austria-Hungary.

Dr. E. H. Dillon, writing in the *Daily Telegraph*, thinks that Roumania is still playing for time, and that her ultimate intervention is certain. After dealing with the possibilities of a separate peace being arranged with Hungary, he concludes:—

If Roumania is content to sit still and lose the unique chance of liberating her own sons from a foreign yoke, a chance which will never return, the Entente States will not refuse a demand for a separate peace on equitable terms coming from the Magyar nation, against which no feeling of undying hatred is entertained. And once Hungary's conditions have been proposed and accepted the time for Roumania's intervention will have gone.

Germany's Imperial Colony.

An article by Mr. Arnaldo Fraccaroli, which originally appeared in the *Corriere della Sera*, has been translated by Mr. H. H. Blacklock, and, reproduced in *Foreign Opinion* (June 2), gives an interesting account of German relations with Turkey in the early half of last month. The first portion of the article is devoted to an examination of the events which placed Turkey so entirely in the hands of Germany to begin with; the second deals with the actual relations of the two peoples which are in a state of war. The writer denies that there is any hostility between German and Turkish officers at the present time:—

Nevertheless, should any event happen to change the present situation . . . we shall see that there is still some fire smouldering beneath the ashes of this silent tranquillity. In Armenia, when the army of the Caucasus was cut to pieces in the disastrous defeats, there have been open episodes testifying to this insufferance on the part of the Turkish officers, and even of the soldiers, of being commanded by people who have come from another country, a country also Christian, according to the continual affirmations of the Emperor. But they remain silent at Constantinople for the present; they remain silent—waiting.

But through it all the writer sees a vague hint of nervousness on all sides, "life is as though suspended at a mark of interrogation."

The Fighting Turk.

The special correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph*, in a despatch regarding the operations at the Dardanelles (June 8), says that a fine spirit of optimism prevails among the Allied troops at this point, notwithstanding the heavy losses which they have incurred. We quote his concluding paragraph, which compares Turkish and German methods of warfare:—

Galvanized by the remarkably organized defence set up by the Germans, the Turk is putting up a good fight, and, to his credit let it be said, that he fights cleaner than his instructors do in their theatres of war. Instances have been quoted to me in which Turkish soldiers had shown consideration both to our wounded and to the few prisoners that fell into their hands. The atrocities reported as having been committed by them were committed by their auxiliaries, the Kurds, and not by their regular soldiers.

This bears out the views already expressed in THE NEAR EAST.

Hungary and Roumania.

In a leading article on "The War in the East," the *Morning Post* (June 5) deals principally with the question of Hungary's position in the field. "Hungary," says the writer, "like Turkey, is the ass in the fable which goes hunting with the lion. The lion may secure the spoils; the ass is secure of nothing but danger and hard knocks." Our quotations are taken from the latter portion of the article, which treats with Roumania in relation to ourselves and to the Hungarians:—

If Roumania, now that things seem to go against Russia, chooses to stand aside she may preserve such territory as she now possesses, but she can hope to gain no more. Germany is no friend of Roumania, and can offer her nothing. But if Roumania at this crisis in the fortunes of Europe decides that her fortunes are bound up with the fortunes of the free nations, and if Hungary remains obstinately the enemy of these nations, then the Allies will be compelled to recognise Roumania's claim to what is now, and has long been, a Hungarian province.

The writer goes on to say that it is no pleasant thing to threaten the dismemberment of Hungary, but points out that the quarrel was not of our seeking and the issues are not under our control:—

If Hungary persists in being our enemy and Roumania becomes our friend, then we are bound to act towards our friend as friends and towards our enemy as enemies. This is a rule of war which cannot be disobeyed. . . . If Roumania chooses to throw in her lot with the Allies, the Allies upon their side must help her to secure the objects for which she goes to war; if she chooses to remain neutral the Allies will have no object in assisting her to what she has not earned. . . . The fortunes of Hungary were never more desperate than in the hour of victory, and as for Roumania the defeat of Russia, her potential friend, is the opportunity of her lifetime, for the defeat is only temporary, and assistance will be rewarded in the measure of its timeliness.

The Invasion of Chaldea.

Under the above heading the *Western Daily Press* (June 5) deals with our operations in Mesopotamia in a leading article. Apart from the military aspect of the invasion of the Chaldean country, the paper considers our action in this region as highly important from a strategic and economic standpoint. After tracing the course of events which have transpired since the entrance of Turkey into the war, the article emphasizes the value of British diplomacy which arrested the extension of the Baghdad railway to Koweit, on the shores of the Persian Gulf:—

The terminus of the Baghdad Railway was, under pressure from the British Government, fixed at Basra. Under a treaty with a petty native chief, the British Government thus insisted upon controlling the access to the Baghdad Railway from the head waters of the Persian Gulf. Now a British-backed force is actually conquering the territory traversed by the railway which the Germans have financed. If the Turks are thoroughly beaten in Mesopotamia, as seems very likely to be the case, the whole German scheme for the exploitation of the region will collapse, and the British Government will have the option of turning this valuable line, when fully completed, to its own account.

The article next deals with the probable influence which the Turco-German agreement regarding this railway had upon the relations between the two countries after the declaration of war, and goes on to enumerate the advantages which will accrue to Britain should she hold the completed line. It concludes:—

The conquest of Mesopotamia by a British-backed force, or by the Allies, will exercise a profound and permanent influence on the economic and political situation in that part of Asia which most closely adjoins Europe; and though we do not hear much about the joint naval and military operations in that quarter, the latest despatch gives an assurance that events are steadily shaping themselves to the disadvantage of the Turks and the Germans, and the corresponding benefit of Great Britain.

Articles to Note.

"Roumania's Army," by Our Military Correspondent, in the *Outlook*, June 5.

"The Women of Serbia," by Helen Douglas Irvine, in the *Queen* (May 29).

"Serbia and the Serbians," by W. Ll. Williams (illustrated), in the *Sunday at Home* (June).

"A Visit to Roumania: I.—Life on a Country Estate," II. "A Great Wolf Hunt," by T. H. Grattan Esmonde, in the *Field* (May 29 and June 5).

"Serbia and Her History," by Victor Berard, in the *Suffragette* (June 4), being the first instalment of the history of Serbian wars, ideals, and aspirations, read at all French schools in Serbia by order of the Minister of Public Instruction.

"Servia: The Country and the People," by Leslie F. Church, B.A., etc., in the *Wesleyan Methodist Recorder* (June).

"Oriental Local Government," by Marmaduke Pickthall, in the *New Age* (June 3).

"The Caliphate: A Historical and Juridical Sketch," by the Right Hon. Ameer Ali, in the *Contemporary Review* (June).

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DIRECTORY

showing the present addresses of English residents in Turkey, who have left the country in consequence of the war, or have been prevented from returning there. Readers from Turkey whose names are not given below will oblige by forwarding to the Managing Editor their present addresses for inclusion (free of charge) in the Directory, which is intended to be of assistance in bringing friends together. Changes in addresses should be notified as early as possible. The "Near East' accept no responsibility for the correctness of the addresses given.

Alderson, W. J., 181, Links Road, Tooting, S.W.
Aldous, A. H., Banbury Road, Brockley, Northants.
Anderson, J. H., and family, 114, Botanic Road, Glasnevin, Dublin; or c.o. Gill and Cook, Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C.
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(Continued on page 165.)

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

I am glad again to have received a copy of the *Monthly Journal* of the Sudan Chamber of Commerce, because I had feared that it was extinct. However, it has turned up, and covers the three months to and including May. In the published list of the Chamber's "Foreign Members" I see many German names, and among the "Hon. Foreign Members" the names of the Birmingham, Manchester and Glasgow Chambers of Commerce. Surely they are not foreign? The *Journal* contains much information of a statistical nature, but gives little or no particulars of trade openings, nor any advice which might be of use to the home exporter. I hope that this error of omission will be remedied in future issues.

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I wish to draw the attention of my readers to the good work being done by the Royal Agricultural Society in its attempts to restore the fields in Allied countries devastated by the war. Both the general and executive committees appointed report favourable progress. Up to now, however, it has been possible only to begin practical operations in Serbia, where a representative of the Society was sent some six weeks ago bearing the first instalment of seeds and implements for the assistance of the peasant farmers. Although the devastated districts in the western war zone are still in the grasp of the enemy the executive committee are anxious to be in a position to proceed with the cultivation and seeding of the land and the restocking of the farms as soon as an opportunity offers, and they hope that intending subscribers will notify the nature and amount of their contributions without delay. The secretary for the time being is Mr. F. F. Euren, the National Horse Show (Limited), 12, Hanover Square, London, W., from whom all particulars can be obtained.

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The many friends now in this country of Nurse Wheatley will be interested in her letter from the front, published elsewhere. The picture of our wounded longing for beds in lieu of stretchers is one that ought to appeal to us, and I am convinced that we will all be only too glad to contribute *something* towards the few beds asked for. The Editor of THE NEAR EAST has kindly undertaken to receive such contributions and to acknowledge them in these pages.

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An American gentleman who is now in Egypt has, I fear, a rather poor opinion of our business methods, and I am bound to admit that if he does cherish a grievance against some of our Jacks-in-office he has good grounds for doing so. Briefly, he came to this country *last year*—either in the last week of November or the first week of December—on his way to Egypt; and on landing at Liverpool he was asked if he had any firearms, etc. Being an honest man, and a great admirer of this country, he at once declared an automatic pistol and a box of cartridges. They were at once taken away from him, and he was told that they should be returned to him when he left the country. But when he left, a fortnight or so later, he had to go without his property; and to cut a long story short he has not yet received the goods. Three weeks or so ago the friend whom he had asked to obtain the pistol and cartridges for him, and forward them on to Egypt, did succeed in getting the pistol, but the cartridges have not yet been liberated. What aggravates the folly of the whole red-tape business is the American is a well-known man, quite above suspicion, and that his fellow travellers who saw how he was treated at Liverpool, *and acted accordingly*, got their pistols through without any trouble whatsoever.

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The report of the Mortgage Company of Egypt, reproduced elsewhere, shows that there was a further expansion in business during the past year, though there has been a small falling-off in profits. Profits last year amounted to £93,680, as against £41,319 this year; but, in this connection, it must be remembered that £50,000 has been set aside this year as a "special reserve for arrears"; without this extraordinary allotment, the profits would only have been about £2,000 lower than last year, which is certainly not a bad showing in view of recent events in Egypt. According to their report just issued, it appears that the United Egyptian Lands are debtors to the Mortgage Company to a considerable extent. On the other hand, it will come as a surprise to no one that the directors of the last-named company have decided to pay no dividend on the ordinary shares this year (last year an 8 per cent. dividend was paid), and to carry forward £7,203 to the next account. The creation of the "special reserve for arrears" is a precautionary measure which, I feel sure, the shareholders will be the first to approve.

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The *Cologne Gazette* reports from Vienna that the Government oil wells at Drohobitz, in Galicia, have resumed operations. There are already large supplies of oil, and other refineries will shortly resume. Moreover, and with the object of alleviating the railway traffic, a new oil pipe is being constructed over the Carpathians.

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From the above it would appear that the exploitation by the enemy of the reconquered oilfields is being feverishly pursued. At the time of the great Austro-German offensive against the Russians in Galicia I gave it as my opinion that the real objective was the oil district, because the running short of oil would have serious consequences for the enemy. This would seem to be borne out by facts, and hence the desperate efforts—unhappily successful—to re-occupy Galicia. The deduction to be made is that Galicia will continue to play an important part in the great war, and that the sooner we can drive the enemy, horse, foot and artillery, out of the province, the shorter will be the duration of the war.

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But it is not only as regards the oil fuel supplies of Galicia that we turn to Russia hoping that she will spare no effort to prevent the enemy from tapping them. As I have frequently pointed out in these columns, Constantinople depends on Zunguldak for its coal supplies; therefore, it is imperative that these supplies should be *stopped without delay*. Some months ago the Russians did bombard and destroy the port and quays of Zunguldak, thus impeding the loading of vessels, and by a vigorous blockade of the Bosphorus put a stop to the shipping of coal in any appreciable quantities to Constantinople. Now, however, I read in the *Daily Chronicle* that "German engineers are building a light railway from Beikos to Zunguldak for the transport of coal." The alleged reasons are that "the activity of the Russian Fleet hinders supplies by sea," and that "the coal problem for the (Turkish) Navy is very serious, as only 2,000 tons of Welsh coals are left." Cannot even more serious attempts be made by our great Ally to *stop* coal running between Zunguldak and Constantinople? Surely it should be possible to interfere with the approach of rails to the former place, and thus to put a stop to the transport of fuel. The matter is one of immediate urgency and is vital to the success of our Dardanelles operations.

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Speaking of railway constructions by the Ottoman-cum-German combine in Asia Minor it is interesting to note that the Cairo correspondent of the *Railway News* reports that "the Turks are endeavouring to build a railway into the Sinai Desert, as a branch of the Hedjaz Railway, from somewhere north of Akaba. The work is said to be under the direction of Meissner Pasha, a German engineer from the Baghdad Railway. There are said to be 154 locomotives fit for use on the Hedjaz Railway and about 8,000 passenger and goods vehicles." I do not know what truth there is in the report, but I am inclined to believe that our enemies are still pursuing a mirage. By all means let the railway be built; it will ultimately fall into the hands of the Allies, just like the Carpathian oil pipe now being constructed by the Austrians in Galicia.

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The same correspondent gives some interesting details concerning the new Prussian Minister of Finance, Herr Helfferich. He is, as our readers are aware, well known in the Near East, chiefly in connection with the railway enterprises with which he has been associated. A director of the Anatolian Railway, he was Gwinner's right-hand man on the Baghdad Railway and his representative in all matters pertaining to that company's enormous interests. It now also transpires that "he was the moving spirit in the attempt made by the Deutsche Orient Bank (of which he was a director) some two years ago to acquire from the then Khedive, Abbas Hilmi, the Mariut Railway in Egypt—an attempt which Lord Kitchener very fortunately nipped in the bud." In this matter, it will be remembered, THE NEAR EAST took up a very strong attitude, opposing any and every attempt on the part of the Khedive to dispose of his Mariut property.

COMMENTATOR.

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The Bankruptcy Laws of Egypt.

(By Our Cairo Correspondent.)

One of the most interesting sections of the Judicial Adviser's report is always the review in French of the work of the Mixed Tribunals, contributed by the Procureur Général of those courts. It usually deals with, amongst other matters, one of the questions that during the year under review may have assumed importance in the eyes of the commercial community. M. Eeman's latest contribution has proved no exception to the rule. As last year, he discusses the vexed question of the defects of the existing law of bankruptcy and composition (Concordat Preventif), which has exercised the public both here and in other lands. Since his last review sheaves have been written on the subject, and all manner of suggestions for the improvement of the situation have been made; but, as he says, "many of these articles have been written with more goodwill than ability, and have proposed remedies that, whilst they showed the excellence of the writers' intention, often proved to be wholly impracticable."

Concordat Preventif.

One of the recent works on the subject which M. Eeman considers worthy of notice is the memorandum submitted last June to the Ministry of Justice by the Import Trade Association of Alexandria, and he devotes his remarks on the bankruptcy laws to an analysis of the suggestions contained therein. The Procureur Général notes with pleasure that the Association is in agreement with the views previously expressed by him, "That even without a modification in the existing legislation a very considerable improvement could be effected in the situation by the ordinary but rigorous application of the means that the law places at the disposal of creditors and of the Courts." But whilst M. Eeman admits that the Courts can do a good deal to improve matters, he is still of the opinion that the real cause of the abuses whereof complaint is made lies in the attitude of the creditors themselves. "Imprudence in the transaction of business; a too tardy recourse to the assistance of the Courts; and a too ready acquiescence in proposals for an arrangement that ought by right never to have been entertained by them"—these are the true causes the seriousness of which the Association evidently does not realise, since it lays such little stress on that part of the question.

The Procureur Général then proceeds to deal with the suggestions made by the Association with regard to the improvements that could be made by the Courts. He and the Association appear to be in complete agreement of the necessity of full publicity being given through the Courts to protested bills and on the point that the Commercial Tribunals should have the power immediately a protested bill has been posted on the tableau to call up the debtor and inquire into his financial position. This is, in fact, what is done in Belgium, and what M. Eeman suggested last year. He is also in agreement with the Association on the necessity for the Courts to show more severity in dealing with applications for adjournment in cases of summonses for payment of bills regularly accepted and protested. As he says, nine times out of ten judgment could be given on the mere inspection of the bill and of the protest, and such judgment could even be given at once if the plaintifi had deposited his documents before the hearing. Also the Association is quite justified in its contention that it is most necessary that more ample information, more precise justification should be demanded from a debtor who applies for a preventive composition, for in many cases such applications are submitted under conditions that, in the face of the avowal of inability to meet objections contained in them, seem to render imperative the immediate pronouncement of bankruptcy.

The Procureur Général joins issue, however, with the Association on the question of the deposit required by the law when an application for a declaration in bankruptcy is made. The deposit required is £E12, but the Association wishes it reduced to £E5, on the grounds that "the necessity to make such a high deposit deprives commerce of a means, which is not contrary to the law, of pressing a debtor to pay his debt or at least to discuss or conclude an arrangement." M. Eeman, in the first place, does not see the utility of such a reduction, for if creditors have allowed their debtor to reach such a pass that they stand little chance of obtaining even an amount equalling their deposit, whether the latter be £E12 or £E5, then far better would it be to do nothing than to declare a bankruptcy which must be unproductive by reason of the absence of assets. He protests against the argument of the Association quoted above, and declares that such a comprehension of the meaning of a writ in bankruptcy is inadmissible. "It is precisely in order to prevent creditors from having recourse to such a means of pressing a debtor that this deposit is insisted upon."

The Procureur Général points out that the petition in bankruptcy affirms by the mere fact of its presentation that the debtor is unable to meet his obligations, that steps must be taken to prevent him from making any arrangements with other creditors, and that his assets must be taken in hand so as to be divided between those of his creditors whose security those assets constitute. As the Procureur asks, how can the creditor, who is the applicant, logically—nay, even honestly—contemplate the making of any special arrangement with the debtor by means of the very writ which has for the object of its issue the prohibition of the making of such agreements with all the creditors? He expresses astonishment that this point has escaped the attention of the Courts, and that one so often sees petitions, even after several postponements, removed from the cause list at the mere request of the petitioner, who gives as his reason that his claim has been settled. He is of opinion that such a statement should not be accepted for one instant unless the Court has assured itself that there are no other creditors.

Threatened Petitions.

Your correspondent, who, as it happens, has had considerable experience of business methods in Egypt, can absolutely endorse M. Eeman's remarks and, further, can affirm that it was, and is still, the practice even in financial circles of high standing, to use the bankruptcy petition as a threat and as a means to force debtors to pay up. At the same time it must be admitted in all fairness, that the commercial morality of the people itself has something to do with the too frequent use of the weapon that the petition constitutes, for when, as so often happens, a debtor absolutely declines to pay his debt even though he has ample means for so doing, a creditor must, after all, have some means at his disposal to force his debtor to meet his engagement. There would, however, appear, as the Procureur Général observes, to be no reason to reduce the amount of the deposit, as it has had very good results in effecting a reduction in the number of failures, especially in that of bad bankruptcies.

The next suggestion made by the Association is that the law with regard to the making of compositions before or after failure should be more rigorously enforced. As M. Eeman says, no one contests the excellence of this proposal, but let the creditors show the way, for it is on them that depends the acceptance of the compositions. Let them themselves refuse those that are not fitting, for how can they expect the Courts to be more severe than they are themselves and to reject proposals that have seemed fair to them, the principal parties interested? It is but natural that a Court should hesitate to reject under such conditions proposals that they have accepted, and to impose on them a judicial liquidation that they do not want.

Intervention of the Parquet.

The Association demands that the Parquet (Prosecutor's Office) should intervene without exception in every case of failure, and that its intervention in cases of bankruptcy should be more speedy. The Procureur Général asks: "Does the Association seriously think that any useful purpose would be served by such an arrangement? Is it not sufficient that public action is taken (as it is to-day) as soon as proofs of fraudulent bankruptcy are laid before the Parquet by the creditors or the liquidators?" Once again the Procureur Général points the finger at the former, and affirms that it is up to them to bring about this speedier intervention of the Parquet. "The creditors are normally the first to know of the criminal acts of their debtor, and it is for them to bring the facts at the earliest moment before the Parquet. I can guarantee that the latter will act without any delay in that event."

M. Eeman approves of the proposal that the liquidators should have a tabulated list of the points that they ought to look into, and on which they should report to the Parquet in view of the taking of penal proceedings. He states that such a list was in use in Belgium when, many years ago, he was periodically appointed trustee, and he thinks that its introduction in this country would obviate the somewhat vague nature of some of the liquidators' reports.

Repression of Proceedings.

But it is not sufficient to initiate proceedings, they must result in repression. It is all very well for the Association to demand that the repression should be severe; it must, however, not forget that the general interest of the community, which it no doubt had in view when it made this request, invariably recedes into the background when the moment comes for the application of that repressive punishment, and its place is taken by pity for the individual. Nor should the Association lose sight of the fact that the Courts, which it criticises, are composed not only of judges, but that there also sit on them commercial men who exercise a certain influence on the decision. And the Procureur Général adds that he knows from experience that the professional judges are not always responsible for the indulgence shown to the defendants.

M. Eeman mentions, however, that as a matter of fact, acting on a decision of the Court of Appeal, taken on his pleadings, he has given orders to the Parquets to intervene in every case of failure and to have this intervention recorded so that the Parquet will always be a party to a bankruptcy case.

The Question of Non-Traders.

In commenting on the questions raised by the Procureur-Général, the Judicial Adviser remarks that the whole matter of bankruptcy organization in general has been under discussion by the Procedure Commission in connection with certain questions relating to executive proceedings forming a necessary part of its labours, which consist in the study of the reforms to be introduced in the Codes of Procedure. He says that the issue raised is "whether bankruptcy procedure should not be applicable to non-traders as well as to traders, which is the case in England and Germany, or whether, at any rate, some special form of procedure for the settlement of the claims of competing creditors should not be organized as in Austria and in Spain." In Egypt, whilst the basis of settlement is that a debtor's property constitutes the security for his creditors in common, there are two distinct systems of settlement, according as the debtor is or is not technically a trader. In the first case the whole of his property is taken over for the benefit of his creditors generally and is distributed in proportion to their claims; in the second his property is merely the subject of individual seizures, which for all practical purposes benefit only the creditor who has made them.

There is, however, little doubt that some reform in the direction of removing this difference is absolutely necessary, as the facility offered to the non-trader is frequently taken advantage of by men who are technically traders. Here once again your correspon-

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dent can speak from experience. Many cases has he known where creditors have been defrauded out of their rightful due simply because it has been impossible absolutely to prove that the debtor is a trader, and he has succeeded in transferring his property at the last moment to relatives before any seizure could be put on it by the creditors.

Execution Proceedings.

In the Judicial Adviser's opinion the organization of general execution proceedings for the benefit of all the creditors presents the following advantages:—Firstly, the dispossession of the debtor of all his assets prevents frauds and dissimulations of property which are otherwise committed with comparative ease and impunity, to the detriment of creditors, or some of them; secondly, official administration of a debtor's property puts an end to the possibility of separate proceedings by individual creditors, which often lead to inequitable situations between themselves; thirdly, the establishment of a period of time immediately preceding the official administration during which certain acts of the bankrupt are open to grave suspicion permits of the annulment of assignments and other disposals of property effected in fraud of the rights of creditors without having recourse to the Paulian action, which requires the proof of certain matters often very difficult to establish; and, fourthly, general proceedings always provide for the possibility of an arrangement binding upon all the creditors when a majority consent, with the corresponding advantage of liberation for the debtor as soon as he has paid a certain proportion of his debts.

The Adviser mentions that in countries like France, Belgium, and Italy, which have not hitherto adopted a system of bankruptcy for non-traders, the causes have been the fear that a system of official administration might involve a too summary expropriation of non-commercial debtors and the strong aversion to the stigma attaching to the name of bankruptcy for those who have not accepted the responsibilities of a trader. Sir Malcolm is of opinion that traders must always be subject to certain special obligations, and liable to certain special penalties, and that there can be no question of completely assimilating the trader and the non-trader, nor of the simple extension of the bankruptcy law to non-traders in all respects; nevertheless, "it would seem that some form of official administration, far from being disadvantageous to the non-commercial debtor, would, on the contrary, be of great benefit to him in protecting him from the ruinous expense of a multiplicity of lawsuits, and in enabling him to obtain his liberation from his liabilities by an arrangement with the majority of his creditors." As a matter of fact, this was the main object in view when the principle of bankruptcy was extended to non-traders in England and Spain. Before anything in this connection is done in this country, however, the views of all those interested and concerned in the question will have to be ascertained, and it is for this reason that a general expression of views is invited by the Judicial Adviser.

The Moratorium.

The subject of protests and failures quite naturally leads the Procureur-Général to deal with that of the moratorium and its effect on the financial and commercial situation of the country. He states that these exceptional measures gave rise to very much criticism. Some have been of opinion that the moratorium was not sufficiently extended; others that recourse should never have been had to it; or, at least, that its effect should have been restricted. One need only place oneself in the position of a creditor or of a debtor to arrive at fundamentally different opinions on the subject, and so to justify this apparently extraordinary confliction of views. He gives it as his considered opinion that, in view of the situation created in Egypt by the events outside, it was imperative that some provision should be made to cope with the serious and pressing danger which menaced the country; that the moratorium is, after all, nothing but a generalisation of the measures that the Courts are empowered by law to take under certain special individual circumstances; and that it violates none of the essential principles of law, the respect and maintenance of which are indispensable to the normal life of civilised society, nor any of the principles disregard of which nothing, not even a pretended necessity, can excuse.

He then proceeds to examine the situation to see, firstly, whether the results have justified the predictions that were made; secondly, whether the moratorium, either alone or because it was maintained too long or because the Government did not prolong it long enough, or again because its conclusion was not arranged in the manner that certain people considered preferable, has really brought about the ruin with which we were threatened; and, thirdly, in a more general manner, whether the European crisis has in reality had the fatal effects that were predicted of it.

Statistics.

A comparative table of the figures for the protests and failures for the last seven months of the past four years shows that whereas in 1912 there was a very great increase in both categories, the figures in 1913 fell far below those for 1911, and that during 1914 they decreased even still more. The Procureur-Général does not go so far as to deduce from this that the year 1914 was, despite the war, a fortunate one for the country, but he points out that, whilst the deposit of £E12 required may have been the main cause of the great reduction in failures in 1913 and in 1914, the almost parallel diminution in the number of protests is quite independent of that cause, and at the same time that the evil that was predicted has not yet fallen on the country. Whether it will fall upon it later on he cannot tell, but he is decidedly of the opinion that if and when it does come it will be purely the consequence of the troublous situation in Europe—and for matter of that in the entire world—and that the moratorium will have had naught to do with that event. And the Procureur-Général concludes by saying that if one wishes to insist on the moratorium having stood for something in the present state of the commerce of Egypt, then the figures cited above can give to those who introduced the moratorium and directed its application the right to congratulate themselves at having taken such a step, and at having applied it with moderation and with a just appreciation of the requirements of the moment and the permanent necessities of the commercial life of the country.

ITALY AND THE WAR.

The effect of Italy's intervention in the European War has not, so far, been productive of any such sensational results, from the commercial point of view, as some people were inclined to anticipate, says the *Financial Times*. It is true that the British Government has removed all restrictions relating to coal exports from these islands so far as they concern our Latin ally, but even this step has not led to any substantial advance in coal prices or freight rates, except between the Tyne and Genoa, where a slight stiffening in quotations is recorded. One may assume, therefore, that the policy to which the authorities at Rome have at last committed themselves was so generally looked upon as a foregone conclusion that the event itself has come as a sort of anti-climax. Nevertheless, before long trade conditions must respond to the new situation brought about by Italy's action.

So far as concerns this country, our commercial relations with the principal maritime nation of the Mediterranean relate mainly to coal and shipping. To the first-named reference has already been made, but as regards the second a great deal may be said. In the first place, Italy provides a centre of some importance for the interchange of passengers and freight on the Far Eastern route, but naval requirements must now for some time take precedence of all trans-maritime arrangements customary under normal conditions. There is no reason to suppose, however, that the direct shipping services maintained between some four Italian ports and India will be suspended, or, in fact, seriously interfered with, having regard to their importance. Should it be necessary to re-arrange the itinerary of these undertakings the English companies trading to the Orient will undoubtedly co-operate in overcoming any difficulties which may thereby be presented.

Exports.

Italy's exports to the East consist mainly of made up goods, together with certain minerals such as glassware, colouring earths and drugs. The volume of trade in these commodities is considerable, and must, of course, be preserved even in such times as the present, and special steps will undoubtedly be taken to ensure that this is done. From Central European countries Italy has obtained metals and manufactured goods in very large quantities, but these supplies are now cut off, at any rate, for the time being, and it will be necessary for the Government to look elsewhere in order to meet their requirements. Here, again, British ship owners will probably come to the rescue in providing transport facilities for the carriage of the articles in question either from this country or from America. Fortunately, a few of the largest English iron and steel manufacturers are already established at Italian ports, and some at least of them have organised their businesses on a basis designed to meet the state of affairs which has now arisen. This circumstance should undoubtedly tend to bring about an improvement in the trade relations between the two countries, which recently have seemed to tend, in some directions, at any rate, adversely to British interests. Unless one is very much mistaken, however, the commercial position of Great Britain in the Mediterranean is likely to be greatly improved as a result of the war, even though the full benefits of the changed conditions which now prevail do not make themselves felt to any great extent until some time after peace has been restored.

DIRECTORY—*continued from page 162.*

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SIMMONS, George H., c/o Imperial Ottoman Bank, Larnaca, Cyprus.
SKRIMSHIRE, C. E., Sand Haven, Weston-super-Mare.
SMITH, A. H., c/o Mrs. Gwilt, Hillsboro,' Haindrindod,
SMITH, F. W., "Heathcote," Bexley, Kent.
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SPROWSON, Mr. and Mrs. William, and family, The Ferns, Harrow-on-the-Hill.
STELIANIDI, Mr. and Mrs. L. N., and family, Hôtel Métropole, Athens.
STRONG, Miss K. M., Thorpe Hall, Peterborough.
STREATER, Mr. and Mrs. Frank, British Consulate, Dedeagatch, Bulgaria.
STOCK, Mrs. H. W., and family, 13, Norland Sq., Holland Park, W. Tel.: Park 3770.
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VIDOVICH, Nicholas, and daughter. Hotel Centrale, Rue du Stade, No. 22, Athens.
WATT, Mr. and Mrs. A. B., Grand Hotel, Larnaca, Cyprus.
WEAKLY, E., C.M.G., Norfolk Hotel, Kensington, W
WEALE, W., Foreign Office S.W.
WEALE, Miss Mary, 10, Upton Road, Slough.
WEALE, Miss Norah, Lydgate House, Hunstanton.
WERNDEL, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. G., Grand Hotel Bulgarie, Sofia.
WHEATLEY, Miss N., "Falklands," Birkdale.
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WHITTALL, Reginald, and family, 60, Scarsdale Villas, Kensington, W.
WHITTALL, W. J. H., Lammas Cottage, Esher.
WHITTALL, Lady, Moda Cottage, Esher.
WHITTALL, Kenny, 62, Princes Square, W.
WHITTALL, Edwin, and family, 16, North Road, Surbiton.
WHITTALL, Miss Enid, 84, Worple Road, Wimbledon
WHITTALL, Miss Lucy, 60, Scarsdale Villas, South Kensington, S.W.
WHITTALL, Mrs. Jack, Hotel Minerva, Athens.
WILKINSON, J., and family, Old Phaleron, Greece.
WOODS, Mrs. Harold, Baynton House, Westbury, Wilts.
WOODS, Harold, Continental Hotel, Cairo.

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Trade Notes.

Egypt.

Tenders will be received by the Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of the Interior, Cairo, not later than noon on June 26, 1915, for the supply of petroleum for lighting required by the police for one year commencing on July 1, 1915, and ending on June 30, 1916. A copy of the conditions of tender can be obtained on application to the Personnel and Equipment Department, Ministry of the Interior, Cairo. Tenders will be submitted on the printed form provided for the purpose in double sealed envelopes, each marked "Tender for the supply of petroleum, 1915-1916," and should be addressed to the Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of the Interior (Personnel and Equipment Department).

Tenders will be received at the Administration of Sultania Yachts and Steamers, Tersana, Bulâq, Cairo, up till noon, on June 22, 1915, for the supply of various articles, such as paint, oil, rope, sails, coal, iron tools (gimlets, files, hammers, compasses, nails, etc.), towels, sheets, blankets, carpets, glasses, globes, etc., required during the year 1915 and 1916. All information, conditions of tender, and list of quantities may be obtained, and samples seen, at the above address on any day during office hours, holidays excepted. Tenders should be made in accordance with the general conditions, on the form of tender supplied free of charge by the Administration, enclosed in sealed envelopes addressed to the Chief Aide-de-Camp to H.H. the Sultan, Abdin Palace, or Ras el Tin Palace, Alexandria, as the case may be, and bearing the inscription: "Tender for the supply of various articles."

Tenders will be received by the Under Secretary of State, Ministry of the Interior, Cairo, not later than noon on July 7, 1915, for the supply of photographic material required by the Ministry for one year, commencing on July 15, 1915, and ending on July 14, 1916. A copy of the conditions of tender can be obtained on application to the Personnel and Equipment Department, Ministry of the Interior, Cairo. Tenders must be submitted on the printed form provided for the purpose in double sealed envelopes, each marked: "Tender for the supply of photographic material," and addressed to the Under Secretary of State, Ministry of the Interior (Personnel and Equipment Department), Cairo.

Tenders will be received at the Central Stores of the Ministry of Finance for the supply of olive oil necessary for the Hedjaz. Persons wishing to tender should apply to the Economat Central at the Ministry of Finance in order to consult the conditions and specification of the supply. Tenders will be received up to July 15, 1915, at noon.

Tenders wil be eceived at the officer of the Inspector, Central Gharbia Drainage Projects, Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, up to noon, on June 19, 1915, for the supply and erection of a swing bridge on Salahib Lock, at Hamûl Barari, in Kafr el Sheikh District. Full particulars of the bridge in question have already been published in these columns.

The public is notified that the request for tenders for 1,872 steel stamps, which formed part of Schedule 14, Index No. 370, of the specification for the supply of general stores, relative to which a notice appeared in *Journal Officiel* No. 33 of March 18, last, is hereby cancelled.

Messrs. Allen, Anderson and Co., Walter W. Davies, the Egyptian Carbide Company, Thos. Hinshelwood and Co., the Bulaq Model Workshops, Milner's Safe Company, Vacuum Oil Company, Whitehead, Morris and Co., and Pollard and Co., were recently among the successful tenderers to the Postal Administration for the supply of general stores.

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CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

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Sudan.

The *Monthly Journal* of the London Chamber of Commerce draws the attention of members to a notice issued by the Sudan railways fixing special through rates from Port Sudan to stations on the White Nile and Bahr el Gebel between Renk and Mongala inclusive, and to Meshra el Rek, for holders of Government, agricultural, and commercial concessions, for cement, ironware, timber, machinery, and seeds. The following notice has been issued by the Director of Customs:—"The attention of the public is called to the necessity of correctly describing all goods upon which duty and royalty is paid. Frequent cases have occurred where the marks of packages declared on Form No. 80 do not comcide with the marks upon the packages when they arrive at Port Sudan. Merchants and clearers are requested to examine their royalty receipts Forms No. 80 before leaving the Customs offices, as no alterations can be made subsequently without a letter of indemnity. The responsibility for goods being detained or missing shipment owing to inaccuracy of description of marks rests with the owners or clearers of merchandise, as it is frequently impossible to identify goods with the papers accompanying them in time for Customs formalities to be completed before the vessel sails."

Greece.

With reference to the previous Ministerial Order prohibiting the export of certain articles from Greece, the Board of Trade are now in receipt of a list of further prohibited articles, including slaughtered animals (raw meat), mineral oil (lubricating oil), pulse in general, potatoes, cheese, olive oil (exclusive of Cretan exports), olives, salt cod and preserved goods, dressed (worked) and half-worked articles produced from and composed of raw material of which the exportation and transit is prohibited; ores of chrome and ferro-chrome; alloys of metals of which the exportation is prohibited; copper ore, and undressed hides of oxen, buffaloes, horses, calves, pigs, lambs, goats and deer, also such hides, dressed, suitable for making saddles, harness in general, and military boots. A further Ministerial Order has also been issued prohibiting the exportation of tin, chloride of tin, tin ores, and colours and colouring materials.

CYPRUS SHIPPING.

(From a Correspondent.)

Larnaca, May 22.

The Pantaleon Shipping Line has inaugurated a weekly service between Egypt and the three principal ports of Cyprus—Larnaca, Limassol, and Famagusta. The new service is welcome to shippers.

In consequence of the somewhat unjustifiable reluctance shown by English shipowners to send their steamers to load in Cyprus, the Greek flag has been very conspicuous in Cyprian waters. Large quantities of carobs and grain have been exported in Greek steamers.

GREEK MERCANTILE MARINE.

The *Board of Trade Journal* gives the following information from a report by H.M. Consul at Piræus on the trade of that district in 1914, which will shortly be issued. "According to statistics published by a local journal, eighty-five steamers of 219,450 gross tons were added to the Greek flag between July, 1913, and the end of December, 1914. The value of these steamers, reckoned at an average of £8 per ton gross, amounts to £1,755,600, and the total value of the Greek mercantile marine amounts to about £6,800,000. It is estimated that the earnings which the Greek mercantile marine will realise in 1915 as a result of the war will exceed £3,000,000."

A Cardiff contemporary says: "An inquiry of note is that of the Egyptian State Railways who are asking for tenders for 360,000 tons of Welsh or American coal. The period of delivery is from September to May next, and shippers are asked to send in prices on the f.o.b. basis for Welsh coals and the c.i.f. basis for American coals."

Near East Markets.

TOBACCO IN EGYPT.

(From a Cairo Correspondent.)

Attention has lately been centred in Egypt on the possibilities of utilising a part of the land which has hitherto been devoted to cotton for tobacco cultivation. The suggestion seems to have provoked the interest of several prominent men, among whom figures H.H. Prince Omar Pasha Toussun, who is reported to have formed a committee to study the prospects. Several writers, also, have repeatedly attempted to draw the attention of the public to the advisability of tobacco cultivation, inasmuch as it would do away with many of the difficulties besetting the fellah. The idea, however, has not yet converted itself into a reality, and nothing has been carried into execution—presumably in consequence of the absence of initiative and the existence of other hindrances.

It is interesting to note, however, that a certain resident of Zagazig is the signatory of an open letter in the native Press addressed to the Sultan, in which he respectfully solicits his kind attention to the project, which, he maintains, is capable of producing profitable results. The writer has volunteered to proceed to Greece or any other tobacco-growing centre, to study tobacco cultivation, and to bring back with him the necessary seeds, together with a few experts, in order to test the cultivation in a suitable tract of land assigned by the Ministry of Agriculture. The trial will enable the Government to form an opinion anent the project of introducing tobacco growing throughout Egypt, and to study the measures of taxation to be adopted with the view of safeguarding State revenue.

This interesting proposal could, doubtless, be tried, the more so because the proposer has expressed his readiness to defray all the expenses of the test. The suggestion can also be regarded as indicating that a small section of the public are alive to the interests of the country.

SPECIAL REPORTS.

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

Cyprus. May 18.

The new crop of barley is very good both in quantity and quality. It is hoped that, as was the case last season, large quantities will be shipped to the United Kingdom.

The Government has prohibited the exportation of cotton to Greece. The greater portion of the 1914 crop has already been exported, a few hundred bales having been detained in Egypt. It is a pity that freight rates prohibit the placing of Cyprus cotton on the English market.

Sofia. May 25.

The gathering of roses in the Valley of Roses begins this week. The harvest is an excellent one, but a great drop in prices is noticeable. Before the War 12-15 frs. per muscal was charged, and the flowers sold at 0.80-0.90 frs. per kilo. At present the muscal is worth 4 frs. and the flowers 0.20 frs. per kilo. The reason for the drop is, of course, the war, which has put a stop to the perfume industry.

The wheat harvest is an excellent one.

PRODUCE REPORT.

London, June 10.

Currants.

There are no arrivals, but the s.s. "Princesse Clementine" is now on the way. The demand keeps good for all grades of currants, but the small stocks restrict sales greatly. All kinds of currants are again dearer, both here and in Greece. In this market Provincials are quoted 26s. to 27s. 6d., Amalias 29s. to 30s., Patras 31s. to 33s., Gulf 31s. to 32s., Vostizza 36s. to 37s, Island 30s to 31s., Smalls 28s. to 35s.

In Liverpool, as anticipated, there was a brisk demand for all parcels that came to hand per s.s. "Britannia," and prices advanced 1s. 6d. to 2s. per cwt. against sales made, a few days ago, afloat by same steamer. Up to 28s. was paid for Provincial and 31s. for Zante. Of the latter grades there is nothing offering. The market closes very firm, and holders are inclined to ask for more money.

Sultanas.

No further arrivals have taken place. Buying continues on a large scale, and further rise of fully 1s. per cwt. has taken place. Duty paid clearances continue exceptionally heavy, and unless further arrivals take place, still higher prices must be expected in the near future. Greeks are quoted 58s. to 65s., and Smyrna 52s. to 65s.

In Liverpool, with the arrival of the s.s. "Britannia," there were about 15,000 boxes available for the market, and what have been landed sold rapidly at extreme prices, the increase of values since the beginning of May being 6s. to 7s. per cwt. Further supplies are very uncertain, and it seems that, owing to scarcity, prices will be advanced.

Dates.

The market keeps firm, with a moderate business.

Oils.

Linseed oil is inactive and prices have declined. On the spot, pipes, £29; barrels, £30; June-August, £30 5s.; September-December, £31. Rape oil is quiet, and brown and Japan are lower, but refined is unaltered. Cotton oil: Crude on the spot pipes, £30 5s.; refined on the spot pale pipes, £32 10s.; sweet barrels, £36 10s. to £38 10s.

COTTON REPORTS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Liverpool, June 10.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report:—

Egyptian Spot.—There has been a good demand for cotton this week, especially for Sakellarides, and a large business has been done. Quotations of good and below in Brown, Upper, and Nubari are advanced 15 points, in other descriptions 10 points, while quotations over good in all descriptions are reduced five points. Sales are estimated at 4,100 bales, against 1,800 last week.

Manchester.

During the past week the tone of the market has improved considerably, and although the volume of business passing can hardly be described as normal there has been a fair increase in the turnover. The situation in the labour dispute, notwithstanding the intervention of the Board of Trade, has unfortunately not improved. The position is rapidly becoming serious, as notices are being posted this week, and unless some agreement is arrived at during the next few days a general stoppage is inevitable. The Board of Trade, however, continue to follow the dispute closely.

EGYPTIAN COTTON SHIPMENTS.

The *Egyptian Gazette* publishes the following table showing the amount of cotton shipments from Egypt to the various countries abroad from the commencement of September last to the end of April, with comparisons with the corresponding period of the preceding year:—

	cantars.		Increase or decrease. cantars.
America	1,004,121	..	+483,792
France	113,708	..	−453,723
Greece	11,536	..	+ 8,586
India	2,464	..	− 2,217
Italy	387,214	..	+177,968
Japan	97,336	..	− 29,584
Portugal	6,850	..	+ 3,938
Russia	309,737	..	−148,616
Spain	143,940	..	+ 35,209
Switzerland	813,435	..	+591,919
Great Britain	2,337,361	..	−555,736
Other countries	5,547	..	+ 4,774

The decrease in the shipments to Austria and Hungary was 297,376 cantars; to Belgium 18,981 cantars; Germany 577,576 cantars; Holland 26,792 cantars; Roumania 771 and Turkey 4,182.

These figures give a net decrease in the shipments abroad of 819,378 cantars, the total exports for the eight months to the end of April last being 5,233,286 cantars, as against 6,052,664 cantars in the corresponding period of last year.

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Egyptian Trade in April.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, May 22.

The Egyptian Customs returns for the past month have just been published. Imports continue to show a falling off, though less than in any of the three preceding months, whilst exports once again are on the upward grade. The figures are :—Imports, £E1,476,767, and exports, £E2,287,723, against £E2,269,597 and £E2,175,947 respectively in April, 1914. The falling off in the former is £E792,830, and the increase in the latter £E111,776, making the diminution since the beginning of the year £E4,263,600 and £E927,116 respectively.

Under imports the only noticeable increases are frozen meat by £E70,469, and chemical manures by £E70,051. The chief decreases are in flour, £E107,436; construction wood, £E52,511; textiles, £E311,455; and worked iron and steel, £E103,679.

Exports show a further increase in eggs, £E42,047; in sugar, £E68,012; and in gold and silver bar, £E53,127; whilst onions have fallen off by £E110,703. On the other hand, cotton-seed has increased by £E30,220, maize by £E47,313. Cotton, it may be noted, has to all intents and purposes got back to the normal, for after comparatively large decreases during the previous months this article shows only a drop of £E50,679, as compared with April last year.

Cigarettes show a further falling off of 15 tons, or £E12,000. It is to be noted that the only countries that have increased their purchases during April are Holland and Switzerland. Special imports increased by £E20,775, due to the arrival of new silver to the value of £E77,400 for the Ministry of Finance from England. On the other hand, exports amounted to only £E19,388, and once again Turkey figures for a large amount, viz., £E17,550. This time, however, a footnote explains that this money was sent to Jaffa for the American Jewish Relief Society.

Turning to the share taken by the various countries in the trade of the past month, we find under imports that America has increased her sales by £E80,207, or over 300 per cent. Chili reappears with £E81,152—the entire import of chemical manure for the month. Brazil has increased by £E11,131 to £E37,712—practically the whole of the coffee trade. Greece has doubled her share as compared with the preceding year, whilst France has fallen off by £E143,965, or 180 per cent., Italy by £E17,268, Russia by £E50,727. The British Empire fell off by £E110,489 to £E804,531, but it supplied all the frozen meat, wheat, rice, and all but 5 per cent. of the coal. Under exports some curious results are obtained. Thus, the United States increased by £E110,251, Spain by £E23,898, Italy by £E123,088, and Switzerland by £E185,774, but practically the whole of the purchases of the States (£E416,058), Spain (£E59,790), Italy (£E221,499), and of Switzerland (£E238,467) represented cotton. There seems little doubt that the Egyptian Government were quite justified in prohibiting the export of that product to the two last-named countries; it is to be presumed, however, that the embargo will now be removed in so far as Italy is concerned. Whilst France bought £E39,287 more and Greece £E9,244 more, Russia fell off by £E96,378 to £E78,895. The British Empire, however, made good headway, for it increased its share by more than 25 per cent. to £E1,013,296, of which £E40,277 was sugar, and £E488,500 cotton.

The table of trade between the Sudan and Egypt shows that the latter purchased goods to the value of £E46,625 from the former and that the traffic in the contrary direction amounted to £E67,043. The principal items in the sales of the Sudan to this country were :—Livestock, £E6,600; ivory, £E3,115; cereals, £E11,573; gum, £E3,378; cotton, £E14,760. The chief articles purchased by the Sudan were :—Refined sugar, £E16,628; cotton tissues, £E19,454; tobacco, £E10,872; and flour, £E1,492.

FRENCH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN EGYPT.

On May 15 the annual general meeting of the French Chamber of Commerce in Egypt was held in Cairo. In the report in the year (says the *Egyptian Gazette*) it was pointed out that French imports had diminished by £E849,019 in comparison with 1913. Most of the decline is due to the prohibition in France of the exportation of certain foodstuffs, such as flour. There has also been a drop in the importation into Egypt of *articles de luxe* owing to the straitened circumstances of the population. Egypt's exports to France during the period under review have diminished by £E7,570,269, the greatest drop being that of cotton, which figures at £E6,834,248. The export of cotton seeds only dropped £1,000.

"When," says the report, "we consider that Germany's exports to Egypt represented 40,200,000 frs. and those of Austria 48,500,000, one can see what an important succession will fall to us as soon as business becomes more normal.

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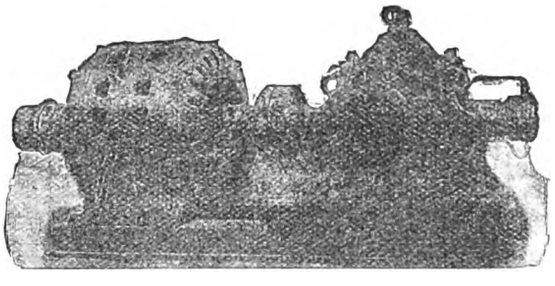

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Engineering Notes.

A New Box Nailing Machine.

In our notes last week we stated that owing to the war and the scarcity of imported timber in the Near East there will probably be an urgent demand for a certain class of wood-working machinery to prepare native timber for making boxes, which are annually required in millions for the exportation of currants, sultanas, figs, dates, etc. When alluding to the necessity of using nailing machines we omitted to mention a very suitable British-made machine which will interest box makers as well as fruit exporters. The system of nailing by this machine is a new, simple, cheap, and secure method of nailing up many classes of materials for boxes and packing-cases. A saving of timber, combined with increased strength and security, is thereby effected; fewer machines and less floor space are required, and a great reduction in labour is obtained. The nails are preferably driven angularly across the intersection of the boards, instead of through the outer face of the box side or end, and are then turned back into the timber in hook form, making it practically impossible to withdraw the nails without destroying the timber or box. This is effected by any standard type of nailing machine having as an adjunct the vice attachment of the machine alluded to. This vice automatically grips the under or vertical board while the nails are being driven, whilst its back jaw carries a series of nail turning dies, so shaped as to turn the nails back into the timber in hook form. The advantage of this system may be summarised as follows:—Two years' use in a large box factory in this country has proved the output of two of these machines in small boxes to be equal to that of four ordinary plain nailers, and as the vice prevents the nails running outside the timber the usual repairing tables are rendered unnecessary. These two features alone reduce the cost of labour for nailing to about half its present rate. Boards from 1-16th in. to 1 in. thick can be nailed up in the commonest classes of either soft or hard timbers, warped boards are automatically straightened out by the vice pressure before the nails are driven, and this ensures level, accurate, and flush work on every face. Theft of contents is obviated by the hooked nails, and thereby covers the risk of pilferage attached to straight-nailed boxes. It is claimed, moreover, that 25 per cent. saving in timber is effected on most small boxes, and 50 per cent. in wood on the ends of small boxes.

Bituminous Gas Producers.

The ever-increasing employment of the suction gas plant as a power producer in the East gives frequent occasion to make allusion to this class of machinery in these notes. Quite recently we alluded to a new semi-bituminous gas plant, and a correspondent from the East informs us now that certain bituminous gas producers have not proved quite satisfactory there, owing, he says, to the tar which is produced from the bituminous fuel, and which becomes very troublesome in the operation of the plant. Our correspondent gives no particulars as to the type and origin of the plants he refers to, but we presume that they are plants purporting to be suitable for gasifying semi-bituminous or bituminous fuel, and very probably not of British construction. Of course, the great problem in bituminous producers is the elimination of tar from the gas. This is done more or less successfully in many producers by the provision of a rotary tar extractor, driven by an electric motor or small engine. But this has been considered undesirable, and in the latest designs of producers the object aimed at is the complete elimination of tar from the gas before it leaves the generator. When gas is made from a bituminous fuel a considerable quantity of tar is given off; this, however, can be cracked by passing the gas through a very hot zone in the fire. A down draught producer has therefore been decided on, so that the gas which is first formed in the upper part of the producer is drawn down through the fire, and the tar in the gas is cracked and converted into fixed gases. The down draught producer is, of course, no new invention, but most of the producers of this type which have been made in the past have failed because they did not fulfil certain primary conditions.

A New Type of Bituminous Product.

A suitable plant for the East is one of the newest types of bituminous gas producers, which has proved very successful in the British colonies. It is as simple to operate as the ordinary suction gas producer, and with lignite or brown coal as fuel gives excellent results. This kind of fuel is cheap and easily obtained in the East, while a special feature of the plant is the provision made on the above-described principle, for the complete elimination of tar resulting from the use of bituminous fuel. The generator of the plant is rectangular in shape, and is provided with an air-jacket, and fitted with auxiliary air ports. When the plant is working, warm air is drawn from the jacket to the top of the producer. The fuel in the upper part of the producer is distilled at a low temperature, giving off its volatile constituents; this part of the producer acts almost like a cooking oven. The gases which are given off, and which contain tar, are drawn down through the fuel bed. The auxiliary air ports can be opened or closed at will, and also draw warm air from the air jacket; they are placed at various distances down the generator. The air entering at these points creates a secondary combustion zone, having a very high temperature, and the tarry vapours in the gas given off in the distilling zone are drawn through an intensely hot zone, cracked and converted into fixed gases which go to enrich the gas given off by the producer. The fuel below the auxiliary air ports is in the form of coke or charcoal, as the case may be, and the reactions which take place are exactly the same as those which take place in the ordinary suction producer. That is, the carbon is first burnt to carbonic anhydride, or carbonic acid gas, and this gas, in contact with an excess of incandescent carbon, is reduced to carbonic oxide. The greater percentage of inflammable gas passed to the engine is carbonic oxide, but this is enriched by hydrogen and marsh gas, obtained from the volatile constituents of the fuel. The reason for making the generator rectangular is that the fire must not exceed a certain thickness, which will allow the air from the auxiliary ports to create a hot zone right across the fire without leaving a dead core in the middle through which tarry distillates could pass without being reduced. An increase of power from the producer is obtained by increasing the length of the generator, leaving the breadth approximately the same. A central air pipe is fitted in order to make it perfectly certain that the centre of the fire is incandescent, but these pipes could not be multiplied indefinitely, as they would interfere with the stoking of the plant. The generator base is a substantial casting, carrying the fire-grate, which has rotating firebars of special design to crush any clinker which may be formed. It is waterluted, which allows for long continuous work with inferior fuels. The cooler placed between the generator and the scrubbers is designed to supply the necessary steam which is admitted with the air; it is fitted with baffle plates, over which the water from the scrubber runs, and a great part of the dust in the gas is extracted by this means. The gas then passes on to the coke scrubber, where it is further washed and cooled, and finally passes on to the sawdust scrubber, where it is dried before going on to the engine. This type of plant has been designed to use almost any class of bituminous fuel which is non-caking in character.

Ginning Mills in Egypt.

According to recent statistics, there are 143 ginning mills in Egypt, possessing 168 hydraulic presses, eight steam presses, and 2,448 other machines. Most of the mills are in Gharbieh and Behera, where there are 43 and 25 respectively. Assiout has only three mills. This year, however, says the *Egyptian Gazette*, 27 mills have had to close down, twenty in Lower and seven in Upper Egypt.

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Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields.

Referring to the prospects of Roumania entering the war, the *Financial Times* states that if Roumania joins the Allies it is fair to assume that it would be a bull point for the Roumanian Consolidated.

"The issued capital of the Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields is £1,177,840, in shares of £1 each, and £48,600 6 per cent. convertible debentures. The making-up price of the ordinary shares on July 27, 1914, was 23s. 9d., but owing to a large block of shares overhanging the market, the price fell to 15s. The shares, however, have now passed into strong hands, and in common with other leading oil issues the price is showing a tendency to recover, and it would not be surprising, in view of the greatly increased production, if the making-up price were reached before long.

"For the 13¼ months to June 30, 1913, the company produced 64,327 tons, and realised a profit of £91,264, while for the year to June 30, 1914, the production was 64,680 tons, and profits £135,195. After providing fully for reserves and further developments £93,866 was carried forward to the current year. The output of oil for the first nine months of the current year was 87,787 tons, against 53,120 tons for same period last year, showing some 60 per cent .increase. The company's properties, which now aggregate over 5,000 acres, are situated at Bana Baicoi, Chicuira Bustenari, Campina, Tintea and other localities in proximity to the properties of the Astra Romana (Royal Dutch-Shell group) and the Romano Americana (Standard Oil group). The company possesses refineries at Targoviste and Ploesti, which entitle it to a larger allotment of the Government monopoly's purchases for the internal consumption of the country, owing to the Government's policy of encouraging individual companies as opposed to the large combines. The company, therefore, not only benefits from the addition of the refinery profits, but receives a higher price for that portion taken by the Government than can be obtained from the exporters.

"It may be noted that the lands owned by the company on the Moreni, Filipesti, and Chicuira fields were originally selected by the general manager in Roumania before the fields had been proved, and in consequence were acquired for a tithe of their present value. The Chicuira property, for instance, which represents a capital expenditure of some £175,000, has recently become productive, giving 760 tons for February, and 1,178 tons for March. These results were obtained from only three wells. Four more are in process of drilling, and when conditions become more normal in Roumania a largely increased programme will be carried out on this section of the company's properties. The fields, refineries and distributing centres are connected by 100 miles of pipe line, with the proper equipment and pumping stations and storage tanks for crude and refined oils, while a tank farm for the export trade is in course of completion at the port of Constantza."

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The Postmaster-General announces that the overland transmission of the mails for India and Australia, containing correspondence for Egypt by British packet, Aden, Somaliland, British East Africa, and Zanzibar, India, Ceylon, Straits Settlements, etc., China, Australia, and New Zealand viâ Suez, was resumed with the mail leaving London on the morning of June 11.

The exportation of Angora mohair from the Ottoman Empire is (says the Turkish *chargé d'affaires* at Washington) again permitted.

At last week's meeting of the Port of London Authority it was reported that the elected members had co-opted Mr. Frederick Charles Allen, of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation through ill-health of Mr. Charles Wood Gordon.

At a recent meeting of the British Cotton Growing Association it was stated that the association have arranged to finance a portion of the Sudan crop, and there is reason to believe that a large quantity of Sudan cotton will be sent direct to the association this year for sale.

The Spring Session of the European Commission of the Danube opened on May 15, says our Bucharest correspondent, under the presidency of M. Guillemin, the French delegate. This year the session is being held at Galatz instead of at Sulina, as in former years.

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EXPROPRIATIONS IN EGYPT

(From A Cairo Correspondent.)

Numerous protests have lately appeared in the local Press against the action of the Government in forcibly disposing of properties in the event of the debtors being unable to meet their financial engagements. This procedure on the part of the Government, it has been pointed out, is not only injudicious, but ruinous to the interests of the landowners who had been thrust into an unforeseen position of insolvency occasioned by the war. By forcible selling, the Government will be depriving the fellah of his lands at a lamentably low price; while in case the Government initiates a suitable arrangement to ensure the recovery of debts without recourse to force, creditors would be able to recover the whole of their moneys and it would also give the fellah a chance to retain his property.

In a leading article on the subject, the *Ahram* strongly supports the petition submitted to the Government by the Egyptian Chamber of Commerce, and emphasises the necessity of postponing, if not abandoning, compulsory sales. "It is only just and judicious," remarks our contemporary, "to safeguard the interests of the indebted fellah by deferring the sale of property until the situation resumes its normal course and confidence is restored, thus encouraging the people to make investments by the purchase of lands. Alarming reports have reached us regarding the enormously low prices that costly lands have fetched. In a certain instance, a factory worth £E7,000 was sold for £E600; while in most cases lands have been sold for the amount for which they had been pawned. In the circumstances the public is justified in protesting, and the Government should give the matter its immediate attention in order to prevent the ruin which stares the people in the face.

"We draw the attention of the Government to the baneful consequences of divesting small landowners of their lands to be acquired by rich proprietors or companies.

"If the Government considers it its duty to safeguard the interests of the creditors and banks, it is likewise its duty to safeguard the interests of landowners from destruction."

BALKAN MORATORIA.

The *Handelsmuseum* of Vienna summarises the Balkan moratoria as follows:—

"Montenegro decreed a moratorium on the outbreak of the war. The measure was to terminate six months after the completion of the mobilisation.

"In Serbia the general moratorium decreed on July 25, 1914, covers not only debts contracted prior to that date, but also liabilities arising later. It is to continue in force until two months shall have elapsed after the publication of a decree of demobilisation.

"The moratorium in Bulgaria applies to liabilities incurred before August 7, 1914. It is to continue in force until abrogated by law or royal decree. The moratorium covers all money obligations of a civil or commercial character, and suspends all time limits with the exception of those relating to criminal matters.

"In Greece a number of extraordinary measures enacted during the Balkan War were still in force when the present war broke out. These moratoria, relating to the suspension of levies, proceedings in bankruptcy, and for dispossession of tenants, have been extended until July 13, 1915. No writs for the attachment of the debtor's person may be issued before the end of 1915."

SUDAN INDUSTRIES.

A new enterprise, which will be known as The Sudan Industries Company, has recently been established in Khartoum, says the *Sudan Times*. The new concern, which will be under the able directorship of Mr. Ernesto Dello Strologo, will run a flour-mill and an ice factory. The latter part of the business will no doubt be interesting to the public, who will thereby have the hope of getting cheaper ice. We understand that it is the intention of the new firm to actually sell ice at much lower prices than the public now have to pay.

Company Notes and Reports.

Bank of Roumania.

The report of the directors to be presented to the shareholders at the ordinary meeting to be held at the offices of the bank, 7, Great Winchester Street, London, E.C., on June 23, at 1 p.m., states that the result of the year's working up to December 31 has been satisfactory. However, owing to the unprecedented level of exchange, there has been deducted from the profits shown in Bucharest, after making provision for bad debts, a sum of Lei 370,400 to meet possible losses in exchange on unmatured operations, and after having written £6,661 8s. 3d. off investments there remains a sum of £17,171 8s. 10d. A distribution at the rate of 6s. per share, free of English income tax, is recommended. The figures in the balance-sheet are calculated at the rate of Lei 25 to the £1 sterling. With regard to the capital employed in Roumania, the difference between this rate and the abnormal exchange ruling at the end of December is covered many times over by the old reserve account. The retiring member of the board is the Viscount Goschen, who, being eligible, offers himself for re-election.

Mortgage Company of Egypt.

The report of the Mortgage Company of Egypt, Ltd., to be submitted to the meeting on the 17th inst. covers the year ended March 31, 1915, and states that after providing for interest on the 4½ per cent. first charge debentures and on other loans, and setting aside £50,000 as a special reserve for arrears, the accounts show a profit for the year of £41,319 15s. 7d. Deducting the amount of the dividend paid on the 5 per cent. preferred shares to December 31, 1914, viz., £37,500, there remains a balance of £3,819 15s. 7d. Adding the amount brought forward from the previous account (£6,184 3s. 1d.) there remains available £10,003 18s 8d. Out of this sum the directors propose to devote £2,800, the same as in previous years, to writing down the discount and expenses of the debenture issues, and to carry forward to the next account the balance of £7,203 18s 8d. The great falling off in the realised profits of the company in the past year is due entirely to the War and to the economic depression in Egypt arising out of it. Owing to the decreased demand for and the lower price of cotton, an unusual number of the company's mortgagors are in arrears with their annual instalments, and it may not be possible to collect the whole of the sum due until, with the return of peace, normal conditions are restored. The following figures illustrate the growth of the company's business since it began operations in December, 1908:—Amount invested in first mortgages at March 31, 1910, £1,183,611; at March 31, 1911, £2,064,178; at March 31, 1912, £2,597,473; at March 31, 1913, £3,037,991; at March 31, 1914, £3,276,225; at March 31, 1915, £3,481,545. The area of agricultural land mortgaged to the company is 89,819 feddans, well spread over the different provinces of Egypt. This land has been valued by the company's experts at £6,535,000. The house property mortgaged to the company has been similarly valued at £1,640,000, making a total of about £8,175,000. Viscount Milner, Hon. A. H. Mills, and Captain R. G. Westropp, directors of the company, retire by rotation, and being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

United Egyptian Lands.

The report of the United Egyptian Lands, Ltd., for the year ended March 31 states that the company encountered great financial difficulties in consequence of the bad results of the cotton crop, principally due to the virulent attack of the boll worm, to the lack of water during the rotations, and finally to the low sale price of the cotton of P.T. 328 per cantar, as against P.T. 452 in 1913. Looking at the results of the crops during the three previous years, the directors had every reason to expect that the amount of the cotton obtainable from the company's estates, including cotton belonging to purchasers of land at Kom El Akhdar, the cotton grown by tenants of the estate, as well as that grown for the company's own account, should reach to 3,000 cantars. Unfortunately, however, the actual result has only been a production of 1,580 cantars, and at the prices which ruled, the proceeds (of this) were barely sufficient to meet the amount which, as in former years, had been obtained as an advance on the crops at the beginning of the year. The consequence has been a loss on the cotton cultivated on the company's own account; the tenants have been unable to pay their rent in full, and the arrears due by purchasers of the Kom El Akhdar estate have appreciably increased. The directors have, therefore, considered it advisable, in agreement with the auditors, to devote the balance of the profit and loss suspense account, amounting to L.Eg. 3895.413 m., to form a special reserve against arrears due by purchasers and tenants. No fresh sales of land at Kom El Akhdar have taken place this year, and at Rodan the directors have only been able to sell two small plots amounting altogether to 398 square metres. Under these circumstances it is not surprising that the company has been unable to meet its engagements, the principal of which are the amount due to the Mortgage Company of Egypt, Ltd., about £9,000, the amount due on current account to the bank, about £3,000, and a sum of about £3,000 due to various merchants for goods supplied for the estate of Kom El Akhdar. The Mortgage Company of Egypt has given every assistance and support and has agreed to advance the necessary funds for the development of the company's estates in order to prevent their depreciation. By arrangement with the Mortgage Company of Egypt the managing director has been appointed judicial receiver of the company, responsible to all parties. Owing to the restrictions imposed by the Government the area devoted to the cultivation of cotton during 1915 has had to be reduced from previous years, and even if the crop is normal, the production will not exceed more than 1,800 to 2,000 cantars. All work of reclamation had to be suspended at the end of July, 1914, after only about 150 feddans had been reclaimed. In the case of these lands and other lands previously reclaimed in preceding years the company were unable to complete their development, with the result that the value of the reclamation will be, to a certain extent, lost.

New Egyptian Company.

The report to be submitted at the annual meeting of the shareholders states that the accounts show a profit of £17,776 13s. 4d. The directors have created reserves against the realisation of the 1913-1914 rentals owing, and the interest due by purchasers, to the amount of £7,511 18s. 11d. Deducting this sum, together with the loss of £728 4s. 1d. on realization of cotton referred to below, and £5,707 9s. 9d. required for the service of the debentures, the profit for the year is reduced to £3,829 0s. 7d. Adding £1,328 9s. 11d. brought forward from last year, the balance at the credit of the account amounts to £5,157 10s. 6d., which the directors propose to carry forward. Pending the decision of the Egyptian Government to grant financial help to the agricultural interests in the unprecedented situation, the board have decided, on the advice of the managing director, to render assistance to their tenants and purchasers by taking over their cotton crops at an agreed price. This cotton has now been sold, but, in consequence of the low prices ruling, a small loss has been incurred, which has been provided for in the accounts. At the date of the last meeting of shareholders there was every indication that the year under review would be a record one as regards sales, but for obvious reasons a very small number of new sales has since been effected. Furthermore in several cases where sales had been made previous to the War, for which definite contracts had not been completed, the sales have either been cancelled or modified: consequently we are only able to report the sale during the year under review of 321 feddans, at an average price of £110 13s. 1d. per feddan. The total sales up to December 31, 1914, amount to 2,910 feddans at an average price of £95 0s. 10d. per feddan.

Good progress has been made with the improvements on all the Lower Egypt estates.

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The capital expenditure during the year was £32,266 8s. 11d., bringing the total cost at December 31 last to £321,760 9s. 6d., or £50 8s. per feddan. A hundred and twenty-two feddans have been sold at an average price of £120 per feddan, showing a profit of £5,723. The estimated receipts of the Lower Egypt estates for the year 1914-1915 are approximately £18,693. Improvements have been continued satisfactorily on the Upper Egypt estates. During the year 199 feddans have been sold (166 feddans at an average price of £121 per feddan, and 33 feddans, representing the balance of one of our estates, at an average of £26 10s.), showing a profit of £7,625. The capital expenditure during this period amounts to £9,268 18s. 2d., and the total cost of these estates at December 31 last is £108,867 12s. 1d., or £44 3s. 8d. per feddan. The estimated rentals for 1914-1915 are £9,928. Since the closing of the company's accounts, contracts have been signed for the sale of an additional 129 feddans—61½ at an average price of £118 10s., and 67½ at an average price of £54 10s. There is no change to report on the company's holding of town sites. The sum of £41,535 7s. 1d. has been expended on the various estates during the year, which has materially enhanced the value of the lands. The valuation made by experts at the end of the year showed a considerable appreciation over cost.

Deutsche Orient Bank.

In connection with the dubious status of the Deutsche Orient Bank in Egypt, the *Egyptian Gazette* is informed that the work of the bank in Egypt is governed simply by the terms of Lieutenant-General Sir John Maxwell's Proclamation of January 25, 1915. This proclamation actually allows the Egyptian branches of an enemy house to carry on business, but as a matter of fact it is impossible for the bank in its present circumstances to undertake new business; it is merely liquidating its position, and paying its creditors in Egypt and Allied countries.

Cairo Electric Railways and Heliopolis Oases.

The annual general meeting of the shareholders was held last month in Cairo, Sir John Rogers presiding. The balance-sheet and profit and loss accounts were unanimously approved. The carry forward is Frs. 485,306.11.

COMPANY RESULTS, &c.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN.—Gemsah production for the week, 231 tons, previous week 291 tons; recovered from sediment, 14 tons, against 12 tons; Hurgada production, 149 tons, against 52 tons.

BANK OF ROUMANIA.—The annual meeting of shareholders will be held at the offices of the Bank, 7, Great Winchester Street, on June 23, at 1 p.m.

EGYPT AND LEVANT STEAMSHIP COMPANY.—The following final dividends in respect of the year to January 31, 1915, will be paid :—(1) Coupon No. 9 of the ordinary shares, at the rate of 4½ per cent. less income tax, making the total for the year 7 per cent.; (2) on Coupon No. 1 of the deferred shares, at the rate of two shillings and six point ninepence (2s. 6.9d.) per share less income tax. Payments in London at the offices of the company, 22, Leadenhall Street, E.C., and in Egypt at the offices of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Ltd., Cairo and Alexandria.

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.—Receipts for the ten days ended May 10 amount to £E3,743, as against £E5,715 for the corresponding period of last year.

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.—First 5 per cent. debenture coupons No. 33 are payable at the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited, 27 Clement's Lane, London, E.C., at the face value, and at the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited's branch offices at Cairo and Alexandria, at the current rate of exchange.

MORTGAGE COMPANY OF EGYPT.—The ninth annual meeting of the shareholders will be held at Cannon Street Hotel, London, E. C., on June 17, at 2.30 p.m.

NATIONAL GINNING COMPANY OF EGYPT.—The annual meeting of the above company was held in Alexandria on May 31.

NEW EGYPTIAN.—Fourteenth ordinary general meeting will be held on June 17 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C. Transfer books will be closed from June 10 to 17, inclusive.

ROUMANIAN CONSOLIDATED.—May, including the Chiciura Oilfields, 9,004 tons.

UNITED EGYPTIAN LANDS, LTD.—The eighth annual meeting of shareholders was held in Alexandria on Monday.

NATIONAL BANK OF ROUMANIA.

BALANCE-SHEET, MAY 9/22, 1915.

ASSETS.

Metallic reserve	Gold (specie)	159,556,405	
	On deposit..	25,220,000	
	Gold (bars) .	165,000	
	Foreign bills payable in gold.....	71,032,341	255,973,746
Silver and other coins			677,734
Roumanian and foreign bills			223,937,888
Advances against Government securities		28,025,500	
On current account	50,105,000		
Unused balance ..	27,983,327	22,121,673	50,147,173
Loan of 15 millions to the State			11,273,958
Loan to Government on 4 per cent. Treasury Bonds (1914)			171,138,495
Bank's capital invested in Government stock			11,493,075
Reserve invested in Government stock			16,476,677
Reserve, depreciation of buildings, furniture and printing machinery			3,965,281
Premises			6,733,709
Furniture and printing machinery			1,107,106
General expenses			1,189,842
Government and other securities deposited			130,093,666
Four per Cent. Gold Treasury Bonds as security for loan to State			200,000,000
Securities held against advances or temporarily lodged			163,113,323
Current accounts			21,782,054
Security accounts			22,206,124
Sundry accounts			30,460,555
Total Lei			1,321,770,406

LIABILITIES.

Capital	12,000,000
Reserve	39,714,199
Reserve, depreciation of buildings, furniture and printing machinery	5,768,306
Notes in circulation	628,336,745
Profit and loss account	6,068,534
Current accounts and drafts at sight	68,957,352
Securities, etc., held on account of customers	493,206,989
Sundry accounts	67,718,281
Total Lei	1,321,770,406

Bank Rate, 6 per cent.

NOTICE is hereby given that the ORDINARY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Shareholders of the BANK OF ROUMANIA, Limited, will be held on Wednesday, the 23rd day of June, 1915, at One p.m., at the Offices of the Bank, 7, Great Winchester Street, London, E.C.:—

To receive the report of the Directors, and the Balance Sheet to 31st December, 1914.
To authorise placing an amount to the credit of the Reserve Fund.
To declare a Dividend.
To elect a Director in the place of the one who retires.
To elect Auditors for the ensuing year, and to fix their remuneration.

Holders of Share Warrants to Bearer for at least five Shares desirous of being present or represented at the said Meeting must deposit their Share Warrants at the Offices of the Bank in London or Bucarest, seven days before the Meeting.

By Order,
H. W. A. KILGOUR, Secretary.

London, 8th June, 1915.

L'UNION FONCIERE D'EGYPTE.

L'ASSEMBLÉE GÉNÉRALE ORDINAIRE du 15 Mai, 1915, n'ayant pas atteint le querum prévu par l'article 26 des Statuts, Messieurs les Actionnaires sont convoqués, conformément aux prescriptions du même alinéa des Statuts, en Assemblée Générale Ordinaire, pour le Mardi, 15 Juin, 1915, à 4 heures de relevée, au Siège Social, 4 Rue Rosette, en vue de délibérer sur l'ordre du jour suivant:

1. Rapport du Conseil d'Administration.
2. Rapport du Censeur.
3. Approbation du bilan de l'Exercice 1914-1915.
4. Renouvellement partiel du Conseil d'Administration.
5. Election du Censeur et fixation de son indemnité.

Tout actionnaire possesseur de cinq actions au moins a droit de prendre part à l'Assemblée Générale, à condition d'effectuer le dépôt de ses titres, au plus tard trois jours avant la date de la réunion, dans un des établissements ci-après désignés:—

En Egypte, auprès des Banques établies à Alexandrie ou au Caire.
En France, auprès de la Société Marseillaise de Crédit Industriel et Commercial et de Dépôts.
En Angleterre, auprès de la Banque Belge pour l'Etranger.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE	Mean Price. July 27.	Min. Price. Mar. 20.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	—	92
Do. 5 % Gold Loan, 1902	—	—	—
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907	82	—	—
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909	80	—	65xd
City of Alexandria 5%, 1909	99	—	90½
City of Constantinople 4% Bnds	96	—	—
Egypt, Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan	93½	87⅛	87½
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	85	88⅜
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	88	78	78½
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82½	73½	78⅜
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	80½	75	75½
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	52	57
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	52	56½
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	45	49½
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	40	45
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	52	56
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	—	54
Do. 4 % Rails. Loan, 1902	77	—	70
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	94	—	95
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	—	76½
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	80
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	91	—	81xd
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £60p.	92	—	—
Servian 4 % Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855	103	97	—
Do. 4 %, 1891	94⅛	—	95½
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	—	78
Do. 4 % Loan, 1902	82½	—	—
Do. 4 % Unified	79	—	60
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	65½	—	52
Do. 4 %, 1909	69	—	—
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4⅛	—	3⅜xd
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7⅜	—	7
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.	80	—	73
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red.	83	—	76
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	—	10½
Bank of Abyssinia	½	—	—
Bank of Athens	£2	—	1⅜
Bank of Roumania	8½	—	—
Eastern Bank	5	—	85/9
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅜	—	6½
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	—	—
Ionian Bank, Limited	3¼	—	72/6
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	—	4⅜
National Bank of Egypt	13¾	—	12⅜
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½% C.P.	8	—	6½
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8½	—	6⅜
Do. do. 5 % Debs., Red.	98	—	95
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I.	89⅜	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88⅜	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17¾	—	13½
Do. do. 6 % Cum. Pref.	22	—	15
Do. do. 4 % 1st Deb.	87	—	62
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb.	101	—	67⅜
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	90	—	—
Do. do. 3 % Bonds	61	—	—
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	—	15/16
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	—	95
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	¼	—	—
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	—	2¼
Do. Do. Def.	¼	—	—
Béhéra Co.	8¼	—	7⅜
Do. Pref.	4⅜	—	3⅜
Daira Sanieh	2/2	—	1/9
Do. Def.	⅞	—	⅝
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	9/-	—	7/-xd
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tst.	98	—	90
Do and Foreign Trust	5/-	—	4/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	—	1⅛
" " Founders	¼	—	—
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—	—
Do. 5 % Debs. Red.	—	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	9⅜	—	8¼
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	—	90
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	—	—
Sidi Salem Co.	⅝	—	⅜
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1⅛	—	¾
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	—	1/-
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	—	11⅜
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt	97	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	—	—
Egyptian Hotels	1¼	—	—
Do. 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—	—
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅛	—	1⅛xd
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	99⅛	—	99
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	1 1/16	—	14/3
Do. 5 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	96	—	98
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅝	—	10/-
Do. do. Prefs.	3⅝	—	3½
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt.	90	—	85
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (fr. 500)	£179½	—	£—
Upper Egypt Hotels	2½	—	—

OIL.	Price on July 30.	June 9.
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	⅝	13/-
Anglo-Persian	22/1½	21/6
Cyprus Oil Trust	2/3	2/3
European Oilfields	4/9	3/6
Roumanian	20/-	15/9

PARIS BOURSE.

	Jan. 4.	June 9.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane	—	470
Canal de Suez	4050	4400
Credit Foncier Egyptien	639	590
Turkish Unified 4%	61.50	63
Egyptian Unified 4%	87.75	89.70
Serbian, 1895	—	65

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 215.—Vol. IX. FRIDAY, JUNE 18, 1915.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Greek elections have resulted, as we anticipated in these columns last week, in a substantial majority for the Venizelists. According to the latest returns, the Venizelists in the new Chamber will number at least 190 out of 316; there will be between ninety and a hundred followers of the present Government, while the remaining seats will be divided between Rhallists, Theotokists, and Independents. The strength of the party which now supports the policy of M. Gounaris lies in Macedonia, where we should expect to find that the most had been made of the cession of territory to Bulgaria proposed by M. Venizelos last January. Even if the ex-Premier's return to power meant that Greece stood pledged to exchange a strip of territory in the Kavalla district for a large portion of Western Asia Minor, M. Venizelos would command the support of the new Chamber. But, as has already been pointed out, the whole question of Greece's attitude in connection with the war has to be considered *de novo*. The offer made to M. Venizelos last January no longer holds good. It would still be open to Greece to purchase Bulgaria's goodwill by ceding her the territory in question; but M. Venizelos does not stand committed to this course, for the reason that the compensation he had counted on receiving in Asia Minor is no longer available. By the time, therefore, that M. Venizelos is called upon to declare the policy of his Government, it may be that many of those now classed as supporters of M. Gounaris will go to swell the ranks of the Venizelists.

The vote of confidence given to M. Venizelos at the elections does not imply that Greece will at once range herself as a belligerent on the side of the Triple Entente. The Greek Chamber need not meet until July 20, and it is expected that M. Gounaris will remain in office during the interval. He is the more likely to do so, as the state of King Constantine's health still casts a shadow over public affairs in Greece, and is an argument for the maintenance of the *status quo* as long as possible. Indeed, the Gounaris policy may ultimately win the day by sheer force of circumstances. The urgency for Greece's participation in the war that was felt to exist in January has entirely passed, and with it the opportunity for extensive territorial expansion in Asia Minor. Italy is now a recognised claimant for compensation in that part of the world, and by taking the field with the Triple Entente has established a right to prior consideration. The situation with which M. Venizelos will be confronted on resuming office will differ materially from that of six months ago. Greece, by participating in the war then, would have been striking a blow for international justice and the independence of small nations. She would have come to the rescue of her ally, Serbia, and would have earned any reward that might have been given her. Her entry a few months hence may expose her to the charge of wishing to be in at the death mainly for the sake of loot.

It happens that Greece is not fired by the same national aspirations which compel the rest of the Balkan States to side with the Triple Entente. There are many Hellenes on the coast of Asia Minor, but it is impossible that the Hellenes of Greece should feel towards them as the Roumanians do towards their kinsmen in Transylvania or the Bulgarians towards their Macedonian kinsfolk. If they did, it would have been difficult for the sacrifice of 1,500 square kilomètres in Macedonia to weigh more heavily with the Greek public than the prospect of a large accession of territory in Asia Minor. For this reason there is not likely to be in Greece the same enthusiasm for war as there is in the rest of the Balkans.

If the trend of Greek policy towards the war has lost much of its former interest for the Allied Powers, this fact is not likely to diminish the satisfaction with which M. Venizelos' return to power will be widely hailed. There remains, apart from Greece's attitude towards the war, the question of the future of the Near East. The *non possumus* policy which the Gounaris Cabinet adopted towards a Near Eastern federation argued neither strength nor statesmanship, and was as little helpful to the cause of the Balkans as are the references in the Greek Press to Bulgaria as the villain of the drama. M. Venizelos can be relied upon to approach the subject with breadth of view and in a manner more worthy of Greece's position in the Balkans. It would be to Greece's interests, if by the time he assumes office the suggestion of military co-operation, which has caused such anxiety in army circles, should be definitely withdrawn in favour of a scheme which Greece would accept at the request of the Triple Entente for the benefit of the Balkans as a whole.

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Various explanations have been put forward from time to time of the delay in Roumania's participation in the war. From a long article contributed to a Continental journal by a professor of the University of Bucharest it has been inferred that the real difficulty lies in Roumanian misgivings over the future of the Dardanelles. The article points out that the freedom of the Straits is as essential to Roumania as it is to Russia, and that to place them under the sole control of the latter is equivalent to reducing Roumania to the position of a Russian vassal. There is no reason to suppose that the Roumanian Government shares these anxieties. If Constantinople and the Straits pass into the hands of Russia, the transfer will be made under such safeguards as will leave Roumanian interests unprejudiced. Other Powers are interested in the maintenance of an open waterway between the Mediterranean and Black Seas, and, although their interest is not so great as Roumania's relatively to the total bulk of their trade, it is sufficient to make them desirous of securing for the world's commerce all the advantages attaching to an internationalized channel.

The reasons for Roumania's delay are more likely to be found in the apparently inevitable dilatoriness of modern diplomacy. It has been stated repeatedly in these columns that there need be no doubt regarding Roumania's ultimate participation in the war. At one time it seemed probable that the only part which Roumania would be called upon to play would be to occupy provinces which would welcome the advent of her soldiery with open arms. The stage when such views held good quickly passed. Not only was it realised that Roumanian help could be of considerable value to the Allied cause, but in Roumania itself the feeling gained ground that it would be derogatory to the dignity of the nation to take over territory for which it had been unwilling to fight. The time, therefore, arrived when it became necessary to determine exactly the limits of the territory which Roumania would occupy after the conclusion of a successful war. A divergence of views at once manifested itself. The process of arriving at an agreement was still further protracted by the fact that Italy was also negotiating at the same time with the Powers of the Triple Entente. In Roumania the impression appears to have gained ground that acquiescence on the part of the Triple Entente in Italy's terms would entail acceptance of Roumania's claims. This view, however, was not shared either in Italy or by the three Allied Governments, with the result that Italy's participation in the war found Roumania still in the middle of her negotiations. In spite of the report that the German Emperor contemplates inviting the Roumanian and Bulgarian Premiers to pay him a visit with a view to influencing the attitude of their respective countries towards the war, we prefer to think that Roumania's participation in the war is now only a matter of weeks.

In the letter which we published last week from our Bucharest correspondent the details of the negotiations were set forth at some length. The difference between the terms which the Roumanians advance and those which the Allied Powers are prepared to give is not great. A tendency on the part of Russia to yield a point from time to time encourages the Roumanian Government to believe that it will ultimately obtain all it asks for. The proposal that a portion of the Banat should be reserved for Serbia as a protection for Belgrade is based probably more on sentimental than on military grounds. Belgrade is exposed to attack from the Semlin side of the Danube rather than from the marshy ground on the other side of the river. During the present war it has been attacked by Austrian monitors and by the forts around Semlin, but we doubt whether the Austrians have made much use of the ground now called in question between Roumania and the Triple Entente, for the good reason that the land is often under water for many square miles.

Various straws have of late given an indication of the way in which the political wind is blowing in Bulgaria. After denuding the Adrianople district of many of its troops to strengthen their forces at the Dardanelles, the Turks are now said to be paying particular attention to the fortifying of positions along the Bulgarian frontier. At the same time they are showing scant respect for Bulgarian rights over the portion of the Dedeagatch railway which runs through Turkish territory. The seizure by the Germans of a consignment of rifles in the Baltic Sea which was being conveyed on a Swedish steamer to Bulgaria was not in itself an important incident. A remonstrance from Bulgaria elicited an explanation from the German Government, and the rifles were allowed to be transported overland. More significant than the incident was the tenour of the statement issued on the subject by the Bulgarian Legation in London. This is not the first incident of the kind, the Bulgarian Minister states, for some time ago the Austrian Government confiscated a considerable amount of ammunition while on its way to Bulgaria. The steamer conveying the rifles from Denmark, he adds, was stopped and her cargo illegally confiscated by the Germans. "The news that the German Government is now allowing the transport of the rifles to Bulgaria shows that the protest of the Bulgarian Government has produced effect." As time passes Bulgarian neutrality must prove a somewhat difficult pose to maintain.

Our Sofia Correspondent confirms the report that the negotiations between the Triple Entente and Bulgaria have lately taken a more satisfactory turn. It would, perhaps, be more correct to say that a direct channel of communication has been opened between Sofia and the Governments of the Allied Powers, by means of which an exchange of views can take place with some prospect of a favourable issue. Surprise, which will be shared elsewhere, is expressed in Bulgaria over two points: that the Triple Entente should have delayed so long to place itself in sympathetic touch with the Bulgarian Government, and that Great Britain should not have seen the wisdom of keeping the negotiations in her own hands, instead of leaving them to others, who are of necessity suspect in the Balkans.

The official explanation of the Serbian advance into Albania corresponds with the views expressed in these columns last week. It is recalled that during the Serbo-Turkish War in 1912 Serbia conquered the whole of Northern Albania and reached the open sea. At the demand of Austria-Hungary, Serbia was compelled to evacuate Albania. Immediately after the Serbian retirement Austro-Hungarian agents overran Albania and succeeded in raising the inhabitants against Serbia. Large masses of Albanians raided Serbian territory, but Serbia was able to repel the aggressors and occupied a strategic line. At the bidding of Austria, Serbia was obliged to abandon these points. With the outbreak of the present war, the Austro-Hungarian Consulate at Scutari became a centre of operations against Serbia, and five Albanian raids of importance took place. It is with a view to putting a stop to these incursions that the Serbians are now invading Albania.

According to the latest reports, the Serbian forces have occupied Elbasan and Tirana, and are marching on Durazzo, in agreement with Essad Pasha, who met them at Tirana. The attempt on the part of an Albanian force to invest Durazzo has been abandoned, but it will probably be the object of the Serbians to cut off the retreat of these tribesmen. In the official statement already quoted the Serbian Government states that it realises that the Albanian question is one which must be settled by Europe as a whole, but it is equally confident that the measures now taken by Serbia are as much in the interests of the Allies as in her own. It was not to be supposed that Serbia would embark on any undertaking of this nature without assuring herself that she had the support of her Allies. Italy has now to be reckoned in the number of these Allies, and she is particularly interested in the future of Albania. If both countries approach the question in the spirit indicated in the Serbian statement, there can be no possibility of any misunderstanding during the period of the war.

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Italy has obtained from the Triple Entente recognition of her interests in Albania, and there is no reason why there should not be a clearly defined line of demarcation between these and Serbian interests in the north. Already an Italian flotilla has been instrumental in bringing to book the Albanians who were detaining in San Giovanni di Medua a number of Montenegrin sailing ships and steamers laden with foodstuffs. The coast was bombarded, and the Albanians were made to restore the goods they had taken from the vessels.

There is a tendency in the Italian Press to affect concern over Serbia's action in Albania. For reasons which have already been set forth it would seem that this attitude arises from a misunderstanding, and is not to be regarded as being shared by the Italian Government. Serbia no less than Italy recognizes that the eventual fate of Albania is a matter for subsequent settlement, and cannot be decided by the results of a subsidiary campaign. The main purpose of the Italians and the Serbians is to defeat the Austro-German forces, and to this end all their efforts must be directed. There will be occasion later to adjust their respective interests in Albania. Meanwhile, it is to Italy's interests, no less than Serbia's, that the latter should be immune from predatory attacks from Albania when undertaking, in conjunction with her Allies, a forward movement against the common enemy. The situation in Albania is such that the enforcement of law and order by any means available is preferable to a continuance of the existing chaos. If the salvation of Albania lies in Essad Pasha's hands, he will be able to accomplish much more with the support of Serbian troops than if he were to be left beleaguered in Durazzo by a number of tribesmen, who only had in common distrust of his efforts to restore order in Albania.

Every fresh account of the operations at the Dardanelles emphasizes the difficult nature of the task before the Allies' troops on the narrow strip of land forming the Gallipoli Peninsula. There is no possibility of manœuvring; all the enemy's works have to be attacked and carried by frontal assaults, and the region, we learn from an official statement, "is honeycombed with deep entrenchments, flanked by machine guns and protected by barbed wire entanglements and other obstacles." Such works, it is added, cannot be rushed; they have gradually to be approached by working from point to point. The fact remains that the work is being accomplished, slowly, of course, and not without heavy casualties. The strength of the Turkish position is centred in the hill of Achi Baba, a little over 800 ft. high, rising from the centre of a line between Gaba Tepe and Kilid Bahr. Its outlying defences stretch across the peninsula, and constitute a very powerful defensive position. Some satisfaction has to be derived from the fact that, as the latest reports prove, any attacks on the allied positions are even more costly to our enemy than our own offensive is to us. On the night of the 15th inst. a determined attack by the Turks, led by a German officer, resulted in the enemy leaving fifty dead in front of our trenches. The German officer was among them. At another point where we were forced to vacate a trench the position was recaptured, and the trench was found to contain 200 dead Turks.

The object of the German submarines operating in these waters is as much to interfere with the supply of drinking water for the troops on shore as to reduce the naval strength of the Allies. As the submarines are dependent on their bases, it becomes necessary for the allied fleets or aircraft to discover these and destroy them, if possible. Last week two French destroyers bombarded Chesme, a port on the mainland opposite Chios, which had served the purpose of a base. All the sailing vessels in the harbour were sunk, and the petrol stores demolished. The German report that two submarines have now been sent to Constantinople and have restored confidence to the populace may mean that these vessels have sought refuge in the Sea of Marmora, owing to the impossibility of existing in the Ægean.

A long statement issued from Petrograd reviews the course of recent operations in the Caucasus, and it is of interest to read the results achieved by our Russian Allies in this remote theatre of war. By June 6, it is stated, "we had captured in the course of a few months the vast region of Van and a part of the sanjak of Mush; we had annihilated Khalil Bey's original corps, and we had cleared of Turkish troops the whole region between Lakes Van and Urmia. On the right wing we occupied Turkish territory between the old frontier and the line of the Rivers Chorokh and Tortum and the mountain range of Chakhir Baba. The offensive which the Turks undertook in the province of Azerbaijan, with the object of clearing us out of this region, ended finally in a definite *débâcle* for the Turkish regular troops, who delivered an offensive in the direction of Van and Urmia." These results, it is hardly necessary to add, have not been achieved without the most strenuous efforts on the part of the Russian troops. At one point the Turks retired to a mountain chain "covered with snow and almost inaccessible, between snow-covered passes from 10,000 to 10,800 ft. high." Here they put up a desperate resistance, often in caves, but were finally overthrown, and those who escaped were scattered in disorderly flight in various directions.

The situation in Galicia continues to be one of critical importance. Before the fierce Austro-German attack the Russians have still to give ground. They have evacuated Bukovina, and now hold a line less than thirty miles from Lvoff, which forms the chief objective of the enemy. Between this line, however, and the capital of Galicia the Russians have another strongly defended position, and the fate of the town is by no means settled yet. Before the Austro-German forces have covered the intervening distance it is possible that the action of Roumania may bring relief to the Russians. The farther the enemy advance into Galicia the more exposed become their lines of communication to a Roumanian attack. Armies, however, can advance but slowly under modern conditions of warfare, and the Russians are not likely to be relying upon anything but their own resources to extricate them from their present difficulties. The situation in the eastern theatre acts as a strong incentive, if one were needed, for the maximum effort on the part of the Allies at the Dardanelles and on the western front.

The *Sudan Government Gazette* publishes the text of the Ordinance establishing the High Court of Justice in the Sudan. The new Court consists of the Court of Appeal and Courts of Original Jurisdiction, the former being constituted by three or more members from among the Chief Justice and Judges of the High Court. Subordinate to the High Court of Justice there will be in each province a court styled the Province Court. The judges of a Province Court are to consist of (a) a Province judge, except in the Province of Khartoum, and in any other province where a branch of the High Court shall have been established; and (b) district judges, who may be of three grades.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, May 30.

The British Residency at Alexandria.

On Thursday the High Commissioner, Sir Henry McMahon, and his staff moved down to Alexandria for the summer. The Villa Zervudachi, belonging to M. and Mme. Emanuel Zervudachi, has been selected as the summer quarters of the British Residency, and by reason of its position and its size it is particularly suited for its new rôle. The building that was erected out at Bulkeley a few years ago as a summer residence for the British Representative is now quite unsuited for the purpose, and is certainly far too small for the accommodation of such a large staff as will in present circumstances remain in Egypt this year. Unless any special necessity arises for personal consultation with his chiefs, it is not likely that the High Commissioner will leave the country this year; nor will any of his staff go on furlough. In this connection it is interesting to note that the Egyptian Government, which at first announced that no leave would be granted to its officials this summer, is now credited with the intention of allowing them to take what is due to them, but only on condition that they spend it in the country. After all, there must be few men who, although they want leave, would care to spend the time at home under present conditions. Throughout the summer there will be more than enough work of one sort or another to occupy those still left in the Egyptian service. It is at times like the present that the want of a hill-station, such as exist in India and the Sudan, is so badly felt in Egypt. Of course there is Cyprus, but unless the area in which leave may be spent is extended to embrace that new possession, no one will be able to proceed there.

H.H. the Sultan.

H.H. the Sultan held his first reception at Ras el Tin Palace on Tuesday last, on the occasion of his officially taking up his residence in Alexandria, and the number of officials and residents who paid their respects to the Sovereign was far greater than has been recorded for many years. His Highness had already had a most cordial reception when he arrived in his second capital on the preceding Sunday.

In the course of the ceremony on Tuesday the Sultan, who has in all his public utterances preached the doctrine of union and concord to the dwellers in this country, was able to effect a reconciliation between certain of the municipal councillors who had violently disagreed at one of the recent meetings of the municipality. This reconciliation, which was made in a most dignified but at the same time typically Oriental manner, created an exceedingly favourable impression. His Highness is within the next few days to receive a deputation from the British community of Alexandria, when an address of welcome will be presented to him.

The Italian Intervention.

The declaration of war by Italy has aroused the greatest enthusiasm amongst the Italian colony in this country. As soon as the news was known in Cairo an enormous crowd of Italians, including the more prominent members of the colony, paraded through the streets to the Italian Agency, where they cheered the Agent and insisted on their national flag being hoisted over the building. During the latter operation they sang their anthem. Thence they proceeded to the British Residency, where they were received by Sir Henry McMahon and Lieut.-General Sir J. G. Maxwell amid the strains of "God Save the King" and enthusiastic cheers for England. Not content with this, the crowd continued its way to the Agencies of the four Allies, at each of which the Agents were accorded a very hearty ovation. The demonstration was exceedingly well-ordered, but from the enthusiasm of the crowd there was no mistaking where the Italians' sympathies lie and their relief at a definite step having been taken at last. Similar demonstrations took place at Alexandria and at Port Said. The first batch of reservists was accorded a very stirring send-off from the station here and from the quays at Alexandria, and further batches are leaving daily.

The Dardanelles Wounded.

More wounded arrived this week from the Dardanelles, some at Alexandria and some coming up to Cairo. The Red Cross Hospital out at the Saidia Government School at Giza had to be hurriedly got ready to receive one of the convoys. A veritable heat wave has been raging this week, and the wounded men must have suffered agonies on their journey up and in the hospitals. One cannot help feeling some surprise that it should have been decided to make Cairo a convalescent centre at such a time of year. It seems rather hard, on dysenteric cases for example, to send them up from Alexandria, where they would have much better chances of making a quick recovery, and where there should have been plenty of room for the creation of a Red Cross hospital. Certainly the opening of the latter here in Cairo so late in the operations looks as if sufficient thought had not been given to the matter in advance, and that a hustle had to be got on at the last moment, with the inevitable result that what appears to old residents to be the wrong town was chosen for the institution of this hospital.

Trading with the Enemy.

The first prosecutions under the decrees forbidding trading with the enemy took place this week before a British military Court, which sat in the Sirdar's room at the War Office. Mr. W. E. Brunyate acted as judge-advocate and Mr. G. E. Jeffs conducted the prosecution. There were three cases, the two first being similar in that both parties had tried to enter into new contracts with enemy subjects domiciled in Austria and Germany. Counsel for the defence raised the question of the competence of this Court to try an Italian subject in the circumstances. The Court overruled the objection in each case, and found the accused guilty of the offences with which they were charged. The third accused was charged with having entered into a contract with a firm in Rhodes for the benefit of a German firm carrying on business in Berlin. The Court acquitted him, as there was no evidence that he ever entered into the alleged contract.

The question of enemy subjects in this country is arousing attention, and a campaign is being carried on in the local English Press against the National Bank of Egypt for retaining on its board a German and two Austrian subjects. The attitude of the National Bank, which has British subjects at its head, would certainly appear to call for some explanation, as also does the action of the authorities in allowing such a state of affairs to continue. It is understood that the German director is in Germany and does not draw any fees, and that the other two are really Egyptian and are merely Austrian-protected subjects. But had the position been reversed, and had it been a question of an Englishman and two French-protected subjects on the board of a bank in Germany, there is little doubt as to what attitude the German authorities would have taken up. We have been far too lukewarm in this respect in the past, and the time has come when we must throw aside all our sentimental scruples and deal with the enemy and those who claimed his protection in times of peace as he is dealing with our kith and kin. The *Egyptian Mail* demanded no more than was reasonable last night when it wrote that "every enemy subject in Egypt, irrespective of sex, should be interned or deported without further delay."

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CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Cyprus, May 28.

Limassol of To-day.

On two days last week slight earthquake shocks were felt at Limassol.

Anyone now re-visiting that town after an absence of only a couple of years would find that it has undergone great improvement in at least two directions. The long-talked-of promenade along the front has now been made; the shabby, albeit picturesque, old houses which formerly blocked access to the sea throughout the main central part of the sea side of the town have been demolished, and a sea wall and fine open space now take their place extending from the pier eastwards for some 200 to 300 yards. A row of old houses situated in rear of those that have been removed has thus been exposed to view. These, too, will doubtless be demolished in due course, and more fitting buildings erected in their place. Then Limassol will be possessed of that great desideratum, a presentable and attractive sea frontage. At the eastern end of the town is the public garden. This is also of comparatively modern growth; it was originally started by the Agricultural Department and subsequently taken over by the Municipality. Under the energetic rule of the late Mr. Chr. Sozos, as mayor, some four years ago, it was greatly developed and improved, and within the last year or two has become something of a "show" garden, in which Limassol takes a very proper pride. It also serves as a useful "lung," or pleasant breathing space, for the residents. The present Mayor, Mr. Spyro Araouzo, is worthily continuing the work of his predecessor, and is to be congratulated on the present state of that popular resort.

King Constantine's Illness.

The sudden indisposition of the King of the Hellenes has been causing anxiety to Cypriot Greeks. Seeing that the island is now a British possession, a stranger may well rub his eyes on reading in the local papers of the "Illness of Our King"!

"Progress Backwards."

I understand that the motor service between Nicosia-Larnaca-Limassol will cease at the end of the current month, and that it is to be replaced by the old-time method of carriage conveyance. No one, however, believes that this "progress backwards" can last for longer than may be absolutely necessary to make new and more satisfactory arrangements for a new motor service.

The Question of Racing.

Race meetings are contemplated for the autumn. This may be all very well for that part of the community which has only recently come into the British Empire, and has not yet risen to the full heights of its new nationality; but others will, no doubt, prefer to follow the lead now given in England and realize, in Lord Roberts's words, that while perfectly right and proper in the piping times of peace, race meetings are out of place when our country is at death grips as now.

THE WAR EXHIBITION, 1915.

In view of our indebtedness to the gallant Belgian nation, a War Exhibition has been organised to assist the funds of the Belgian Red Cross Anglo-Belgian Committee, whose patroness is H.M. the Queen of the Belgians.

The War Exhibition, 1915, is designed to give in an interesting and instructive manner an idea of the extent to which science and industry are being utilised in every branch of the present gigantic struggle. A striking feature is a magnificent 13,700 sq. ft. mural panoramic representation of Belgium; and the exhibition will comprise seven sections, the whole forming a comprehensive war display. The sections are (1) trophies of war, (2) armament and ammunition in the making, (3) Red Cross work, (4) science and industry as applied to war, (5) food and hygiene, (6) equipment, and (7) maritime and aerial inventions. The Prince's Skating Club, Knightsbridge, has been selected as the most suitable place in which to hold the exhibition.

SUDAN OFFICIALS' LEAVE.

WAR AND FURLOUGH.

(From a Correspondent.)

Neither the Governor-General of the Sudan nor Lady Wingate has taken any holiday this year. It was at first intended—or, at least, hoped, as mentioned in The Near East of March 12—that Lady Wingate should pay the customary visit to Knockenhair, Dunbar; but when it became apparent that Sir Reginald must remain at his post throughout the war, she determined to remain at his side. This act of self-sacrifice really means more than a mere record would suggest. The heat, even at Erkowit, is intense at this period of the year, while notwithstanding the many improvements and alterations that have been effected in the gubernatorial domicile, it still remains little more than a substantial but by no means luxurious bungalow.

The work of the Administration, while extremely heavy and anxious, is proceeding, on the whole, quite satisfactorily; but the Governor-General finds it quite impossible at present to leave the Sudan. His Excellency will spend most of the trying Sudan summer between Khartoum and Erkowit.

Mr. G. C. Macdonald, Inspector of Agriculture, who has been on short leave, returned to duty at Tokar on the 6th instant. Mr. P. Drummand, the Inspector and Assistant Conservator of Antiquities, whose post is at Gordon College, Khartoum, will return to his duties on the 24th of next month, and on the 27th Mr. G. E. Hunt, instructor in the same department, is due to return to the capital after a few months' leave.

Very few leaves have been granted this year in the Medical Department. Dr. O. Atkey, the Senior Medical Inspector, has been away for a short period, but he returns to Atbara on the 6th of next month. In the Public Works Department there has been the same disinclination to apply for leave of absence. One of the few officials who have been away—and who have since returned to duty—has been Mr. F. M. Cobb, the District Engineer stationed at Khartoum. In the railways section Mr. J. C. Walker, who has charge of a district, will be absent until August 11. Mr. H. B. Seabrook, District Engineer, and Mr. K. V. Gurney, district traffic manager, both returned from leave in April last. Scarcely any among the provincial officials are now absent from their posts, notwithstanding the extreme physical strain imposed upon some among them during the scorching heat of a Sudan summer and the ravages made upon their tempers and their constitutions occasioned by the periodical dust storms.

In some sections of the country special "climate allowances" are paid to the European officials, who, by force of circumstances, are condemned to live there at certain periods of the year. Thus, from July to December, officials throughout the whole province of Bahr-el-Ghazal, as well as those of Kassala and Mongalla, draw special allowances, while those in Sennar are entitled to extra pay between May and November; those in the Upper Nile Province between January and December (practically during the entire year); those in the Nuba Mountains between April and November; and those in Kordofan (Nahud, Abu Zabad, and El Odeiya) between July and November.

We have received copies of the first and second numbers of *Hole's Review*, an illustrated weekly, published at 170, Fleet Street. The price is only twopence, and the value given is remarkably good. To our readers it will be of interest to know that the editor has "informed the directors of the Serbian Relief Fund that all profits made by this Review until the end of the war are entirely at their disposal."

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NEWS FROM TURKEY.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Athens, June 7.

The Situation Unchanged in Constantinople.

There does not appear to be any material change in the situation at Constantinople this week. Judging by their newspapers, the Turks are even more confident that the Allies will not get to the capital, and there is much gloating over the loss of the three British battleships, especially of the Goliath, which the *Tanin* describes as a conflict between David and Goliath, and a long account is given of the manner in which the now-famous torpedo boat Muaveneti Millie crept down the Straits in the middle of the night, and, evading the British destroyers, succeeded in launching three torpedoes at the battleship, and then returned safely to Constantinople. The Turkish Press continues to publish vehement attacks against England, but, strange to say, seldom refers to France or even Russia. They announce the loss of their gunboat Pelenk Deria, but state that the crew were saved.

The survivors of the Emden arrived in Constantinople on May 23, and were received with great honours, von der Goltz and Suchon and many others meeting them. They were conveyed in a destroyer from the Haidar Pasha Railway Station to Seraglio Point, where they had an official reception, attended by a large audience, and afterwards they marched through Stamboul and Galata to the Admiralty.

The official *communiqués* daily contain reports of the repulse of the Allies at the Dardanelles, but the Turkish losses on the Peninsula continue to be very heavy. It is announced that about 170 more German officers have arrived at Constantinople; but there are also reports to the effect that they are running short of ammunition, especially of shells for their heavy guns.

The Milli Agency publishes the Note which the Ottoman Government has addressed to its friendly Powers, protesting against the British and foreign Governments for having, contrary to the Convention of 1888, fortified the Suez Canal and for keeping warships there, which has necessitated the Ottoman Government taking military measures to defend Imperial territory of which Egypt forms part; and in consequence the English and French Governments will be held responsible for any damage to neutral property!

It was reported last week that the Italian Ambassador and his staff were preparing to leave, but no declaration of war has been made between Italy and Turkey, and it is said that Turkey will not declare war against Italy. In the meantime Italians are apparently not allowed to leave Constantinople. In fact, it is extremely difficult for anyone to leave the capital.

Shortage of Bread.

Trustworthy information has just come to hand that there is a shortage of bread, which would confirm last week's information that the mills are unable to work for want of coal. The absence of bread in a large city like Constantinople may have serious results. Petroleum is also very scarce, and costs about 80 piastres per tin. Mutton is 17 piastres the oke, and all other provisions are increasing in price.

Both the Anatolian Railway and the Oriental Railway have further curtailed their local services. There are now only five trains daily to and from Pendik and only ten to San Stefano.

The papers announce that the grain crops in Asia Minor promise an abundant harvest, and that there is still wheat in the interior; but transport is evidently not available. Moreover, the shortage of coal makes it impossible for the mills to work.

"Prizes of War."

An announcement appears in the papers to the effect that Mr. R. Grech's salvage boat, which was seized at the Dardanelles, and a motor-boat belonging to Mr. Nowill, and Mr. Gilchrist's boat, the Florican, have been declared, by default, prizes of war by the Prize Court.

Owing to the blockade it is now difficult to communicate with Smyrna, and practically no news has come through this week.

THE BATTLE OF SHAIBA.

"A STROKE OF GENIUS."

The following description of the battle fought at Shaiba on April 14 is extracted from a letter just received in this country and written by the same officer of Indian cavalry from whose letter we were allowed to publish extracts in our issue of May 7. It supports the view, expressed in The Near East of June 4, that when the history of the operations at the head of the Persian Gulf comes to be written in full, it will be found that they are amongst the most interesting, the most important, and the most brilliantly executed of the war.

We have had our big battle here, and are nicely recovering. Our badly wounded are still in hospital, or have been sent away by ship; our convalescent officers and men are getting over their troubles on a captured Austrian boat lying in the stream. All are "full of beans" and ready for further efforts.

The Turkish defeat at Shaiba was a magnificent affair and a far more crushing one than the accounts in the papers indicate. For two days some 28,000 Turks attacked the portion of our army situated in the defensive position. In regular German fashion, they pretty well completely enveloped our flanks, digging trenches nearer and nearer our works each night. In case we attacked, they also had a permanent line of works, in advance of which all their night approach trenches were. Well, our fellows, under General ——, endured a hot artillery and rifle fire for about two days and two nights at comparatively close range. During this time there were many exciting minor incidents, such as cavalry charges, good artillery work, etc. Our main effort took place on the third day; it was, so to say, a case of "Up Guards and at 'Em." During the hottest portion of the day our whole force formed line and went for the Turks. We drove them headlong from their advanced trenches until we came to their main position. This, after a most severe fight, in which the Turks showed themselves magnificent opponents, we carried at the point of the bayonet. During this last attack of ours, the Turkish maxims were served superbly. They did all the damage to us. We captured most of them, killing the working parties. We became masters of the formidable enemy's line by evening time. The enemy were routed—there is no other word for it. In the rear of his lines were his camps. These were all abandoned, and throughout the whole night the Turks retreated. By the morning the remnants of their force were twenty miles away, by the next day forty miles. We couldn't pursue, as we were too exhausted.

All the enemy's camps fell into our hands, nearly a thousand prisoners, maxims, guns, hundreds of rifles, tents, medical stores, and ammunition. This latter included several hundred boxes containing shells, and about 1,000,000 rounds of rifle ammunition. All their food stuffs were left behind, and, in truth, you can only call it an absolute victory. It was a stroke of genius—our General's sudden lightning attack. Turkish captured officers said, rather naïvely, that we didn't play the game. They expected to sap up to our position and have a regular kind of siege warfare, similar to what is going on in Belgium or France. None of them would believe the Dardanelles story. They said it was a fable—so rigorously is the truth kept from them. They lost a great many officers killed and wounded; and report—a very strong one, too—says that their Commander-in-Chief, ——, shot himself after the battle. Of course, he had lots of Germans with him—mostly advisers. Poor Turks: these Germans appear to be only their evil genius!

I am now off to —— again. I came on from there to take part in the big battle, but, unfortunately, was not actually in the thick of it, though I saw most of the interesting incidents through my glasses. My job was to work south of ——, and watch the enemy there. It was expected he would make an attack from that direction. Three regiments were told off for that job—annoying, but had to be done! The enemy's losses were 5,000, if not more; certainly, they had about 2,000 dead on the ground—so eye-witnesses tell me.

We are all merry and bright, and we cannot find the enemy these days. He is off, and no mistake! We shall see when he comes again!

BRITISH REFUGEES IN ATHENS.

The attention of ex-British residents of Constantinople at present in Athens is drawn to the fact that "The Near East" is on sale every week at M. Th. Vafiades' Bookstore, where subscriptions are also received.

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BULGARIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Sofia, June 1.

Progress at Last!

Last week marked a real advance in the negotiations between this country and the Entente Powers—to which Italy has now been added. On Saturday the Ministers of Great Britain, France, Russia, and Italy handed to the Prime Minister collective concrete proposals on behalf of the Entente, in reply to Bulgaria's statement of her desiderata. The nature of the proposals is kept secret both by the Bulgarian Government and by the Legations of the Entente Powers; for this time the latter have wisely decided to deal direct with the Government, without communicating their proposals to the leaders of the Opposition. But so far as can be ascertained, it would appear that the Bulgarian demands are met only half way, and that nothing is substantially offered now, but that all is left until after the war is concluded. Notwithstanding this, it is generally believed that the proposals will be taken up by the Government here as a basis for serious negotiations, and it is hoped that in view of the reciprocal good will shown latterly by both parties the negotiations will at last be crowned with success.

The principal reason for this optimism is the moderation of the Bulgarian claims. The Roumanians ask new territory with about 7,000,000 inhabitants; the Serbians ask much more; Bulgaria asks only about one and a-half million—almost all Bulgars—and the necessary outlets to the sea. In return for the granting of these moderate demands Bulgaria can render great services to the Entente in dealing with Turkey. This is so obvious that competent political circles here are wondering why the diplomacy of the Entente allowed nine months to pass without coming to an arrangement, by satisfying Bulgaria's reasonable claims. Especially ought this to have been done when it was decided to attack the Dardanelles; for it is self-apparent that Bulgaria's geographical position would make her aid in these operations of enormous importance. The help Roumania could render is also considerable, and yet serious negotiations with her have only recently been begun.

I cannot conclude these observations without pointing out that Great Britain is trusted by Bulgaria. Her influence here is quite different from that exerted by Russia and France, with all parties, but especially with the Macedonians. And undoubtedly she would have been wise to have kept the negotiations regarding Balkan questions more in her own hands instead of leaving them so much to others. The negotiations with this country and with Roumania ought to be concluded as quickly as possible; for this is the season for military operations, and Constantinople would almost certainly fall in a fortnight if once Bulgaria took the field.

King Ferdinand's Name-Day.

Yesterday being the name-day of H.M. King Ferdinand, a Te Deum was sung at the Cathedral, at eleven o'clock, at which the Archbishop of Sofia officiated, assisted by all the clergy of the capital. The Crown Prince Boris and Prince Cyril were present, as were also Dr. Radislavoff, the Prime Minister, and all the Cabinet Ministers, the Diplomatic Body, M. Dobrovitch, Chief of the King's Private Cabinet, many generals and high military officers and officials, and a great number of leading citizens. After the service the Ministers, diplomatists, and others signed their names in the visitors' books at the Palace.

At one o'clock the members of the Cabinet were invited to luncheon at the King's summer residence, the Palace of Vrania, when they had the honour of meeting all the members of the Royal family. During the repast, Dr. Radoslavoff, on behalf of the Cabinet, proposed the health of King Ferdinand, who in his reply thanked the Prime Minister for his untiring activity during the recent critical times, and raised his glass to the triumph of the Bulgarian national cause.

On this occasion the *Narodni Prava*, the Ministerial organ, published an article, in which it remarked:—

To-day the Bulgarian nation celebrates the name-day of its King and supreme leader. Twenty-eight years have passed since, on this day, the Bulgarian people, celebrating on this date for the first time the name-day of the Head of the State, believed in bright days in its future. Many obstacles, many inconveniences have constantly confronted Bulgaria, but, led by her supreme chief, she has surmounted them all. To-day, in celebrating their King's name-day, the citizens of Bulgaria are firmly convinced that in the near future the country will achieve its national ideal, which has always been recalled and extolled on this anniversary.

In Memory of Christo Boteff.

Yesterday was the thirty-eighth anniversary of the death of the famous Bulgarian revolutionary and patriot, Christo Boteff. The students of Sofia University, headed by their professors, marched in procession through the principal streets, and patriotic speeches regarding the realisation of the national aspirations and ideals were delivered before the monuments of the Tsar Liberator and of Lensky.

Hurricane at Philippopolis.

On Sunday afternoon a terrible storm broke over Philippopolis. Hailstones as large as hens' eggs fell, and a great many windows were smashed, while the sowings over an area of about twelve kilometres were utterly destroyed. Just when the storm broke the train from Dedeagatch was approaching Philippopolis, and, getting the full force of the hurricane, had all its windows broken. The damage done is estimated at several hundred thousand francs.

Help for Poor Italians.

The wife of the Italian Minister here has taken the initiative in forming a committee to help the families of those Italian subjects who have joined the colours and left their dependents inadequately provided for. Since Italy joined in the hostilities every passenger train has carried Italian subjects liable for military service. The Italian reservists are travelling by way of Nish, Salonika, and Piræus to Brindisi.

FOR OUR INDIAN MOSLEMS' DEPENDANTS.

A dramatic and musical matinée is being arranged, under the auspices of the Islamic Society, by Mr. Duse Mahomed, to take place early in July at the New Theatre. It will be under the patronage of the Lord Mayor of London and the Lady Mayoress, and amongst numerous other ladies and gentlemen who have promised their patronage are the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Marquis and Marchioness of Crewe, Earl Cromer, Earl Curzon, Lord Reay, Lord Ronaldshay, Lord Lamington, Lord Headley, Mr. Balfour, Mr. Lloyd George, Mr. Austen Chamberlain, the Hon. Aubrey Herbert, and Mr. Mirza Ali Abbas Baig.

Already a large number of prominent artists have promised their assistance, including Messrs. Arthur Bourchier, Martin Harvey, George Grossmith, and Mesdames Yvonne Arnaud, Violet Vanbrugh, Irene Vanbrugh, Mary Moore, Shirley Kellogg, and N. de Silva.

This matinée is intended to benefit the widows and orphans of Indian Moslems who have fallen in the present European campaign, principally in France and Flanders, and the fact that the Archbishop of Canterbury has lent his name should prove that there is one bond of brotherhood which draws humanity together when suffering is to be alleviated. It is to be hoped that our readers will show their sympathy and support of an undertaking so worthy.

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ROUMANIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, May 29.

"Independence Day."

Roumania's great day, May 10 (Old Style: our May 23), "Independence Day" as it is generally termed, was observed with unusual enthusiasm, partly because of the expectation of this country's taking action shortly, and partly because King Ferdinand publicly reviewed the Bucharest garrison for the first time since his accession. That a wave of patriotism is passing over the country, and especially over the capital, was indicated by the great number of national flags—blue, yellow, and red: blue and yellow being the Wallachian colours, red and yellow the Moldavian—which decorated not only the public buildings, but many private dwellings, shops, and office buildings. Hangings with patriotic mottoes were stretched across many streets and on the fronts of buildings and balconies; and handbills with political addresses and patriotic verses were distributed by the thousand amongst the crowd. The day opened somewhat inauspiciously as to the weather, but fortunately the Fates were kind, till mid-day at least, and the review took place in perfect weather, cool and agreeable both for the troops and the onlookers.

Soon after 5.30 a.m. twenty-one guns thundered out a greeting to the great day, and at 8.30 the clash of martial music showed that the troops were beginning to arrive. These were the battalions that were to line the streets from the Palace to the Metropolitan Church. It was noticed at once that officers and men were wearing their campaigning kit, of "mignonette green," though without haversacks, etc. Hitherto review order and full dress have been the rule on these occasions. The change was due to the King's thoughtfulness for the rank and file, who have suffered heavily on previous occasions from their heavy clothing. The late King, being a great stickler for military etiquette, would never sanction any change in this respect.

At a quarter to ten King Ferdinand and Queen Marie, with Prince Carol, the Princesses Elizabeth and Marie, and Prince Nicholas, took their places in two carriages, drawn by four horses with postilions, and preceded by a squadron of picturesque mounted gendarmerie. They were followed by numbers of the Staff of the 2nd Army Corps on horseback; and as the procession left the Palace the band played the impressive National Anthem, which, it may be observed in passing, amongst all those of Europe ranks second only to that of Russia. Simultaneously came the thunder of a hundred and one guns, fired from the Arsenal; and the assembled crowds gave vent to cheer upon cheer.

At the church there were assembled the members of the Cabinet, many Government officials, and various high officers, with their ladies; and before the doors were the escorts from the new regiments of the 2nd Frontier Guards, 8th Light Cavalry, 1st Siege Artillery, Heavy Howitzer Section, Light Howitzer Section, and Mountain Artillery Section, with their new colours, the "nailing on" ceremony of which had taken place the previous night. After the Te Deum had been sung, the King ordered in each escort in turn with its new colours, which were then blessed by the Archbishop.

On the return to the palace the King and Queen were even more warmly cheerd than they had been in the former journey. But enthusiasm reached its height when, a little later, the King left for the Chaussée Kisaleff to take the salute of his troops. It was then seen that he was accompanied by Queen Marie, who was riding, and who looked even more young and beautiful than usual in the uniform of colonel of her regiment, the Red Hussars. Their Majesties reached the pavilion that had been prepared for them at about half-past eleven. For reasons given in a former letter, the foreign Ministers were not present this year, and even the Military Attachés had not been invited.

The Review.

There were fewer troops present than is usual at these reviews, but they appeared to be a workmanlike lot as far as the men were concerned, hard and well clad. There were present two regiments of Venatori (rifles); five of infantry; one of frontier guards—the pick of the infantry; three of pioneers; a regiment of siege artillery, and one each of fortress and mountain artillery; three of horse artillery; heavy and light howitzer batteries; three of hussars; and the regiment of mounted gendarmerie. The Queen led her own regiment of Hussars. During the whole of the review a number of aeroplanes were circling overhead; and amongst minor features which aroused considerable interest were the dogs carrying packs of medical necessaries, which went past the saluting point with some of the regiments.

Certain critics in the crowd bewailed the lack of mountain guns, of which there were only two sections. Although the need of these was always realised, King Carol steadily opposed their being supplied, on the ground that such weapons could be intended only for use in the Carpathians, and that to increase their number would offend his friend, the Emperor Francis Joseph. Roumania may have cause to rue this superchivalry of the late monarch if she finally decides to join in the war. But will she, after all, do so? It seems impossible to doubt it, and yet it is reported that she has been promised so much by Russia for neutrality alone that some people believe she may rest satisfied with that.

The Present Situation.

Politically, things appear to have reached a deadlock. Russia, it seems, will not give way an inch on the question of the northern frontier, while Roumania, as represented by M. Bratiano, is equally firm. And the same position exists with regard to the Banat. Most of the newspapers support the Prime Minister, saying that '77 will come over again, and that in the end big Russia will have to go on her knees to beg for the help of little Roumania. On the other hand, the party in favour of immediate action has called a meeting for to-morrow, ostensibly to express sympathy with Italy, but in reality, no doubt, to urge that her example should be followed. Finally, it is reported that the Marghiloman party is endeavouring to get up an anti-war meeting in opposition to the other, also to be held to-morrow. Upon the whole, the indications are that we shall have a lively Sunday.

Diplomatist Smugglers.

That Roumania's benevolent neutrality is not without its value is shown by the many attempts made by Germany to pass munitions into Turkey through her territory by fair means or foul—but preferably, apparently, the latter!—and, by the way, these have been foiled by the vigilance of the Roumanian Customs authorities. Last Monday, for instance, a German courier presented himself at the frontier at Giurgevo-Rustchuk with no less than sixteen "diplomatic valises." These interesting valises, having attracted attention by their weight, were opened, and were then found to contain gun fuses, which, naturally, were confiscated. The same day an Austro-Hungarian messenger arrived at the Predeal frontier station with more "diplomatic" packages. These, being radio-photographed, proved to contain materials for making asphyxiating bombs, which, of course, were also seized.

If any munitions of war have actually been smuggled through Roumania, the quantities must have been very small indeed, in view of the precautions taken by the Roumanian authorities. Rumours to the contrary may be, I think, safely disregarded.

M. Marghiloman and the Conservatives.

At the time of writing the question regarding the leadership of the Conservative party remains unsolved. A few days ago members of the party committee waited on M. Marghiloman and explained the situation fully to him. He declared himself ready to resign, in the interests of the party, if M. Maiorescu, the former leader and one-time Prime Minister, would accept the post. The latter, on being asked, requested forty-eight hours to consider the matter; but a good many of the party are not anxious for his leadership, knowing that as a Germanophil he is even more pronounced than M. Marghiloman. They, therefore, wish to have M. Jean Lahovari, while others desire M. Nicu Filipesca. Meantime M. Marghiloman retains the nominal leadership, and doubtless laughs in his sleeve at those who would turn him out.

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SERBIAN LETTER

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Nish, June 5.

The Albanian Problem.

Since my last letter events in Albania have moved rapidly. Anarchy, followed by the occupation of Valona by the Italians—foreshadowing a possible further Italian extension in these regions—and the occupation of Epirus by the Greeks and gradual extension, would give sufficient cause for reflection on the part of Serbia; but when the Albanians make incursions on Serbian territory and, as is asserted, are led by Turkish and Austrian officers, the Serbian public become exasperated and exercise pressure on their Government, which now regards Albanian movements in the light of Austrian and Turkish aggression. The Serbian Government, therefore, considers the defence of the Serbo-Albanian frontier an extension of the defence against the combined enemy, Austria especially, and considers that military operations on that frontier are a natural part of the war in which Serbia and its Allies are engaged.

Serbia has once before—during the war against Turkey—fought her way through Albania to the Adriatic shores, where she hoped to acquire an outlet on the Adriatic. In that hope she was foiled by the action of Austria, and, at the joint request of the European Great Powers, had to retire.

To-day the Serbian Government not only considers that it is fighting the common enemy in prosecuting an advance into Albania, but it is more particularly influenced by the desire to put an end to the Albanian annoyance and the uncertain and dangerous state of affairs on the Albanian frontier by advancing into Albania and occupying strategic positions necessary for Serbia's security as long as the war lasts. It holds the firm conviction that the Albanian question will be justly and definitely settled at the forthcoming Peace Congress.

A few days ago the public were startled to learn that fighting had been going on for the last twenty-four hours between the aggressive Albanians and the Serbian frontier-guards near the blockhouse of St. Naum and Podgradatz, and that later the Serbian troops had occupied Podgradatz and all the surrounding heights in order to prevent a new attack by the brigands in the pay of Austria. The Serbian frontier-guard, reinforced by Serbian troops, pursued the enemy with great success, the Christian and Mussulman inhabitants laying down their arms. The Serbian troops entered Podgradatz, the aggressors fleeing in the direction of Mokra Gora. The offensive was then continued; the village of Prens was taken, and the route from Strouga to Debar occupied.

Pressure on the Government.

To give an idea of the pressure of public opinion brought to bear on the Serbian Government a reference to the chief points of an article in the *Politika* will suffice. The paper asks whether the Government is conscious of the country's sacrifices and the consequence of the incursions of Albanian bands; and it reproaches the Government for not having taken proper measures at the time when the incursions o nthe Serbo-Albanian territory first took place.

The Albanian question (says the *Politika*) is a European question, but more particularly concerns Serbia, because no one will deny her the right to defend herself when, being engaged to the fullest extent in this great European war, an attempt is made to stab her in the back.

For many years Serbia endeavoured to convince the Great Powers (who were not fully cognizant of the state of things in the Balkans) that the Albanians are nothing but a horde of savage tribes, incapable of living in social unity, and that the creation of an Albania is neither more nor less than the creation of a privileged plot against peace and order in the Balkans. To-day the allied Powers of the Triple Entente know as well as we do who directs the exploits of these bandits, and that Serbia's enemy is theirs also, seeing that Serbia has now to fight on a new frontier which extends from Ochrida to Prizrend.

Negotiations with Bulgaria.

The public mind is greatly occupied with the negotiations which are still being carried on with Bulgaria, the situation being critical, as Russia brings great pressure to bear on the Serbian Government, whilst the military party and public opinion are stoutly opposed to making any concessions to Bulgaria. Despite this opposition, one hears of the willingness of Serbia to make some slight concessions, though far from conceding all Bulgaria's demands; and in diplomatic circles there is a perceptible *rapprochement* between the Bulgarian, Russian, and Roumanian Ministers Plenipotentiary.

On this subject there is an article in to-day's *Tribuna* which I have reason to believe is inspired. The gist of the article is:—

On account of outside pressure in high quarters we must now be prepared to make sacrifices of our Macedonian territories, for which we have had to endure the loss of many lives and the expenditure of much money; but after the war is ended we shall again with the sword reacquire these territories; we shall never remain quiet until all South Slavs are united.

If a Great Serbia cannot now be called into existence, there is no guarantee that peace will be of long duration.

Austrian Inactivity.

As regards the renewal of an active conflict between Serbia and Austria-Hungary, it is hardly probable that either combatant could at the present moment take action, the high tides and overflowing of the rivers rendering any movement extremely difficult.

Storm and Flood.

The Serbian official organ yesterday informed us of a local storm. The River Brestovatz, which flows by the village of Metovnitza, and empties itself in the River Timok, overflooded, doing a considerable amount of damage. The municipal buildings and many houses and cattle were swept away. The fields and pastures were inundated. The railway bridges at Metovnitza and at Bratanitza were carried away by the current, as was a part of the railway line. There were also many lives lost.

The village of Zlor was half-destroyed and there were many deaths. At the village of Montcraigna twenty houses were overthrown, many cattle carried away, and ten human lives lost.

The railway communication between Parachin and Zaitchar and between Knejevatz and Zaitchar was interrupted.

LESSON TO ALBANIAN RAIDERS.

In a communication dated June 10 the Rome correspondent of the *Morning Post* writes:—"For some weeks past communication between Italy and Montenegro has been interrupted, as the Austrians controlled the Bay of Antivari, and the Albanians fired on caravans going from San Giovanni di Medua and boats going up the River Boyana to Scutari. The climax was reached when the Albanians detained and pillaged at Medua thirty-two sailing boats laden with grain and flour for the Montenegrins. Italian torpedo-boats, however, yesterday gave the Albanians a salutary lesson, bombarding Medua, ordering the restitution of the stolen corn within twelve hours, and escorting the sailing boats on their way up the Boyana."

Sir J. Roper Parkington, Consul-General for Montenegro, has received the following official telegram from Cettinje:—

"Public opinion in Montenegro is becoming more and more emphatic in denouncing the conduct of the Albanian soldiers, who continue to pillage our transports on the River Boyana, and thus deprive both our army and civil populace of very necessary supplies of food. Complaints made to the Consular Commission at Scutari as to the obstruction of the Boyana are fruitless. A force of over four thousand Albanians, led by their native chiefs, and under the direct command of Austrian officers, attacked the Montenegrin frontier near Djakovitza, but our troops repulsed the invaders, who retreated leaving a large number of dead and wounded."

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

RAW COTTON.*

In introducing his proposal for an Advisory Council on Industrial Research in the House of Commons the other day the President of the Board of Education gave expression to certain pious opinions on the relations between science and industry, which we cannot refrain from quoting here:—

"It is essential," he said, "if we are going to maintain our position in the world, that we should make better use of our scientifically trained workers, that we must increase their number, and endeavour to secure that industry is closely associated with the scientific worker. The failure hitherto has been partly due to the Universities, who do not realise how important it is that pure science should be associated with applied science, and brought into close contact with the manufacturing interests. It is also partly due to the fact that the manufacturers themselves have undervalued the importance of science in connection with their particular industry."

If the Government are in earnest in their wish to encourage progress on these lines, they have an admirable case to begin on in this book. Cotton is one of our largest industries, not only on the manufacturing side in this country, but from the growers' point of view throughout the Empire. It is one of the industries which has suffered most from the war; for that has aggravated the critical position in which the supply of the raw material has stood since the beginning of the century. It is also an industry in which the connection between the scientific man and the manufacturer is specially necessary and has been lamentably neglected.

Mr. Balls's work on Egyptian cotton is already well known in scientific circles, and to a select few in Lancashire. In this volume he has now further collated and recorded some aspects of the results of his ten years' work in Egypt as economic botanist under the Khedivial Agricultural Society and latterly under the Government Department of Agriculture. Of the book as a piece of scientific botanical research the present writer is not qualified to speak. His interest—and in this respect he is probably like most of the readers of THE NEAR EAST—lies in the application of the scientific results to the economic problems of the cotton crop. The book is full of suggestions of this kind. Thus, in dealing with the methods of the untrained but custom-wise fellah, on such points as wide sowing and date of planting, Mr. Balls has brought out some striking results, which go to show that the fellah after all knew his own business best; for the final result of a long course of scientific experiments has been to show that the old-fashioned methods of the fellah paid him best on the whole. Again, by tracing out the life history of the plant and the effect of the growing conditions throughout the season upon it, Mr. Balls has indicated possibilities of forecasting the amount and the date of the crop a long way in advance, both in time and accuracy, of anything that has ever been done by existing agencies. On the question of the deterioration of Egyptian cotton he has not only shown how and why this deterioration has taken place, but also how it may be cured and avoided for the future by proper methods of scientific seed-breeding on a commercial scale. It is a matter of very great regret that his work on these lines in Egypt has been stopped. Spinners again will find much to interest them in the description of the way in which the fibre acquires the qualities of length and strength which they demand, and how these qualities may be favourably or adversely affected by growing conditions during the season, which are more or less controllable.

Mr. Balls' work is not "popular" in the worst sense of the word; but anyone who has the least acquaintance with science will have no difficulty in following it. The truth is that what our great industries need is not merely scientific men to do the research work, but business men with just enough semi-scientific training to appreciate the results and the application of the research work when it is offered them. The present writer's personal experience has always been that there is no lack of such men in the cotton trade, and this book ought to help them to carry out Mr. Pease's advice that "we must make better use of our workers."

* "The Development and Properties of Raw Cotton." By W. Laurence Balls, M.A. (Messrs. A. and C. Black. 5s. net.)

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JOHN LANE: THE BODLEY HEAD, W

NEAR EAST BOOK NOTES.

We understand that Mr. Andrew Melrose has just published a volume entitled "The Dardanelles: Their Story and Their Significance in the Great War," by the author of "The Real Kaiser."

Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton have published, for the *Daily Telegraph*, "The Slav Nations," by Srgjan Pl. Tucic, the price of which is one shilling.

Part IV. of the "Great World War," which is edited by Frank A. Mumby and published by the Gresham Publishing Company at 2s. 6d. net, includes a chapter on the Austro-Serbian campaign.

The S.P.C.K. has published, at the price of 1d., a paper, entitled "Raymond Lull and Six Centuries of Islam." It is written in commemoration of the six hundredth anniversary of the death of one of the earliest, if not the earliest, of missionaries to Moslems.

The latest issue of volumes in Messrs. Dent's popular—and deservedly popular—Wayfarer's Library includes the first of a new series, "The Story of the Regiments." This book, "The Black Watch," has been written by Messrs. L. Cope Cornford and F. W. Walker, and it gives the history of this famous regiment, and stories of the great deeds it has performed. Other volumes in the same series will be:—"The Seaforth Highlanders," "The Royal Irish Fusiliers," "The Coldstream Guards," "The Royal Berkshire Regiment," and "The Cameron Highlanders."

NEW C.M.S. HOSPITAL AT MENOUF.

The new C.M.S. dispensary and ankylostomiasis hospital in Menouf, Egypt, was opened recently by Bishop MacInnes, says the *Record*. A short dedication service was held first, and then a public ceremony took place. A large tent had been erected in the spacious hospital compound, and about 300 notables and others assembled from all parts of the province, and formed a very representative gathering.

Canon Gairdner, as secretary of the C.M.S. in Egypt, gave a detailed account of the aims and methods of the C.M.S. medical work. After referring to the successful work carried on in Old Cairo, which had for so long been associated with the name of Dr. Harpur, he explained how the development of this Old Cairo Medical Mission had led Dr. Harpur to go out into the provinces and to work among the fellaheen. This new branch had grown until the society had found it necessary to build the hospital, the opening of which they were met to share in that day. An important aspect of the work, he said, was the treatment of the ankylostoma patients. This disease was the most universal and deadly of all those that affected the fellah. The disease was easy of treatment if taken in time, and, further, its cure was almost certain and sent the sufferer back to his work as strong as ever. The society very soon became acquainted with these facts, and as early as 1894 Dr. Harpur began to treat the disease in Old Cairo. The success was so striking that ten years later they were compelled to construct special wards. How great a service these wards had rendered to the Egyptian nation might be judged by the fact that some 8,000 fellaheen were annually treated and sent back to their homes cured and strong.

Canon Gairdner was followed by Atallah Effendi, who has for many years been associated with the C.M.S. work in Cairo. Sheikh Mohammed Hassan, a well-known *khattab* in Menoufia, also spoke, and in Arabic verse expressed, as a Mohammedan, his appreciation of this Medical Mission to the fellah.

The Bishop then, in a short speech, declared the hospital open, and an opportunity was given to all to look round the compound and to inspect the various buildings and wards.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

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

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

GREECE AND THE WAR.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—In the name of many Greeks who read and appreciate your valuable review, allow me to express our deep sorrow for the various libels directed against Greece that have found lately such a prominent place in THE NEAR EAST. We do not see how the interests of all the Balkan States will be best served if Greece should cede a portion of her territory, which was one of the strongholds of our race during the dark ages of our history, the prize of great sacrifice, to a ruthless and unscrupulous State. Why should Bulgaria be compensated for services that she has not rendered, whilst she is the real cause of Greece's non-participation in the war? Has she more rights than our country before the world's tribunal? You are ready to criticize Greece because she is not willing to abandon sacred territories, inhabited by Greeks through thousands of years, and you constantly criticize as childish the efforts of the Cypriotes to realize what is the first condition of a man's existence. We highly esteem your paper, despite its severe criticisms on Greek matters, but we expect equal treatment with our neighbours. We regret the mistakes of our governments, but, after all, you must know that Greece, if she did not participate in the struggle, has, during this war, rendered immense help to Great Britain and her Allies, especially Serbia, although she hears only blame and threats from them all. Sentences like "Greece's unwholesome ambition of becoming an imperial nation and a constant menace to the peace of the Levant," or "Greece will, in fact, tend to diminish, and be absorbed by the Continent, while Egypt," etc. . . . are very unjust and equally disheartening. The various articles written by sets of authors devoid of any philosophical spirit against the sentiments of the Cypriotes and other Greeks, whose only desire is national freedom, make ridiculous, allow me to say, some articles found in your columns and dealing with the principles with which the Entente Powers are fighting. We are forcibly convinced that the recent statement made by a very qualified person, Bryan, who said that the war blinded the belligerents in regard to the rights of the neutrals, is beyond any dispute; and, consequently, impartial observers are induced to think that when you write that the Allies are fighting for the highest ideals of humanity and the rights of the small nations you are only abbreviating the truth.—I am, etc.,

G. G. SARRIS.

Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester, June 11.

HEALTHY CENTRAL PERSIA.

In a paper, "The Diseases Most Met With in Persia and How They Affect Europeans," read before the Association of Medical Officers of Missionary Societies, Dr. Donald Carr, M.D. Camb. (whose remarks referred entirely to the Central Persian Highlands, and more particularly to that part in the Province of Ispahan, which has been his headquarters for the last twenty years, and not at all to the Persian Gulf littoral, which has a more tropical climate), speaks very favourably of the climate of that region. He says: "Possibly owing to the altitude, and also the atmospheric dryness, Persia has a reputation for making people 'nervy.' I have certainly known more than one man, for instance, once a bold rider, who has lost all his nerve for that sort of exercise. My own experience has been the contrary; for at the end of twenty years I am less nervous than I was, and I believe that others can say the same of themselves.

"With the exception of enteric fever, there is little to be said respecting the ordinary diseases of the temperate zone. Enjoying a first-class climate, we live a very open-air life, and are, on the whole, a healthy community.

"Diseases of the heart are not specially prevalent. Among the natives valvular affections are met with, though acute rheumatism is seldom seen. Diseases of the lungs among Europeans are almost unknown. As a young man I constantly suffered from bronchial attacks, but I have been entirely free from them in Persia. One of my fellow-missionaries, who used to be a martyr to asthma at home, has hardly ever had an attack since he came to this country.

"There are probably not a dozen days in the year in which we do not see the sun at all. Even in mid-winter the sun has a good deal of warmth in the middle of the day, but hard frost reigns supreme at night."

FOR OUR WOUNDED SOLDIERS.

APPEAL FROM NURSE WHEATLEY.

We published last week an appeal for bedsteads for use in No. 3 Casualty Clearing Station, British Expeditionary Force, to which, as our readers will remember, Nurse Wheatley is attached. We are glad to be able to announce that we have already received several contributions from readers who are acquainted with the splendid services rendered to the wounded in the Balkan War by Nurse Wheatley, as well as from others who wish to do something to help our own wounded in this war. Further contributions are, however, still wanted, and as we desire to send the bedsteads off with as little delay as possible we hope that any reader who wishes to help will forward his or her donation at once. We hope next week to publish the list of subscribers. Any surplus that may remain after the purchase of the bedsteads will be devoted to buying cigarettes for the use of the wounded, those already sent out having been most highly appreciated.

In her letter asking for the bedsteads Nurse Wheatley wrote:—It may interest the kind contributors of cigarettes to know that the last you sent me were rescued when our hospital was shelled out and brought safely away, also how grateful we were for them when we re-established ourselves in a new place and were filled with patients before our own stores could come up.

There is something else we want very badly, and that is some small iron bedsteads . . . and I am sure if you knew the difference it makes to the comfort of the men you would make a very earnest appeal to your readers for a gift of at least six. As a clearing station, we are not provided with beds, but as we keep the dying and any too ill to travel in safety, such as men wounded in the chest and abdomen, until they are fit to be moved, the gift of a few beds would be an inestimable boon. You can imagine the difference to a wounded man between lying for days on a narrow stretcher and on a bed. A bedstead would be the kindest present I know of, and the most appreciated; of course, they must be portable. . . . If people only could see the suffering we see and are almost powerless to alleviate!

SERBIA'S IDEALS.

Some interesting facts about Serbia were told in a lecture given at the Sheffield University on May 27 by Mr. V. R. Savitch. The Vice-Chancellor of the University was in the chair. Mr. Savitch said that the idea strongly ingrained in the Western mind was that Serbia was a warlike nation, but the Serbian peasant soldier was not warlike, and looked on war as a thing to be avoided at any price. All her wars had been defensive; the country was and still remained anxious for peace and development. There were at present 12,000,000 Serbians, but of these only 4½ millions were actually living within the Serbian boundaries; the rest, divided into five different groups, were under Austro-Hungarian rule on Austro-Hungarian soil. It always had been very necessary to Vienna that the Serbian people should be split up and kept apart as far as possible, but though divided the Serbians maintain their single aspiration.

They were the greatest menace to Hungary, but though Vienna and Buda-Pesth had tried everything to crush Serbia there remained something higher than Governments or politics. Serbia always knew during the last two years that the slightest provocation on her part would cause war with Austria-Hungary, which, thwarted in her desire during 1913, seized on the murder of the Archduke as legitimate excuse for war. It was a crime, declared the lecturer, with which Serbia had nothing whatever to do, and even now the truth of the murder was kept secret by Austria. Serbia had gone great lengths in order to meet Austria-Hungary, had made great sacrifices, but she could not sacrifice her independence, her natural inheritance. Austria-Hungary never was more than a tool in Germany's hands, since in the days of Bismarck she became Germany's agent for the realization of the German belief that she was the God-designed ruler of the world.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

Subscribers to "THE NEAR EAST" who have left the Ottoman Dominions since the war will oblige by notifying the Manager of their new address as early as possible, so that the supply of the paper should not be unduly interrupted.

"THE NEAR EAST" has largely increased its circulation in the United Kingdom since the war, and the Management is convinced that there are many people still who would be glad to know of its existence. Specimen copies will be forwarded post free if the names and addresses of friends are sent to the Manager, at 16-17, Devonshire Square, E.C

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1915.	1915.		1333.	5675.
June	June		Shaaban	Tamuz
18	5	Friday	5	6
19	6	Saturday	6	7
20	7	Sunday		8
21	8	Monday	8	9
22	9	Tuesday	9	10
23	10	Wednesday	10	11
24	11	Thursday	11	12

Wednesday is the birthday of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales.

Wednesday is also the birthday of H.R.H. Princess Cecilie of Greece, third daughter of Prince Andrew, who was born at Athens in 1911.

The Serbian Minister visited the Foreign Office on Monday.

The Times correspondent in the Balkan Peninsula reports that King Ferdinand of Bulgaria has decorated M. Guranesco, the First Secretary of the Roumanian Legation in Sofia, with the Cross of Commander of the Order of Civil Merit.

Lady Boyle held a reunion in Queen's Gate on Sunday afternoon to meet Madame Pashitch, wife of the Serbian Prime Minister. Many members of the Diplomatic Corps were present.

Sir Frederick Treves, who has visited the various hospitals at Mardrof, Malta, and Egypt, has returned to London. Sir Courtauld Thomson, the Chief Commissioner of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John, is remaining in Alexandria.

Lord Oranmore and Browne left Cavendish Square for Castle Macgarett, Claremoris, County Mayo, last week.

Sir William Garstin was one of the guests entertained at luncheon at the Mansion House on Wednesday by the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress.

M. Caclamano, the new Hellenic Minister to the Russian Court, is now in Bucharest (writes our Roumanian Correspondent on May 29), on his way to Petrograd.

M. A. de Giers, the Russian Minister at Cettinje, arrived in London last week, and left again for Petrograd on Friday.

Baron Uxkull, Secretary at the Russian Legation, has for the present deferred his departure to the Legation at Athens.

Signor Giuliano Cora, who has been appointed First Secretary to the Italian Embassy in London, was recently Secretary to the Italian Legation in Serbia. He replaces Signor Paolo de Parente, who is shortly leaving London.

Both the half-brothers of the Duke of Portland, Lord Henry and Lord Charles Cavendish-Bentinck, are serving in Egypt, the former being lieutenant-colonel of the Derbyshire Yeomanry.

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Mrs. Myles Kennedy is staying at the Berkeley Hotel.

Reuter's Amsterdam correspondent reports (June 15):—According to a telegram from Constantinople the Turkish *Official Gazette* announces that the Sultan was not able to attend the Selamlik on Friday last as he was suffering from a slight attack of catarrh.

A Reuter's special message from Zurich (June 14) states:—Immediately after Italy's declaration of war Slatin Pasha volunteered for active service. He has now joined the forces operating against Italy in the capacity of lieutenant, which rank he held during the occupation of Bosnia. Slatin offered his services at the beginning of the war, but the War Office declined them.

Mr. E. A. Harrison, managing director of Messrs. Thos. Cook and Son (Egypt), Ltd., has returned to London from Cairo.

Captain Kriezis has been appointed Naval Attaché to the Greek Legation in London. He is a distinguished naval officer, and the members of his family took an active part in the War of Independence.

Temporary Lieutenant Arthur Warden Baker, Royal Scots Fusiliers, has been gazetted (Temporary) Captain. Dated April 17.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place very quietly owing to the war, between the Hon. Paul A. Methuen, Second Lieutenant 3rd (Reserve Scots Guards, son of Field-Marshal Lord Methuen, Governor of Malta, and Lady Methuen, of Corsham Court, Wilts, and Eleanor Hennessy, daughter of W. J. Hennessy, artist, and Mrs. Hennessy, of Rudgwick, Sussex.

The report which we mentioned last week that Lieut. Pirie Gordon, R.N.V.R., who is acting as Intelligence Officer at the Dardanelles, had been wounded in action, is, we are glad to learn, unfounded. It probably arose out of the fact that, having developed symptoms of very acute appendicitis, he was sent on board ship for immediate operation. It seems, however, that it proved impossible to perform the operation on the spot, and he was transported to Alexandria. By the time he reached there the symptoms had fortunately abated very rapidly, and after a few days in hospital he had made so good a recovery that he was allowed to return at once to the front.

Our Bucharest Correspondent writes (May 29):—

M. Pierre Neicoff, First Secretary of the Bulgarian Legation here, has been granted two months' leave of absence. M. Mintcheff, formerly Secretary at Athens, will replace him during his absence.

The marriage of Major and Brevet-Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Wood, 5th Fusiliers, and Miss Olive Mary de Bathe, only daughter of Major and Mrs. Herbert Miles, of Bude, Cornwall, will take place very quietly in London on Saturday. The bridegroom is second son of Field Marshal Sir Evelyn Wood, V.C.

Our Roumanian Correspondent informs us that the Swedish savant, Baron Ackerheim, accompanied by his secretary, M. Varadin Eurich, has been travelling over Roumania in order to study the ancient monasteries in the country. The Baron has visited the convents, monasteries, and principal historical monuments of the districts of Neamtz, Suceava, Jassy, and Botoshain, and will visit similar buildings throughout the country, with the object of writing a book upon them.

Major Charles George Massie Blomfield, 1st Battalion Royal Warwickshire Regiment, who is reported killed in action in France on June 9, was the elder son of Rear-Admiral Sir R. and Lady Massie Blomfield. Born on June 19, 1878, he was educated at Cheltenham College and Sandhurst, and served through the South African War with the Mounted Infantry and won the medal and clasps. He became adjutant to the Special Reserve (4th Battalion of his regiment), a post which he held for 3½ years, and prepared drafts for the two battalions on active service. He got his majority at the end of January, and went to the front on May 4. He leaves a widow and a son.

We regret to learn that Captain Reginald Crommelin Popham Blyth, 1st Gloucestershire Regiment, attached Egyptian Army, was killed in action in the Dardanelles operations on June 4. He was the only son of the late Bishop in Jerusalem and the East, and was educated at St. Edward's School, Oxford, and Brasenose College. He had fifteen years' service to his credit, and had taken part in the South African War, serving both in Natal and in the Orange River Colony. When with his regiment in India he acted as a Divisional Staff Signalling Officer. In 1908 he was attached to the Egyptian Army for work in the Sudan, and was recently granted the rank of Bey. He was a keen cricketer, footballer, and polo player, and also a well known big-game shooter. He leaves a widow and one son.

Captain O. Carver, East Lancashire Royal Engineers, who has been killed in action at the Dardanelles, was the eldest son of Mr. O. Carver, J.P., of Craage Hall, Cheshire. He joined the Army in 1909, and was for several years in Egypt. He leaves a widow and three children. Quite recently his sister was married to the Rev. H. Sheppard, son of Canon Edgar Sheppard, Sub-Dean of the Chapels Royal.

Our Special Correspondent in Athens, in forwarding us news of Turkey, writes:—

Many readers of THE NEAR EAST will be sorry to hear of the death of Bucknam Pasha, which took place in the German hospital in Pera on the 27th ult. The funeral took place the following day at the Haidar Pasha cemetery.

The death is also announced of the wife of the Grand Vizier, Princess Eminé Indji Hanum, daughter of Prince Toussoun.

The death has taken place at her residence, St. Mary's, York, of the Hon. Mrs. Machell, widow of Canon Machell, vicar of St. Martin, Coney Street, York. Mrs. Machell, who was a sister of the eighth Lord Middleton, was ninety-two years of age. One of her sons, Mr. Percy Wilfrid Machell, formerly commanded the 12th Sudanese Battalion of the Egyptian Army, and was Inspector-General of the Egyptian Coastguard. He was subsequently Adviser to the Ministry of the Interior. He married in 1905 Countess Victoria Gleichen, daughter of the late Prince Victor of Hohenlohe-Langenburg.

Lord Henry Cavendish-Bentinck, M.P., was the chief speaker at a meeting of the local branch of the Patriotic League of Britons Overseas, held at Alexandria recently, and presided over by Lord Edward Cecil. Rear-Admiral Robinson and Mr. R. C. Abdy also spoke.

Admiral Sir Algernon Heneage, G.C.B., who died last week at 22, South Eaton Place, took part in the operations in the Black Sea during the Crimean War.

An exhibition of the works of Ivan Mestrovic, the Southern Slav sculptor, to which reference has already been made in these pages, will shortly be opened at the Victoria and Albert Museum, the private view taking place next Thursday. The exhibition has been arranged by a committee, of which Earl Curzon is the president, and it will afford the public an opportunity of learning something of the unconquerable spirit which inspires our Serbian Allies, and which in the heroic art of Ivan Mestrovic appears to have found a worthy exponent. Information regarding the exhibition may be obtained from Mr. Ernest H. R. Collings, at 11, Smith Square, S.W.

We have to acknowledge receipt of £1 on behalf of the British Refugees from Turkey Relief Fund from Second Lieutenant H. A. D. Hoyland, General Headquarters, Mediterranean Expeditionary force.

"BRITISH REFUGEES FROM TURKEY FUND."—The Hon. Secretary, Mr. C. B. Charnaud, has changed his address to 18, The Avenue, Brondesbury, N.W. Telephone, Willesden 845.

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OBITUARY.

MAITRE CARTON DE WIART.

One of the best known personalities in Egypt has passed away in the person of Maître Léon Constant Carton de Wiart, whose death has just taken place in Cairo. Born in Belgium in 1854, and educated at Stonyhurst and Brussels University, Maître Carton, as he was familiarly known, commenced to practise in Egypt in 1883. He had been called to the Bar in Brussels in 1876, and subsequently joined the Society of Gray's Inn and was called to the English Bar. He very soon acquired a very considerable practice in Egypt, and there were few important lawsuits in which he was not engaged, his services being frequently retained by members of the Khedivial family. He had a wonderful grasp of the intricacies of Egyptian law, and while his services were in great request among the native population, he was equally popular with the European community. A firm upholder of the British Occupation and a perfect English scholar, Maître Carton de Wiart was *persona grata* at the British Agency, his opinion on legal matters being frequently sought by Lord Cromer. During the famous land boom in Egypt Maître Carton was probably interested, financially and otherwise, in more companies than any other man in Egypt. Many of the public financial arrangements since 1895—notably the winding-up of the Daira Sanieh and the drafting of contracts for the Assuan Dam—were concluded with his assistance.

For some years past Maître Carton de Wiart had been in very indifferent health, suffering a great deal from heart trouble, which a rather strenuous life tended to aggravate. He is survived by a widow (née James) and two sons, both of whom are officers in the British Army. Only last week we announced that the younger, Second Lieutenant M. Carton de Wiart, 6th Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers, had arrived in Egypt, wounded, from the Dardanelles. The elder son, Captain Adrian Carton de Wiart, 4th Dragoon Guards, was wounded and earned the D.S.O. in Somaliland, being again wounded in France. The brother of the late Maître Carton de Wiart is the Belgian Minister of Justice. As *The Times* puts it, his death "will leave Cairo poorer for a great pleader and an attractive and most interesting personality."

ROLL OF HONOUR.

British Subjects from Turkey in H.M.'s Forces.

Ashe, Lance-Corp. R., R.E.
Atkinson, Bombardier G. M., 266th Battery, 85th Brigade, R.F.A. Colchester.
Atkinson, Gunner T., "A" Co. Royal Field Artillery.
Baker, Lieut. A. Warden, 7th Royal Scots Fusiliers.
Barron, Lance-Corporal J. B., First Canadian Contingent (formerly of the St. George's Boys' School, Jerusalem).
Binns, Rifleman Edward, 8th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
Binns, Bombardier Harold H. (49,567), Battery Office, 34th Reserve Battery, R.F.A., 6b Reserve Brigade, Piershill Barracks, Edinburgh.
Binns, Lieut. C. E., R.M. (Interpreter to Mediterranean Forces).
Bolton, Alfred, Naval Brigade.
Bond, Private H. C., 7th (Reserve) City of London Regt.
Bond, Gladwyn J. T., Inns of Court O.T.C.
Bond, Trooper S. (1779), Royal Horse Guards.
Bond, Corporal R., Royal Field Artillery, Durlston House, Park Road, Swanage.
Borrell, Rifleman Alfred, 8th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
Bowman, Private Henry J., R.A.M.C., Duke of York's Barracks, Chelsea.
Brooks, Corporal G., Royal Field Artillery, Swanage.
Castell, Rifleman Henry, 8th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
Cauchi, Act. Corporal Henry (6113), 19th Service Battalion, C Company, Royal Fusiliers, Epsom, Surrey.
Clifton, Capt. Ernest H., Durham Light Infantry.
Coles, Dr. D. A., R.A.M.C. (formerly of the English Hospital, Haifa).
Colley, Trooper Isaac E., Royal Horse Guards.
Crawford, Private James, 7th (Reserve) City of London Regiment.
Cumberbatch, Lieut. A. Noël, 9th East Yorkshire Regiment, Fulford Barracks, York.
Cumberbatch, 2nd Lieut. H. D., 9th Batt. the Buffs.
Cumberbatch, Lieut. and Adjutant R. C., 15th Batt. Rifle Brigade.
Cuming, Bombardier A. C., 262nd Battery R.F.A., 84th Brigade, Colchester.
Davidson, Bombardier C. T., 266th Battery, 85th Brigade, R.F.A., Colchester.
Elliott, Eric C., 2nd Lieut., Essex Regiment, 11th Batt.
Eppstein, Lieut. W. R., Durham Light Infantry.
Faulkner, Lieut. M., Admiralty House, Malta.
Fromant, Private F., Grenadier Guards.
Gallia, Rifleman M., 7th (S) Batt. Rifle Brigade.
Goodacre, Miss C., Red Cross, Shoreham.
Gout, Lieut. Charles L. 4th (R) King's Own Yorkshire L.I., Drill Hall, Bank Street, Wakefield.
Gout, Rifleman Evelyn, 8th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
Gout, Rifleman Richard, 8th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
Hadkinson, Rifleman Vivian, 8th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
Higgs, Private J., 6th Dragoon Guards.
Holton, Corporal Alfred, Royal Naval Division, Divisional Engineers.
Holton, Trooper John, B. Squadron, Essex Yeomanry.
Hoyland, 2nd Lieut., H.A.D. (Interpreter to the Mediterranean Forces).
Ireland, Private D. J. (3346), 16th County of London Regiment.
Jackson, Rifleman Edward, 8th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
Kerr, Miss E., Army Nursing Corps, France.
Keyser, Lieut. A.G., 8th Batt. King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry.
Keyser, 2nd Lieut. R. N., 10th Batt. East Lancashire Regiment.
Keyser, 2nd Lieut. Henry, 2/10th Batt. Middlesex Regiment.
Keyser, 2nd Lieut. J. C., 2/9th Batt. (D.C.O.) Middlesex Regiment.
La Fontaine, Rifleman Fred., 8th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
La Fontaine, Lance-Corporal Hugh, 7th (Res.) City of London Regiment.
La Fontaine, Sub-Lieut. J. S., Royal Naval Division, Crystal Palace, S.E.
Lander, 2nd Lieut. Arthur.
Lorimer, Private D., Army Service Corps, Aldershot.
Mackinnon, Private Eric, 9th Royal Scots Highlanders.
Mackinnon, Dr. J. M., Captain E.A.M.S., British East Africa.
Mackinnon, Patrick, Sapper, Divisional Engineers, 1st Canadian Contingent.
Mackray, E. D., Dardanelles Expeditionary Force.
Michau, Bombardier C. G., Royal Field Artillery.
Moore, Miss K. M., St. John of Jerusalem, France.
Morrison, J., O.T.C., Inns of Court.
Morton, Private Stanley, 2nd Sportsman's Battalion.
Moss, 2nd Lieut., Public Schools Battalion.
Mumford, Driver P. F., A.S.C., Osterly Park.
Munro, 2nd Lieut. J. G., 4th Scottish Rifles, Fort Matilda, Greenock.
Nowill, Private Sidney, 7th (Res.) City of London Regiment.
Parker, Trooper G., Royal Horse Guards.
Paterson, Lieut. Alexander, R.A.M.C., 3rd Batt. Black Watch, Tain, N.B.
Peacock, Sapper Frank, R.E.
Pengelley, Sapper Walter, R.E.
Ramsay, Corporal F. R. F., 14th Service Batt. Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.
Rees, Trooper R. (1709), Squadron D (in Egypt), Herts Yeomanry, c.o. G.P.O., Southampton.
Robinson, Lance-Corporal J. E., Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment (formerly of the C.M.S. College, Jerusalem).
Rice, Rifleman Cecil, 8th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
Routh, 2nd Lieut. C., 3rd/8th (D.C.O.) Middlesex Regiment.
Sackville-West, 2nd Lieut. Hon. B., R.N.V.R.
Seager, Lieut. John Owen, B. Co., Public Schools Batt., 16th Middlesex Regiment, Woldingham.
Shaw, 2nd Lieut. T., R.E.
Simmons, Gunner H. C. (56,799), No. 128, Heavy Battery R.G.A., Woolwich, S.E.
Stock, Lieut. H. W., Royal Marines. (Serving abroad.)
Sunderland, Interpreter (at the front).
Thompson, Lieut. Harold H., R.N.V.R.
Thompson, Commander W. A., R.N.V.R., H.M.S. "Egmont."
Thwaites, Dr. H., R.A.M.C., Wareham.
Trenter, Trooper T., Household Cavalry.
Van Lennep, Private E., 2nd Sportsman's Battalion.
Vedova, Rifleman Egbbert, 8th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
Vedova, Rifleman Lionel, 8th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
Vere, Lieut.-Commander Harry, R.N.
Warren, Act.-Corporal R. M., 7th (S.) Batt. Rifle Brigade, Guadeloupe Barracks, Bordon Camp, Hants.
Wheatley, Miss, Sister Q.A.I.M.N.S.R., No. 3 Casualty Clearing Station, British Expeditionary Force.
Wheeler, Lieut. P. F. C. d'Erf, 1st Dorset Regiment.
Whittall, Captain G., 1st Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry.
Whittall, 2nd Lieut. Arthur, 7th (Res.) City of London Regiment.
Whittall, Lieut. Hugh, Royal Marines. (Serving abroad.)
Whittall, Private Kenneth, 10th Batt. Royal Fusiliers, Colchester.
Whittall, Private Roland, 10th Batt. Royal Fusiliers, Colchester.
Whittall, Rifleman Walter, 8th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

BIRTH.

Taylor.—At Kerman, Persia, the wife of H. L. G. Taylor—a daughter.

MARRIAGE.

Baker—Noel.—On Saturday, June 12, at St. Nicholas Church, Worth, by the Ven. Archdeacon Lilly, assisted by the Rev. W. Blower, Philip John, youngest son of J. Allen Baker, Esquire, M.P., and Mrs. Baker, of Donnington, Harlesden, N.W., to Irene, only daughter of F. Noel, Esquire, of Achmetaga, Greece.

DEATH.

Turner.—On June 12, at Wad Medani, Sudan, the result of an accident, Denis Shewell Turner, the youngest son of E. J. Turner, of Winchester, aged thirty-one.

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THE NEAR EAST.

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FRIDAY, JUNE 18, 1915.

THE ITALIAN ADVANCE.

The Italians have clearly stolen a march upon their enemies. Their declaration of war coincided with a supreme effort of the Austro-German forces against Russia, a movement which must have taken to the eastern frontier every man who could be spared from any other actual or potential theatre of war. If troops were not available to rehabilitate the prestige of the Dual Monarchy after its Serbian reverses, we may be sure that no very large force was kept immobile on the Italian frontier to guard against a hypothetical danger in that quarter. Neither Germany nor Austria-Hungary appears to have believed that Italy would really turn her arms one day against her former allies. Latterly the German Government began to appreciate the advisability of placating the Italians by the offer of concessions at Austria-Hungary's expense; but it trusted to German diplomacy and possibly to the glamour of German successes in the war to deter Italy from abandoning her neutrality, at least until the Central Powers should be in a position to deal with the Italian army. At the moment when Italy declared war against Austria-Hungary the latter was committed too far to the great movement in Galicia to be able to transfer any large body of troops to the Italian frontier. She was probably persuaded by the German military authorities that the natural obstacles in the way of an Italian advance were sufficient, with the troops actually on the spot, to prevent the Italians from making much headway before the work of the Austro-Hungarian forces in the east was accomplished. The future will decide how far this view was justified. For the present it can be said that the Italians have succeeded beyond their expectations. The unpreparedness of the Austrians or their lack of men has allowed our new Allies to establish themselves in favourable positions all along the frontier. In the Trentino they are converging from three sides upon Trent, and are threatening in two places the only railway line which connects that fortress with the rest of Austria; in Carnia they hold the summit of the range and have opened fire from their heavy artillery on the fortress of Malborghetto. The distances covered from the frontier may not be great; military operations in the Alps are necessarily slow. But the net result is that at every point the Austrians have lost the advantage of position which they had before the war. Many of the heights which they occupied and which seemed to offer formidable obstacles to any Italian attack are now in Italian hands, and adequately held will render an Austrian counter-offensive a very different matter from what the original plans of the Austrian General Staff must have intended it to be in the event of war with Italy.

Both in the Trentino and along the Carnic Alps the intention of the Italians must be to gain possession of the territory to which they lay claim as being Italian in character and by tradition or necessary for purposes of military defence. It is on the eastern frontier between the Carnic Alps and the sea that we must look for the development of the main offensive. Here the advance has so far also met with success. Three weeks have sufficed to find the Italians in strong positions on the Isonzo River; they occupy Monfalcone and Gradisca, and must shortly be able to press home the attack on Gorizia. From Monfalcone the distance to Trieste is only twenty miles, but there is no indication that the Italian higher command will be tempted to advance at this stage beyond the point required for the proper manipulation of its main forces. While the Austrians have not yet been encountered in any strength, it is also true that the Italian troops engaged represent only the vanguard of the Italian army. Their purpose will have been to profit by the preoccupations of the enemy elsewhere in order to seize the most favourable positions for the deployment of the superior numbers which Italy ought to be able to oppose to any troops that Austria-Hungary will have at her disposal for the new front. The Allies will do well, however, not to base any extravagant hopes on Italy's ability to affect the course of the war by decisive victories. The physical features of the greater part of the country over which she has to operate will cause her successes to be measured by yards rather than by leagues, and will invest each success with only local significance. Even where the terrain is more favourable for military operations, her first concern seems likely to be to establish herself in the territory which she has marked for her own rather than to attempt single-handed any great strategical movement against Austria-Hungary. But this circumstance need not cause us to under-estimate either the moral or the material value of her co-operation. The Italian menace is a factor which the Austro-German military authorities can no longer afford to ignore. It may not be as dangerous as would be the advance of a new belligerent over easier country; but it has to be countered or held as far as possible in check by large numbers of troops who would otherwise be available for other theatres of the war. In its earlier stages, it is true, Italy's appearance as a belligerent has not had the effect of staying the Austro-German advance in Galicia; but it would be premature to infer that Austro-German strategy in this instance is not running risks which it may subsequently regret. There remain, also, the indirect results of Italy's action—the incentive it may prove to other countries to abandon neutrality and the tightening of the economic grip on the Central Powers.

At first sight the incentive provided by Italy would seem to have broken down in the case of Roumania. It would, however, be a mistake to hold the Italian Government entirely responsible for this failure. Natural ties and the similarity of their respective attitudes towards the march of events in Europe threw Italy and Roumania closely together during the early stages of the war. With both ultimate participation in the struggle was inevitable, if they were to realise their national aspirations; any agreements they might make with the Powers of the Triple Entente would run on similar lines; and, finally, there was the possibility of correlating their respective military operations against Austria-Hungary. It seemed, therefore, a normal policy for both to "pool" their negotiations. Up to a certain point this was possible; but it need not be a matter of surprise that as the *pourparlers* progressed one country should reach its goal before the other. When an understanding was reached between Italy and the Triple Entente, it found Roumania with her negotiations still incomplete. It may be that the Roumanian Government imagined that Italy, having tacitly accepted the principle of joint negotiations, would wait to see them concluded in their entirety before bringing her own share in them to an end. This, however, the Italian Government did not do. The time for military action was pressing, both from the point of view of the Italian army and if Italian intervention was to secure the maximum advantage for the Russians, who were being driven back in Galicia. Roumania's negotiations with the Allied Governments, though on all fours with those conducted by Italy, turned on many points of detail which could only be settled separately. These negotiations are still in progress; but there can be little doubt that Italy's resolute action will have made the Roumanians the more eager to participate in the war. They also stood to gain much by the mere maintenance of neutrality; but with the Italians they have accepted the principle that a country does not deserve to become great, unless it is ready to draw its sword for its own rights. Italy has been the first of the neutral countries to act upon this principle. Before very long Roumania will be following her example, and it will prove a strange phenomenon if the lead thus given is not followed by other States.

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IN STRICKEN SERBIA.

Being extracts from letters written by Dr. Lauwens, of the Wounded Allies' Relief Hospital in Serbia.

KRAGUJEVATZ, April 28.

We have been in Kragujevatz since last Saturday evening. . . . The danger (of infection) is now reduced to zero, so to speak. The epidemic of exanthematic typhus is rapidly dying away, and the precautionary measures taken are so thorough that one runs very little risk. I have already visited a number of typhus hospitals here and in Nish without any feeling of anxiety and with the certainty of not becoming infected. You must not confound the typhus fever, which you know, with exanthematic typhus, which is so prevalent here. Certainly, this latter is a terrible scourge, the percentage of fatal cases being 30 per cent.; but the sources of infection are well known, and it is easy to guard against it. It is established that the disease is spread by body lice, which, having been upon a sick person, become infectious, and therefore dangerous, in about eight days. Probably the microbe, hitherto unknown, undergoes a process of evolution in the body of the insect. The first thing to be done, therefore, is to destroy the vermin, and to prevent those that have not been killed from invading one's person. To attain the first of these objects, the clothing is disinfected by means of heated air, by washing in lysol and creolin; the walls are whitewashed three or four times, and particular care is taken to cleanse everything with petrol, so that the odour of petrol pervades the whole of Serbia—in hospitals, shops, restaurants, railway stations, etc., etc. For the attainment of the second object the most minute precautions are taken. The wearing of high boots is compulsory, and often the boots are smeared with lysol-vaseline, so that any insect that attempts to crawl up one's leg is caught and soon dies. The clothing worn in the hospitals is hermetic—ours are of black satin, which shows up the insects, the latter being grey, very quickly; one's hands are gloved, or well rubbed over with petrol or naphthaline, as is one's face; and one's head is protected by a cap completely covering the hair. All the nurses are dressed in male attire, which is less risky. On entering and on leaving the hospital one is sprayed from head to foot with a solution of carbolic acid or lysol. So, you see, the greatest precautions are taken; and for two months there has not been a death amongst the doctors or the nursing staff. I would give you much more information in the form of statistics, but the censor would not allow it to pass. . . .

We left Salonika on the morning of April 20, and had a pleasant journey by way of Gumendje, Kiuprilu, Uskub, along the Vardar, amidst magnificent scenery, very wild in parts. The way was guarded by Serbian soldiers of the 3rd Ban, ragged and grimed, but armed and martial-looking. . . . . We arrived at Uskub at nightfall, and at Nish in the morning. Our wagon of material had gone astray en route; telegrams sent off in all directions. . . . Called at the Ministry of War, at the Bureau of the Inspector of Health (Colonel Karanovitch and Lieutenant Todorovitch), and met with a most friendly reception. Decided to remain at Nish until our nursing stores should arrive, we put up at Reserve Hospital No. II., for the hotels of Nish are not of the best and have undesirable features; there are notices in the rooms requesting visitors to remove their boots before going to bed. At the hospital, which is an old Engineers' barracks, we were given a large room for the four of us, in which we set up our camp-beds that we had bought at Salonika. Nish is a dirty place of 40,000 inhabitants, without drains, without water. The place overflows with Austrian prisoners (there are 60,000 Austrian prisoners). All the subordinate members of the hospital staff, the public services, etc., are Austrians, and we have the curious spectacle of an enormous camp of Austrian officers near the hospital. . . . . At the hospital there were about twenty-five of us at dinner; at the head, a Serbian, Colonel Grouitch, who was extremely friendly, doctors of both sexes—Russian, Greek, Serbian, Belgian, English—and even a Hungarian and two Bohemians, prisoners of war, but working, with perfect freedom, in the hospital. In the evening one of the Bohemians, who was an accomplished violinist, played to us. A remarkable situation surely.

On Friday, April 23, our missing wagon turned up, and the next morning we set out for Kragujevatz. . . . As for our mission, the Serbian Government has given us good quarters, but there is no word yet from the Committee; and, what is worse, there is a rumour that our ship, the "Newlyn," has been sunk.

KRAGUJEVATZ, May 3.

As I wrote in my last letter, we are all well, but we find it somewhat hard to accustom ourselves to the Serbian cuisine. However, that is to be changed; already we prepare ourselves a substantial English breakfast, with eggs, excellent tinned meats, and Danish butter, also tinned, for it is impossible to procure butter anywhere in Serbia. As soon as the rest of our party arrive we shall undertake our own cooking entirely, which will be a distinct advantage.

I must tell you that I am not able to write you anything of real importance . . . the censorship is very strict, and we have been warned in advance by the authorities. So all that must await my return to England.

As I have already told you, we made a stay of three days in Nish, which is only a large village, without drains and without water. We have electric light, it is true, and in the centre of the town there is a large square, of which a considerable portion is transformed into a veritable midden. The roads are indescribable. When it rains, as was the case when we arrived, they are a mass of ruts and mud, into which the carriages sink up to the axle. These carriages, old and not over-clean, are drawn by small horses, and jolt all over the road in such fashion that it is advisable to hold on tightly if you do not wish to be thrown out. Most of the more comfortable houses have been converted into hospitals and ambulance stations; these are the so-called "Reserve Hospitals," which are numbered. It must be said that the best use has been made of these buildings. The material is of a primitive character, for most things are lacking here; but what could be done has been done, and the Serbian Medical Service, helped by the foreign missions, has worked wonders. And now it can be said with truth that there are neither sick nor wounded who do not receive every possible care. There are great numbers of soldiers and officers wounded and convalescent at Nish, but what seems most remarkable is the number of Austrian prisoners who move about freely. All these appear quite satisfied with their lot, and those of them with whom I spoke said that they had nothing but praise for the treatment they have received. At first both accommodation and food were lacking, but now all who are left—many have been carried off by typhus—are well cared for. Of course, they have to work. They act as hospital attendants, carpenters, orderlies (we have five to keep our quarters in order), etc., etc.

The Serbian authorities have been very obliging and friendly towards us, as I have already told you. Colonel Karanovitch, in taking a touching farewell of us, said that he was happy indeed to see Belgians coming to the aid of his sorely tried country, and the major, who was in charge of the hospital at which we put up at Nish made a little speech on the last night of our stay, declaring that it was the ambition of the Serbians to be like the Belgians; to which I replied that our ambitions and our aims were identical.

On April 24, in the morning, we left Nish. We had been told that we should find Kragujevatz much more pleasant than Nish, and we had not been misled. When we arrived here, at six o'clock, we were met at the railway station, our baggage and belongings were loaded on a motor lorry, and we entered three carriages and drove off through the town. On the outskirts the English Stobart Mission* had established a field hospital, consisting of innumerable tents, which looked extremely picturesque. At about 7.30 we were taken to our quarters. The Serbian Government has set aside for our use a whole floor of one of the best houses in the place, a kitchen, a dining-room, an office, and three large halls, which are to serve as dormitories for the sixteen of us when the staff is complete.

After we had made ourselves presentable we took supper at the officers' casino, the "Menaga," as it is called in Serbian. It is an old building, picturesquely placed in the midst of a garden, and was the *Konak* of the Prince when Kragujevatz was the Royal residence of Serbia. There were present many Serbian officers, and the French, English, and Russian military attachés; for Kragujevatz is the General Headquarters of the Serbian Army. The Crown Prince is here, but I have not yet seen him.

The following morning we were taken to different places to select one for our hospital, and we chose a large cavalry stable. It will certainly be the fittest and most cheerful hospital in the town; it is now ready, and we are waiting for our material. The s.s. "Newlyn" has arrived at Salonika after all—but eight days late! I have received a telegram from Salonika saying that three nurses have arrived for our ambulance. . . . The epidemic is dying out rapidly in Serbia, so I expect we shall have chiefly surgical cases to deal with.

SERBIAN ASPIRATIONS.

The following telegram, signed by twenty-four deputies in the Skupshtina, has been received by the Balkan Committee through M. Boshkovitch, the representative of Serbia in England:—

Monsieur l'envoye,—We beg you to be good enough to express to Sir Edward Boyle, Sir Arthur Evans, Dr. Seton Watson, as well as to the whole Balkan Committee, our sincere and profound gratitude for their declaration in favour of truth and their humane sentiments in questions involving the rights and interests of the Serb, Croat and Slovene peoples as yet unliberated. Kindly inform them that we confidently believe that the great Statesmen of the noble English nation, which is shedding its precious blood and spending millions of its national wealth to do honour to its signature and to defend the right of small, but heroic Belgium, will no less lend the powerful authority of its voice to the defence of the rights of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes who are still in bondage. Our nation will be sincerely obliged and grateful to them for so doing. The absolute trust which we place in the declarations hitherto made by English Statesmen renders us full of hope that this bloody and terrible war will end in a peace which will protect our national rights, safeguard our vital interests, and assure the pacific development of Balkan nationalities, so that we, too, may contribute our own share, side by side with other European nations, in the work of civilization and in labour for the common good of humanity.

* Mrs. St. Clair Stobart's Field Hospital.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

All's well with the Suez Canal. A few months ago we were reading of what was going to happen there, a few weeks ago we read of what was happening, and to-day we read of Suez Canal shares being about the steadiest thing on the market just now. From sea to sea her banks are now clear of the enemy, and not even that touchy and incomprehensible thing The Market appears to have suffered from the Kaiser's threats. This, while it is eminently satisfactory to ourselves, must be rather annoying to the Imperial Promiser whose forces were to have entered Cairo long before this.

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A few days ago a small gypsy boy informed me in simple language that the Kaiser was destined for the lower regions because he was a liar and a thief, and because he "stuck babies at the ends of spears." The remark shows the opinion that the illiterate classes of Britain have of Kaiser Wilhelm II. He is ranked as one quite beyond the pale of civilized warriors and finds his place in their minds among the savages who use spears. And the lad's remark brought before me the vision of rolling desert country where so many of our wars have been waged. Not a battle, I venture to think, has carried with it a deeper current of tragedy than that which was fought on the banks of the Suez Canal some little time ago. The Turk is an alien enemy, and as such he must be cast to his knees, but it is impossible to think of his sufferings without a quiver of pity. He staked all in his trust of Germany; Germany promised him Egypt, and sent him forth to die. I fancy that the gypsy boy was right.

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By the gallant deeds they have performed and the fine, solid work they have done in the Persian Gulf region and on the Gallipoli Peninsula, as well as nearer home, our Territorials have won unstinted praise from all who have watched them. And it is pleasant to know that our Regulars are the first to acknowledge what splendid stuff they are made of and how utterly they have falsified those gloomy prophets who predicted that they would "never be of any real value," and so forth. One of the handsomest compliments I have heard of was paid to them a short time ago by a very highly-placed officer indeed. An officer who was speaking to his superior, a Brigadier-General, remarked: "These Territorials are splendid, Sir—simply splendid! They ought to be allowed to take that T. off their collars." "Take it off!" exclaimed the Brigadier. "Good Lord, man, I wish I could have T. on *my* collar!"

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A day or two ago I was walking with a friend along a not-too-nice London street, when we passed a coster's barrow laden with strawberries. My companion, who has a well-developed sense of smell and had been expressing his opinion of the state of the roadway a minute before, paused and sniffed. "Does that remind you of anything?" he asked. Knowing his habit of associating all kinds of smells with past experiences and places that he would probably do well to forget now that he is, like myself, a respectable member of society, I merely shook my head. "Ah!" he said, "it makes me think of Cairo on a hot day. Just for a second it called up a picture of a little Arab boy I saw there selling strawberries. He had retired down a side street to freshen up his wares, which had got a bit wilted and dusty—and he was doing it by licking them well over." Upon the whole, I am rather glad that I never ate strawberries in Egypt. And I am quite sure that nothing would ever induce me to eat strawberries off a barrow hereafter. Yet, when travelling in the East I have quite frequently made a lunch off dates that had been wrapped in an Arab's *Kefiyeh* and cheese that had been carried in the bosom of his shirt. But then rough travel gives one a wonderful appetite and leaves little room for squeamishness. Some of the water I have drunk in the desert would, I feel sure, put me on the sick list at once if I but sipped it now.

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If I were a betting man I should be prepared to wager that Mr. Charles F. Brissel, the United States Consul at Baghdad, possesses a large fund of dry humour; and I fancy he was giving his humour play when he penned a note on the trade in *antikas*, real or forged, that goes on in Mesopotamia. "An American inquiry," it seems, was made "concerning relics and antiques" of the region mentioned; and the Consul, after gravely referring to the "law in the Turkish Empire prohibiting the exportation of relics and antiques more than 100 years old," goes on to remark: "It is said that there are a number of dealers who sell relics said to be genuine and very old, but I am reliably informed that many of these are spurious." The fine restraint shown in this guarded official statement is delicious, and marks its writer out as one who should do great things in his profession. It will be best appreciated by those who know how the trade in—and manufacture of—*antikas* flourishes still in Baghdad, in spite of the rather futile efforts made lately by the Turkish Government to suppress it. When the Consul admits, a little later, that "it may be that at times real relics are surreptitiously taken from this country," he is certainly well within the mark. Not very long ago I was allowed to examine a large consignment of Babylonian antiquities that had been smuggled out of Baghdad, and that were pronounced by really competent judges to be undoubtedly genuine for the greater part. I understand that quite a number of such consignments used to arrive in this country every year before the war broke out; and London, it must be remembered, is not such a good market for these goods as the States or certain Continental countries.

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Two other points in Mr. Brissel's note interested me greatly. "Apparently," he writes, "the inquirer desires stones or pieces of clay from the sites of the ancient ruins, or bricks with inscriptions. The former could probably be obtained, but they are practically valueless, as one piece of clay from Babylon would be quite like another from Mussol. Bricks from either of these places that are known to be genuine are quite unobtainable." Here, I think, he is mistaken. Unless the chemists who have been pressed into service by the Assyriologists are not to be relied on, the clay used at one site can be distinguished with comparative ease from that used at another, by chemical analysis. And surely inscribed bricks from Babylon are common enough, though particular types are rare. Quite a number of modern villages—Qweriyish, for example—contain many buildings in which hundreds of inscribed burnt bricks from one part or another of old Babylon have been re-used, and the genuineness of these, at least, is beyond question. As to their value to the private collector, that is quite another question.

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Finally, the note refers to a case in which "a recent attempt to send some cases of relics from this city, the boxes being said to contain papers for cigarettes, was frustrated. The shipment was intercepted in the local Custom-house, the goods confiscated, and the shipper fined 500 Turkish liras." That is the great risk in attempting to smuggle antiquities out of Turkey; the natives nearly always set an absolutely absurd value on any genuine *antika*, and the people one has to *backsheesh* are apt to be too greedy, and to "cut up rough" if offered what may be a perfectly "fair" tip to look the other way—if there can be any question of "fairness" in what is, after all, not quite a noble game. But the idea of *exporting* "papers for cigarettes" from Baghdad (presumably to some European or American port, too!) was mad enough to put the least suspicious Customs official on the alert. For has not Baghdad been known to clamour for "more Bibles" merely because the price at which they were supplied made it worth while securing them for the sake of the paper, which was wanted to make into those filters which are placed in the mouthpieces of the locally manufactured cigarettes?

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The extraordinary adventures of the captain and crew of the ill-fated steamer "Niggem," which left Alexandria for Barcelona, via Malta, in December, and was supposed lost, makes reading that throws many of our most lurid novels of the sea into the limbo of the ordinary. The Senussi, into whose hands the shipwrecked mariners fell, remains, I think, one of the most romantic sects in all the known world. Many reasons combine to make this the case. In the first place, that actual position of the Senussi headquarters is debatable. Again, the sect is accredited with the possession of a vast and well-ordered secret service, members of which have been reported to exist in every capital of the world. Quite recently a member of the sect rode into the village of Kharga, in the Kharga oasis, and almost under the shadow of the Egyptian flag which flew from the Government quarters, demanded, and received, toll in the name of the great Senussi. Then he rode away again, whither no one knew. The truth of it is that no one really seems to know many facts regarding the sect. So in the shadow of mystery it thrives exceedingly, and the name of the Senussi carries weight in every province of Northern Africa. But the thing about them that concerns us most nearly is apparently certain beyond doubt. The vast majority of the Senussi are entirely friendly to England, and are anxious to retain her friendship. Hence the fez presented to the "Niggem's" captain when his nationality became known. Too late to save or recover his clothing, he was at least given a brand new headdress in which to approach his countrymen on his return.

CORSAIR.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST

Greek Elections.

The *Daily Telegraph* (June 14) devoted a leading article to the above subject on the day following the elections in Greece, and before any results had been cabled to England. It is shown that the supreme moment, when Greek intervention would have been of the greatest value to the Entente, has passed, but that the present situation is nevertheless one of extreme importance to Greece herself:—

The Hellenic Kingdom will have to make up its mind either to assist the Entente Powers in such a fashion as to earn their gratitude, or to persist in sitting upon the fence in the hope—which probably will turn out to be a vain one—that good luck and careful calculation may ultimately give it some valuable prizes in the Near Eastern scramble. It is for the Hellenes to settle their own destiny in whatever fashion they choose.

After a careful survey of all the issues involved the article concludes:—

We have no right and no intention to interfere, for we must realize that her decision is by no means so vitally important to the Entente Powers as it is to her own future.

In a leading article on the crisis the *Morning Post* (June 16) points out that the Greek Government will now be compelled to consider the situation from two points of view—that of a German triumph on the one hand, or victory to the Allies on the other. Our first quotation relates to the first of these standpoints:—

Arguing upon that assumption Greece must recognise that to Germany will belong the hegemony of Europe, and that Germany, occupying that position, will manifest scant sympathy with neutral nations, nor will the fact that they have maintained neutrality throughout the war necessarily enlist German gratitude. . . . The point which Greece will consider is exactly what, under existing conditions, she desires to gain. . . . . In common with the rest of the inhabitants of the Balkan Peninsula the people of Greek origin suffer a good deal from their neighbours. In Macedonia, in Asia Minor, and elsewhere in the Balkans, it is the intermixture of races which is the constant cause of trouble, a trouble which Greece naturally desires to see removed. She will therefore inquire what prospect, in the event of Germany defeating the Allied Powers, there may be that Germany will serve the Greek interest. . . . . It is for the Greek nation to form its own judgment.

In considering the situation which would result if victory falls to the Allied forces, the *Post* says:—

In any readjustment of national forces Greece would be involved; and it is for her to decide whether, in that process, she will give herself the title to play an active part or will content herself with what may be assigned to her. . . . . That some alteration of frontiers would be required is clear, but if at the same time an exchange of populations were effected the territorial adjustment should present no serious difficulty. The interest of Greece in such a regrouping would be of the highest importance to her future welfare and security. It is hardly necessary to observe that it is in the last degree improbable that either Austria-Hungary or Germany would entertain the idea for a moment.

Roumania and the War.

In the *British Review* (June) "R. T. C." continues his article under the above heading. He shows that the suddenness with which war came left Roumania no other course than to declare neutrality, despite the party that, from the first, saw a unique chance of realizing national ambition, and, "by the acquisition of Transylvania, becoming a central European and not a Balkan Power." In commenting upon the Roumanian demand for an Entente guarantee regarding the future of Transylvania which followed the Muscovite irruption into the Bukovina, the writer says:—

No guarantee, it was answered, could be given, and the agreement not to conclude a separate peace was skilfully used to refer all such questions to a future congress. After 1878 Roumania can have no illusions as to congresses. She saw herself now faced with the prospect of a long and costly war, with the possibility of ultimate failure to realize her national ambitions.

He regards the ultimate participation of Roumania in the war as certain, but deals at some length with her reasons for hesitation, without, however, showing very plainly how they are to be removed. He seems to consider the abrogation of Russia's claim to the paternal suzerainty of the East necessary before Roumania can act. Has Russia abrogated this right? he asks. We quote the following extracts from his concluding passage:—

What would have saved the whole situation long ago would have been a clear affirmation by France and Britain of their policy of settlement in the East in as much detail as possible, even if it were only to let the States know the worst. In any case we may affirm as an axiom that any peace not based on a rigid application to the Eastern question (originally the cause of the war) of the principle of nationality can only be productive of Armageddon the second.

Such an application, he points out, involves the stopping of Austria at the Danube and Russia at least at the Pruth. He continues:—

What we, as individuals, shall probably see is a fine effort of Roumania to realize her national dreams with or without guarantees by flinging her cause on the justice of Europe and her armies across the Carpathians. What we, as a nation, must see is that the foul wrong of 1878 is in no way repeated, nor the madness of the congress of Berlin.

Notes on the War.

In his War Notes in the *United Service Magazine* (June) Captain H. M. Johnstone concludes his observations on the operations in the Persian Gulf with the following remarks regarding the devout Arabs:—

Now will be the time for negotiations with the Arabs far and near. We shall in no way depend on them, nor combine operations with them, but if a chief here and there harasses the fleeing Turks—well, he will not suffer. This enemy may have some more bolts yet to shoot, but he has probably shot his best one. There is no need to follow him up to Baghdad; an army of the kind we are facing on the Tigris and Euphrates will melt away, though it may still have enough go in it to seek more trouble.

Captain Johnstone thinks that the fickleness which these Arabs have shown may be due to their religious feelings having been worked upon, but, he adds, "one is inclined to put a higher value on the German with a bag of silver marks than on the same Christian quoting the Koran."

Austria-Hungary and Serbia.

Mr. G. M. Trevelyan starts his article on Austria-Hungary and Serbia in the *Fortnightly Review* (June) by a comment upon the general ignorance of the English people regarding Serbia and her relations with Austria-Hungary prior to the outbreak of war. "Even now," he adds, "the world does not sufficiently realize that the war against Austria-Hungary is a war of liberation. . . ." He considers, however, that the fraud whereby the South Slavs of Bosnia, Dalmatia, Crotia, and Slavonia were to be kept subject to Austrians and Magyars on the ground of inferior civilization has at last been exposed. In the following passage he strikes the same note as most writers on the subject:—

Until the various races of Austria-Hungary obtain political self-government and cultural liberty for their languages and schools, there will never be peace in Europe. There will always be assassinations, revolts, and finally wars. . . . All the nationalist movements inside Austria-Hungary have been growing with great rapidity during the last half-dozen years, especially the movement drawing the Croats towards the Serbs. . . . . The reign of terror that has existed in these provinces ever since the war began has made it utterly impossible that the Austro-Hungarian rule can continue in the Slav and Roumanian provinces, except as the rule of the sword.

In dealing with the causes of the present war he writes:—

Even German love of domination would not alone have sufficed to set the whole world on fire, had not German Culture been in alliance with a force equally regardless of the rights of others, the determination of the Magyars of Hungary to "Magyarise" the Roumanians, Slovaks, and Croats who dwelt within the borders of their State.

His article contains a very interesting character sketch of the Serbian people, written from personal knowledge gained by visits to their country both before and during the war. As a democracy where there are practically no class distinctions and all are yeomen, the country's chief need is of an adequate class of men to lead the people. Their politics are confined to patriotism, and Mr. Trevelyan says that "it is due to the independent manliness of the free yeoman, and to the absence of all class division, that the Serbian Army has won redoubtable victories in the field over the larger forces that Austria-Hungary send into Serbia on their errand of murder, pillage, and destruction."

Articles to Note.

"Italy and the Second Phase of the War," by Dr. E. J. Dillon, in the *Contemporary Review* (June).

"Foreign Affairs," by S. Verdad, in the *New Age* (June 10).

"The Resurrection of Serbia.—II.," by Lieutenant-General F. H. Tyrrell, in the *United Service Magazine* (June).

"The Serbian Victories," by Victor Berard, in the *Suffragette* (June 11).

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THE NEAR EAST AND THE WAR.

(From a Correspondent.)

As announced in The Near East of the 4th inst., on June 3, at the Lyceum Club, Mr. H. Charles Woods, F.R.G.S., lectured on "The Near East and the War." The real cause of the present war, he said, must be sought in the unsatisfactory settlement of the two Balkan wars. The settlement of the year 1913 left Serbia without that outlet to the sea for which she had gone to war: Bulgaria, deprived of the legitimate fruits of victory, continued to remain on unfriendly terms with Serbia; the Ægean Islands problem, supposed by the Great Powers to have been settled, tended to maintain antagonistic relations between Greece and Turkey.

The speaker went on to say that had the justifiable claims of Bulgaria received favourable treatment from her former Allies after the second war, and had there been the semblance of any friendly understanding between the Balkan States, Austria would not have dared to attack Serbia—notwithstanding the murder of the Archduke Ferdinand and his consort. At the outbreak of hostilities last summer the Austrian forces entering Serbia through the north-west corner endeavoured to take Belgrade; it was, however, not taken then. The Austrians were defeated at the battle of Jadar in August, after which their armies either withdrew or were forced back into Bosnia and Herzegovina. In September Serbia was invaded a second time, but the opposing armies, although reinforced, were almost everywhere defeated.

After the entry of Turkey into the war they were more successful, and shelled the Serbians out of their trenches, forcing them to retire from their frontiers and to evacuate Belgrade, which was occupied by the Austrians on December 2. They were not long in possession, for the brave Serbians, after a desperate battle in the heart of their country, regained it on December 14. Meanwhile gallant little Montenegro was engaging the forces of Austria on the frontiers.

The great value of these operations to the Allies, the lecturer emphasized, is the fact that the Serbians and Montenegrins have with the utmost bravery contained and occupied very considerable enemy forces which would otherwise have been utilised against Russia or France. It was demonstrated that whether Greece joins Turkey, mobilizing an arm of some 250,000 men, will largely depend upon:—(1) The policies adopted by Roumania and Bulgaria; (2) the successes achieved by the Allies in the eastern and south-eastern theatres of war; and (3) the result of the elections in Greece.

Bulgaria, from geographical, political, and military reasons, holds the key to the situation in the Near East, and Mr. Woods is of opinion that unless suitable compensation is promised her for the way in which her rights were treated at the signing of the treaty of Bucharest, and unless her future security is safeguarded, she will remain neutral. This policy is partly due to the fact that Bulgaria's only access to the sea is by way of her Black Sea ports, now useless owing to the closing of the Dardanelles, and by the railway to Dedeagatch, which runs for some miles through Ottoman territory. If Serbia and Roumania agree to give to Bulgaria certain areas, the inhabitants of which by right of nationality are hers; if Greece agrees to cede certain localities to her, and the Great Powers will guarantee her the possession of districts, now Ottoman territory, which during the negotiations of 1913 *were actually allotted to her*, Bulgaria will join the Entente and advance into Turkey to the assistance of the Allied armies operating in the Dardanelles. If these concessions are not offered she will in all probability remain neutral to the end.

The entry of Bulgaria into the war would mean an augmentation of the Allied forces by 1,200,000 men who would be in a position to act where their presence would be invaluable. By the immediate adoption of a firm, far-seeing, friendly policy towards the Balkan States, the lecturer declared, this result would be obtained.

The advance into Turkey of 400,000 men would practically paralyse the Ottoman resistance at the Dardanelles, which would free a great part of the Allied Expeditionary Forces to undertake operations elsewhere. Three hundred thousand Greeks and half a million Roumanians would come into the war, the latter crossing the Austrian frontier. By occupying the Bukovina and Transylvania they would not only assist the cause of Russia in Galicia, but they would form a helpful link between the Muscovite and Serbian armies.

THE PUBLISHER
would be obliged if Readers would inform him if they experience any difficulty in obtaining copies of the paper.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Foreign-Born Consuls. June 10.

Colonel Yate asked the Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether all persons holding the rank of Consul-General and Consul would in future be British-born subjects, and whether foreign-born Consular officials would in future be restricted in number as far as possible and strictly confined to unpaid officers of the rank of Vice-Consul and Consular Agent.

Lord R. Cecil: The foreign-born Consular officers are already restricted in number as far as possible. The other suggestion requires careful consideration, and it will be borne in mind.

The Dardanelles. June 15.

Sir H. Dalziel asked whether the Prime Minister could inform the House whether there was any truth in the continual rumours that we had gone through the Dardanelles?

Mr. Asquith: None whatever.

Sir H. Dalziel: I am very much indebted to the right hon. gentleman. At Dundee Mr. Churchill spoke lightly of the Dardanelles. It was, the speaker continued, a very serious matter, and he thought that our troops might have been killing Germans rather than Turks. The Chancellor of the Duchy had raised the hopes of the country in regard to this matter. He said that we were within a few miles of triumphant success. Did the Prime Minister take as rosy a view of the future as the Chancellor of the Duchy? He did not want the right hon. gentleman to answer unless he felt he could. This was a bigger undertaking than the country had any idea of. He very much doubted whether Mr. Churchill's forecast would be realised as soon as he thought.

Mr. Crooks: Cheer up!

Sir H. Dalziel: My hon. friend is an optimist. We need optimists just now, but there is such a thing as dangerous optimism.

Mr. Asquith said it was not in the public interest that he should enter into an explanation of the past history of the Dardanelles operations, or into a forecast of the immediate future. He would ask the House to relieve him of the duty of doing so, not because he would be in the least indisposed in due course to explain and justify what has been done or is being done, but because he did not think it in the best interests of the country to enter into such discussion at the present moment. One thing, and one thing only, he would say: that in his opinion—an opinion that had not been lightly formed—it is an operation of the highest importance, and so far as he could form a judgment it is an operation which we can push through to a successful conclusion.

EXPLORATION IN KARAKORUM AND CENTRAL ASIA.

On Monday last Dr. Filippo de Filippi read a paper before the Royal Geographical Society describing the experiences of a scientific expedition which in the years 1913 and 1914 explored the region of Central Asia lying immediately north of India and west of Tibet. The whole region lies among mountains at such a level that even at the lower altitudes the Indus was found frozen from bank to bank. Much of the track was desert. At one point the explorer described the road as literally strewn with the remains of animals which had died from exhaustion, mountain sickness, and starvation. Carcasses of horses, asses, and camels were to be seen there in every stage of decomposition, from bodies surrounded by birds of prey to skeletons bleached white from long exposure. Important geographical discoveries were made by the expedition. One of these was that the source of the Yarkand was found to be about twenty miles away from the small lake near the Karakorum Pass, where almost every map now shows it as originating. Another discovery was that the Shyok rises in the same glacier as the Yarkand. The expedition was still in progress when news that the war had broken out caused several of its members to at once return by the shortest route—namely, through India—but the others continued their journey through Chinese Turkestan, explored part of the valley of the Oprang River, and finally made their way to the Trans-Caspian Railway at Andijan.

Sir Francis Younghusband said that he agreed with Dr. de Filippi as to the utter desolation of the Depsang plains. It was not merely the absence of vegetation, for that was to be experienced in the Gobi desert and other parts of the world; but travelling at a height of 18,000 ft. one was always in a state of terrible exhaustion. That fact and the other fact stated, that the whole region was strewn with the bodies of animals that had succumbed, might account for the greater dreariness of Depsang. It was a remarkably interesting point that the Yarkand and Shyok should be found to rise in the same glacier, for the Shyok was a tributary of the Indus, while the Yarkand was the great river of Chinese Turkestan, and, after a course of a thousand miles, buried itself in the desert of Gobi.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

I am pleased to see that the share and debenture holders of the Ottoman Railway from Smyrna to Aidin have approved of the scheme submitted to them last week by the board of directors, whereby payment of the debenture interest could be deferred "for twelve months from the signing of peace between the British and Turkish Governments, or for a period of three years from July 1, 1915, whichever was the shorter." The interest so deferred will carry, in the case of both First and Second Debentures, interest at the rate of 5 per cent., payable at the termination of the specified period, and the company will be entitled, in lieu of paying such interest in cash, to issue First and Second Debentures wherewith to cover it. The only question which now arises is: What in the meantime will the damage done to the line by the Turks amount to, and who will make it good? It is a question, however, which will have to be decided later on. Incidentally, reference may here be made to a telegram from Constantinople, forwarded from Amsterdam by Reuter's Agency, to the effect that it is reported "in competent circles" that the Porte has decided to abolish the Turco-French financial agreement drafted last year, the execution of which would have impeded the future development of the Hejaz Railway. The Government has decided to buy back all railway property in Syria and in the Lebanon district which is the property of alien enemies."

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As regards the above, it may be mentioned: firstly, that the reported impropriation measures refer only to Syria and the Lebanon, and consequently do not apply to the Ottoman Railway; and secondly, that the proposed French line in Syria, running parallel to the Hejaz line, would certainly have impeded the natural development of the latter (as exposed in these columns more than eighteen months ago). It is, therefore, not at all surprising that the project should now be condemned. As for the constructed French lines, they will doubtless be administered by the Turkish Government on the same lines as the Ottoman Railway, and no amount of empty threats or temporarily enforced measures will avail anything when the settling day comes. The Allies, in this as in other matters, will stand together; but, as regards engineering projects throughout the Ottoman Empire, they will all have to be re-moulded and re-distributed, and doubtless then the proposed rival line to the Hejaz through Palestine will be abandoned.

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According to our Bucharest Correspondent, Roumania is suffering from a shortage of coal and sugar, and both commodities are being imported from Austria-Hungary. Certain deductions may be made therefrom, the first being that, if Roumania is dependent on the enemy for two such important commodities as coal and sugar, it will be difficult for her to join the Allies until either the Dardanelles have been forced or Bulgaria has come in on our side. On the other hand, Roumania, as an exporter of cattle, grain, and petroleum and its derivatives, is greatly hampered by the war, and finds practically all markets closed to her. However, I understand that Austria and Germany are both buying cattle and grain in Roumania, and that Roumanian petroleum, according to a Reuter message from Amsterdam, is now on the market in Germany, and is sold at 70 pf. per litre, whereas the price previously was 20 pf. Admittedly, the rise is a stiff one, but it shows, nevertheless, that Roumanian oil is leaving the country. Another Reuter message, from Sofia, states that Turkey is offering any terms for wagons of petrol and benzine because she is without coal. I sincerely hope that there will be no leakage from the Danube oilfields in the direction of Constantinople. The attitude of Roumania is, frankly, a perplexing one and her position extremely difficult, both politically and from an economic point of view. I trust, however, that the Government will keep the would-be exporters of contraband of war well in hand.

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To what an extent the Germans were able to intrigue, thanks to their financiers, in foreign countries, has only recently been illustrated by the Banca Commerciale Italiana. Nominally, this institution was a powerful Italian bank controlled by one Commendatore Joel, a German, naturalised in Italy. Behind him stood no less an establishment than the Deutsche Bank (likewise of Constantinople fame), which swayed the Banca Commerciale hither and thither to suit its own good pleasure. The latter seems to have been Germany's political and commercial agent in Italy, and to have intrigued lustily in favour of the Fatherland and against Italy's interests. The whole story reads like a tale from Pera—or from Alexandria, where, it will be remembered, the Deutsche Orient Bank was unearthed in the pursuit of similar despicable and disgusting intrigues. Not only must Prussian militarism be wiped out, but also that low, Prussian financial creed which includes blatant treachery among the cardinal virtues.

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The rapid development of the Greek mercantile marine has often been alluded to in these columns, and last week a Larnaca correspondent pointed out that the Greek flag had been very conspicuous in Cyprian waters, owing, he said, "to the somewhat unjustifiable reluctance shown by English shipowners to send their steamers to load in Cyprus." The imputation, I think, is hardly a fair one, considering the enormous marine service to be upheld by us in present circumstances with a greatly reduced number of vessels. The opportunity is, of course, an excellent one for Greece, and she is making the most of it, so much so, that she is starting a Cyprus-Egypt line in opposition to the Khedivial. Perhaps this will make the latter company wake up. As it is, a Cyprus correspondent now informs me that the British company has already lowered its freight charges. It will be of some interest to watch the struggle between the two lines.

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With reference to the expansion of Greek mercantile interests in the Near East, it may be pointed out that I have frequently insisted on the necessity for the creation of a British Mediterranean line. To the best of my belief, the idea has never found favour with British steamship companies, principally because, I have been given to understand, their profits from other sources were sufficiently high to enable them to disregard such a small trade as that of the Mediterranean. For more reasons than one—and they are political as well as commercial—it is to be regretted that some big line did not step in and specialise, with a small class of vessel, in the Mediterranean coastal trade. The Khedivial Mail is in a position even to-day to do this in Near Eastern waters, and I hope that some efforts will be made in this direction. Apropos, I may state that it has come to my knowledge that a Belgian shipping firm who have temporarily established themselves in London intend starting a line which will ply exclusively between a French port and the Mediterranean, both eastern and western. The idea seems to be to link up eventually with an English port. I wish the new venture every success, however much I regret that the initiative was not seized by a British shipping concern.

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A "smack in the eye" for Pan-Germans who consider themselves little tin gods in the Ottoman Empire is contained in the following telegram from Buenos Aires, reproduced by the *Morning Post*: "It appears that a deputation of Turkish residents and journalists has interviewed the Argentine Minister for Foreign Affairs and expressed their dissatisfaction at Turkey's being represented by a German Consul." If it were not for the tragedy underlying Turkey's thraldom, the above incident would be decidedly humorous.

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The Suez Canal report, referred to at length elsewhere, is a revelation of what can be done even in war time. That, in spite of attacks on the Canal, in spite of the great reduction in the mercantile shipping passing to and from the Red Sea, and in spite of extraordinary expenses incurred by way of safeguarding that Canal, the directors should see fit to declare a dividend—however small—and carry forward a significant surplus, perhaps one of the largest that has ever been carried forward, speaks volumes for the success of our policy in the past and for the sufficiency of the measures adopted by us to insure the safety of the Canal. The proprietors—and they include both the British and the French Governments—are to be congratulated on their success, the more so considering that the huge carry-forward will practically ensure the payment next year of a dividend equal if not superior to that now to be paid.

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Another point to be mentioned in connection with the report is the decision taken by the company to expel their one German director, the notorious head of the N.D.L., Herr Heineken, who is, with Ballin of the Hamburg-Amerika, and Gwinner of the Deutsche Bank, the most prominent of Germany's unscrupulous financial magnates.

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Much information in a condensed form is packed into the new edition of "Rubber Facts and Figures" (F. C. Mathieson and Sons, 16, Copthall Avenue, E.C. 1s.). The book contains the main details of capital, acreage, dividends, outputs, and highest and lowest prices for a series of years.

COMMENTATOR.

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Suez Canal Report.

Reduced Dividends.

The annual general meeting of the shareholders of the Suez Canal Company was held in Paris on June 14. The following summary of the report was cabled over by Reuter's Agency :—

The Report.

The report presented by the Council of Administration states that up to the time of the outbreak of war the normal prosperity of the company was maintained. The war, however, completely changed this state of affairs, and the increase which the receipts had presented was quickly transformed into a shortage. From August 1 to December 31 the commercial traffic fell off to the extent of nearly 40 per cent. Nevertheless, the loss of revenue from the tolls was far from reaching this proportion, the exceptional activity of military transport constituting an important set-off to it. The loss sustained by the company during the first five months of war amounted to about 6½ million francs (£260,000), and, in view of the surplus which existed before the opening of hostilities, the final falling off did not exceed 4½ millions (£180,000).

With regard to the current financial year, the falling off in receipts represents nearly 35 per cent. as against those of the corresponding period of 1914. The report goes on to say :—" We could not fail to take into consideration the prospects which this state of things involves in the fixing of the dividend for the financial year which has expired. To deal with that period according to the results properly pertaining to it, and isolating it from the current period would mean that there must be a comparatively heavy fall in the dividend payable upon the latter. It appeared to us that we should be ill-serving your interests if we acted in such a way. We propose to you, after careful consideration of the question, to fix the total dividend of 1914 at 120 francs net. We shall thus reserve upwards of 18 millions which will be carried forward to the financial year 1915, and if the receipts continue as they have been during the first months we shall be in a position, so far as at the present moment any forecast is possible, to avoid a fresh decrease in your dividend next year. This carrying forward will at the same time have the very appreciable advantage of maintaining the ease and solidity of our treasury despite the very unfavourable circumstances which we are now experiencing."

The total receipts for 1914 amounted to 125,121,237 francs (£5.004,849), showing a falling off of 4,804,711 francs (£192,188), as against the total receipts of 1913. The excess of revenue over expenditure, including the amount brought forward from the year 1913, amounts to 80,359,898 francs (£3,214,395). It is proposed :—

1. To distribute of this the sum of 61,656,338 francs, and

2. To carry forward the balance—namely, 18,703,560 francs.

The distribution of the sum named will have the effect of bringing the dividend upon each share to 109.44 francs. This dividend increased by interest of 25 francs represents a gross return of 134.44 francs and a net return of 120 francs.

In some general comments upon the situation created by the war, the Council of Administration points out that new duties were imposed on the company when Turkey, who had become the ally of Germany, prepared to carry out operations against Egypt across the Canal and directly against the Canal itself. The company could no longer remain spectators of the conflict. "We," say the Board, "had to join without hesitation in the defence to facilitate its organisation, and to that end to place at the disposal of the proper authority all the resources of our material and all the assistance which the experience of our staff could provide. This is what we did, and the efforts which our staff made to carry this new task into good effect have been duly acknowledged. We can state on our part that the exigencies of military operations have always been reconciled as far as possible with the interests of navigation and the necessities of transit. You know with what success these operations have been carried out. If fresh attacks should be made by the Turkish Army it may be predicted with certainty that they will suffer the same defeat as the first attack.

Referring to the effects of the war, the President, M. Jonnart, said that the company, more favoured than many other concerns, had suffered relatively little. Its vital forces had not been affected. They could look for a prosperous future. All Turco-German attacks on the Canal had been repulsed, and they could rest assured that any future attempts on the part of the enemy were likewise doomed to failure. M. Jonnart paid a hearty tribute to the devotion and zeal of the company's staff, who had actively co-operated with the authorities in the defence of the Canal. The report was unanimously adopted, as was also a motion withdrawing the mandate of the German director, Herr Heineken, who is thus removed from a post where, as the President explained "he was compelled to betray either his own country or the company's interests."

The *Daily Telegraph* Paris correspondent gives the following further particulars :—

"The summarised statistics are as follows : In 1914 4,802 ships, of a total net tonnage of 19,409,495 tons passed the canal, showing a reduction upon 1913 of 624,389 tons. The commercial shipping showed a decrease of nearly 3,000,000 tons. On the other hand, warships and transports showed an increase of 501 transits and 2,250,000 tons. The decrease in commercial shipping is to a great extent accounted for by the reduction of Austrian and German ships, amounting to 1,460,000 tons.

"The number of passengers travelling through the canal reached the record figure of 391,772, including military. Owing to the passage of transports and warships the transit through the canal has often been more active than had ever been known. Thus on certain days the number of vessels passing was more than double the daily average. Transit was always effected without incident or delay and with perfect regularity."

Press Comments.

Commenting on the report, the *Financier* says :—

"In common with other important enterprises the Suez Canal Company experienced a contraction in business in the last five months of 1914. But the loss of traffic it sustained in that period was remarkably small. The falling off in receipts during the first five months of the war amounted to approximately 6,500,000 fr., but, in consequence of the improvement shown prior to the outbreak of hostilities, the net shrinkage for the whole of the year was limited to 4,804,700 fr. Not only was the decline in gross revenue relatively slight, but it was accompanied by a saving in expenses, with the result that the decrease in net profits was only 3,644,000 fr., or a little over 4 per cent. The dividend, however, is reduced by over 27 per cent., being 120 fr. net per 500 fr. share, as compared with 165 fr. net for 1913. This comparatively heavy decrease, however, is due to the directors' wise refusal to deal with 1914 according to the results properly pertaining to it, and to isolate it from the current year, a policy which obviates a comparatively heavy reduction in the distribution for 1915. From the shareholders' point of view it is better that the decrease in the dividend should be gradual rather than sudden and substantial, and it is not surprising, therefore, that the prudent course adopted has been generally approved."

The following table gives a concise comparison for the years 1913 and 1914 :—

	1914. Francs.		1913. Francs.
Net profits.....	80,299.895	..	83,944,869
Brought in	60,008	..	477,729
From reserve	—	..	3,500,000
Available	80,359,898	..	87,922,598
Dividend	61,656,338	..	87,862,535
Per Share. { Gross.....	134.44	..	180 956
Per Share. { Net	120.00	..	165.000
Forward.....	18,703,560	..	60,063

"The reduction in the distribution will, of course, affect the income of the British Government (continues the *Financier*) from its holding of 176,602 shares, the net amount accruing to it being 7,947,090 frs., or over £317,000, less than in 1913. Thanks however, to the wise policy of carrying forward a substantial balance, it is possible that public and private shareholders alike will suffer no further curtailment of their dividend for the current year. That, at all events, is the view of the directors, who in their report state that, if the receipts continue to come in at the same rate as they have come in during the first few months of the current year, they will be in a position, so far as at the present moment any forecast is possible, to avoid a fresh decrease in dividend next year."

The *Financial Times*, on the other hand, thinks that "quite a remarkable showing is made by the report under review," and that "the proprietors must experience much satisfaction on learning that, on the whole, fortune has treated them very favourably.

"The excess dividend per share—the dividend above the fixed interest of 25 frs. per share—is cut down from 155.956 frs. to 109.440 frs., this being the lowest rate paid since 1902, when the figure was 109.158 frs. The average excess return for the decade ended 1913 was 137.176 frs. per annum. The reduction in the dividend is dictated by reasons of prudence and the desire of the directors to average the effects of the smaller earnings as much as possible to the shareholders. The decrease now resolved on means that no less than 18,703,600 frs. goes forward, as compared with only 60,100 twelve months ago, and with this large sum in hand the board hope, in spite of diminished receipts this year, to be able to maintain the rate of dividend payable in respect of 1914."

The Indiaman, referring to the report, opines that, so far as the future is concerned, "there need be no uneasiness in the minds of the proprietors. The vital forces of the undertaking remain unimpaired, and the Company will be free to take full advantage of the trade revival whenever it occurs. The Company lowered its dues some little time ago in anticipation of the appearance upon the scene of its Panama rival, and these concessions should serve to keep for it trade which might otherwise have been diverted to the newer route. Should further reductions in charges be deemed desirable, they can be made with ease, since the Company possesses such large reserves that it can afford to suffer temporary losses in order to insure future prosperity."

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

A number of cereal merchants in Egypt have petitioned the Egyptian Foodstuffs Committee to prohibit the exportation of lentils, because the imports from India have ceased and because the crop in Egypt is smaller than usual this year.

Communications between Egypt and Syria are completely cut, because an Italian company (the last to ply between the two countries) has received orders not to allow its steamers to call at enemy ports.

A Reuter message from Port Said says that on June 10 a collision occurred in the harbour between a British steamer and a local Italian stone carrier coming from Suez. The latter sank, but there was no casualties. Although the wreckage has not been cleared, navigation through the canal has been resumed.

According to the *Moniteur du Pétrole Roumain* (June 5), the general situation in the Roumanian petroleum market has grown somewhat worse, no exportation having taken place since April 21. The management of the Hungarian State railways has announced its inability to furnish any new cars for the exportation of petroleum, the railways being occupied with the transportation of troops. The stocks have increased considerably in consequence. The *Moniteur du Pétrole Roumain* estimates the stocks of petroleum in Roumania at very little less than a million metric tons, and says that notwithstanding the production has been limited the stocks are still increasing. The price of raw petroleum fluctuates between 3.50 and 4 francs per 100 kilograms.

The death occurred on Monday of Mr. F. M. Bridgewater, the chairman and managing director of the *Financial Times*.

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Trade Notes.

Egypt.

Messrs. Walter W. Davies, Thomas Hinshelwood and Co., Sayer and Colley, and the Model Workshops, Bulâq, were among the successful tenderers recently for the supply of general stores required by the Giza and Gezira Water Works.

Messrs. J. Wells and Sons were the successful tenderers recently to the Egyptian Government for the supply of firework displays.

Tenders will be received by the Department of Public Health, Cairo, for the supply of three double cylindrical watering-carts, necessary to the scavenging and watering service, Bulâq, in accordance with the specification and conditions of tender. Intending tenderers may apply for all information to the Director of Stores, every day (Fridays and holidays excepted) from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., when conditions of contract may be seen and signed. Tenders should be made on the special form supplied free of charge by the Administration, and should be addressed to the Director-General, Department of Public Health, Cairo, in sealed envelopes bearing the inscription: "Tender for the supply of double watering-carts." Tenders must reach the above address on July 5, 1915, at noon at latest.

Tenders will be received by the Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of the Interior, Cairo, not later than noon on June 26, 1915, for the supply of petroleum for lighting required by the police for one year commencing on July 1, 1915, and ending on June 30, 1916. A copy of the conditions of tender can be obtained on application to the Personnel and Equipment Department, Ministry of the Interior, Cairo. Tenders will be submitted on the printed form provided for the purpose in double sealed envelopes, each marked: "Tender for the supply of petroleum, 1915-1916," and should be addressed to the Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of the Interior (Personnel and Equipment Department), Cairo.

Tenders will be received by the Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of the Interior, Cairo, not later than noon on July 7, 1915, for the supply of photographic material required by the Ministry for one year, commencing on July 15, 1915, and ending on July 14, 1916. A copy of the conditions of tender can be obtained on application to the Personnel and Equipment Department, Ministry of the Interior, Cairo. Tenders must be submitted on the printed form provided for the purpose in double sealed envelopes, each marked: "Tender for the supply of photographic material," and addressed to the Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of the Interior (Personnel and Equipment Department), Cairo.

H.M. Consul at Cairo reports that tenders are invited by the Egyptian State Railways and Telegraphs Administration for the supply of 360,000 metric tons of Welsh steam coal. Sealed tenders, on the proper form, will be received up to 10 a.m. on July 22 by the General Manager, Egyptian State Railways and Telegraphs, Cairo. Copies of the specification and form of tender may be obtained from the office of Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, London, S.W., on payment of 2s. A provisional deposit equal to 2 per cent., or a bank guarantee of 10 per cent., of the value of the offer must accompany each tender.

Greece.

The Board of Trade are in receipt (through the Foreign Office) of telegraphic information from H.M. Minister at Athens to the effect that a Ministerial Order has been issued prohibiting the exportation and re-exportation from, and the transit through, Greece of all articles which may be regarded as absolute or conditional contraband of war.

The following information is from the report by H.M. Consul at Piræus (Mr. W. J. Norcop) on the trade of that district in 1914, which will shortly be issued:—

The present is a propitious moment to push trade which has been in the hands of foreign competitors of United Kingdom firms—namely, in textile machinery, aerated water machinery and accessories, agricultural machinery and ploughs, steam, gas, or oil engines, pumping and irrigating machinery, machinery for flour mills, oil mill plant and olive oil presses, water wheels, turbines, steam and oil tractors, brick and tile machinery, and other machinery for industrial and other purposes. Centrifugal pumps are used in Greece for purposes of irrigation. Germany and Austria-Hungary have also done very good business in cast-iron water pipes, iron bars, black and galvanised sheets, wire, iron joists and girders, iron bars, angles, tees, roller shutters, corrugated iron, etc. As compared with imports from the United Kingdom, Austria-Hungary has imported into Greece more than twice the amount in value of the following goods:—Electro-technical appliances, electric conduction apparatus in boxes, electric motors, dynamos, transformers, switch and contact devices, mounted fuses, etc., and also electrical fittings, electric lamps, high-pressure cable and transmission lines, and electrolytic copper.

Serbia.

The Board of Trade are in receipt (through the Foreign Office) of information to the effect that the Serbian Government have issued a decree, dated March 31, April 13, in virtue of which the importation of the following articles into Serbia is for the present prohibited:—Wadding of cotton waste and other materials, textile waste, playing cards, apparatus and accessories for electric signals, etc., and wireless telegraphy apparatus, except such as is imported by the State.

The importation of the following articles into Serbia has been authorised until further notice:—Wheat, rye, barley, oats, maize, beans, all kinds of flour except that of rice, and of kitchen garden plants, eggs, ordinary bread, onions, potatoes, and kitchen garden plants.

Morocco.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of copy of a Dahir, dated October 18, 1914, which provides that, during the war, a duty of 200 pesetas Hassani shall be levied on each litre of pure alcohol brought into the towns of Fez, Meknes, Moulay, Idriss du Zehroun, Casablanca, Ber Rechid, Settat, Azemmour, Kenitra, Rabat, Salê, Fédalah, Mazagan, Safi, Mogador, and Marrakesh. This duty is to be levied on pure alcohol exceeding 14 centesimal degrees contained in wines, ciders, perries, meads, beers, vermouths, liqueur or imitation liqueur wines, and on the total quantity of pure alcohol contained in liquids obtained by the fermentation of figs, carob-beans, and dates, in spirits, liqueurs, and fruits in spirits, in medicaments and perfumes and all other unspecified alcoholic liquids. Methyl or other alcohols capable of being used for the same purposes as ethyl alcohol are also to be subject to the tax. The Dahir totally prohibits the admixture of methyl alcohol and ethyl alcohol in spirits destined for consumption as beverages. Bottles are to be reckoned as containing one litre, and half-bottles as containing ½ litre, and duty shall be levied on the contents on this basis, in so far as the real capacity of the receptacle is not greater. The tax shall be reduced to 2 pesetas Hassani per hectolitre in respect of alcohols denatured (by methods authorised by the Grand Vizier) for use in industry. All carriers of dutiable liquids are required to declare the nature, kind, volume, and degree of the liquids before bringing them into the towns specified. Should such carriers be able, on entering into any of the towns, to produce a receipt showing that duty has already been paid on the liquids in another town, they will be allowed to bring in the liquids without further payment of duty. The Dahir, which also contains further provisions prohibiting the distillation of alcoholic liquors, etc., and respecting penalties for infraction, has, by King's Regulation No. 2 of 1915, been made binding upon all persons to whom "The Morocco Order in Council, 1889," applies. The text (in French) of the Dahir may be seen by persons interested, on application, at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade.

With reference to a call for tenders by the Moroccan Special Committee of Public Works for the construction of a shed at the Custom House, Laraiche, H.M. Agent and Consul-General at Tangier reports that the contract has been awarded, at a reduction of 18 per cent. on the estimated cost, to a Spanish firm, whose name and address may be obtained by United Kingdom exporters of material for shed construction on application to the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

EGYPTIAN RAILWAY NEWS.

The Cairo correspondent of the *Railway News*, writing on May 15, gives the following interesting information:—

Delta Light Railway Staff.

The traffic staff of the Gharbieh district of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways are paying the whole cost of the maintenance of two beds for wounded in the Derbyshire Hut of the British Red Cross Hospital at Netley. These beds are numbered 10 and 14 respectively, and since their endowment have been exclusively occupied by members of the Indian Expeditionary Force, both sick and wounded.

Technical Education.

His Highness Sultan Hussein is taking a great interest in education in general, and technical education in particular. In the latter connection he recently paid a long visit to the State Railway workshops at Boulac, Cairo, noting in particular the openings for the employment of Egyptians there, and the methods of training apprentice craftsmen.

Season Ticket Regulations.

Certain new regulations for the issue of season tickets on the Egyptian State Railways came into force with effect from May 1, 1915. One curiosity of these is that all applications for season tickets must be accompanied by two copies of a recent photograph of the applicant, carte-de-visite size.

ROUMANIAN OIL POSITION.

There has been a further restriction of the Roumanian mineral oil production, which is now estimated at 480 to 500 waggons a day. Owing to the obstacles in their way, producing companies are seriously affected by having to store surplus output. The March statistics show that the refineries handled about 113,000 tons, while the total output of raw oil amounted to 162,000 tons. Old stocks of the latter have thus been increased by about 50,000 tons. These stocks now total 350,000 tons, while those of the refined product are estimated at about 600,000 tons. Storage plant is being enlarged to cope with the growing surplus, and to avoid operations being brought to a standstill. Exports were recently interrupted for ten days, but have been lately resumed by the railways, though they are still much too small to give satisfaction in trade circles. The oil traffic to Constanza is limited to one train daily. Export prices are quite satisfactory to producers (says the *Morning Post*), although it is reported that the price of illuminants has declined considerably in Austria-Hungary.

WAR ON GERMAN TRADE.

In connection with the campaign undertaken by the Board of Trade, on the advice of their Advisory Committee on Commercial Intelligence, to assist British manufacturers and merchants to secure trade formerly in the hands of German or Austro-Hungarian firms, the Board continues to receive a very large number of inquiries for the names of sellers or buyers of articles.

Special arrangements have been made in the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade for dealing with these inquiries, and lists are prepared and circulated of articles which inquirers desire (a) to purchase, and (b) to sell. List 25 is now ready, and may be obtained by United Kingdom manufacturers and traders.

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Turkish Cement Market.

Writing on April 8, the U.S. Consul at Constantinople analyses the Turkish market for cement, and comes to the conclusion that there will be an opening later for a factory erected on the spot. Though the Consul's remarks are addressed to American exporters, they are likewise applicable to British producers and capitalists. The Consul says:—

"Forty piastres per sack is being offered to-day in Constantinople for Portland cement, but there is none on hand. If a limited supply were available, it would probably command a price even higher than that named. Unfortunately, means of bringing cement here are lacking, because of the existing state of war.

"The greater part of the cement available in this consular district is furnished by two factories, located in the suburbs of Constantinople, whose combined yearly output is 450,000 to 500,000 sacks, all of which is at present being taken by the military authorities. The quality of this product varies, but is always poor, there being no uniformity as to either hardness or colour. This native cement commands, in normal times, approximately 50 cents per sack. The introduction of well-known German and Belgian brands of cement has been attempted from time to time, but has not been very successful. Their use has been limited to the very best class of work, due chiefly to their cost, which in normal times is about 75 cents per sack.

"The point, with reference to cement, that should be of particular interest to the (American) exporter is that with the close of war building construction is certain to be begun on a large scale in this part of the world. It needs no engineer or business man to detect the trend in this direction. A mere glance at the dilapidated, out-of-plumb wooden and brick houses, of which a considerable section of Constantinople is composed, is sufficient to convince that they must shortly be replaced by something. As a matter of fact, I am assured by local persons prominent in the building trade that they are to be replaced by something substantial, requiring a quantity and a quality of cement that the present local factories cannot supply.

"From the foregoing facts there result two opportunities for the cement manufacturer. He may enter the market and sell his share of the cement that is going to be bought abroad. In that case he will be at a disadvantage in competing with his European rivals because of freight rates, which, in the case of heavy articles like cement, have been found to be in the past practically equal to the cost of the goods delivered on the docks at New York. The matter is, nevertheless, worth investigation by firms in a position to charter ships and send cement here in large quantities.

"On the other hand, there is an opportunity for the investment of (American) capital in the construction of a cement factory. I am assured that all the materials that go into the manufacture of cement are available and there is necessary only a modern factory, properly managed, to turn out cement equal to any that is manufactured elsewhere.

"In following up these opportunities nothing can be accomplished by sending catalogues or form letters. Firms interested should send a personal representative to Constantinople to look over the situation."

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

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— CAWNPORE, INDIA. —

Everything in Pure Wool.
MANUFACTURERS OF
LAL-IMLI WOOLWEAR
Flannels, Serges, Blankets, Tweeds, Broadcloths, Coatings, Hosiery, Rugs, Puttees, Uniforms, &c., &c. . . . .
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Spinners, Weavers, Bleachers, Dyers, and makers of every description of Cotton Goods such as TENTS, DURRIES (Cotton Carpets), and other Floor Coverings, Dusters, Towels, Bed & Table Linen, &c., &c.
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The NORTH-WEST TANNERY CO., Ltd.,
CAWNPORE, INDIA.
Tanners and Curriers, Leather Goods Manufacturers.
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New Egerton Woollen Mills Co.,Ltd.
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Sole Manufacturers of the Famous . .
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Long Life Wool Wear
Costume and Suiting Materials, Blankets, Rugs, Lohis Hosiery, Puttees, Uniforms, Liveries, &c., &c.
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Near East Markets.

SPECIAL REPORT.

Cairo. May 25.

According to news from Upper Egypt the grain crop, which it was expected would be especially good this year, is likely to be below the normal in consequence of the ravages of a pest known as the Sadda. Indian corn appears to be the greatest sufferer.

SUDAN REPORT.

(From the *Sudan Times*.)

We learn (May 22) from a private source that the daily arrivals of Heskub gum at El Obeid market are between 1,000 and 1,500 kantars. The merchants are buying well, and the price has risen from £T50 to £T63 per kantar. This rise is chiefly ascribed to the expected departure of the s.s. "Sebek" which is taking off a large quantity of goods from the Sudan. Another reason given is the apprehension that arrivals in future will be small. If this is true, no fall in prices may be expected.

Prices of dura have fallen at Wad Medani from £T65 to £T50 per ardeb. This is due to the very large crop this year and to the prohibition of export. "Zennari" dura, which is by far the best kind of dura, and which is exclusively grown in Kordofan, has fallen from £T75 to £T60 per ardeb of 420 rotls.

The dukhn market is very dull. Price £T30 per ardeb, which formerly sold at £T65.

The red simsim market has improved since the first of the month. The ardeb of 330 rotls has risen in price from £T135 to £T140.

Owing to a decrease in the demand the quantity of gum brought into El Obeid shows a considerable falling off, the arrivals to the end of March this year amounted to approximately 48,000 cantars compared with 84,000 cantars last year. Prices at El Obeid are in the neighbourhood of P.T. 50 per 120 rottles.

The value of the exports of gum in 1914 was £314,919 compared with £371,528 in the previous year. It is satisfactory to note that the export of gum to Great Britain is increasing. To the end of February this year the quantity exported was valued at £6,097 in comparison with £3,209 in 1914, at the same date.—*Egyptian Gazette.*

TRIPOLITAN HARVESTS.

Writing on March 31, the U.S. Consul at Tripoli says:—"The late rains needed to insure maturing of grain have fallen. Abundant precipitation was reported from the interior about the middle of March, and toward the end of the month copious, gentle downpours descended at Tripoli, along the coast generally, and inland toward the hills.

"In this oasis, at Zanzur, at Gargaresh, and other points visited, both barley and wheat are taller and stronger than last year, and the ears of the former seemingly well filled. All talk is of a good harvest, and it has been predicted that the yield will be at least one-third more than for 1913-14, when barley amounted to 1,564,750 bushels and wheat to 108,812 bushels; this would fall below, but not compare unfavourably with, the 2,279,673 bushels of barley and 251,697 bushels of wheat for the normal season of 1909-10.

"Barley will be harvested toward the end of April and wheat about one month later; the total should be more than sufficient for local consumption. Export, however, will depend upon Government regulation. At present no breadstuffs are permitted to leave the province; and should any relaxation be authorised, it would doubtless be in favour of Cirenica and Italy only."

EGYPTIAN MAIZE IN ENGLAND.

The Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture publishes the following on the subject of Egyptian maize, and its sale in England. "The following prices have been realized for samples of Egyptian maize on the British market according to a letter dated May 5. Nab el Gamal thirty-six shillings for four hundred and eighty pounds, making £8 17s. 4d. per ton c.a.f. Bristol, forty shillings for four hundred and eighty pounds, making £9 6s. 8d. per ton c.a.f. Liverpool."

EGYPTIAN WHEAT SURPLUS.

In a communication from the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture attention is directed to the fact that there will be a large quantity of wheat available for export from that country. Of late years, owing to the cultivation of cotton proving more remunerative, only sufficient wheat has been grown to satisfy the local consumption, and in ordinary circumstances no surplus has been available for export.

This year, however, owing to the reduction of the area under cotton and a corresponding increase in the production of food-grains, a considerable quantity of wheat will be available, and attention is again being directed in Egypt to the importance of creating and meeting a permanent demand for Egyptian wheat abroad.

The Bureau of Commercial Intelligence of the Ministry of Agriculture in Cairo has lately submitted samples of the different kinds of wheat grown in Egypt for valuation at English ports and elsewhere, and very favourable reports have been received upon the samples sent.

In Liverpool an offer has lately been made to sell Egyptian Saidi (new crop) futures at a fair price, and this despite the fact that the Egyptian Government has not yet sanctioned the export of wheat from Egypt. It is, however, generally anticipated that this permission will be accorded.

The new crop is now being harvested, and the Egyptian Government has already authorised one of the largest Alexandria shipping firms to make a small trial shipment of the new season's wheat to Liverpool and another to London, with a view of testing the English markets. Should the prices obtained be sufficiently attractive to encourage an export business, regular supplies of Egyptian wheat may be looked for once the restrictions on its export be removed.

PRODUCE REPORT.

London, June 17.

Currants.

No arrivals have taken place this past week, and no cargo is afloat, but the s.s. "Salermo" is reported to be loading. Stocks become more and more restricted, and with a good demand for all qualities a general rise of about 1s. per cwt. on the week must be recorded. Provincial has, in consequence of the scarcity, attained a price of 29s., which must be considered a record for many years past. According to news from Greece, the new crop is progressing favourably.

In Liverpool, the s.s. "Bulgarian" arrived with about 1,600 tons for the market. During this past week the demand continued with more activity and very full prices were realised, up to 32s. being paid for medium quality. Gulf smalls were in request, buyers being willing to pay more money for any good parcels that offered. Advices from Greece report an excited market, with a further advance of 2s. to 3s. per cwt.

Sultanas.

Prices remain steady, but a little dearer. No further arrivals have taken place, and there is a good deal of speculative inquiry, with little business going.

In Liverpool the market is again practically cleared, the later sales being at an advance of 1s. per cwt. since last week's report. The s.s. "Pontiac" and s.s. "Bulgarian" have brought twelve to 13,000 boxes, and a brisk demand with higher prices is anticipated.

Seeds.

Linseed has been dull and weaker, Indian spot being quoted 55s., and afloat 54s. 9d. Rapeseed is steady, but trade restricted; brown Cawnpore May-June is quoted 52s. and pure Guzerat, ditto, 56s. Cottonseed is dull and inactive. Egyptian afloat, also June, is quoted £8 12s. 6d. Rangoon beans are firmly held at £16 10s. per ton.

Oils.

Linseed oil.—The market continues quiet and prices show a further reduction. On the spot, pipes, £28 5s., barrels £29. Rape oil.—Only Japan is lower, otherwise there is no change to report, ordinary brown on the spot, naked, £38. Cotton oil has declined, crude, on the spot, pipes, £29 15s. to £30, refined spot, pale, pipes, £31 15s. to £32; sweet, barrels, £36 10s. to £38 10s.

Oil Cakes.

Cottoncake.—In the absence of any fresh arrivals of Egyptian, spot parcels command full prices of £6 12s. 6d. to £6 13s. 9d. and Bombays at £6 7s. 6d. per ton. Linseedcake.—The trade continues to rule extremely quiet, with only a small retail business passing. Best London made maintain their prices of £10 5s. in consequence of the limited production. Greek in bags, both on spot and to arrive, offer at the relatively low figure of £10 7s. 6d. to £10 10s. per ton.

Locust Beans.

This kind is extremely scarce, and needy buyers are compelled to pay full prices of £8 5s. for whole and £8 10s. for kibbled.

Gums.

The market is quiet, with little business passing. Arabic "Turkey sorts" are quoted 40s. to 50s. cwt., East Indian common to fine 32s. to 37s. Mastic 3s. 9d. to 4s. Myrrh, good to fine, 96s. to 100s. cwt.; Tragacanth, first 560s. to 900s., low to good sorts 90s. to 130s.

COTTON REPORT.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Liverpool, June 17.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows:—

Egyptian Spot.—The market has been quiet, with a moderate inquiry, but a fair amount of business has been reported. With the exception of an advance of ten points in fully good, fair, and good, and twenty points in fine Sakellarides, quotations show no material alterations for the week. The sales are estimated at 2,700 bales, as against 4,100 last week.

Manchester Report.

The improvement in the tone of the market, which was reported last week, has, unfortunately, not been maintained. Manufacturers have not been entirely without inquiry, but the difference between buyer and seller is now so wide that great difficulty is met in arranging business. Our foreign outlets seem disposed to use up their stock rather than pay the extra prices manufacturers are compelled to demand, owing to continued and rapid advance in cost of production. Prospects of a peaceful settlement between masters and men are more favourable.

EGYPTIAN COTTON SEED.

The High Commissioner for Egypt reports to the Foreign Office that the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture is anxious to call the attention of all purchasers of Egyptian cottonseed to the desirability of insisting on its fumigation at the port of shipment, with the object of destroying the pink-boll-worm which it may contain. It is almost certain that this parasite first reached Egypt in bales of imperfectly ginned cotton from India, and it is very probable that it will be introduced into other countries where Egyptian cottonseed is sown unless the seed is previously fumigated. With a view to eradicating the boll-worm in Egypt, measures are being taken to introduce a law requiring the fumigation of all cottonseed in Egypt. It will be some time before these measures can be universally adopted, owing to the absence of adequate machinery, but in the meantime the Ministry of Agriculture is ready to fumigate small amounts of seed, supplying a certificate of fumigation with the consignment.

PROPERTY IN ENEMY COUNTRIES.

It has been arranged that the Public Trustee shall keep a record of:—(*a*) Debts (including bank balances) due to British subjects from persons residing in enemy countries; (*b*) other property in enemy countries (including securities) belonging to British subjects.

Any person desiring to record such claims or property can obtain the necessary form for that purpose (Form G in the first case and Form H in the second) from the Public Trustee. Applications should be made to the Public Trustee (Trading with the Enemy Department), No. 2, Clement's Inn, Strand, W.C.

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Shipping Intelligence.

LIBYAN COAST LIGHTING.

The U.S. Consul at Tripoli says that a plan for the better lighting of the Libyan coast has been agreed upon by the Italian Ministers of Marine and the Colonies. According to a local journal, it is as follows:—

(1) To mark the most important cape in each zone of 250 to 300 marine miles with a light of great power, and to establish in these same zones at the most salient points (preferably near the important ports) distinguishing beacons with various characteristics in order to eliminate all possibility of mistake.

(2) To mark the ports with secondary lights and beacons.

(3) To mark with lighted buoys rocky bottoms that render certain points peculiarly dangerous.

With this general plan in view, a programme for the first works has been drawn up which will utilise nearly all existing lights. New installations will include—

(1) A secondary lighthouse of fourth order at Zuara with intermittent white light, mounted on a tower of sufficient elevation to bring the focal plane to a height of 15 metres (49.21 ft.).

(2) The transfer of the small light now at Zuara to Ras (Cape) Macabees.

(3) Four flash lighthouses with refractory lenses of third order, having the focal plane 50 metres (164 ft.) above the level of the sea and a radius of 20 marine miles. These will be placed at Ras Tocra, Ras el Helil, Ras el Tin, and Ras el Mir (Tobruk).

Considerable study has already been made and data gathered concerning the points of location, their elevations, nature of foundations, etc., and it is planned to put the work forward as soon as practicable. Manufacturers of such apparatus, who are interested, should have their representatives in Italy take immediate steps to bring their products to the notice of the Ministry of Marine at Rome.

It is interesting to note that at present light signals exist for the Bay of Zuara, the port of Tripoli, the Bay of Homs, Cape Misurata, the port of Benghasi, the Bay of Derna, and the port of Tobruk. Zuara has only a small light, but at Tripoli there is a lighthouse of "Ottawa" type 9½, located on the Spanish fort. It has a white intermittent light, with a radius for average atmospheric transparency of nearly sixteen miles. Situated on the Castello and on the site of the dismantled Hamidieh fort are smaller signals—"Ottawa" type 4—with an intermittent red light and a radius of nearly eight miles. The night signalling of the port is completed by four "Ottawa" channel beacons, two with red and two with green intermittent lights.

At Homs is a signal with fixed white light having a radius of fifteen miles, and Cape Misurata is marked by a revolving port light, "Chance" type, with a radius of fifteen miles, placed on a hill overlooking the shore and nearly one-fifth of a mile from Cape Zurug. Situated on Cape Kreibiesch, at the extremity of the city of Benghasi, is a white light with a radius of sixteen miles, and the port of Derna is also marked by a white light of fifteen miles radius, situated on Cape Boahsh. The last lights along the Libyan coast are at the port of Tobruk—one green, with a radius of twelve miles, located at Point Tobruk, and the other with a scintillating red ray of four miles radius, at the head of the pier.

THE ALBANIAN BLOCKADE.

Reuter announces from Rome that the blockade of the Albanian coast, which, by the declaration of May 26, had been established from the Montenegrin border in the north to Cape Kephale in the south, is reduced as follows:—The southern limit to the blockade will now be Aspriruga. The limits of the blockade of Albanian territory are now, therefore, in the north 41 deg. 52 min. north latitude, 19 deg. 22 min. 40 sec. longitude east of Greenwich, and in the south 40 deg. 9 min. 36 sec. longitude east of Greenwich. The new barrier line established between Cape Otranto and Aspriruga forms a blockading line in all respects similar to that established by the declaration of May 26.

CYPRUS AND EGYPT.

Khedivial Mail Service.

The contract summer time-table (June 15 to October 14) of the Khedivial Mail Steamship Service between Cyprus and Egypt is as follows:—

Steamer leaving Alexandria on June 15 and on alternate Tuesdays subsequently.

Alexandria	Dep.	Tuesday	2 p.m.
Port Said	Dep.	Wednesday	11 a.m. (a)
Limassol	Arr.	Thursday	within 19 hrs. of departure from Port Said.
Limassol	Dep.	Thursday	2 p.m.
Larnaca	Dep.	Friday	2 p.m.
Famagusta	Dep.	Saturday	noon.
Port Said	Arr.	Sunday	11 a.m.
Alexandria	Arr.	Monday	at daylight.

Steamer leaving Alexandria June 22 and on alternate Tuesday subsequently.

Alexandria	Dep.	Tuesday	2 p.m.
Port Said	Dep.	Wednesday	11 a.m. (a)
Famagusta	Arr.		Within 23 hours of departure from Port Said.
Larnaca	Dep.	Friday	2 p.m.
Limassol	Dep.	Saturday	6 a.m.
Paphos	Dep.	Saturday	4 p.m.
Port Said	Arr.	Sunday	11 a.m.
Alexandria	Arr.	Monday	at daylight.

(a) Mail steamer to leave Port Said not later than 11 a.m. if the mails are on board; if not, immediately they are.

TURKISH CUSTOMS DUTIES.

According to a Berlin telegram, quoted by Reuter's Amsterdam correspondent, the Turkish Official Gazette publishes a decree raising import duties to 30 per cent. for the duration of the war. Half the duties on goods will be paid in kind when the military administration deems it necessary.

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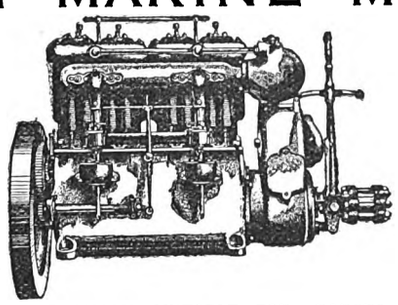
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Engineering Notes.

An Automobile Work Recorder.

There are several devices recording the mileage and speed of an automobile, but there are many other particulars concerning a car which the owner wants to know, especially when his vehicle is out of his sight, and in charge of somebody else. A recently introduced automobile accessory, therefore, will interest many owners of pleasure as well as commercial vehicles, for it consists of an instrument which chronologically records the work performed by the machine. The device consists of an eight-day clock movement carrying a chart-dial and a recording finger that is operated by the vibration of the vehicle. When the automobile on which it is installed is standing still, with the motor running, a fine curved line is traced on the chart dial. When the automobile is travelling, a broad band is marked on the chart-dial, which is printed with figures and lines to indicate the hours of the day and night as well as the days of the week. The recording finger automatically shifts each day to make a new circle, so that a complete record of a week's work is made on one chart. All the parts of the instrument are enclosed in a pressed steel case, about eight inches in diameter and three inches deep. A glass front enables the driver of the automobile to see the dial record as well as the time of the day at a glance. The instrument may be employed on either commercial or pleasure vehicles. When used on the former, it furnishes the owner with an accurate report as to the work done with the vehicle. It records when the engine has been running and when the automobile is travelling; in fact, it accounts for every move made by the machine during the entire day, night, or week. The instrument informs the owner as to the time consumed in loading and unloading the vehicle, as well as the length of all delays. The owner can determine when the driver has wasted oil and fuel, or taken roundabout trips. On the other hand, the driver of the vehicle is prompted to better work, knowing that each move of the machine is being recorded. For pleasure vehicles, the instrument is also very useful, although its most advantageous employment is confined to motor trucks and other commercial cars. When installed on a pleasure car, it safeguards the automobile against unauthorised use in the absence of the owner, since those having access to the machine know that a record is being made of every movement. The instrument also renders good service when touring, by keeping a perpetual diary of the trip. With a few pencil notations on the charts, the owner has a permanent and accurate record of his travels.

The Telewriter.

In spite of the "blockade" of German trade and the "war" to capture it by "fairs" and exhibitions at home, it is well known that German goods are still exported in great quantities from Germany to other countries by an organised "smuggling" through channels the geographical position of which helps the masking of the origin of the goods. Apart from other goods, German machinery and electrical appliances are still sent to the markets in the Near East, and buyers are, apparently, glad to have them, since no attempt has been made by other manufacturers to approach them. We mentioned recently that in the construction of new telephone lines most, if not all, of the material for the installation, etc., was of German origin, although "officially" it was not recognised as such. It has also been suggested that a certain German system of telewriters should be introduced in these lines. It is very probable that the existence of a British telewriter is not known out in the Near East—it is not even well known in England. Nevertheless it is a very ingenious instrument, constantly growing in popularity, and is used in the General Post Office, and, it is said, in three or four German battleships. This means that it is considered superior to that of German construction.

What is a Telewriter.

A telewriter will transmit in writing everything that is capable of being written, and will faithfully reproduce signs in any variety of combination. The telewriter may be attached to the ordinary telephone wire without any interference with the telephone service, and enables the user to speak or write as desired. There is no switchboard, and the telewriter and telephone cannot possibly clash in their use. The mere action of lifting the receiver to speak places you in connection with the telephone, or lifting the pencil to write with the telewriter, the writing of the sender being instantaneously reproduced at the receiving station. As an adjunct to the telephone in business where frequent communications are passing between office and warehouse, or office and factory, and where written instructions would prove an advantage, the telewriter is invaluable. The telewriter does not supplant the telephone, to which, as we said, it forms an adjunct, for as long as two people want to talk to one another the telephone will always be needed; but there are messages requiring accuracy in transmission that call for no personal conversation, and their value is immeasurably added to by a written record despatched through the telewriter and duly signed by the sender. Where numbers and prices are constantly involved mistakes must occur, and with them disputes. The telewriter produces a commercial document removing all doubt as to accuracy or responsibility. Orders or descriptions can be sent through the telewriter with sketches, signs, numbers, etc, by anyone who can write or sketch, and the receiver being automatic, one operator, the sender, can transmit the message in the absence of the addressee, who, on his return, finds it written in ink and in the handwriting of the sender. The mechanism is very simple. The arms of a pantograph connected with the transmitting pencil regulate the electrical currents, which are sent over the connecting wires and which place the receiver pen in synchronous movement with the transmitting pencil.

Shortage of Timber.

One of the immediate results of the war being a shortage of timber from the sources hitherto available, the use of colonial timber and the possible use of timber substitutes are engaging the attention of colliery managers. In this connection the staff of the mining department of Leeds University, in conjunction with members of the industry, are making experiments for which exceptional facilities, including the use of a specially designed 500-ton press, have been rendered available. The result of the experiments is awaited with interest, although in some quarters it is considered doubtful that a substitute for timber could cost less than the cost of timber brought from the Colonies. It is a question to which Indian timber merchants might with advantage give attention. It is asserted that one quarter of the total importation of plants and timber in Baghdad comes from India. It is evident, therefore, that Indian timber can be brought to the Persian Gulf for shipment to England at cheaper rates, especially if the wood is sent in the native sailing vessels which come from India to fetch dates. With regard to the quality of the Indian wood, it is an interesting fact that the wood found in the ruined palaces of the Sassanian kings at Ctesiphon (550-637 A.D.) and the Arab Khalifahs at Samarra (860-900 A.D.) is Indian teak.

The Astra Romana produced 466,604 tons in 1914 (as against 444,025 tons in 1913). The export had to be stopped entirely through the Dardanelles; this and the prohibition of export of liquid fuel made it necessary to limit the production to a certain extent, as the storage capacity was not adequate. The Government was, however, willing to let to the oil companies all the storage tanks belonging to the pipeline Baicoi-Constantza which will be built. The Astra Romana obtained on lease a part of these tanks. A new field, Ochiuri, was obtained on very liberal conditions; a well here already produces ninety tons a day. As the plot has an area of 1,262 acres and the well has been stuck some 200 metres from its boundary, a well-paying exploitation may be expected. The Astro Romana has built up considerable reserves to meet any possible damage.

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COMPANY MEETINGS.

MORTGAGE COMPANY OF EGYPT.

The seventh ordinary general meeting of the Mortgage Company of Egypt, Limited, was held yesterday, at Cannon Street Hotel, London, E.C., the Right Hon. Viscount Milner, G.C.B., G.C.M.G. (chairman of the company) presiding.

The acting secretary (Mr. S. Alers Hankey) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman said: The next business is to propose the adoption of the report. I have no doubt, gentlemen, you will allow the report which has been circulated to be taken as read. A perusal of the report will have prepared you to hear that the fortunes of the company in the twelve months under review have not been so good as in the preceding five years of its existence. A check has come in a career which has hitherto been one of steady prosperity. And it is a serious check. I will be quite frank about that. But, on the other hand, you must remember that this set-back is not peculiar to ourselves, but is due exclusively to the complete though temporary derangement of the trade of Egypt resulting from the war, and that every company, large or small, and indeed every individual, interested in Egyptian land, is equally affected. The main trouble is that the market for the great staple product on which Egyptian agriculture so largely depends—I mean cotton—was utterly upset at the outbreak of the war, and cannot be expected to recover completely, though it may recover to some extent, while the war continues. Broadly speaking, the Egyptian cultivator maintains himself and his family by his other crops. He pays his taxes, discharges his obligations—his rent or his mortgage interest, as the case may be—and provides for his own wants, over and above bare subsistence, by the sale of his cotton. In the year which we are considering the value of the cotton crop to the cultivator has been enormously reduced. It is impossible to make an exact estimate, but he has certainly received between one-half and one-third less for it than in an average year. The crop, to begin with, was not a good one. But even the reduced crop has not found a ready market, and the price has been very low. From the latest figures in my possession it appears that the cotton exports to May 31, 1915, were 5,617,000 cantars, against 6,615,000 last year, and that the average price per cantar was 12¾ dollars, against 17¾ last year. No one who knows Egyptian conditions can fail to realize what such a reduction of annual income means to all parties interested in Egyptian land. The way in which it affects this company is by causing a very great increase in our arrears. As you know, our mortgages are all redeemable by a series of annual payments, mostly extending over a period of from fifteen to thirty years, each payment including not only interest, but the return of a certain portion of the capital. The amount of arrears at the close of any financial year is always considerable. This is the universal experience of all Egyptian land and mortgage companies. The Egyptian is never a regular payer. He has not that reverence for a due date which is the corner-stone of our European system of business. In ordinary times the fact that a number of their debtors are in arrear does not cause much uneasiness to Egyptian mortgage companies. Experience has taught their managers that with patience and a certain amount of pressure the great bulk of these arrears can be got in all right. They are even a source of profit in some cases, as an instalment in arrear carries a higher rate of interest than the original loan. But the matter is different when the proportion of instalments in arrear shows a sudden and abnormal rise. That has happened during the past year with every one of the companies deriving a revenue from Egyptian land, whether as owners or mortgagees. Our own company is no exception. We entered the year with arrears of £187,000. Half of that amount was recovered during 1914-15, but the new arrears were so heavy that by the end of the twelvemonth the total had risen to £355,000, and although there has since March 31 been a reduction of £30,000, the figure is still very large. These are the circumstances which led the directors to the conclusion that it was necessary in the present instance to make some special provision for arrears, over and above the normal allowance for bad debts. This precaution has been criticised in some quarters, because it necessitates the postponement of the half-yearly dividend on the preferred shares due July 1. I may say that the directors only decided to postpone that payment with the greatest reluctance. We fully realise that, especially at a time like the present, when incomes all round are so severely reduced, it is incumbent on us to distribute to shareholders the maximum that can reasonably be parted with. And if the end of the war had been in sight, I should personally have felt that it was justifiable to stretch a point and pay the dividend on the first of next month. But with the possibility, I will not say the probability, of the war continuing throughout another cotton season, it really did not seem consistent with prudence to assume that the whole of these large sums would be realised at any early date, and not to set aside any exceptional reserve to meet circumstances which are extremely exceptional. The

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distressed condition of Egyptian agriculture, which shows itself in the growth of arrears, is also reflected in the increase of properties acquired by foreclosure, which now stand in our balance-sheet at £120,899 against £39,641 last year. This increase is, however, mainly due to a single large property, now in the hands of the company, which is being well looked after. Of course, it is only with the greatest reluctance that we go the length of expropriating our debtors. It is not our desire to become a land-holding company. And in an exceptional pinch like the present it would be both harsh to the mortgagors and unwise in our own interest to sell up a number of men who are in temporary difficulties, but who, with a turn of the tide, are likely in time to discharge all their obligations. On the other hand, where a mortgagor is heavily in arrear and the property, which is our ultimate security, is threatened with deterioration, we have no option but to have recourse to foreclosure. At a time like the present the proportion of such cases is greater than at ordinary times, hence the number of properties thrown upon our hands increases, and this is evidently not the moment for reselling them. Considering all these circumstances, I do not think that the item in our balance-sheet, "Properties acquired by foreclosure," is unreasonably large. That, I think, is all that I need say about the details of the account. The general position is clear. We are passing through a trying time. How long or how severe the period of depression may be it is impossible to foretell. That depends entirely on the duration of the war. It is reasonable to hope that, even if the war continues, the economic position of Egypt will get better rather than worse. But we cannot look for any satisfactory or complete recovery till the return of peace. That being the case, I am not able to foretell just when we shall be in a position to resume the regular payment of dividends on the preferred stock.

These dividends are cumulative, and we naturally will do all in our power to prevent their piling up to the detriment of the ordinary shares. Meanwhile, the debenture interest is well protected, and I see no reason to fear any interruption in its regular payment. For the rest, there are just two reflections, which may afford us some comfort in the present and good hope for the future. In the first place, the adverse conditions of the present time are due entirely to external causes, to a world-calamity, affecting us along with any number of others, which it was impossible to foresee, and would have been impossible for us, even if we could have foreseen it, to guard against. There is nothing wrong with our business in itself. Take away the external disturbing factor and the position will soon right itself. And secondly, I may venture to express the opinion that, as Egypt was one of the first countries, not actually the scene of war (for you cannot call Egypt the scene of war because of that trifling attack upon the canal), to suffer very severely from its outbreak, so she will also be one of the very first to recover when peace is restored. It is always dangerous to dogmatise about the economic future, but this seems to me a reasonable forecast. When the war is over the civilized world will be bound to make an unprecedented effort to repair wastage, and to replenish its depleted stocks of all those articles the production of which is now stopped or greatly reduced by the concentration of capital and energy upon the war itself. But it will take time to make good all the deficiencies, and necessaries will come before luxuries. The first and greatest demand of a world returning to its normal life will be for those great staples of prime necessity, which are absolutely essential to civilized mankind. But what is Egypt but a producer of some of the chief of these? It is upon the unrivalled fertility of the soil, upon its capacity to go on producing in rich abundance such crops as cereals, sugar, above all cotton, that the economic strength of Egypt rests. Take only the case of cotton. For some time before the war there was widespread anxiety lest the production of raw cotton should not keep pace with the increasing demand for cotton goods, and great efforts were being made to increase the cotton-growing area. That movement has been checked by the outbreak of war, and, on the other hand, as soon as peace is restored, the demand for cotton goods will be greater than ever, and so will be the need of raw cotton on the part of the makers of these goods. Given security and good government, blessings the permanence of which the final elimination of Turkish authority should go a long way to ensure—and there is no reason to doubt that Egypt will very soon play as great and perhaps even a greater part in the supply of some of the most indispensable products of the earth's surface than she has done in the past. With so many uncertainties in the immediate future of the world, it is impossible not to feel some anxiety just now about our business, as about every other. But there is no ground for despondency. Meanwhile, it is on the members of the local board in Cairo and on our staff there that the brunt of the present trouble falls. The management of our business in Egypt, at all times requiring great care, calls under present circumstances for the exercise of an exceptional degree of judgment and discrimination. It is satisfactory to feel that whatever local knowledge and great business experience can do to cope with the present difficulties and to safeguard the interests of the company has been and will continue to be done. Speaking for the other British directors as well as for myself, I am glad to take this opportunity of expressing our continued confidence in the way in which our affairs in Egypt are conducted, as well as our sympathy with our Cairo colleagues in the discharge of their anxious and responsible duties. In conclusion, I have only to express my regret that the London directors are not able to meet you here in full numbers to-day. Besides Mr. Mills and Mr. Thors—unavoidably prevented from attending—two other valued colleagues of ours, Colonel Sidney Peel—who is at the front in command of his regiment—and Colonel Everard Baring—likewise engaged in military duties—are absent. You will join with me in wishing them success in their patriotic endeavours and a safe return to our midst. I have now to move that the report of the directors and the balance-sheet for the year ended March 31, 1915, be and are hereby approved and adopted.

Mr. E. W. P. Foster seconded the resolution.

Mr. T. Lighton: I hesitate very much in getting up. I wish there was somebody here whose interest in the concern was larger than my own, and whose knowledge of Egyptian business problems was very much larger. I have always attended the meetings, and I have generally spoken a few words of congratulation. I am sorry I cannot do so to-day. When I was here last year I did not know what was coming on, but I made a feeble, and, I hope, polite, remonstrance against the payment of the 8 per cent. on the ordinary shares. I did not know any more than anybody else what was coming, but I was not very far wrong as events have turned out. I said then that I was a shareholder, though not a very large one, and that is equally true to-day. I said that I did not think you should increase the dividend on the ordinary shares, having regard to the very slender resources that we had. I also said that I hoped we should not have any bother with foreclosures. I had a dim and intangible idea that as we had had foreclosures we might have some more—and we have had some more. My demurrer to the 8 per cent. on the ordinary shares was, I think, a very right demurrer; as the events have turned out we had better have had that £2,500 in our pockets than frittered away among the shareholders. I know that Mr. Gladstone used to talk about taxes that were fructifying in the pockets of the people, but I do not hold with that; it would be better for us to have a reserve. But there is no use crying over spilt milk—if the milk is spilt; we must wait and see, as Mr. Asquith said, hoping for better times; but I hope the next time we are called here we shall be able to meet you with more smiling faces, and that you also will bear a more smiling countenance than you do to-day.

The resolution was then put to the meeting and carried.

The Chairman moved that the Hon. A. H. Mills, a retiring director, be re-elected.

Sir William E. Garstin, G.C.M.G., seconded this and it was carried.

The Chairman said he had next to move that one of their Cairo colleagues, Captain R. G. Westropp, be re-elected a director.

This also was seconded by Sir William Garstin and carried.

Sir William Garstin moved that the Right Hon. Viscount Milner, also retiring, be re-elected.

Mr. E. W. P. Foster seconded the resolution and it was carried.

The Chairman: Gentlemen, on behalf of myself and my re-elected colleagues I beg to thank you for your continued confidence. I am sure we shall always do our best. The circumstances of the time, as you know, are difficult; but I have good hope for the future. With regard to the remarks made by the only gentleman who addressed us—whom we are always glad to hear—for I prefer a meeting at which there is some sort of discussion myself—I should only like to say this, that I am in great sympathy with him, because I am myself a preference and not an ordinary shareholder. But I cannot help feeling that even if we had kept the £2,500 in our pockets the position to-day would not be materially altered thereby. If you gave me another £10,000 I should still feel it was not the moment to make that distribution on the preference shares. I do not think there is any other criticism except that about the foreclosures, and there will always be a certain number of them. It is inevitable in a business of this kind, where you have hundreds of properties pledged to you, and are lending sums of between £3,000,000 and £4,000,000 on those hundreds of landed properties—it is inevitable, and would be so in any country, that a certain number of your debtors will fail to meet their obligations. You nurse them as long as you can; in some cases you can get through satisfactorily by patience and consideration, but in others you cannot. They are evidently broken men. You must step in and take their places and get the properties which are your ultimate security. I do not think, considering the great stress of the present time, that the number of properties expropriated is large. The figure is large, but, as I explained, that is mainly due to a single large property. I do not much mind taking over a single big property. It is much easier to deal with, and you are much less liable to make a loss upon it than with a lot of little properties. I hope we shall not have many small properties. I think there is nothing more I have to say but to thank you again for the re-election of myself and colleagues.

Mr. T. Lighton moved the reappointment of the auditors (Messrs. W. B. Peat and Co.).

Mr. E. A. Greathed seconded this, and it was carried.

Mr. Lighton then moved a vote of thanks to the Chairman and his co-directors on the board.

This was seconded by Mr. Greathed, unanimously accorded, and this ended the meeting.

NEW EGYPTIAN COMPANY.

The annual meeting of the New Egyptian Company, Limited, was held at Winchester House, London, E.C., yesterday, Mr. Arthur A. Baumann (Chairman of the Company), presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. Thomas Day), having read the notice convening the meeting, and the auditors' report,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen, I do not suppose that the most sanguine shareholder expected a dividend or even a cheerful report to-day. Egypt has suffered more by the war than perhaps any other part of the world outside the war zone, by her geographical position, by the political conditions of the country and by the accumulation of agricultural misfortunes, beginning with a bad Nile in 1913, and ending with the boll worm in the cotton plant which appeared after the declaration of war. It is therefore not surprising if our revenue shows a decline as compared with the year 1913. The gross revenue of the company is £28,569, which is made up of £11,785 revenue from the Company's lands, £14,504 profits on the sales of land, £1,247 odd interest in London and instalments of land sales less interest on instalments for lands purchased, and two other small items. This gross revenue of £28,569 is reduced to a net revenue of £17,776 by the deduction of our expenses in Egypt and in London and the directors' fees. The items you will see given you on the left hand side of the profit and loss account. We have reduced our administration expenses considerably—by a sum of £1,800 in round figures. This net disposable revenue of £17,776 we propose with your

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approbation to dispose of in the following manner: to debenture interest and trustees' fees, £5,707; to reserve against loss on 1913-14 rentals, £3,320; to reserve against interest due by debtors for lands sold, £4,191; to loss on realisation of cotton, £728; leaving a final balance of £3,829, which we propose to carry forward to next year. The gross revenue of £28,000 compares with the gross revenue for the preceding year of £38,000, and the decline of that £10,000 is due to arrears of instalments and interest on those instalments; these arrears being due to the inability of the tenants to pay in full owing, of course, to the war, to the failure of the cotton crop, and to the diminution, or rather, I might say, to the demoralisation for a certain time of the cotton market in Manchester and in other parts of the world. But I would call your special attention to the ample reserves which we have made against those arrears, amounting in round figures to £7,400, and we think that by means of those adequate reserves against arrears we have, as far as possible, strengthened our financial position. With regard to the future, I think I may say that if Egypt has suffered more than other parts of the world she has a great prospect of recuperation in the near future. She has, in the first place, every chance of an agricultural recovery. The Government, as you know, has restricted the area of cotton planting, and has practically compelled the cultivator and the tenant to sow other crops —cereal crops—wheat, and barley, and maize, and a kind of clover used for feeding cattle. To my mind this regulation on the part of the Government will be of great benefit to Egypt, even in the immediate future and during the continuance of the war. It is a great danger for an agricultural country to depend too exclusively on one crop, as Egypt in the past has depended almost exclusively—at any rate, in the Delta—on the cotton crop. The West Indies, for instance, depended almost exclusively on sugar, and the West Indies were ruined for a time by the exclusive dependence on one crop. Ceylon depended for a time exclusively on coffee, and Ceylon was absolutely ruined for several years by the appearance of the coffee blight. She has recovered, after many years of trial, by planting tea and rubber, and I think that from an agricultural point of view nothing better could have happened to Egypt than her planting cereals; because I take it that it is practically certain that whether the war finishes this year or next, or the year after, the price of wheat and all foodstuffs is bound to rise. I am not a speculator, but I believe that the best speculation that a man could go in for now would be to buy future wheat for 1916 and 1917. If I am right in that conjecture, our estates and our tenants are going to benefit very largely by this planting of cereals. Apart from the agricultural prospects, which, I think, are extremely good, Egypt has every chance of political improvement. We have at last in Egypt got rid of the Turks and the Germans, two plagues which I venture to say were far worse than the locusts or the boll worm. We have placed upon the throne a new Sovereign who is thoroughly loyal to the British connection, and who is a man of distinguished intelligence as I think is proved by the fact that he was formerly a director of the New Egyptian Company. (Laughter.) Egypt is now practically under the protection of Great Britain and we shall witness the interesting experiment of creating an Egyptian nationality, because, as I suppose you all of you realise, there is no such thing as an Egyptian nation and no such thing as an Egyptian subject. All the native races who inhabit Egypt were until the other day the subjects of the Sultan of Turkey, and all the white inhabitants were subjects of various nations, European and American.

THE ALEXANDRIA WATER COMPANY, LIMITED.

PAYMENT OF DIVIDEND.

Notice is hereby given that a DIVIDEND of SEVEN SHILLINGS and NINEPENCE per £5 SHARE on COUPON No. 53 is PAYABLE on and after June 15, 1915, at Messrs. Barclay and Company, Limited, 1, Pall Mall East, London, S.W., and 54, Lombard Street, London, E.C., or at the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited, Alexandria, Egypt, upon the making of a declaration as to ownership in the form required by the above Banks, forms of which will be supplied upon application.

By Order of the Board,
H. R. C. BLAGDEN, Manager.
xandria, Egypt, May 20, 1915.

Concluding, the Chairman said that their prospects of recovering arrears which had accrued depended on the restoration of confidence, which in its turn depended on the duration of the war. Since the closing of the accounts on December 31 they had sold 129 feddans for a sum of £10,956. The thanks of the shareholders were due to Mr. Suares and other members of the staff in Egypt for the way they had met the very trying crisis of the past ten months. He moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. T. L. Gilmour seconded the resolution and after a little discussion the report was adopted.

OTTOMAN RAILWAY.

A special general meeting of the shareholders of the Ottoman Railway from Smyrna to Aidin was held on Friday at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., to consider a scheme for the creation and issue of further First and Second Debenture stock in connection with the proposed funding of the interest. Lord Rathmore presided.

The Chairman said that at the general meeting of the company in March he laid before the shareholders particulars of the oppressive and violent acts on the part of the Turkish Government which culminated, in the closing days of last November and the early days of December, when their general manager's house at Smyrna was surrounded by soldiers and the manager himself was made a prisoner of war. The Turkish authorities took over the working of the line, and since then all regular postal and telegraphic communication had been interrupted. At that time he was unable to give any authentic information of what had been happening along the line, but he added that it was reasonable to suppose that, in their own interests, the Turks would not wilfully damage the railway. So far as the council could now say, judging from such reports, or rather, such rumours, as had reached them, there were no grounds for thinking that any wanton injury had been done by the local authorities. It was possible to make provision for the payment of the First and Second Debenture interest which became due on January 1 last, with the assistance of an advance from their bankers secured upon certain of the reserve fund investments set aside for the Debenture holders, but that was an expedient to which recourse could not be had again, and the company would not be able to make the cash payment either of the half-yearly interest upon the Debenture stocks falling due on July 1 next, or in any subsequent half-year so long as the war with Turkey lasted.

The scheme was intended to cover, if necessary, all payments of Debenture interest on both issues for twelve months from the signing of peace between the British and Turkish Governments, or for a period of three years from July 1, 1915, whichever was the shorter. During that period the company might defer payment of the Debenture interest. The interest so deferred would carry, in the case of both issues, interest at the rate of 5 per cent., payable at the termination of the specified period, and the company would be entitled, in lieu of paying such interest in cash, to issue First and Second Debenture stock—in the case of the Four per Cent. First Debenture stock (as part of and ranking pari passu with the existing First Debenture stock) at the rate of £120 of stock for every £100 of interest so satisfied; and in the same way, in the case of the Five per Cent. Debenture stock, the company would have the right, in lieu of paying such interest in cash, to issue in respect thereof a Five per Cent. Debenture Stock which would be in all respects part of, and would rank pari passu with, the existing Second Debenture stock, at the rate of £100 of stock for every £100 of interest. The company would from time to time issue certificates in respect of all deferred interest, and would retain the right to pay off in cash at any time any portion of any interest, the payment of which was deferred under the scheme. The scheme further provided for the suspension of the Debenture stock reserve fund for the period of the scheme and for the application of that fund in repaying the loan raised for meeting the interest on the Debenture stocks in January last and now secured on part of the fund, and also for the suspension of all dividends while any deferred interest was outstanding. The Council of Administration were also authorised to create such additional First and Second Debenture stock as might be necessary to enable the company to carry out the scheme. He mentioned that meetings would be held of both classes of Debenture stockholders, who had responded so willingly and promptly to the appeal of the council for their support as enabled him to say that already there had been received an overwhelming majority of proxies in favour of the scheme. Speaking as a shareholder himself, he heartily recommended the scheme. He concluded by moving a resolution sanctioning the arrangement.

Mr. J. H. Trewby seconded the resolution, which was carried without discussion.

At a general meeting of the holders of the Debenture stocks, Lord Rathmore explained the arrangement, remarking that it had the approval of the three trustees of the trust deed, and concluded by moving its adoption. Mr. J. H. Trewby seconded the resolution, which was unanimously carried without discussion. Separate class meetings of the First and Second Debenture stockholders were afterwards held, at which the scheme was also agreed to.

COMPANY NOTE.

Gresham Fire and Accident Insurance.

The report of the Gresham Fire and Accident Insurance Society, Ltd., for the seventeen months from August 1, 1913, to December 31, 1914, states that the premium income, after deduction of re-insurances, amounted to 134,085. The income from investments, less income-tax, was £7,818. The total claims under policies chargeable to the period amounted to £69,165, being 51.58 per cent. of the premium income. Expenses of management, including commission and other outgo, amounted to £79,342. For the first time the entire expenditure has been charged against the premium income. The expansion of the business has called for the addition of £3,442 to the reserve for unexpired risks in order to maintain this reserve at the ratio of 33 1-3 per cent. to the premiums attributable to the year 1914. Securities realised and exchanged have resulted in a loss of £537. The sum of £1,884 has been added to investment reserve account to cover depreciation. The sum of £2,000 has been set aside as a reserve for contingencies which may arise from the state of war. The excess of outgo over income was £7,124, but by reason of the reserves for depreciation, war and unexpired risks the balance to debit of profit and loss account has been increased by £14,450, and now stands at £35,793.

COMPANY RESULTS, &c.

GEORGE NUNGOVICH EGYPTIAN HOTELS.—The annual meeting of shareholders was held at the Grand Continental Hotel, Cairo, on June 10.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN OILFIELDS.—Gemsah production for the week, 142 tons (last week 255 tons); Hurgada production for the week, 212 tons (last week 149 tons).

PIRÆUS, ATHENS, AND PELOPONNESUS RAILWAY.—Messrs. R. Raphael and Sons, Austin Friars House, E.C., announce the number of bonds drawn for repayment at par on July 15.

PIRÆUS, ATHENS, AND PELOPONNESUS RAILWAY.—The directors announce that a final dividend (coupon No. 53) at the rate of 3.50 drachmæ per share for the year 1914 has been declared on the Ordinary shares, and is now payable at the current rate of exchange at the Bank of Athens, 22, Fenchurch Street, E.C.

ALEXANDRIA WATER COMPANY.—A dividend of Seven Shillings and Nine Pence per £5 share on Coupon No. 53 is being paid at Messrs. Barclay and Company, Ltd., 1, Pall Mall East, London, S.W., and 54, Lombard Street, London, E.C., or at the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Ltd., Alexandria, Egypt.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 216.—Vol. IX. FRIDAY, JUNE 25, 1915.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The recapture of Lemberg by Austro-German forces is the melancholy feature of the week's news. The fact that it has no military significance beyond registering the extent of the Russian retreat in Galicia need not blind us to the seriousness of the turn of events in the eastern theatre of the war. At the same time the need for a long view of things is emphasized, and we shall, perhaps, be better advised, in the face of the vast superiority of the Central Powers in men and munitions at this stage, to dwell upon the surprising results achieved on this front during the first nine months of the war. Lemberg was occupied by our Russian Allies on September 3. Its capture implied the failure of the first Austro-Hungarian thrust into Russia. From that point the Russian advance continued to make steady headway; but it is now apparent that it was not sufficiently supported by reserve resources. The enemy has reversed his original plan of delivering a swift and decisive blow in the West and then turning to meet the Russian menace. The stubbornness of the defence in Belgium and France and the rapidity with which the earlier stages of Russian mobilization were carried through upset his calculations, and it has taken the Central Powers nine months to recover the strategical offensive. Russia now has to bear the brunt of the enemy's main attack; but both she and her Allies are in a stronger position actually and relatively than when the war began.

The fortunes of the Russians in Galicia of necessity monopolize the chief interest in the military operations. It is clear that the German plan was to force a decisive engagement or so to break the Russian line that the work of reforming would prevent our Allies from being a serious factor in the war for some months to come. In that time the enemy would have had opportunity to transfer a large portion of his Eastern forces to the western front, and to try the sledge-hammer tactics that proved successful on the Dunajecz and San Rivers in a gigantic thrust on Calais. So long as the Russian line avoids being broken, and the Germans have perforce to press on after it in the hope of inflicting a crushing defeat upon it, the German plan is frustrated, and the number of men that might be spared for Flanders is inadequate for the task before the Germans in that theatre of the war. If this analysis of the situation can be accepted, it is evident that the loss of Przemysl and even the fall of Lemberg are events of minor importance from the military point of view.

On sentimental grounds the withdrawal of the Russians from Galicia is a misfortune, and if the end of the war is not to be until Germany is overrun by the Allies, then the retreat of the Russians seems to leave all that has been accomplished in the first ten months of the war to be done over again. But the process of attrition, on which the Allies have to rely to a considerable extent, continues, and, indeed, has been greatly accelerated, since the slow advance of the Russians over the Carpathians gave place to the frantic attacks of the enemy in massed formations against our Allies' imperturbable infantry. When the time comes, therefore, for the Russians to advance again, it is difficult to suppose that the enemy's powers of resistance will be as formidable as they have proved during the earlier stages of the war. The Germans have wonderful feats to their credit in this war, but they will enhance their reputation if they are able in the course of a few weeks or months to make Przemysl as strong as it was before, while their military genius would stand convicted if they allowed for a second time a large Austrian garrison to shut itself up in the fortress to face inevitable surrender. The rate of the next Russian advance, therefore, does not have to be reckoned by that of the first, and the Allies may derive consolation from the reflection that with their line unbroken, however far they have to fall back, the Russians may find themselves any day in a favourable position for resuming the offensive.

The farther the Austro-German forces advance in Galicia, the more vulnerable do their lines of communication become to an attack from Roumania. This aspect of the situation is not lost upon the Governments of the Central Powers. Although they could not persuade themselves to believe that Italy would take part in the war against them, they do not appear to have cherished similar illusions regarding Roumania. The temporary discomfiture of the Russians affords an opportunity, of which they have availed themselves to the full, of renewing their efforts to secure the maintenance of Roumanian neutrality. These efforts, we may feel confident, will include not only threats, but the most lavish promises, particularly in regard to Bessarabia, which has not been mentioned between

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Roumania and the Triple Entente, but which will now be represented as entirely in the gift of the Central Powers. Although there is not the least reason to suppose that the confidence of the Allied Powers in Roumania will have been misplaced, it will be well to recognise the difficulties of the Bratiano Government and to conclude without further delay the negotiations now in progress at Bucharest.

Bulgaria will also have come in for the special attentions of Austro-German diplomacy as a result of the successful advance in Galicia. For some time the Central Powers had good reason to suppose that her antagonism to the rest of the Balkans and her pique against the Triple Entente would at least keep her neutral, if she did not actually make common cause with Austria-Hungary against Serbia. More recently, however, the attitude of the Bulgarian Government must have caused uneasiness in Berlin and Vienna, and this feeling will have been intensified by the reports of negotiations with the Powers of the Triple Entente. It will not have been overlooked that the mobilization of the Roumanian Army seemed to leave Bulgaria quite unconcerned, whereas at an earlier period of the war such a step would have caused the Bulgarians at least to affect considerable agitation. Austro-German successes in Galicia will have found the negotiations between Bulgaria and the Triple Entente well advanced. The Central Powers, however, will know how to make the most of their opportunity, and we must hope that gratification at finding themselves courted by both parties in the great war will not warp the judgment of the Bulgarians.

On May 29 the four Entente Powers addressed a Note to the Bulgarian Government on the subject of its attitude towards the war. The Bulgarian reply was handed to the representatives of the Powers in Sofia on June 15, and although its contents have not been divulged, it is understood that they offer a basis for further discussion with some prospect of an arrangement being ultimately reached. In the meantime Germany, with a disinterestedness which is becoming characteristic, is making a fresh bid for the maintenance of Bulgarian neutrality by trying to persuade Turkey to surrender the Dedeagatch railway to Bulgaria. On this point Bulgarian diplomacy has only to follow the line of argument adopted with telling effect by Italy. In the event of the defeat of Turkey, the railway in question would no longer be hers to give; while if the Central Powers are victorious in the war, what guarantee, which will be proof against the fate of Belgium's scrap of paper, will Bulgaria have that the promise now given will be observed? No neutral country can ignore the force of this line of argument. It is surely not without significance that the only State which has thrown in its lot with the Central Powers since the war began has been Turkey, whose decision was influenced not by national interest but solely by the bribery of her governing clique.

The Turkish Government appears to have little faith in Germany's efforts to make Bulgaria keep the peace. According to the well-informed correspondent of *The Times* in the Balkans, the troops concentrated at Midia in anticipation of a landing by a Russian force are being withdrawn. Some 50,000 of them are marching to Kirk Kilisse, where they are to entrain for Adrianople. The hasty measures now being taken to increase the garrison in that town and to strengthen the fortifications follow at no great interval upon the removal of heavy artillery from this region for service on Gallipoli Peninsula or the coast of the Sea of Marmora.

The real attitude of practically every Turk at present in arms against us was expressed by a Turkish officer who, during an armistice on Gallipoli Peninsula, was asked why his country was fighting against the British. The Turk, says a Reuter's telegram, replied: "I do not know. We have no ill-feeling towards you British, but we are military men and must obey commands." This answer may be commended to the notice of the Mohammedan world. It would never have been uttered, if the proclamation of the *jehad* had been taken seriously in the Turkish Empire. The Turks were told that they had to fight because their religion and independence were threatened. But the presence of German officers among them at once disposed of this untruth, and they have probably fallen into the fatalist attitude that they fight because they have to, and the reason why does not matter much. Only now, when the fierceness of the struggle on the Gallipoli Peninsula is telling on them, do they begin to have misgivings, and they are finding out that the only reason for fighting the British is that a single Turk—Enver Pasha—willed it. The discovery, if reports be true, is proving uncomfortable for the Turkish Minister for War.

Meanwhile the Turks "obey commands," and are giving a splendid exhibition of their fighting powers at the Dardanelles. The narrow limits of the peninsula favour them, as our troops are restricted to frontal attacks, and have room neither to deploy their full strength nor to accumulate munitions out of range of the enemy's positions. Turkish counter-attacks, however, fare no better than our own. The present week has seen a renewal of the desperate fighting which has characterized the operations throughout in this theatre of the war. Preparations for an attack were made by the Turks on June 19, but after the expenditure of a large number of high explosive shells their initiative failed them. They had discovered that the bombardment had not had the anticipated effect of annihilating our forces in the trenches. The Allied troops launched an attack in reply, but only to lose a trench themselves as the result of a counter-attack, until reinforcements enabled them to retake it. A few days later an attempt was made to straighten out the Allied line by advancing the wings which had been successfully held by the enemy at the time of the great attack on June 4. The struggle fluctuated in many parts of the line, but when the day ended our French allies had taken possession of six hundred yards of the enemy's first-line trenches, and were able to hold them during the night in spite of determined counter-attacks. Everything, says the official account, confirms the extremely heavy losses of the enemy.

The suggestion made in these columns last week that Serbia was not likely to embark upon any forward policy in Albania without an understanding with the Powers of the Quadruple Entente finds confirmation in the announcement that the campaign in Albania is at an end. Elbassan and Tirana remain for the present in the possession of the Serbians; but it does not appear whether the column that was said to be advancing upon Durazzo has reached that port. The report from Athens that the Serbians have occupied Durazzo and that Essad Pasha has fled to Italy in consequence cannot be relied upon, as the last news from Albania showed that the Serbians were operating in concert with Essad Pasha. It is possible that the presence of the column was sufficient to cause the dispersal of the tribesmen beleaguering Durazzo, with the result that Essad Pasha would once more be able to reassert his authority. Serbian troops will continue to hold, in addition to Elbassan and Tirana, certain strategical points which are regarded as necessary for the purpose of checking the activities of the Albanian bands; but the main business of the army will now be to complete its preparations for co-operating in Austro-Hungarian territory with the Italian advance and, we may hope, with the Roumanian Army.

The interval between the General Election in Greece and the meeting of the Chamber fixed for July 20 is likely to be filled by an active campaign on the part of the Government and its supporters to influence as many as possible of the delegates who have not ranged themselves on M. Venizelos' side against the ex-Premier. Some even of the elected Venizelists may become the objects of special attention. In this campaign the Government, according to the Venizelist Press, is enjoying the active support of Baron von Schenk, who combines the functions of a Krupp's agent with the miscellaneous duties of a Dernburg. As there is no reason to expect that M. Venizelos will have any difficulty in

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keeping his substantial majority together, he may be only too glad to see the Government soil its fingers in such proceedings. If there be truth in the charges brought against the existing Cabinet, which for the present we prefer not to credit, Greece will have additional cause to welcome the return to power of a clean-handed statesman.

In the interest of Greece herself it is to be hoped that the period before the meeting of the Chamber will be shortened. Bad temper prevails in political circles, and it threatens to have unedifying results. M. Venizelos is bringing an action against M. Ralli, a former Premier, who is stated to have ascribed to M. Venizelos projects tending to overthrow the order of succession to the Throne. Even the report received by one of the Legations of the Entente Powers that Turks are violating Greek neutrality by recruiting Mussulmans in Macedonia is being made to serve party politics. It was alleged in some quarters that the Greek local authorities were privy to these reported proceedings. M. Gounaris, the Premier, has ordered an immediate inquiry into the subject, but seizes the opportunity of fastening the allegation upon his political opponents. The state of the King's health is the ostensible obstacle to an early session of the Chamber; but public opinion in Greece must see the advisability of curtailing the present unsatisfactory situation.

The hope, which seemed to be justified by former reports, that German activity in Persia had received a setback has not been realized. We hear once more of the egregious Herr Pugin, whose efforts to obtain the appointment of German Consul-General at Ispahan met with failure a little while ago, and whose pose as a Moslem convert was somewhat rudely unmasked in that town. He is now reported in a Reuter's message to have paid a visit to Teheran in May. Returning thence to Ispahan, he started a fortnight ago for Birjand in Khorasan, accompanied by a number of German officers with quantities of arms and ammunition, and is credited with the intention of proceeding to Meshed. The doings of Herr Pugin may not amount to much in the sum total of German activities which have to be checkmated at the present time. But for Persia they have considerable significance, and it may well be worth the while of the British and Russian Governments to devise means for having Herr Pugin and all other German emissaries in Persia laid by the heels for the overt breaches of Persian neutrality for which the Turks and Germans are jointly responsible.

A report, which if true is of no little significance, has reached Petrograd that sanguinary collisions have taken place in Nejef (Meshed Ali) between the local inhabitants and Turkish troops. Nejef is one of the sacred cities of the Shiah Mohammedans; it contains the shrine of Ali, Mohammed's son-in-law, whose memory is venerated by that sect almost as much as Mohammed's. The troubles are supposed to have arisen over the desecration of the shrine by the Turkish troops. In view of the fact that the Turks belong to a rival Mohammedan sect, which is generally at daggers drawn with the Shiahs, the offence might possibly have been committed, although it would argue gross culpability on the part of those in command of the troops to allow such a thing to happen. It was a matter for some surprise that the Arab tribes in Mesopotamia should have so readily made common cause with the Turks. If anything approaching the wilful desecration of Ali's shrine has actually occurred it would rouse the whole country against the Turkish Army and materially assist the work of the British expedition.

WAR HONOURS.

It is announced in a special supplement to the *London Gazette* that the King has approved of the grant of the Victoria Cross to, among others, the late Lieut.-Col. Charles Hotham Montagu Doughty-Wylie, C.B., C.M.G., Headquarters Staff, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, "for most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty." Along with another similar posthumous honour conferred on the late Captain Garth Neville Walford, Brigade Major, Royal Artillery, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, this is the first V.C. to be conferred for land operations in the Dardanelles, though last December Lieutenant Holbrook, R.N., in command of Submarine B 11, received the decoration for torpedoing the Turkish battleship Messudiyeh.

It is scarcely necessary to recall to our readers the circumstances under which the late Col. Doughty-Wylie gained the much-coveted honour. On April 26, 1915, subsequent to a landing having been effected on the beach at a point on the Gallipoli Peninsula, during which both Brigadier-General and Brigade Major had been killed, Lieutenant-Colonel Doughty-Wylie and Captain Walford organised and led an attack through and on both sides of the village of Sedd-el-Bahr on the Old Castle at the top of the hill inland. The enemy's position was very strongly held and entrenched, and defended with concealed machine guns and pom-poms. It was mainly due to the initiative, skill, and great gallantry of these two officers that the attack was a complete success. Both were killed in the moment of victory.

Among other War Honours that are announced are included the following:—

To be Additional Member of the First Class, or Knight Grand Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George:—

Lieut.-Gen. Sir J. Willcocks, K.C.B., K.C.S.I., K.C.M.G., D.S.O., Commanding Indian Army Corps, British Expeditionary Force.

To be Additional Members of the Second Class, or Knights Commanders:—

Lt.-Gen. Sir J. G. Maxwell, K.C.B., C.V.O., C.M.G., D.S.O., Colonel, the Black Watch (Royal Highlanders), General Officer Commanding the Force in Egypt.

Maj.-Gen. (tempy. Lt.-Gen.) William Riddell Birdwood, K.C.S.I., C.B., C.I.E., D.S.O., Indian Army, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force

To be Additional Member of the Third Class, or Companion:—

Colonel H. B. H. Wright, Chief Engineer, Egypt.

Capt. G. P. L. Cosens, 1st (Royal) Dragoons, attached to the Egyptian Army, has been promoted to the rank of Brevet-Major, in recognition of distinguished service in the field.

THE I.O.B. AND THE WAR.

The following promotions of members of the staff of the Imperial Ottoman Bank now serving with H.M. forces have been gazetted:—

2nd Lieut. F. Fisher, of the 13th Batt. King's Royal Rifles, to be Lieutenant.

Pte. H. W. Lyster, of the 3rd Royal Fusiliers, to be 2nd Lieut.

H. H. Duncan, formerly of the Inns of Court O.T.C., to be 2nd Lieut. in the Norfolk Yeomanry.

Pte. F. A. Booth, of the Artists, has taken a commission in the East Kent Regiment (The Buffs).

Noel Hayes has been given a commission in the 2nd 8th Batt. City of London.

E. W. Martin has been given a commission in the 2nd 4th Batt. York and Lancaster.

The following further members of the staff have recently enlisted: London office—Messrs. P. L. Smith (10th Batt. Royal Fusiliers), L. Perkins (21st Batt. Royal Fusiliers), and H. Ward (Hon. Artillery Company—Infantry). Manchester office: Messrs. S. W. Jones (R.A.M.C.) and J. G. Rains-Bath (5th Devonshire Territorials).

Pte. C. Hughes-Roberts, of the 12th County of London (The Rangers) has been reported missing since May 8. Up to the time of going to press no news has been received from or about him.

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LETTERS FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, June 7.

The Dardanelles and Syria.

Beyond the official *communiqués* little news reaches us here from the Dardanelles or from Syria. As reported recently, the drain of troops from the latter portion of the Ottoman Empire has been very great, and very few regular soldiers appear to have been left there. Enver Pasha's threat to extend the scope of Turkish operations on the Suez Canal may, therefore, be regarded as an empty one and as pure bravado; for the incident reported at Kantara on June 2-3 has no significance. Refugees from Syria state that Djemal Pasha, who had obediently conformed to orders from Stamboul to send more and more troops northwards, and who was only left with 8,000 regulars, demurred when that remnant of his "invasion of Egypt" army was also requisitioned. He refused point-blank to let them go, on the plea that they were absolutely essential to his safety, and these 8,000 men have now been dubbed by the Syrians "Djemal's bodyguard"!

The absence of news of any definite advance in the Gallipoli Peninsula is not altogether unexpected by many of the officers who are recovering from their wounds here. They state that the Turkish position at Aji-Baba (or Aji-Tepe, as it is called on some maps) is an exceedingly strong one, and as our artillery has not been able to land any large quantity of ammunition our infantry has, of course, been considerably handicapped in all its operations. The only means of capturing the position is by mining; our men have been hard at it sapping their way into the hill, so they say, and until they accomplish their task we are told we must not expect any decisive news, unless, of course, the Turks are forced to retire on account of lack of ammunition, in the use of which they have been very extravagant, and which, according to report, is beginning to run short.

The Wounded.

Since his arrival in Alexandria H.H. the Sultan has made a tour of inspection of all the hospitals there, including those in which the French are being looked after. Hospitals and troopships continue to arrive with wounded, and albeit a great number have been sent home, the congestion is still apparent, though more so in the convalescent homes and camps than in the hospitals proper. Sir Reginald Wingate has lent the Sirdaria at Gezira, and next week it will be opened up as a convalescent home for officers. The example given by Cairo residents has now been followed by Alexandrines, many of whom have placed empty houses at the disposal of convalescent officers and men or have taken one or more of them into their own homes as guests.

Anglo-Egypt and the Australasians.

An unfortunate correspondence has been in progress in a section of the local British Press on the subject of Anglo-Egypt's duty to the wounded, in the course of which the community in Cairo is accused of lack of sympathy and the British matron is somewhat severely taken to task for not doing more to extend hospitality to the wounded, especially to the Australasians. No more groundless and unfair accusations could be made than these; for since the outset of the war the Anglo-Egyptian community has valiantly done its duty by the Empire in general and by those of its defenders who happened to be stationed in its midst in particular. The writers of these letters, who are Australian soldiers and officers, evidently fail to grasp the situation. They overlook the fact that the English population of Cairo is barely 5,000 souls, a large proportion of whom are not in a position to entertain, nor to do more than subscribe a small sum every month or so to one of the Imperial or local funds. There are nigh as many wounded in Cairo as there are British residents, and the British matron forms but a small fraction of the latter. She is doing her duty nobly by assisting in the numerous hospitals, either by nursing or by otherwise assisting and entertaining the men. Most of the English women are doing the former; and it is no idle boast to say that without the help of the voluntary workers the hospitals would have been in a very sorry state. The men, too, are doing their share; there are monthly contributions to Imperial funds—the lists tell their town tale—whilst there is not a man who does not send cigarettes, papers, and other comforts to the wounded, and who does not spend part of his free afternoons chatting with them. After all, you cannot have your cake and eat your cake. The women folk cannot nurse the best part of the day and provide home-made comforts for the wounded, entertain strangers, albeit fellow-Britishers, at their homes; the men, most of whose incomes are limited, cannot spend beyond a certain portion thereof in subscriptions to war funds or in gifts to the wounded; nor can they devote very much more time to visiting hospitals, seeing that most of them in this period of stress have to work in the afternoons as well as the mornings. Ever since the Expeditionary Forces first came to Egypt the Anglo-Egyptian colony has striven hard to do them honour; that it has not been able to pay them more individual attention is due to no lack of sympathy or want of will—in the circumstances it is as impossible for the colony to care for or put up each of the many thousand wounded who are now here as it was for it to entertain to afternoon tea or supper each of the 40,000 Australasians who were sent here last autumn. All things in this world are relative, after all, and in so far as its size and means are concerned the Anglo-Egyptian colony has more than lived up to its time-old reputation for generosity and patriotism. It is in these circumstances all the more regrettable that this attack should have been made on the Cairo colony.

The Italian Mobilization.

The Italian mobilization has been proceeding apace, and the reservists have displayed the greatest eagerness to rejoin the colours. Each departure has been the scene of wild enthusiasm, in which the French and Belgians still living in this country have freely joined. All the commercial establishments in which Italian reservists have been employed have agreed to pay them half- or whole-salary whilst they are away, and have undertaken to keep their posts open for them until after the war.

In contrast with the feeling of rejoicing in the Italian colony, the Greeks are displaying marked despondency. They freely admit that Italy has now acquired the position *vis-à-vis* the Entente that their country should have had if it had followed the lead given it by M. Venizelos; and, loyal as they may be to the Monarchy, they cannot forgive their King for his interference. Greek conscripts on leave in Egypt and semi-trained reservists have been warned to return at once, which may be regarded as a significant sign. But Greek intervention is, the local colony declares, too late to-day to benefit the nation and enable it to realise its aspirations.

Enemy Subjects and Institutions.

More stringent measures are being taken with regard to the German and Austrian subjects, protected and natural-born, who are still in Egypt, and most of them are, I understand, about to be interned. The latest action on the part of the military authorities is the appointment of a controller to the Egyptian branches of Mayer and Co. and of Stein and Co. The former is an Austrian firm, with head office in Vienna. So was the latter until a year or so ago, when it was turned into an English liability company in London, under the style of Stein's Oriental Stores, Limited. As a controller has been appointed to it, it is to be presumed that the military authorities have obtained evidence of what everyone suspected, viz., that the conversion into an English company was merely a blind, and that at bottom it was still an Austrian, and hence an enemy establishment.

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Curious Petitions to Legislative Assembly.

The spirit moved me last evening to read through the list of petitions presented to the Legislative Assembly during its last session. My labours were well rewarded, for I came across the following two treasures:—(1) A competent head should be appointed to the secret police, and he should be a German. (2) The assistants to this official should be German. These petitions, which came before the Assembly at one of its sittings in the early part of June, must have been submitted to it at the latest in May. Unfortunately, the name of the petitioner is not given, but no doubt the Ministry of the Interior, to which they were referred, made its inquiries on the outbreak of war, and took the necessary action. Nevertheless, one would dearly like to know the genesis of those petitions, who the petitioner was, and why he was so impressed with the superiority of German secret service methods. In view of the subsequent German attempts to stir up trouble in Egypt, these petitions are decidedly interesting. Even though they are no direct proof, they certainly afford an additional indirect indication that already, several months before war was declared, the Wilhelmstrasse was preparing the way for it by causing a pro-German propaganda to be preached in Egpyt.

CAIRO, June 14.

Care of the Dardanelles Wounded.

Things are very quiet out here at present. The summer is on us, and the seat of Government is now at Alexandria; but even at the latter port, where I spent a few days last week, there is absolutely nothing doing. The sole excitement seems to be the arrival of hospital ships, the delivery of the convoys of wounded at the hospitals, an occasional official opening of some new establishment or the periodical inspection of the hospitals and homes of some high personage. The fact is, that everyone's attention is taken up either by official work or attendance on the wounded and sick. Social amenities, even such as usually prevail in the summer, have gone by the board; there is far too much serious work on hand, and undoubtedly everyone is the better for having such work to occupy his or her mind.

Apropos of the question of accommodation for the wounded and sick, it is a pleasure to have to record that immediately the need of convalescent homes was notified, the Syrian community of Alexandria came forward with a request to be allowed to fit one of these homes up at its own expense. Its request was granted, a substantial sum was forthwith subscribed, and this week the home—an enemy house at Ramleh—was officially opened by Sir Henry McMahon. It is to be devoted exclusively to British officers, but other similar homes are being fitted up for the use of the rank and file, and will very soon be ready.

The Perquet and the Police.

In his report on the work of the Ministry of Justice, which I recently reviewed, Sir Malcolm McIlwraith referred to the lack of co-operation existing between the Parquet (Public Prosecutor's Office) and the police, and attributed thereto the great difficulty that has been experienced in repressing crime in this country. This lack of co-operation is undoubtedly due to the fact that whilst the Parquet is under the Ministry of Justice, the police work under the Ministry of the Interior; as a consequence, questions of jealousy and prestige arise to interfere with the smooth working of the crime repression system. I gather, however, that this matter, which has been the subject of much public and inter-departmental controversy in the past, is at present receiving very close attention, and that it will not be long before some scheme is devised for the amalgamation of these two mutually dependent departments under one supreme head. Very probably a special service will be created at the Ministry of the Interior, where the Department of Public Security is situated, and where, after all, the direction of all the services connected with crime detection and crime repression should logically be concentrated.

The Mails.

It is announced that henceforward mails will be regularly sent home and received viâ France. This is welcome news, but as a matter of fact we have been receiving our mails with comparative regularity ever since the war broke out, and except that we no longer get correspondence viâ Austria, there has been little in this respect to indicate that a war is on, and that the "Great Blockade of the British Isles" is in progress. It is perhaps not inopportune to draw attention to this fact. Those who, like ourselves, dwell at the outposts of the Empire are far better able than our fellow-countrymen at home to appreciate the value of a Navy, and in this connection the little change that has in reality taken place in our postal communications with the Mother Country is an indisputable tribute to the great work that has been and is still being so silently done by our fleets.

But while the comparative regularity with which the mails have been kept up is a matter of satisfaction, it is not so with the delivery of individual correspondence. Complaints are continually being made that ordinary letters from or to Egypt simply do not arrive at their destination. Whether this is due to the Censor or to shortness of staff in the post offices at home it is not possible to say, but the fact remains that unless one registers one's letters nowadays, it is not possible to make sure that they will ever reach their destination, even though the address be fully and clearly written and the contents be most carefully compiled, so as not to offend the eye of any censorial individual.

Death of the Doyen of the Egyptian Bar.

One by one the links with the old historic days are being severed; one by one the figures of interest are disappearing. The latest to go the way of all flesh is Mr. Carton de Wiart, who, after a long period of ill-health, died on Wednesday at his residence here. Léon Carton de Wiart, or "Carton," as he was affectionately called by his colleagues and friends, was one of the best-known, as he was one of the most respected, of the small band of men whose names have been associated with Egypt since the start of the British Occupation. He came here in 1883 to fill a position on the Bench, but changed his mind and joined the Egyptian Bar, at which he remained up to the last, being for many years its *bâtonnier* in Cairo. Sound in judgment, keen and versatile in debate, brilliant in eloquence, and above all endowed with consummate tact and a fascinating personality, he very soon attained prominence amongst his colleagues and popularity amongst the general public, Egyptian as well as European. Not a *cause célèbre*, political, financial, or social, but he was briefed by one of the parties; and the day when it was known that Me. Carton would speak invariably found the Court as packed with all that Egypt could boast of rank and intelligence, as the day previous it had been deserted by the public. He was rightly regarded as one of the greatest lawyers this country has seen, and his "plaidoiries" and "conclusions" constitute the most cherished legacy of his colleagues, many of whom were indebted to him in their early years for advice and encouragement, and were, in fact, fledgelings of the "Cabinet Carton."

But Me. Carton was not only remarkable for his unique position as a lawyer; in addition he became, as an inevitable result of his personal character, the guide, philosopher and friend of every man of note in or connected with Egypt, from the Sovereign downwards. He was made the repository of the confidences of every statesman. In this respect he might be called the "Sir George Lewis" of Egypt. A proof of the unbounded trust that was reposed in him, and of the general regard for his ability, is to be found in the fact that although he was the intimate friend and adviser of Lord Cromer, yet even when tension between Abbas Hilmi and the great pro-Consul was greatest, he still remained *persona grata* at the Palace. Amid all his preoccupations, however, Me. Carton managed to find time to attend to social duties, nor did he ever refuse, on the plea of pressure of work, to receive those the object of whose visit was not in the nature of obtaining professional advice, or to assist by his knowledge and experience those who appealed to him for information. Egypt, in every way, suffers a great loss by the death of Me. Leon Carton de Wiart, and the composition of the great crowd of mourners that attended his funeral on Thursday was eloquent of the position he had attained in the affection and regard of all elements of the population.

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CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Cyprus, June 4.

Mt. Troodos as a Sanaterium.

The troops, a detachment of the Malta Regiment, will not move to Mount Troödos, the summer quarters since 1879. Wounded soldiers and invalids will, as anticipated, be sent there. According to present arrangements 500 are expected, and should arrive at the rate of 100 a week. Mount Troödos is an ideal resting place for convalescents, as has been proved on former occasions, during the Egyptian campaigns. The possession of this splendid sanatorium is one of the advantages which Cyprus possesses.

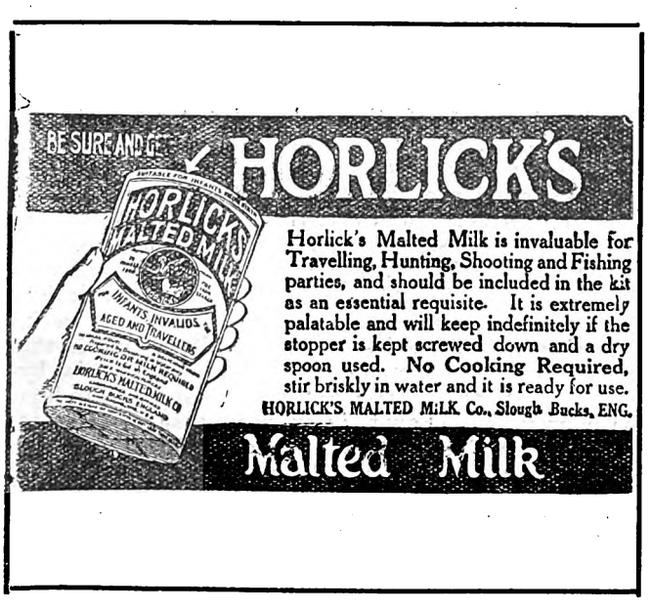
The number of buildings and of iron huts is, however, very limited, and in view of the demands of this year, many civilians will probably be unable to go to these pleasant quarters. Camping under canvas is an agreeable alternative for those who possess, or can hire, tents. The season lasts up to the end of September. All that is necessary is to avoid the risk of chills towards evening particularly. Towards the end of September the weather is liable to break, and to bring rain and mists. But all who can remain in the hills up to the middle of October should do so. A really ideal climate can be obtained in Cyprus all the year round by spending time at various altitudes, but for this it is advisable to camp out in the intermediate stages. The troops generally march up, and also down, in three days. In the winter camp at Polemidia, about three miles from Limassol, they enjoy again an excellent climate.

Visitors from Egypt.

It was expected that a large number of visitors from Egypt would spend their summer holidays in Cyprus, being practically cut off from many European resorts; and some have already arrived. Many of the visitors seek the hospitality of Platres, a picturesque village, which was till lately the terminus of the carriage road to Troödos, about five miles short of the camp. Here a great many houses and a few hotels have sprung up for the accommodation of the summer tourists. Weather has been favourable, but the foretaste of coming heat has been already felt.

The Legislative Council was summoned for a brief sitting, under the presidency of the High Commissioner, on May 28, principally in order to pass estimates chargeable to surplus balances. As Sir John Clauson stated in his opening speech to the Council, there are few, if any, legislative measures which it is necessary or desirable to submit at the present time.

The Greek papers are largely filled with news relating to Greece and the King's health.



SUDAN CIVIL SERVICE.

OFFICIALS' MOVEMENTS.

(From a Correspondent.)

Three members of the Gordon College Higher School—Mr. G. E. Hunt, Mr. S. Hillelson, lecturers, and Mr. N. Field, tutor—have gone on leave owing to poor health. Messrs. Hillelson and Field return to duty some time this month, but Mr. Hunt is not expected at Khartoum before the last days of July. Mr. G. E. Hunt, Assoc.M.Inst.C.E., has contributed many useful papers upon problems connected with the tropics, and he is considered a sound authority upon such subjects as water supply, sanitation, irrigation, town buildings, and drainage. Mr. Hunt is now the Senior Lecturer at the Gordon College, and under his able management and advice a considerable amount of work has been done at the Khartoum North Central Research Farm for extensions of the irrigation system and provision of additional laboratories and housing accommodation.

In the Education Department, Mr. N. R. Udel, Inspector, has been compelled to seek a change of scene and climate, but will report for duty at the end of this month (June).

Another valued Government official who, on account of ill-health, has been released from further work for several months is Dr. William Beam, the skilled and indefatigable Research Chemist attached to the Wellcome Tropical Research Laboratories at the Gordon College. Dr. Beam has given his services to the Government since the month of September, 1904, and is considered both in the Sudan and far beyond it as one of the greatest living authorities upon poisonous plants and tropical diseases. Among other valuable discoveries that he has succeeded in bringing to light has been a colour test for the detection of hashish—a most useful discovery, the value of which has been confirmed by Professor Schmidt and Mr. Lucas in Cairo. Dr. Beam, moreover, has been concerned in all kinds of analytical and advisory work, the outcome of questions brought before the Central Economic Board. Those who have come across some of the interesting reports of the Wellcome Tropical Research Laboratories may remember the extremely able papers contributed from time to time by Dr. Beam, especially those in reference to the Khartoum water supply, the Sobat River waters, mechanical analysis of arid soils, the soils of the Gezira Desert, gypsum as a fertilizer of Sudan soils, and upon practically all phases of the question affecting gum cultivation. Dr. Beam is expected to return to Khartoum about the end of September next.

The Finance Department is working rather short-handed at present, the Financial Secretary, Colonel E. E. Barnard, C.M.G., having left Khartoum for Egypt, and both Mr. J. Morris and Mr. A. J. Forster, inspectors, being absent upon medical grounds. The first of the two last-named officials is expected to return to duty at the end of this month (June), and Mr. Forster's leave expires towards the middle of July. Both are old and valued members of the Malisudan, Mr. Morris having been in the Government service since the end of 1905, while Mr. Forster reckons his entrance since 1908.

Mr. H. St. G. Peacock, one of the judges of the High Court, and now one of the members of the new Court of Appeal, has been granted leave of absence until the end of July owing to slight indisposition. Mr. Peacock has seen nearly twelve years' service in the Sudan, and has earned for himself the reputation of a patient and painstaking judge, whose chief experience has been in connection with land registration. It was Mr. Peacock who was entrusted, several years ago (1906) with the settlement of the land question in the Blue Nile Province, while his brother judges were distributed—Mr. Sterry, Mr. Fleming, and Mr. Williamson in Khartoum, and Mr. Morgan (now dead) at Suakin.

The Railways Department, which, owing to the falling-off in the general transportation business of the country—especially between Atbara and Port Sudan—has latterly experienced a comparatively slack time, has four of its staff on leave at present, the two district engineers, Messrs. J. C. Walker and H. V. Hawkins; Mr. G. E. Mason, assistant (indoor) mechanical engineer; and Mr. S. B. Cooper, Superintendent of Stores.

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BULGARIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Sofia, June 8.

Strained Relations with Turkey.

Relations between this country and Turkey are becoming very strained. In spite of the Porte's promise to allow free passage of Bulgarian railway traffic with Dedeagatch and not to molest Bulgarian passengers on this line, the military authorities at Adrianople continue to stop and search Bulgarian goods waggons en route to and from Dedeagatch. Last week, again, several waggons laden with goods coming from Dedeagatch, and bound for Old Bulgaria, were stopped at the frontier station at Chermen. The military authorities from Adrianople detained the train forcibly, opened the goods waggons, tore off coverings, and took out goods—of which a great part were stolen—and arrested some of the Bulgarian passengers. Owing to this latest outrage, the Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Radoslavoff, despatched a strong Note to the Turkish Government, protesting energetically against the outrage, and demanding the surrender of the Kara-Agatch-Dedeagatch line. If the Turks do not voluntarily yield up the line, Dr. Radoslavoff is, I understand, resolved to take possession of it by force of arms.

In view of this situation, the Bulgarian Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople has been instructed to advise the Bulgarian students at Robert College and the American College for Girls to leave for Bulgaria without waiting for the end of the collegiate year—*i.e*, the beginning of July; and many of them, if not all, actually arrived here last Sunday.

Meanwhile much unrest prevails amongst the Turkish population at Gumuljina. There is quite an army of Young Turk emissaries in both the town and the district, inciting the Moslem population to revolt in case Bulgaria declares for the Entente. The Government here has taken the necessary measures in the district of Kirdjali for the suppression of any revolt that may break out.

Last Sunday the election of a Chief Mufti for Bulgaria took place. The Young Turks' agents distributed a great deal of money in order to secure the return of the Young Turkish candidate, Mastanli Effendi; and even the Turkish deputies of the Bulgarian Parliament agitated openly for his return. One of them, speaking at a great meeting of Turks of the district, said: "Dear fellow-citizens, if you wish in two months to be under the rule of the Sultan, vote for Mastanli Effendi." And, in fact, the latter was elected by a large majority.

Bulgaria and the Powers.

Although more than a week has elapsed since the representatives of the four Entente Powers handed to the Bulgarian Prime Minister a Note specifying the compensation they were prepared to guarantee to Bulgaria if she would join the Entente and co-operate with her army for the capture of Constantinople, Bulgaria has not yet given her reply to their proposals. She has merely asked for explanations regarding certain points in the proposals, and in the meantime Dr. Radoslavoff has opened up consultation with the Opposition parties. Thus far he has heard only the views of the leaders of the Agrarian Parliamentary group. They are in favour of summoning the Sobranje in special session, and recommend a reconstruction of the Cabinet on the basis of a Coalition, and that the new Cabinet should negotiate with the Entente Powers and reply to their proposals. The Government and Opposition are unanimous in holding that the proposals of the Entente should not be rejected, and that they should serve as a basis for negotiations and a final settlement.

It should be noted that the harvest began last week. In the new lands and in Thrace the barley is being reaped, and the fields are immediately sown with maize. By the end of July the whole harvesting operations will be over, and there will then be nothing more to hinder Bulgaria from taking action, if favourable terms are offered to her.

Sofia Municipality.

The newly elected municipal council of Sofia assembled yesterday and proceeded to the election of a Kmet (mayor) and three vice-kmets. M. Radi V. Radeff, a prominent Radoslavist, was chosen as Mayor, and M. Spiroff (Radoslavist), Dr. Petcoff (Stambolovist), and M. Jelezkoff (a Radical) as vice-kmets. The election was submitted to the Ministry of the Interior for sanction, which was granted, and a ukase of its legalisation has been submitted to the King for his signature.

First Bulgarian Motor-boat.

Last Sunday afternoon, in the presence of an immense crowd, the first motor-boat of Bulgarian design and construction was launched at Widin. This boat will maintain a regular passenger service between Widin and Lom.

MONTENEGRO AND ALBANIA.

Sir J. Roper Parkington, Consul-General for Montenegro, has received (June 19) the following official telegram from Cettinje:—

According to information received from Scutari, the people resident in that town, and also in the immediate neighbourhood, have cordially received the news that Montenegrin troops have occupied certain positions on the Albanian frontier. The adherents of all three religions, Catholic, Greek Church, and Moslem, have united in welcoming our troops as a guarantee of order and protection against marauding bands. The authorities of the leading Balkan States have expressed their great regret that our transports have so frequently been pillaged at the direct instigation of Austro-Hungarian agents and the Young Turks faction. The better class Albanians are well aware of the sacrifices we have made, and manifest most friendly sentiments towards our Sovereign and his army, and are in complete sympathy with our cause and aspirations.

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SERBIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Nish, June 12.

Serbia and Italy.

The Serbo-Italian question has entered upon a new phase. A short time ago there was great agitation in the Serbian Press, and public meetings were held throughout the country with the object of drawing the attention of the Triple Entente Powers to Serbian claims on Dalmatia and Serbia's needs on the Adriatic coast, and of appealing to Italy's sense of justice in dealing with Serbian interests. The long Italian negotiations with that country's former allies and with the Triple Entente inspired a dread here lest all would not end well for Serbian interests both in Dalmatia and in Albania.

It seems, however, according to M. Sazonoff's declarations, that Serbia's fears with respect to Dalmatia were somewhat unfounded, and it is now said that Italy is desirous of dealing generously with Serbia, and will agree to the important port Spalato coming into the possession of this country.

The possession of this port for the purposes of trade with Bosnia, independent of facilities for trade beyond the seas with Serbia proper, is very great, one might almost say of incalculable importance.

The Albanian Problem.

As regards Albania, the anarchy in that country, the incursions of certain Albanian bands into Serbian territory, the threatened complications caused by Turkish and Austrian agitators, and the appeals for help from those in distress in Albania, roused fears and misgivings in this country; and it became evident to her statesmen that some action was needed to ensure peace and security. Essad Pasha, in whom Serbian statesmen place great confidence, appeared to be unable to cope with the revolutions fomented by Austrian agitators. Italy, too, had taken the bull by the horns and landed troops at Valona. The Greek occupation in Epirus was being steadily extended. Serbia, who at one time had fought her way to the Adriatic shores, had, at the bidding of the Great Powers (who acted on the instigation of Austria) withdrawn her troops from Albania; and now Austria seeks to create complications in Albania to the detriment of that country's and Serbia's interests!

What is Serbia to do? Should she remain quiet, with folded arms, deaf to all cries, and await threatened evils arising out of Austrian and Turkish machinations, or should she risk rousing the susceptibilities of the friendly Allies who might misconstrue her action?

It is said that possession is nine points of the law; but Serbian authorities declare that their action has but a temporary aim, and that the destiny of Albania will be finally and definitely settled at the great European Congress which will take place at the conclusion of this war. It is, they assert, acting on this conviction, and in order to ensure the security of Serbia's frontiers and obtain tranquility and peace, that the Serbian Army has advanced into Albania with the intention of occupying certain positions during the duration of the war and thereafter confidently awaiting Europe's decision.

A Serbian Proclamation.

The Serbian expedition has been hitherto rapid and successful, the Albanian tribes favourable to Serbia, and also the people of Serbian nationality dwelling in Albania, joining the Serbian standard. The military commanders of this expedition into Albania issued a proclamation to the Albanian nation informing them that the Serbian Army had come as friends, not as foes. The chief parts of the text translated into English are as follows:—

Albanians, hear our advice! We Serbians and Albanians are neighbours having intercourse with each other for more than 130 years. More than 800 years you lived under our Monarchy, under our reign, and then came the Turks, who conquered your country and ours. Many Albanians and Serbians subsequently changed their religion, but we will not speak of that; let bygones be bygones. Now, the time is come when the Turks will be driven back to where they came from five hundred years ago.

Against injustice and brutal force Great Britain, France, Russia, and Italy have taken up arms, and with them Serbia and Belgium, and shortly other States also will join. You cannot rescue Turkey, nor can Austria, because the whole of Europe is against both these States.

Let your care be for your home and your country! Unite together and with us, and let our aim be to effect a lasting peace on our frontiers!

We are not opposed to Albania, we are not fighting against your interests, we are opposing only those strangers who are agitating in Turkish and Austrian interests. Your destiny does not lie in our hands, it lies in the hands of Europe.

You drove away the Prince of Wied because he was no Albanian and because he did not understand your people. Now you are revolting against true Albanians, against Essad Pasha, who knows your people, because he is an Albanian, and who desires to keep Albania for you all.

When we have caught and punished all insurgents opposed to Essad Pasha we intend to retire from Albania, and will leave the control and government of the country in the hands of Albania's son, Essad Pasha, who desires to live in peace and tranquillity with your neighbouring countries.

We bring peace and love to all who are with us, and against those who are opposed to us we draw the sword!

Be wise and devoted to your country and people, and do not listen to agitators deputed from Constantinople and Vienna.

Austrian Aeroplanes.

As yet the only action taken by the enemy has been an attack by means of aeroplanes. The principal movement was directed against Kragujevatz, where stands the Government arsenal and arms and ammunition factory. The day before yesterday, at six in the morning, an Austrian aeroplane flew over the town and threw out several bombs, but, so far as is known, without doing any damage to Government property. Nor does it appear that any private property suffered, but two persons were killed and four were wounded.

On the previous day between 5 and 6 a.m. an Austrian aeroplane flew over Pozharevatz. The aviators threw nine bombs, of which three fell on the penitentiary establishment and one on a flour mill, several men and women being wounded. The damage done is estimated at 20,000 frs.

On the same day a German aeroplane was observed near Egri Palanka (Kriva Palanka), and was brought down by the shots of the frontier guards. A lieutenant and a sergeant-major were made prisoners and sent on to Uskub. Certain documents were found on them.

THE COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE OFFICE OF EGYPT,
23, Sharia Soliman Pasha, Cairo.
Commercial Information supplied by arrangement to British Firms dealing with Egypt and the Near East. Correspondence invited.
F. W. CUMING & CO., Ltd.,
General Managers.

SERBIAN ART AND CULTURE.

M. Chedomille Miyatovich, speaking at a drawing-room meeting of the Scottish Women's Hospitals Committee, held, by the courtesy of Lord and Lady Glenconner, at 34, Queen Anne's Gate, on Monday last, said that the Serbs belonged to the great family of Slav nations, but in their case the Slavonic blood had been mixed with that of Latins, Greeks, Albanians, and Celtic invaders of the Balkan Peninsula, whom the Serbs had found on their arrival in the country in the beginning of the seventh century. They were a very brave people. From the middle of the fourteenth to the middle of the fifteenth century they had kept the Turks at bay, and so for a hundred years had prevented them spreading over Europe. To-day Serbia was the barrier against the endeavour to spread the Austro-German power as far as the Ægean Sea, thus threatening Egypt, the Suez Canal, and India. But the Serbs were not only brave—they were a musical, poetical, and artistic people, capable of the highest culture. They were ambitious to be admitted into the comity of civilized nations, and to contibute something on their own part to the general progress of the world. So long as Serbia was a Turkish province there were no schools except those attached to a few monasteries, and consequently little opportunity for intellectual development; but in Dalmatia people of the Serb race had been early brought into contact with Italian culture, and had eagerly absorbed it. Some great artists of the Middle Ages generally counted as Italian were really Serbian. Bramante, the builder of St. Peter's, was a pupil of Julius Lovranic (otherwise Giulio Lovrano), a Serbian, born in Sibenico, in Dalmatia. Schiavone, the intimate friend of Titian, was also a Serb, born in Dalmatia; his real name was Andrea Medulich. Ivan Drinkovich, another Serb from Dalmatia, had contributed some of the finest sculpture and statuary to Dalmatia; he had been known by the name of Giovanni Dalmata. There was, in fact, a long list of Serbs who had obtained fame as painters and sculptors in Italy and France. In the field of science Roger Boshkovich, a famous mathematician, astronomer, and philosopher, was born in Ragusa, his parents being from Trebinje, in the Herzegovina; and in our own days we had Nicola Tesla, one of the world's greatest electrical engineers, perhaps second only to Edison. Tesla was a Serb from Hungary; his uncle was Archbishop of Bosnia. Finally, there was Ivan Meshtrovich, a great sculptor and artist, now exhibiting at South Kensington.

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NEWS OF SYRIA.

(From a Correspondent.)

Cairo, June 14.

The State of Beyrout.

Now that the initial acute phase of the war, with its attendant evils of conscription, requisition, and commandeering, has passed away, Syria may be said to have relapsed into a comparatively tranquil state. The determination of the Allies to strike at the heart of the capital may be in great measure responsible for the easing off of the situation in Syria, which, in common with other distant provinces, has, for the moment, been thrust into the background. The forces in Syria have been hurried back to save the heart of the Empire, and only a garrison of from six to eight thousand is said to be left. Already the attack on the Canal seems to have been given up as a bad job. The German officers who served to inflame the worst instincts of the Turk have left—perhaps because Djemal Pasha is said to have strong Teutonic antipathies. It has even been rumoured that Enver and his Germanophile clique have ordered Djemal to proceed with his army to Constantinople, but that he has refused to do so, and has kept around him the pick of his troops. Sami Bekir Bey, Vali of Beyrout, is said to be equally anti-German, although he is *persona grata* with the Committee clique in power at Constantinople.

Both Djemal and Sami Bekir are men of large hearts, if not of impeccable judgment, and this is fortunate for the Syrians in general and the Beyroutines in particular. Sami Bekir Bey is the son of the Prince of the Circassians, and he has all the virtues and faults of the Circassian feudal lord. He is generous to the degree of extravagance, but, while capable of noble impulses, is, at the same time, liable to outbursts of anger which commit him to unexpected inconsistencies. His liberalism and modern social tastes have brought him into close intercourse with the Christians of Beyrout. His secretary and right-hand man, Habib Lutfallah Bey, a Syrian millionaire of Cairo, is reported to have been instrumental in alleviating considerably the sufferings of the Christians. It is said that, thanks to his tact, the French Convent of the Sœurs de Charité, now presided over by a Syrian lady, has escaped the persecution to which the other institutions of the Allies have been subjected. Lutfallah Bey's presidency of the Committee of National Defence has opened a still wider field for his humanitarian activities. The Vali himself is doubtless deserving of public gratitude for the able manner in which he is administering the affairs of his vilayet, and of its seaport especially.

Persons who have been allowed to leave Beyrout by special permission, and have recently arrived here by a circuitous route, go so far as to state that, apart from economic difficulties, Beyrout has never enjoyed such a measure of tranquillity and concord among the different elements comprising its population. A sort of kursaal, patronized by the Vali, imparts even a note of gaiety to the town. Then, thanks to American philanthropic munificence, an army of labourers, thrown out of employment by the war, is constantly at work repairing the roads, once famous for their dilapidated condition; and now that the Beyrout Water Company, which has always been at loggerheads with the Municipality, has passed under Government control, and the head of this Government wishes it, the roads are freely watered and regularly swept. Moreover, the transfer of the law courts to Damascus and the substitution for them of summary courts, presided over by justices of peace, has robbed the corrupt functionaries of the former of the occasion to exploit the weakness of possible litigants; and this, coupled with the excellent police and gendarmerie surveillance, for which the Vali's vigilance is largely responsible, has produced a condition of affairs constituting a happy change for Beyrout. This change has been accentuated by the opening up and widening of a street in the most crowded part of the old city, which creates an important artery, connecting the square with the Custom House. The expropriated buildings of the poor have been paid for in cash, while the rich proprietors have been paid in Treasury Bonds.

The Locust Plague.

The ravages of locusts seem to have been general and severe, embracing even the Lebanon, and this in spite of the grant of £T2,000 made by the Central Government to the Vilayet of Beyrout, and of the measures taken by the local authorities. The organization seems to have been made *à la turque*. The Vali is said to have ordered the organization of bands recruited from men between 42 and 45 years of age to fight the pest. The call was a general one, as for military service, and could only be avoided by the payment of an exoneration tax of £T44. Those who are not inured to physical labour and could not respond to the order had to pay the tax.

Moutran Pasha's Death.

According to reports just to hand, Michel Pasha Moutran has died in exile at Urfa. It will be remembered that the French Consular archives were ransacked, and, among the voluminous foreign correspondence, which is said to have compromised seriously many unsuspecting persons, especially in the Lebanon, some letters were found wherein Moutran Pasha is said to have made proposals to the French Government for the retrocession of that part of the Bekaa included in the original boundaries. Moutran Pasha was condemned to death by court martial; but, on the intervention of high personages, the sentence was commuted to penal servitude—not, however, till after he had been subjected to the most inhuman treatment, having been made to ride a donkey with his face towards its tail and a placard fixed to his breast bearing the words: "This is the traitor to his country." Thus, clad in his night-gown, he was dragged about the streets of Damascus on a bitterly cold day, while the mob, under official encouragement, indulged its fury against him. The Pasha was so overwhelmed that his death was actually reported at the time. His transfer to Urfa, with its more rigorous climate, and far from any care that near relatives could have afforded, was naturally calculated to bring about the final collapse.

Yet, but a few years ago, the Pasha's sister and brother, who had almost daily at their table Talaat, Djavid, Enver, and Djahid, had, at the risk of their very lives, hidden some of those gentry in their house, when they were being hunted by Kiamil's party on its accession to power. With such people, it seems, patriotism is above gratitude, and their patriotism manifests itself in strange ways.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Cotton Exports. June 17

In a written reply to a question put by Mr. Rawlinson, regarding the steps taken to prevent the importation of cotton into Germany, Dr. Addison states:—His Majesty's Government are already taking the following steps to prevent the importation of cotton into Germany. Its export from this country is prohibited to all foreign ports in Europe and on the Mediterranean and Black Seas other than those of France, Russia (except Baltic ports), Belgium, Spain, and Portugal. No exports are, in fact, allowed to Belgium. All cotton from overseas suspected of possessing an enemy destination is brought in, and, where it is found that these suspicions are justified, the ship is required to discharge the cotton, and it is restored to the owner on such terms as the Prize Court may consider just.

Poison Gases in Gallipoli.

Mr. G. Greenwood asked the Under-Secretary of State for War whether all possible steps had been taken to provide the troops in the Gallipoli Peninsula with respirators and all other appliances to enable them successfully to resist attempts to poison them by means of noxious gases.

Mr. Tennant: Yes, sir.

Lieutenant-General Sir John Maxwell, Commander-in-Chief of the British Forces in Egypt, has (says Reuter's Cairo correspondent) proclaimed the prohibition of the sale of alcoholic liquors between ten o'clock at night and five in the morning in Cairo, Alexandria, in the Suez Canal region, or within five miles of any camp.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE RIGHT-HAND COUNTRY.*

Much of the fascination that the unknown exerts over nearly all of us still clings to Arabia and its people, and there are not wanting prophets to tell us that out of this land of mystery there may yet sweep a wave of conquest that will astonish the West. Those who have touched the fringe of "The Empty Quarter," who have seen a great camp of the Bedouin spring up in an hour or two where before nothing was, and a day later collapse and disappear, in a haze of heat and dust, into the spaciousness of the desert, who have mixed, if only for a short time, with the descendants of Ishmael or of Joctan, will probably be inclined to think that there may be something in such prophecies; while those who have met only the "town Arab" will be most ready to deride them. But anyone who has met the pure-blooded Arab must admit that he makes an interesting study. Mr. Bury, who knows him well, has studied him to good effect, as he showed us before in "The Land of Uz," and shows us again in this volume. It would be a valuable book at any time: just now, when we are all wondering what the future of the Turkish Empire is to be, and how the Turk and the Arab will regard one another at the end of the war, its value is enormously enhanced.

Some readers who now for the first time make acquaintance, so to say, with the Arabian Peninsula may be surprised to find that it is not all howling wilderness, one vast sandy plain, across which the Bedawi drives his flocks and herds in constant peril from sandstorms and his fellow-Bedouin. Naturally, the Yemen is extremely fertile, and its people, though not averse from indulging in "a certain liveliness" now and again, provided that there is a prospect of loot attaching to the fun, are chiefly agriculturists—and remarkably painstaking agriculturists to boot. Given a good government, that is to say, a strong government, and one that would afford the agriculturists assistance in making the most of it, especially by intelligent schemes of irrigation, the land would undoubtedly deserve once again its old title, Arabia Felix—even though, we may note, in passing, that title was originally bestowed upon it as the result of a misunderstanding of its Arabic name. As it is, one feels that Mr. Bury is not altogether unjustified in dubbing it Arabia Infelix.

Lack of space precludes us from following in detail the historical sketch contained in the first chapter, though it is full of interest; for here we are on debatable ground, and debate is impossible in the limits of this review. As to the early history, we may, however, note, in passing, that Mr. Bury identifies Eber, the father of Joctan, with Heber, the prophet, "or Hud, as the Arabs call him, who preached to the ancient Adites and warned them of divine vengeance," and that he also identifies Punt "with the Hadramaut valley, and not with any region on the western side of the Red Sea." The reasons for so specifically barring out the latter area might have been given. But at the present time we are, frankly, less interested in such questions than in what the author has to tell us regarding Turkish rule in the Yemen since the middle of the last century.

This rule is decidedly precarious. Such as it is, it has been maintained chiefly by a not unskilful playing-off of one ambitious local prince, or chief, against another, and a very deft handling of the locally recruited gendarmerie, which appears to have quite as bad a time as other similar bodies elsewhere in the Turkish Empire. But it is fair to add that Turkey has occasionally sent men of marked ability to assert its authority over the restless Arabs; and that the Turkish troops who have had the dangerous and much disliked task of upholding Ottoman prestige in this region have usually acquitted themselves with great gallantry. The situation to-day—or at the time Mr. Bury wrote; for what has gone on in the Yemen since then, who knows?—is a strange one. We find a Turkish Vali at Sanaa, but at Khamir, not far distant, there is the Imam (Yehya ibn Mohammed ibn Yehya ibn Hamid-ed-Din), who wields at least as much authority as the Vali, and enjoys far greater prestige than he; while further north is the Idrisi, who cares for neither Vali nor Imam, and has, as many readers of THE NEAR EAST will remember, proved a veritable thorn in the side of the Sublime Porte. The position of the Vali is not an enviable one. Stinted of funds by his government, he has to rely largely on tact in the administration of the province, and the difficulties of his position are further complicated by the fact that, as the result of an arrangement reached in 1913, "for the sake of peace between Moslems," civil and criminal law in the Yemen are "no longer based on the Turkish judicial code, or 'Kanun,' but on the old Islamic code, or 'Sheria,'" and that this code is "administered by nominees of the Imam, who draws a very substantial subsidy for himself and his vassal chiefs." In his turn, however, the Imam is not to be envied:—

> When Turkish neglect and contumely drove his father, Mohamed ibn Yehya, out of Sanaa, late last century, tribesmen rallied to him, as a persecuted leader of Islam, at Kafilet Adhar, on the eastern border of northern Yamen. . . .
>
> But now that the Turks, by a stroke of policy, have recognised him as Imam, and placed in his hands the supreme control and administration of the Islamic code, which is now the law throughout the Yamen, he is in a somewhat difficult position . . . he has now to play a double game, for he poses as an ascetic before the watchful eyes of his tribal *entourage*, and yet he must accept the support of Ottoman troops at Khamir.

The lot of the said Ottoman troops at Khamir, it may be added, is far from a happy one; and one can sympathise with the Turkish officer whose experiences are recorded on pages 156 and 157. Upon the whole, of "The Powers that Be" in the Yemen, Sheikh Idris—of whom, we are told, *inter alia*, that he is the "great-grandson of a Moor, a native of Fez," and that his "family seems to have travelled about a good deal and all went in for theology"—appears to be most worthy of respect. Having studied at Al Azhar, he returned to Asir in 1903, and though he "has had to use a good many stage tricks to hold the allegiance of the ignorant tribesmen on whom his power depends," he exerts real authority; "he is a man of affairs, and overland pilgrims declare that the roads in Asir are safer than in Turkish Yamen." Moreover, it is a significant fact that the Turks do not venture to interfere with Asiris, even in Hodeida, and that brigands treat them with marked respect.

Turkey, in Mr. Bury's opinion, would be well advised to abandon the attempt to hold, even nominally, the whole of the Yemen:—

> From a military point of view, a withdrawal to Menakha would be sound; that fortress town should then form the apex of a triangle, with its base on the coast, from Loheia to Mokha. Within that triangle the truculent tribes, at present out of hand, could be adequately dealt with. There is a strong Turkish position at Sheikh Said, and the country between there and Mokha could be easily safeguarded.
>
> A line from Mokha, through Taiz and Moawiya to Kataba, would not be difficult to hold, for all these points are already garrisoned and connected by feasible routes.
>
> The most fertile part of Yamen—the only part where taxes could be levied—would then be secured to Turkey. The rest of the vilayet could be left to stew in its own juice, thus freeing troops, at present frittered about in positions of doubtful strategical value, for the maintenance of order where such services are most required.

This advice is sound; but whether, at the end of this war, the Turks will be in a position to follow it, or whether they will not rather be compelled to abandon the Yemen entirely to the Yemenites, remains to be seen.

The difficulties of administering the province are complicated by the differences between Sunni and Shi'a. Central Yemen follows the Zeidi sect, but in the Tihama, or coastal region, the Sunni doctrine is paramount, and the Asiri, too, are Sunni. The tribesmen to the east, known collectively as Ahl-al-Mashrik, are also orthodox, but that fact has not always prevented their uniting with the Zeidis against the Sunnite Turk. The highlanders, it seems, are not, strictly speaking, fanatical, and take but little interest in politics as a rule—"but let the trend of politics touch their personal interests, and see how those working hives will swarm and sting."

The last chapter, "Current Events and a Forecast," is fascinating reading. Not being a German, the author did not foresee the war that is now upon us; but Arabian interests centre upon other matters than those over which the war is being fought, and though the fate of Turkey must certainly affect the fate of Yemen and of all Arabia, the politics of the peninsula will probably be changed less by it than by some lesser events at, shall we say, Nejd? What the author writes, therefore, retains its interest, and his views on the future of Arabia and the Arabs are worthy of careful consideration.

The book, however, is not given up to political questions. Far from it. It contains a remarkably vivid description of the country, its scenery, its people, and their way of living, and even of its birds and beasts. In fact, it was its birds that attracted Mr. Bury to the Yemen; for he is an ornithologist first and foremost, and his descriptions of his feathered friends—and, one must add, victims!—are amongst the best things in his book. The present reviewer was tempted to "skip" the chapter, "Birds and Beasts," but resisted the temptation, and was more than rewarded for his virtue. Here, for instance, is a delightful titbit from it referring to the hornbill:—

> A high-shouldered freak is he, with a huge black bill and sombre plumage; when he balances on his long tail, and opens that ungainly beak to sing, he looks like a dissipated undertaker.

And again, regarding lizards, we read:—

> They have the same uncanny gift [of changing colour] when stalking in the open or unwilling to court observation. It is very embarrassing to say, "Look at that bright blue lizard," and be asked, "What bright blue lizard?" You have never taken your eyes off the creature, and yet it has vanished. Such incidents require explaining.

The same sense of humour that flashes out in these

* "Arabia Infelix; or, The Turks in Yamen." By G. Wyman Bury (Macmillan and Co.)

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passages marks many of the author's descriptions of the human beings he met in his travels. To him the Turk and the Arab are fellow-men, to be treated as such, and dealt with with sympathy and the desire to understand their point of view, rather than to impose one's own. The result is that he can find a good word to say for both, though not blind to the faults of either; and we get a sane and trustworthy picture, instead of one that is all high-lights or deep shadows.

The scenery must be magnificent, though calculated to produce vertigo in the observer occasionally. Here is a typical bit, describing the panorama visible from Wasil, a station about half-way between Hodeida and Sanaa.

From the coffee-house at Wasil one can throw a stone into the Wadi Hejjan, where caravan donkeys look the size of mice, and sheer from the Hejjan, blocking out the northern sky, rises the gigantic scarp of Safaan. Along its upper heights are terraced fields and guardian towers, with here and there a village perched on some salient crag. So abrupt is that studendous slope that it looks as if an incautious husbandman might fall off his field, to crash into the Hejjan thousands of feet below.

Close at hand are the precipitous heights of Masar, that seem ready to fall on Wasil. It gives one a crick in the neck to count the coffee gardens up those outrageous steeps, while wondering if they are garnered with a derrick. . . . The long crests of the Lahab range lie across the southern sky, beyond nightmare gorges that drain into the Howeib.

Many of the illustrations—which are numerous and remarkably good—quite bear out the author's descriptions of the precipitous character of most of the country. The tall, fortress-like houses that figure in many of these photographs, and appear to be placed usually in the most inaccessible spot to be found, tell their own tale of the life the Arab has led in the past, and still leads to-day. The Yemen is no place for weaklings or idlers. But clearly it has a great deal of charm of its own; and clearly, too, as indicated above, it could be made extremely productive if only it were well governed and its people could see a prospect of reaping the reward of their labours if they cultivated more than they actually require for their own use. But to-day, with transport unsafe and costly, they have no incentive to put forth their best efforts. For them, as for the handful of foreign merchants on the coast, life is a struggle, indeed. Yet one wonders whether, in spite of all its drawbacks, the Yemen does quite deserve the sobriquet bestowed upon it by Mr. Bury. Which shows, at least, what a very interesting book he has written.

NEAR EAST BOOK NOTES.

Messrs. Constable and Co. have just published "Roumania and the Great War," by Dr. R. W. Seton-Watson. The price of the book is 2s. net.

Messrs. Stanford have issued No. 12 of their Series of War Maps: The Theatre of War in Western Asia Minor. We have not seen a copy, but understand that the sheet contains maps of Western Asia Minor, the Sea of Marmora, the Bosphorus, the Dardanelles, etc. The price is 3s.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

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

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

"THE FUTURE OF CYPRUS."

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—The remarks of Mr. George Houston in your issue of June 11 seem singularly misplaced at a moment when Greece is making her decision as to whether she will help the Entente Powers or remain neutral. Far from concurring in his opinion, I hold that now, more than ever, is the cession of Cyprus to Greece justifiable—and this on three grounds:—

(1) We are fighting this war in defence of the principle of nationality. If we retain possession of an island, the population of which is five-sixth Greek, we vitiate that principle and appear hypocrites in the sight of our enemies. The Mussulmans of Cyprus are but a small minority, and if they were dissatisfied with the change of ownership they could be expatriated, like the Mussulmans of Crete.

(2) Cyprus has never been a paying concern of ours. It has always cost more than it was financially worth. We have only built one railway, the Famagusta-Nicosia-Morphou line, and famines are frequent there. Its possession is not, like Malta, Gibraltar or Suez, a strategic necessity, and thus neither the interests of the Admiralty nor of the Exchequer would be affected by its loss.

(3) We are anxious for a reconstruction of the Balkan League against Germany, Austria, and Turkey. If Greece were to receive a disinterested compensation in the shape of Cyprus, she would be less loath to part with Kavalla to Bulgaria; and such a timely and generous gift would strengthen the hands of M. Venizelos and reduce the pro-German elements in Greece to silence.

Mr. Houston's suggestion that Russia and France should be allowed to dictate to us, as to whether we should give Cyprus to Greece or not, is, to my mind, without weight. Greece will never prove a dangerous rival either to France, Russia or ourselves. The character of her people is more prone to adventures of a commercial than of a chauvinistic nature. Mr. Houston's remarks about Queen Sophia, whose relations with her Imperial brother have never been very cordial, are out of place and quite unjustifiable. Besides, the gift of Cyprus might incline the Italians to behave in a similarly generous manner about the Dodekanese.

Such a suggestion, needless to say, would only be conditional on the simultaneous entry of Greece and Bulgaria into the war as our Allies.—I am, etc.,

KENNETH H. LEDWARD.

37, Clifton Hill, St. John's Wood, N.W.
June 22, 1915.

THE SOUTHERN, OR JUGO-SLAVS.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—On Wednesday week a large number of Southern Slavs met informally at the Hotel Cecil to discuss the future of their unhappy country. Readers of THE NEAR EAST are aware that this outlying fragment of the great Slavonic race owns very different allegiance. It includes 5,000,000 Serbians, 500,000 Montenegrins, and 6,500,000 unwilling subjects of Austria-Hungary. Two questions relating to the forthcoming resettlement of Europe were eagerly debated on June 16:—(1) Shall Southern Slavs form a Confederacy or a single State? and (2) What claims has Italy on the Adriatic littoral? As to the first point, there was virtually a consensus of opinion that Confederacy would spell weakness and liability to Austro-Hungarian intrigues. It seems far preferable to weld the Hapsburgs' southern possessions, Serbia, and Montenegro into a State numbering 12,000,000 citizens, with complete local autonomy for each unit. Thus, and thus only, will that new political organism be strong enough to preserve its independence. By reason of their brilliant endowments and past history, the Serbians are clearly entitled to hegemony. Such a State would, in fact, be a German Empire in miniature linked by racial ties, and inspired by a far nobler civilisation. The second question must also be solved on a racial basis. No Southern Slav would deprive Italy of the western half of Istria and Pola; but all are agreed that, access to the sea being the life-blood of a modern State, the remainder of the Adriatic coast must fall to the new creation. It should be remembered that while the culture of the population inhabiting this long strip of territory is Italian, they are racially Slavs.

Some apprehension was expressed on Wednesday week regarding an alleged secret convention between the Entente Powers and Italy, as a preliminary to her entering the fray on their side. How have Southern Slavs fared in negotiations to which they were not a party? It seems to me that a frank disclosure of policy is essential at this crisis. If, as we all hope, full justice has been done to Southern Slav aspirations, Serbia and Montenegro will fight with tenfold ardour, while subjects of Austria-Hungary will be encouraged to throw off a hated yoke. Lastly, a strong Southern Slav State in alliance with Italy would help her to preserve Trieste from falling once more into the clutches of the Central Powers.—I am, etc.,

June 22, 1915. F. H. S.

"Rattlin' good game, old man. What?"

"Yes! An' a rattlin' good wind-up with a 'burra' peg of Perfection."

"I thought you'd like it. It's the only whisky I've drunk since I've been out. Jove, man! It's the finest spirit ever bottled. Never reminds you that you've got a liver, and it's always as welcome as promotion. I'd sooner a peg o' Perfection than a case of any other."

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1915. June	1915. June		1338. Shaaban	5675. Tamuz
25	12	Friday	12	13
26	13	Saturday.....	13	14
27	14	Sunday	14	15
28	15	Monday	15	16
29	16	Tuesday	16	17
30	17	Wednesday	17	18
July 1	18	Thursday	18	19

To-day is the birthday of H.R.H. Prince George of Greece, who was born at Corfu in 1869.

To-morrow is the birthday of Princess Sophia, the fourth daughter of Prince Andrew of Greece, who was born in 1914.

Wednesday is the birthday of H.R.H. Prince Danilo-Alexander, Crown Prince of Montenegro, who was born at Cettinje in 1871.

Yesterday was Lord Kitchener's birthday.

Prince S. Cantacuzene has arrived in London from Roumania.

The Earl and Countess of Meath have received a telegram of sympathy from the King and Queen on the death of their son, the Hon. Ernest Brabazon.

On Monday Sir Walter Townley, H.M. Ambassador at Teheran, who is now in England, had audience of the King at Buckingham Palace.

Baron Uxkull, Secretary to the Russian Embassy, was expected to leave London yesterday for the Legation in Athens, whither he has been transferred.

M. Vesnitch, Serbian Minister in Paris, arrived in London on Wednesday evening.

M. Kriezis, the newly appointed Naval Attaché to the Greek Legation in London, has arrived and entered upon his duties.

Lieutenant Herbert Asquith, who is home from the Dardanelles wounded, is not seriously hurt. He was hit in the face by a fragment of shell. Lieutenant Arthur Asquith, who was wounded in the leg some weeks ago, is doing well, and will shortly be on active service again.

Mrs. Webb-Bowen returns thanks for the many kind letters of sympathy sent to her, but she regrets that she will not be able to answer them all individually for some time.

Dr. Purves Stewart, having been appointed Consulting Physician to his Majesty's Forces in the Mediterranean, has gone abroad on active service.

Major and Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Wood, 5th Fusiliers, second son of Field Marshal Sir Evelyn Wood, V.C., G.C.B., was married on Saturday to Miss Olive Mary de Bathe Miles, at the Church of the Assumption, Warwick Street, Regent Street. Owing to the war no invitations were issued and no reception was held.

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The engagement is announced between Hubert Constantine Smith, Second Lieutenant, the Manchester Regiment, younger son of Sir Frederick H. Smith, Bt., J.P., and Lady Smith, of Queen's Lodge, Colwyn Bay, and Dorothy Edith Penelope, only daughter of Brigadier-General F. J. Kempster, D.S.O., and Mrs. Kempster, of 1, Sheen Gate Gardens, East Sheen, S.W.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place very quietly the first week in July, between Oliver Francis Haynes Atkey, Sudan Medical Department, and Dulcibella, daughter of the late Philip H. Clifford and Mrs. Clifford, of 2, Lurgan Mansions, Sloane Square, and granddaughter of the late Captain Herbert Wodehouse.

The health of Dr. Granville, Director-General of the Alexandria Municipality, who has been undergoing a course of treatment at Harrogate, is now satisfactory.

Madame Pashitch, wife of the Serbian Prime Minister, who came to England accompanied by her daughter, in order to acquaint herself more fully with the organizations for meeting emergencies that have arisen or may arise through the war, prolonged her stay in order to be present at the opening of the exhibition of the works of Ivan Mestrovitch, the Serbian sculptor, at South Kensington Museum.

Lord Ranksborough, whose appointment as lord-in-waiting was recently announced, saw service in the Egyptian War, 1882, and Nile Expedition, 1884-5. For his services on the former occasion he was awarded the medal with clasp, and on the latter occasion, when he was mentioned in despatches, he was breveted major. He was created a baron last year, and his family name is Brocklehurst.

Dr. Cyril H. Goodman has been appointed Assistant Director-General of the Public Health Department, Egyptian Government.

General Sir George W. A. Higginson, who entered on his ninetieth year on Monday, took part in the Crimean war. He served for thirty years in the Grenadier Guards, and afterwards commanded the Brigade of Guards.

Colonel George Philips has died at Clevedon, in his eighty-second year. He entered the Royal Engineers in 1850, and served in the Crimean campaign of 1854-5, taking part in the battle of Inkerman and siege of Sebastopol. He was mentioned in despatches, and received the medal with two clasps, the Turkish medal, and the 5th class of the Medjidia. He reached the rank of colonel in 1885, and retired in 1891.

Another Crimean veteran has passed away, Lieutenant-Colonel William Henry Moffatt having died on Monday at the age of eighty-one. He was gazetted sixty years ago in the 19th Yorkshire Regiment (now the Alexandra Princess of Wales's Own), with which he served in the latter part of the Crimean campaign, being awarded the Crimean and Turkish medals. Colonel Moffatt afterwards saw much service in India.

Brigadier-General Harold Bridgwood Walker, D.S.O., who is reported wounded from the Dardanelles, was born in 1862 and entered the Regular Army from the Militia in 1884. In the same year and the year following he served with the Sudan Expedition, and later was attached to the Mounted Infantry Frontier Field Force, and for his services on the Nile he received the medal and clasp and the bronze star. General Walker has also seen service in the Tirah and South Africa. He was general staff officer of the first grade in India when war broke out.

Major Ivon D'Esterre Roberts, Royal Field Artillery, who was employed with the Egyptian Army in 1913, is reported killed in action.

Major Richard Percy Lewis, Devonshire Regiment, who is reported wounded at the Dardanelles, entered the Regular Army after serving with the City Imperial Volunteers in the Boer War. Subsequently he was attached to the Egyptian Army.

Captain R. C. P. Blyth, 1st Gloucestershire Regiment, who, as announced in these columns last week, was killed in action at the Dardanelles, was attached to the Royal Fusiliers at the time he met his death. It is interesting to recall that his great-grandfather served in the 28th Regiment, now the 1st Gloucestershires, under Sir Ralph Abercrombie in Egypt and in the Peninsula campaign.

Mr. Charles Baehler has arrived at the Château Neu Habsburg, Switzerland, from Cairo.

A memorial service for Major C. G. Massie Blomfield, 1st Battalion Royal Warwickshire Regiment, will be held at St. Mary Abbot's Church, Kensington, on Tuesday afternoon next, the 29th inst., at three o'clock.

The death is announced to have taken place at Alexandria, on the 20th inst., of Lieutenant Eric Alfred Wright, R.A.M.C., the only son of Dr. and Mrs. Wright, of Mountsorrel, Romford. Lieutenant Wright joined the London Scottish Battalion of the Territorial Force, and, with the rank of sergeant, was in the action at Messines. On the death of Dr. MacNab (killed in action), he was appointed surgeon to the battalion. Invalided home, he received a commission in the R.A.M.C., and was sent to Alexandria in March. He died of septic poisoning, contracted in operating on a septic case. He leaves a widow and one daughter.

Next Monday evening at 8.30 the Royal Geographical Society will hold its last meeting of the session, at Burlington Gardens, when Mr. Arthur Hinks, Secretary to the Society, will read a paper on "The Map of Europe and the Near East compiled by the Society for the General Staff."

At the annual meeting of the Palestine Exploration Fund, at Burlington House, on Tuesday, the Archbishop of Canterbury, who presided, referred to Lord Kitchener as one of the officers who had helped in the work done by the Fund, and proceeded to relate how they first met. "I remember on one of my visits to Palestine," he said, "meeting at the bottom of a shaft a rather tall, rather gaunt figure, grimed from head to foot, and being introduced to Lieutenant Kitchener, who was one of a party sent out by the Fund on a survey in Western Palestine. That was in the year 1875 or 1876, and I have a very vivid recollection of it now."

Yesterday afternoon, at a meeting of the Egypt Exploration Fund, held at the Royal Society's Rooms, Mr. T. Eric Peet read a paper on "The Shepherd Kings of Egypt."

We understand that the Hon. H. A. Lawrence, Staff Brigade-Major in the East, has been promoted to Brigadier-General.

Captain C. Mackenzie, who temporarily replaced Mr. Ashmead Bartlett as special correspondent with the forces at the Dardanelles, is a son of the famous comedian, Edward Compton. He was educated at St. Paul's and at Oxford, is the author of "Sinister Street," and has dabbled in poetry, journalism, acting, and play-writing.

Under date of June 12 the special correspondent of *The Times* at Salonika reported:—Sir Thomas Lipton's yacht, Erin, with ten nurses on board, is sailing from Salonika for England on Sunday. Lord Dunraven's yacht, Grianaig, left yesterday for Lemnos. Colonel Hunter and thirty Army surgeons are leaving immediately for Malta, the work of inoculating the Serbian Army having been finished. Twenty-five American doctors sent by the Rockefeller Foundation for general sanitary work are expected to arrive at Salonika to-morrow.

Under date of June 17, Reuter's correspondent at Salonika reports:—The British medical expedition to combat typhus in Montenegro, in charge of Dr. Carre and two lady doctors, has arrived here safely.

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The *Hestia* (Athens) announces that M. Venizelos is entering a suit against M. Rhallys for defamation because in a recent Press interview the latter said that M. Venizelos and his party were plotting against the State and the Constitutional succession of the Crown Prince to the Throne in the event of King Constantine's death.

The Rev. Philip Blakeway, Chaplain to the Forces, died on service in Egypt with the Territorial troops to which he was attached. He was chaplain to one of the London Mounted Brigades, and for some time was chaplain at the depot of the Royal Sussex Regiment and to the Middlesex Hussars. He was a chaplain of the first class, and had the Territorial Decoration and the rank of colonel. He graduated at Magdalen College, Oxford, and had held curacies in Camberwell, Lambeth, and Battersea, became rector of All Saints, Hastings, and then vicar of Walberton. He was chaplain of the Middlesex Hussars when mobilisation took place, and dated his commission from 1894.

We have to announce the death of Mrs. Safia Ahmed Faris, which took place, after a short illness, at 5, Ashburn Place, S.W., the residence of her granddaughter, Mrs. Reginald Legge. She was the wife of the late Ahmed Faris, an Arabic scholar, who translated the Bible into Arabic, and was also the author of several works in that language and editor of the "El-Djevaïb." He received tokens of appreciation and regard from Sovereigns of Turkey, as well as Khedives of Egypt and Rajas of India. His widow, who had lived a life of complete retirement since his death in 1887, was one of the few English ladies who embraced the Mahommedan faith. She was engaged in writing a book entitled "The Soul of Islamism," which remains unfinished.

The Arbitration Board appointed by the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Egypt, to consider all questions of rents and compensation for house properties, etc., requisitioned by the military authorities, is composed of the following members :—President : Sir Alexander Baird, Bart. ; members : J. Langley, Esq., Director-General, State Domains Administration, A. C. McBarnet, Esq., Ministry of Justice, Henry Naus, Esq., Gezira, B. H. Richardson, Esq., Local Auditor, F. P. Watson, Esq., Davies Bryan's Buildings. Secretary : Mr. F. E. Curtis.

THE LATE CAPTAIN R. C. P. BLYTH.

AN APPRECIATION.

A correspondent who knew Captain Blyth intimately, writes :—

It is not easy to pick out any special traits in a life that was so full of vigour, energy, and purpose; he lived his life to the full, and enjoyed it. He loved his work in the Sudan, and the people loved and trusted him completely. His understanding of Eastern natures was acute and unerring; he knew how to use what was best in them, but no one could take him in. In every relation of life he was absolutely straight and honourable and upright. Not much can be said here of his work in the Sudan, at Roseires, and Renk, but its worth is understood by those who know it. It may be said that his was almost a record of having worked for seven years south of the twelfth parallel without having once taken sick leave. A gracious message of sympathy and regret has been received by telegram from their Majesties; and also from Lord Kitchener and the Sirdar and officers of the Egyptian Army.

Captain Blyth received orders in May to go to Alexandria, and he left there on May 27 for the Dardanelles, saying that he was "very happy" to get to the front at last. He was attached to the Royal Fusiliers. It was only a few days before the end came—"the only death he envied," to quote his own words. Eager, joyous, in the full strength and splendour of a beautiful life, he answered the call, giving his life, as he had spent it, for England in the East, one of England's "gentlemen unafraid."

THE LATE BUCKNAM PASHA.

A correspondent writes :—

With Bucknam Pasha has passed away a type of man that is fast disappearing in these prosaic days. His life was full of adventure. Born in Maine, he early took to the sea, and was one of the first, if not the first man, to run a steamer down the Lachine Rapids. His love of adventure took him to Panama in the troubled days before America took up the building of the canal. There he nearly succumbed to "Yellow Jack." A treasure-hunting expedition in the West Indies was another field of adventure, and after the comparatively mild life as captain of transatlantic and transpacific steamers he entered Cramp's Shipbuilding Works at Philadelphia, and was trial commander of the cruiser "Medjidieh," which he took out to Turkey. At Constantinople he was presented to the Sultan Abdul Hamid, who, struck by his genial and straightforward manner, invited him to enter the Ottoman Navy, with the rank of Captain. He was shortly afterwards promoted Admiral and made a Pasha. As was the case with most of the foreign naval and military officers attached to the Turkish Navy or Army during the later years of Abdul Hamid's reign, he had not much scope for his activities. He went to Kiel, however, to bring back the cruiser "Asari-Tewfik." With the fall of Abdul Hamid, Bucknam was for a short time without occupation, but his restless energy soon found fresh outlets, and it is an open secret that he was largely instrumental in getting arms and ammunition into Tripoli for the Turks during the late Italo-Turkish War.

He was a bluff, good-natured, easy-going, open-handed man, a sailor of fortune if you like, but a man whose absence will be felt by many.

THE LATE MR. C. D. COBHAM.

A correspondent in Larnaca writes :—"The news of the death of Mr. C. Delaval Cobham, C.M.G., was received at Larnaca with sincere regret, for the deceased gentleman was much respected by all classes of the community. Mr. Cobham resided at Larnaca for over a quarter of a century as senior executive officer of the district. He was an excellent Greek and Turkish scholar, and knew eight or nine other languages; and he did more for the island from a literary point of view than anyone else. He was a genial host and a most courteous and amiable friend. His palatial residence, the Villa Claudia, is now used as a seminary for training Greek priests, the establishment of which he advocated warmly at all times. Mr. Cobham edited a bibliography on Cyprus, and translated several works in almost every language he was master of. His magnificent and unique collection of books on Cyprus he bequeathed two years ago to the Royal Colonial Institute. During Mr. Cobham's residence at Larnaca he entertained many notable people, including King George, when Prince of Wales, the late Duke of Edinburgh, and the Khedive Abbas.

FOR OUR WOUNDED SOLDIERS.

In response to the appeal for funds to purchase portable bedsteads for use in No. 3 Casualty Clearing Station, British Expeditionary Force, to which Nurse Wheatley, formerly of Constantinople, is attached, we have received the following donations :—

The Hon. Mrs. Sackville West, £1 1s. ; Andrew Ryan, Esq., 10s. ; F. E. Roe, Esq., 5s. ; J. Bec, Esq., 2s. 6d. ; J. L., 5s. ; J. P., 10s. ; D. S., 5s. ; "Gippie," 5s. ; and "Baghdadi," 5s.

We shall be glad to receive and acknowledge any further contributions.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The charge for Announcements under this Heading is 2s. for three lines and 1s. per line afterwards. Minimum charge, 3s. All announcements must be authenticated with the name and address of sender.

MARRIAGE.

HOOPER—MALYON.—On June 15, at St. Mary's, Witney, by the Rector, the Rev. P. P. Goldingham, George Horace Valentine Hooper, of Busreh, Persian Gulf, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Hooper, to Constance, elder daughter of Mrs. C. F. Malyon, of Witney, Oxon.

DEATH.

BLYTH.—Reported killed in action in the Dardanelles on June 4, Captain Reginald Crommelin Popham Blyth, 1st Gloucestershire Regiment, attached Egyptian Army, beloved only son of the late Bishop in Jerusalem and the East, and dearly-loved husband of Norah Blyth, 18, St. Leonards Road, Bexhill-on-Sea.

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THE NEAR EAST.

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FRIDAY, JUNE 25, 1915.

EGYPT AND THE WAR.

Although the tide of invasion has been rolled back, the war remains a very present reality for Egypt. It will be well if the unceasing drafts of wounded arriving from the Dardanelles serve to remind the Egyptians that their borders are being as effectively defended from the horrors of war in the trenches on Gallipoli Peninsula as when the preliminary attack of the Turkish forces was beaten back from the Suez Canal. We have the assurance of the enemy that the main expedition against Egypt was meant to follow that attack. For some time Djemal Pasha kept his forces on the confines of the Sinai Desert; but to-day, if they still exist, they are nearer the Dardanelles than Damascus. More and more insistent orders have reached their commander-in-chief to despatch troops northwards for the defence of the capital, until he has nothing left of the Grand Army, which was to have marched in triumph through the streets of Cairo, but a "bodyguard" of a few thousand men. There can be little doubt that the invasion of Egypt was regarded by the Turks at one time as a feasible proposition. Whether their German task-masters were equally naïve when they encouraged the Turks in that belief is not known. They at least will have recalled the dictum that no invasion of Egypt has any prospect of success, unless supported by control of the sea. It pleased the Germans to ignore this fact, but the Turks, who may never have heard of it, will have had the significance of the saying brought home to them when they realized that a few days sufficed to transfer the defenders of Egypt from the banks of the Canal to the Dardanelles, there to meet in due course some of their former assailants, who would have taken weeks to reach the same goal by land from the Sinai Desert. But the fighting on Gallipoli Peninsula is not only saving Egypt from invasion. That task, thanks to the existence of the Suez Canal, was comparatively an easy one. The deadly struggle in which Turkish and British troops are now engaged represent in part the birth-pangs of Egyptian nationality. *Tantae molis erat Romanam condere gentem.* Of recent years the great hindrances to the progress of Egypt have been placed in the country's way by the intrigues of Germany and Turkey. The proclamation of a Protectorate heralded the end of the old order; but it was necessary that the evil influences should be completely overthrown in the eyes of the world. When that work has finally been accomplished by the operations on Turkish soil, the main obstacles interposed from without to the peaceful development of Egypt under British control will have been removed.

In the meantime the country has an opportunity of comparing its present position with the conditions which would most certainly have prevailed, if this world-crisis had not found British influence paramount in Egypt. Regarding the value of the maintenance of law and order, the Egyptians may have two opinions. The incidence of martial law often proves irksome, and it may be difficult to convince an ardent Nationalist that the elements of disorder would not necessarily mend their ways, if they had a Government of their own people. But from the economic point of view there cannot be any doubt even in Nationalist circles that Great Britain is now essential to the further development of Egypt, just as Egypt has become essential from a strategical point of view to the British Empire. Apart from the outbreak of war, Egypt has experienced a series of agricultural misfortunes, which included a low Nile and the boll-worm in the cotton plant. When the war came, the market for the great staple product on which Egyptian agriculture so largely depends was completely thrown out of gear. The cotton crop itself was not good, and even the reduced crop did not find a ready market. In view of the effects that such conditions have had in the past in Egypt, it is not difficult to realize that the position in the country would be very much worse to-day, if the people had not had the steadying influence of the Anglicized Administration to fall back upon. The Government restricted the area of cotton-planting, and has brought pressure to bear upon the cultivator to sow other crops, wheat, barley, maize, and bersim for cattle feeding. Thanks in part to these measures, it may be confidently anticipated that Egypt has weathered the worst of her present trials. From now onwards her economic position should show a gradual improvement, although it is not to be expected that there can be any complete recovery before the world at large is once again at peace with itself. The contemplation of these matters, which are within the purview of every individual Egyptian, ought to modify any sentimental regrets he may have at the passing of old shadows. The substance remains his, and it is now within his grasp to develop that substance for his own and his country's benefit in a way which was never before possible.

For Egypt, therefore, both from the Egyptian and the British point of view, the war bids fair to prove a blessing in disguise. The proclamation of a Protectorate, however, is merely the formal heralding of a number of reforms which can only be carried out after the most careful attention has been given to matters of detail. For the moment a large amount of control is vested in the military authorities. The civil authorities remain at their posts, and the duty of harmonious co-operation with the military probably counterbalances any relief afforded in the matter of administrative routine. But as all Government departments must be alive to the necessity for preparing the ground for reforms, we may expect to find that the opportunity for overhauling the machinery of the Administration is being used to the full. In no direction is there more room for improvement than in regard to the judicial systems of Egypt. It is not necessary to labour the point in these columns, for attention has frequently been drawn to the subject. Some of the chief obstacles that have hitherto defeated reforming efforts have been removed by the proclamation of the Protectorate and by the elimination of the powers of obstruction wielded with such success in the past by Germany and Turkey. The question of judicial reform includes not only a re-organization of existing courts, together with a fusion of existing Egyptian Codes, Mixed and Native, and considerable amendment of them, but also the complete revision of the present system of repressing crime. In the last Annual Report of the Judicial Adviser to the Egyptian Government it was pointed out that no system of repressing crime could succeed unless the Public Prosecutor's Office and the Police work in harmony. Under present conditions co-operation between these two administrations is often lacking, and, as we learn from our Cairo Correspondent this week, the Government is now engaged upon a scheme for their amalgamation under one supreme head. A Commission, as is known, has been at work for some time on the contemplated reforms in the Mixed Courts. The appointment of Mr. W. E. Brunyate as Legal Adviser to the High Commissioner is a further earnest of the importance attached by the Government to the preparation of the new judicial machinery that should be ready for smooth working after the war. When time has been given for the cumulative effects of these and other improvements in the administration of Egypt to be appreciated in the country, a clearer conception may have been gained by the Egyptians of the advantages of re-creating their nationality under the British ægis.

Any newsagent or bookstall in the United Kingdom can supply copies of "THE NEAR EAST," which are on sale early on Friday morning. Should any difficulty be experienced in obtaining the paper, the Manager would be glad to receive a post card giving particulars, and he will take steps to rectify the matter.

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EIGHTEEN MONTHS AGO.

A DIARY OF TRAVEL.—II.

By Mary A. Poynter.

Not quite so many-islanded, not quite so full of recorded legend, romance, and tragedy, is the sea that lies between Greece and Egypt as the Ægean Sea, further eastward. When once the shores of Greece and its near-by islands are lost to sight, there is a full night's stretch of sea before Crete, the island of unrest in recent times, is sighted. Another half-day this island, with its remote high mountains and its also remote history, holds one's thought and vision, claiming as it does, and as recent excavations there show it to have been, an early abode of art and civilisation, a spot that received, developed, and passed on these benefits that were struggling to reach out beyond the confines of Egypt and Western Asia. If Crete has "gone back," as we say of a land or a people that have fallen from a better estate, it at least did a great work in the world in its time, and was no mean stepping stone for enlightenment on its way to Europe.

Crete once passed, a day and a night of often troubled seas must be crossed before the low-lying, palm-tree-outlined coast of Egypt offers sunshiny refuge, and the traveller can disembark at Alexandria. The present lighthouse here is not architecturally one of the Seven Wonders of the world, though I fancy it fulfils its mission, sending out even more effective guiding light than did that Pharos of old whose renown will persist down the ages. It is interesting to note that the foundations of the classic lighthouse still stand as firm on the little island just off Alexandria's shore as when they were laid. A mosque rises upon these foundations—this mosque also a ruin—but it is easy to trace the extent and also the stability of the old work, in spite of superimposed buildings of later times whose architects at least had no scorn of ready-made sites, and who very likely had also a respect for tradition.

There's magic in a name, and the stations "Cæsar's Camp" and "Cleopatra," on the road leading out to pleasant Ramleh from Alexandria, though they make no appeal to the eye, certainly suggest a whole gallery of old-time pictures to the imagination. Where Hypatia gave her learned discourses, and where the wonderful library—never to be replaced—once stood, must be left largely for the imagination and the antiquarian to locate. In her Greek and Roman days Alexandria was a city of much splendour, architecturally, so if the first glimpse of the modern (I suppose I must also say bustling) commercial town is disappointing, it is because that greater and far more picturesque city of the past rises up to invite comparison.

Out in the country one feels that it is still old Egypt—the Egypt of his dreams—though whether it be old Egypt or modern does not matter; for the life in the fields, by the canals, and on the great branching river is so satisfying in its picturesqueness that it needs no glamour of the past to lend it enchantment. If, as was said in ancient times, Egypt be the gift of the Nile, what a gift it was, what a gift it continues to be! And the great Nile, as if conscious that the land has no life save that within its gift, rises, flows from far, divides, turns aside into canals, sends little trickling streams among the thirsty fields, and reaches the Mediterranean at last, its bounty mostly expended, but leaving paths behind luxuriant with green beneath a rainless sky.

As one travels down by rail from Alexandria to Cairo, through the rich district of the Delta, the homely life of the land lies outspread for all to see. Sometimes the boats moving lazily up and down the low-lying canals are hidden from view, and their great white upstanding sails outspread to the breeze suggest boats sailing across a landscape rather than upon water.

The little native villages are always most satisfyingly set in the picture—a palm tree or two, perhaps a mosque with a dome and a single minaret, and a few flat-roofed buildings of Nile mud is all, but it would be exacting to ask for more under the circumstances.

In the fields man and beast work side by side with that close fellowship and understanding that they must have had when the world was young, and before man chose to live apart and to put great mud and brick and stone partitions between himself and the animals over which he was given dominion. The camel, the ox, the donkey and the dog wait upon their master as they were wont to in the original plan, and men, these blue-robed fellaheen, walk upright and are not bent by their labours in the fields.

The farming implements and the carts that go laden with corn, with cotton, or with vegetables and fresh dates to the market do not seem to have changed their pattern much since the days when the Egyptians liked to cover the walls of their hidden-away tombs with pictures of their every-day life, as well as with the symbols of their religion.

But the great moment is when one catches on the right, against the sunset, and while still many leagues from Cairo, that first glimpse of the Pyramids, looming up over an outstanding shelf of the desert—no, not looming up obtrusively, but abiding naturally, composedly there—a part of the past that has no share in the life of the present, and yet will outlast most of what seems so permanent to-day.

Now Cairo itself is "up-to-date," or it is redolent of the haunting, mysterious past, as the traveller may be inclined. Great, splendid modern caravanserais offer every comfort, every luxury of modern living, while the great Museum near the Nile takes one back so far into the past that he is astonished that the present has not found man further on in matters of taste, and perhaps in artistic feeling.

From the lovely garden of the British Agency on the banks of the Nile, with a palm-tree foreground and the Pyramids and the yellow desert beyond, we watched a hydroplane—latest of inventions—pant with impatience, then beat the waters and rise from the oldest of rivers, soon to become a faint speck in the skies on its way Khartoum-ward. Then, turning from this garden into the streets once more, there was the camel almost "rubbing shoulders" with the motor-car, and it seemed singular that there should be so little incongruity in this association. So Cairo holds the old and the new, and neither seems consciously to disparage the other.

If the town of Helouan, out and up in the desert, is of recent growth, the views it commands of the sites where once stood Memphis and Thebes, of all the Pyramids, and those silent wastes beyond, is an old one, and must always have thrilled the watcher's imagination. It did not need even the at first delicate promise of colour, and then the deeply glowing orange sunset spread across the whole western sky, to accentuate and make that view from a house-top in Helouan one of the most suggestive and impressive remembrances we could have of the Egypt that was and is.

Our visit to Cairo on this occasion was but a brief one, and there is only one more experience I would at this moment record—an experience that might be called almost an adventure. We were asked out to see the moon rise and to dine with friends who have pitched their picturesque working camp in the desert, just behind and above the great Pyramids. We went by daylight, that we might pass the forbidding guard and see our host's latest excavations; for an archæologist he is, and his labours there in recent years have been as fruitful in great "finds" as even his own ardent spirit could desire. His favourite hunting ground has been in the close vicinity of the Pyramids, and the Sphinx has yielded its secret to him—the secret of who built it, and what king its now maimed and distorted features were once meant to represent. Our host's discoveries point to the fact that in all probability the Sphinx is a colossal statue of Kephren, the builder of the second Pyramid, being that king's head on a lion's body. There is no longer a riddle of the Sphinx; it is almost sad to accept it, for where shall we turn to find another so time-honoured and so picturesque?

Almost immediately under the shadow of the great Pyramid was our professor's work of excavation going on when we saw it first—old streets of tombs were being opened up by the pick and shovel of the white-turbaned, black-skinned Arabs, brought from far up the Nile for their trustworthy qualities, and trained to dig with sensitive, careful touch, that no treasure, no statue, no tomb containing delicate tracery by brush or chisel should suffer at their hands. By good chance a tomb had just been opened that day, and down a rickety ladder our host led us, through an underground room almost chokingly filled with dust to where five wonderful statues—evidently those of a man, his wife, and three children—were being rescued from the débris. Ever so remote was the dynasty to which they belonged, but the workmanship was worthy almost of any age, though distinctly Egyptian, as it should be in that environment. We considered ourselves fortunate indeed to

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be able to look on at such a "find." And we wandered on to other tomb chambers whose walls, many of them, still showed traces of delicate designs in colour—on to a chamber where at the door of the dead sat a little statue with hands outspread as if asking for offerings, a pathetic little figure sitting there through all these four thousand years and more for its time, shall we say, of awakening! A curio or a statue in a museum is a thing to ponder over—but that little curio in the place it was found, that statue in the niche in which it originally stood, is surrounded by a halo of interest that can never, it would seem, be attached to it elsewhere.

These old Egyptians left many hieroglyphic records that their deeds might live after them, but in dying how they sought to hide themselves away, wrapping the cast-off body in cerements, setting a value upon it that makes some of the living now feel that it is almost an intrusion to wrest those mummy sleepers from their tombs. And to find these tombs how many "false leads" does the excavator have to follow up before discovering the true burial chamber!

The moon rose almost before we had scrambled our uncertain and oft-crumbling way among the excavations and had waded through the desert sands to the camp of our friends. What a glamour that half-light threw upon the surrounding wastes, over the great Pyramids that we were high enough up to look down upon, and that some way, unexpectedly, seemed to shrink in size and to become one with the desert, not the great memorials of the past that they seem by day!

The dinner that evening was a good one, but the feast in reality consisted of the stories that were told of laborious undertakings that might go on for weeks with disappointing results; and then would come a day when some treasure of a past great period would be unearthed, and the Arab workman with the spade would be almost as overcome with joy as the scholar with the deeper understanding who stood over him.

Such stories as we listened to that evening seldom find their way into popular print; yet what is true of this particular camp and of the work of this especially fortunate archæologist must hold true in a measure of many another spot in Egypt, and throughout the classic world wherever men are searching in the earth to learn the secrets of the past.

The moon was riding high in the skies that night when we followed our white-robed, silent, never-looking-backward Bedouin guide down from the camp, past the mounds and broken walls that marked the site of the excavations, half falling sometimes in the knee-deep sands, past and so near the great Pyramid that its shadow sent a chill—was it of fear?—through the heart, down to the road where the Desert leaves off and the Sown begins, and where the last electric tram for the night was waiting to take us back to Cairo.

THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Future of Serbia.

The greater part of an article by "Politicus," in the *Fortnightly Review* (June), on the future of Serbia, is devoted to correcting the erroneous ideas still unfortunately held by many Englishmen that the Serbians are "a nation of barbarians; a nation of soldiers and swineherds." He points out that Serbia has been unfortunate in her rulers, her neighbours, and her geographical position. The Serbs have been constantly oppressed—first by Turkey, and more recently by Austria-Hungary.

Instead of attracting Serbia towards the Dual Monarchy by generous treatment, by offering her solid advantages if she should join in some way or other, Austria began to strangle and to bully the little country. Every attempt on Serbia's part to follow a policy not approved of by the Government of Vienna immediately led to the infliction of cruel punishment by her mighty neighbour.

In reference to the claims of both Serbia and Italy to the Adriatic, the writer says:—

. . . To thoughtful Italians it must be clear that it would be the height of unwisdom to cut a greater Serbia off from the sea. . . . It is clear to all far-seeing Italians that Nature has meant Italy and Serbia to go hand-in-hand, that the political and economic interests of both are identical, that each can best supply the other's needs.

Germany and Turkey.

Mr. G. K. Chesterton, writing in the *Illustrated London News* (June 19), has a good many things to say regarding Turkey and the Turks, and we quote from only one or two sentences in a really convincing article. The first quotation refers to the assertion of a German journalist, who says that Christianity will, after the war, differ in England and Germany. As to the latter country, it will be "a manly Christianity and permeated with the new German spirit. This," he adds, "will make it particularly attractive to Mohammedans and heathens." Mr. Chesterton writes:—

It might be suggested that though "manly Christianity" may be very suitable to Mohammedans, it may not be so suitable to Mohammedans as Mohammedanism. It also might be suggested that if Christianity needs to be "new," it does not need to be Christian. In justice to the Turks, it should also be said that, if they are as rude as the Germans in war, they are much more polite in peace.

Referring to the contention recently hinted at by a prominent authority on Balkan affairs that while the breaking of Turkey is a possible and desirable thing, the breaking of Prussia is neither wholly possible nor even to be desired, the writer says:—

There cannot be the smallest moral excuse for restricting the Turks to little more than Constantinople which is not also a moral excuse for restricting Prussianism to little more than Berlin. That it is much more difficult to do makes it much more necessary to do it. And if we do not do it, if we do not disarm Prussia as we have disarmed Turkey, then, indeed, in the very wise words of a French Socialist uttered the other day, "the greatest effort ever made by the human race will have been made in vain."

Balkan Negotiations.

The *Morning Post* (June 22) published a most interesting dispatch concerning the Balkan negotiations from its own correspondent at Budapest. We quote from his information regarding the opinion of the local Press:—

The *Mir* says that the Roumanian Press is discussing negotiations for a Balkan League in favour of the Entente, and adds that the negotiations are proceeding with much hope for success. At the same time, the *Narodni Prava*, a semi-official journal of the Sofia Government, repudiates the suggestion that any such negotiations are going on, and declares that the news circulated in Roumania that Bulgaria is on the eve of mobilization is also without foundation.

The correspondent adds that the fact that Bulgaria does not mobilize is the disquieting feature from the Austro-German point of view, as it proves that Roumania, in mobilizing, has acted in accordance with the sentiments of Bulgaria. In reference to the attitude of Roumania, he writes:—

The Roumanian Government does not for a moment hide its intentions and policy, and, as I said in one of my recent articles, there are only details to be settled before the final decision is made.

The Balkans Again.

The *Outlook* (June 19), in an article under the above heading, thinks that "It is now safe to say that Balkan neutrality has now entered upon its penultimate stage." Regarding the claim of Roumania that her new territories should be bounded by the Pruth in the north, by the Theiss in the west, and by the Danube in the south, the *Outlook* suggests that although it is a great deal to ask, there is, nevertheless, much to be said in support of it. The article points out that the acceptance of Roumanian terms would involve the dismemberment of the ancient Magyar kingdom, and after dealing with the position of Hungary to-day, continues:—

Moreover, if the Theiss frontier is refused, what alternative strategic frontier can be offered? Once Roumanian territory extends beyond the crest of the Carpathians, by which it is at present bounded, there is no natural obstacle east of the river. . . . It remains the case that if Roumania moves westward at all her natural limit is the Theiss; and now that she has once set out a claim to the whole region, she is not likely to abandon it, but will rather remain an element of disturbance to the world's peace until she has made it good. . . .

The writer regards Bulgaria's claims as just, and sees no likelihood of opposition to their realization. But he shows that with the accession of Italy to the side of the Allies the situation has shifted to the disadvantage of Greece, whose intervention would be now of less value than at the time of the Venizelos crisis, and Bulgaria will consequently increase her demands

Articles to Note.

"Engineering Problems of Mesopotamia and Euphrates Valley," by Sir John Jackson, in the *Empire Review* (June).

"A Visit to the Next Theatre of War," in the *Daily Chronicle* (June 17).

"Impressions of Turkey: Smyrna," in the *Queen* (June 19).

"Saintship in Islam," by George Swan; "Translation of the Koran," by the Revd. S. M. Zwemer, D.D.; "The Old Turk Policy of the New Turk," by the Rev. Robert Thomson; and "The Moslems of Palestine and the War," by Dr. F. J. Scrimgeour, in the *Moslem World* (July).

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

The situation in Lower Mesopotamia appears to be now extremely satisfactory; the Turks and their Teutonic taskmasters seem to be demoralized and fairly on the run; and the Arabs, having had their eyes opened to the fact that they are likely to get more licking than loot if they listen to further German-made lies, are losing any enthusiasm they ever had for the German-Young Turk combine. At least, that is the impression I gather from private letters received from the scene of action. And I am glad to learn that competent judges consider that we have the situation well in hand as far as that theatre of war is concerned. My satisfaction is heightened by observing an entire absence of any symptoms of over-confidence in the communications referred to.

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By the way, these operations in Mesopotamia have played the deuce with the geography of a good many of us. The position of Shaiba was a puzzle to several men who thought they knew that part of the world fairly well. This was not really surprising, however, for the fact seems to be that nobody but a few Arabs had ever heard the name until the brilliant success gained there by our forces called attention to it. But I must admit that I was surprised the other day to find a writer in a reputable weekly announcing that we had actually advanced as far as "the site of ancient Babylon," and scarcely less surprised to read in a leading article of one of the best-informed provincial dailies that Kurna "is on the right bank of the Euphrates." As a matter of fact, owing to the way in which the Euphrates is cutting itself a new bed towards the west, Kurna can hardly be said to be on the Euphrates at all, though many people persist in talking and writing of it as situated at the junction of the two great rivers of Mesopotamia.

***

A correspondent sends me a cutting from a newspaper—he omits to give the name or date—which has puzzled him and puzzles me. It reads:—

> A first list of French and British officers and men captured by the Turks in the Dardanelles has been prepared by the Red Crescent Society of Constantinople. Following the Oriental custom, each man is designated not only by his own surname but by the surname of his father.

I had always thought that surnames were practically unknown in Turkey; but even supposing this were not so, how could a man have a surname different from his father's—unless Feminism has advanced with giant strides in Turkey since we had regular news thence?

***

A correspondent who has been reading the *Corriere della Sera* tells me of a delightful item of "news" which that journal reprints from a Viennese paper. According to the latter, "the most important event of the day is that Serbia, having penetrated into Albania within two days' march of Scutari, is sure to find herself in conflict with Italy, and, consequently, with the Quadruple Entente, which she mistrusts, as favouring Italy in the Adriatic, to the exclusion of herself. This fact having cooled the relations between Belgrade and Petrograd, must have as a result a *rapprochement* between Austria and Serbia." If ever the wish was father to the thought, here is a case. No wonder my correspondent refers to this journalistic effort as one of the funniest he has come across! But it is rather flattering to poor little Serbia that big, powerful Austria should so obviously be ready to welcome a *rapprochement*. What of that "punitive expedition"?

***

So Berlin is to have a Turkish newspaper! And the *Pall Mall Gazette* is unkind enough to ask: "Can it be that already the papers of Constantinople are establishing themselves elsewhere, as those of Brussels have been compelled to?" It may be so. Certainly, I can see no other reason for such an innovation—unless it be a subtle form of flattery on the part of Germany. If so, what more does she want of the poor Turks?

***

Another journalistic enterprise to which my attention has been drawn this week is more easy of explanation. The *Busra Times* of May 21 contains the announcement that a Persian edition is to be published, besides the English and Arabic editions, and that Messrs. Lynch Brothers, of Mohammerah, have secured the selling rights. This is a healthy sign, and I am glad to think that Southern Persia is likely to support the new venture. Meantime, I note with pleasure that the "B.T." is "going strong," if one may judge by the advertisements on its front page. In addition to the announcements of "general stores," oil and engineering works, there are, I see, "ads." of two photographic studios, a soda-water factory, and a dentist. Verily, business at Busreh would seem to be booming under the beneficent British occupation.

According to newspaper reports, the four wonderful, much-travelled bronze horses that have stood for many years past over the main portal of St. Mark's, at Venice, have gone on another journey—probably this time only across to the mainland, and not far distant from that city builded on the sea. Authorities differ as to what period these horses date from, some declaring them to be of Greek origin and of the school of Lysippus, while others assign them to the Roman school at the time of Nero. One authority goes so far as to state that Augustus brought them to Rome from Alexandria at the time of his defeat of Antony. At any rate, it is safe to say that they adorned a triumphal arch, or arches, at Rome for long years before Constantine transferred them to Constantinople, his new Rome on the Bosphorus. Here for many centuries they stood before and were a part of the decoration of the glorious, and still-unrivalled-in-architecture, Church of Santa Sophia. In 1204, at the time of the Fourth Crusade, the Doge Dandolo had them brought from Constantinople to Venice. Here they remained until 1797, when Napoleon bore them off—and a considerable bearing they needed, as the weight of each hores is nearly two thousand pounds—to Paris. Their stay in Paris was but a brief one, as the Emperor Francis had them returned to Venice in 1815—just a hundred years ago. And now, at this troublous and dramatic moment of the world's history, it seems Venice herself has taken them down and has hidden them away lest the threatening Huns should get possession of them or should destroy them with their bombs.

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By the time that these lines are in print His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales will, by the grace of God, have celebrated his twenty-first birthday, and passed definitely into man's estate. The event is not to be marked by any State celebration, for the Royal Family has been consistently the foremost in subordinating its personal affairs to the exigencies of the common weal. But in the hearts of his people the young Prince will be especially remembered on this one day, which, in the lives of all men, is usually given over to family rejoicing. When last I was in Egypt the people were full of a rumour that His Royal Highness was shortly to visit the country. How this rumour originated no one could tell—but had it proved to be well founded it is certain that the Prince would have been accorded a welcome entirely worthy of his high estate. But if the visit was ever contemplated, it will now perforce wait until decisive victory has put an end to the tumult of the nations. When, however, the war is over the claims of Empire will surely not be forgotten, and what more fitting than that the Prince of Wales should make a world tour, acknowledging, in the name of his kingly father, the loyalty of our Dominions overseas? In such an event Egypt should certainly be honoured equally with the Colonies that sprang to our aid at the first crash of war. We shall not forget the credit due to her because she manifested her loyalty unswervingly and without hesitation.

CORSAIR.

PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

The fiftieth annual meeting of the Palestine Exploration Fund was held at the rooms of the Society of Antiquaries on Tuesday. The Archbishop of Canterbury presided, and, in submitting the report for adoption, dealt with the activities of the Society since its inauguration, and with the men who, as investigators or explorers, had contributed to the success of the undertaking. He was inclined to think that the interest which the world felt in the Fund was due to two men—Dean Stanley and Sir George Grove. As to the effect of the war on the work, he thought the Fund would gain in the long run. At the same time, they looked with some trepidation at the thought of damage being done to things of interest and to spots which they desired to treat with reverence.—Colonel Sir Charles M. Watson seconded the adoption of the report, which was agreed to.

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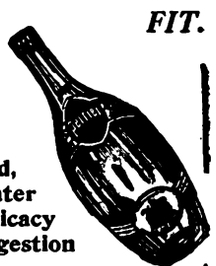

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ANDERSON, J. H., and family, 114, Botanic Road, Glasnevin, Dublin; or c.o. Gill and Cook, Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C.
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ATKINSON, Bombardier G. M., 266th Battery, 85th Brigade, R.F.A., Colchester.

BAKER, Arthur, and family, 80, Prince of Wales' Mansions, Battersea Park, S.W.
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BARWELL, Mrs., 62, Hart Road, Erdington, Birmingham.
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BOND, Miss E. G., 16, Wilton Mansions, Kelvinside N., Glasgow.
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BOND, Mrs. R., 4, Oxford Terrace, Kingston Road, Wimbledon, S.W.
BOND, Mrs. S. J., and daughter, 4, Oxford Terrace, Kingston Road, Wimbledon, S.W.
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CHALMERS, Mrs. D., jun., and family, Old Phaleron, Greece.
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CRAWFORD, Sir Richard, British Embassy, Washington, U.S.A.
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HAYDEN, A. J., Claremont Cottage, West End, Esher, Surrey.
HEATHCOTE-SMITH, C. E., H.B.M. Vice-Consul, Salonika.
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HENSMAN, Mrs. E. G., 12, Lodge Road, Sutton, Surrey.
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KEY, W. H. M., M.D., care of Messrs. Coutts and Co., London, W.C.
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LA FONTAINE, Miss Edith F., Elmfield, Esher, Surrey.
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RAWE, Reuben, Old Phaleron, Greece.
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RUSSELL, Mrs. J. MacDowall, care of Mrs. J. Bruce, Bogs of Blevrie, by Forres, N.B.
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SEAGER, Edward J. P., c.o. British Consulate, Dedeagatch, Bulgaria; or c/o H. E. Mountain, Hotel Minerva, Athens.
SEAGER, Lieut. John Owen, Public Schools Battalion, 16th Middlesex Regiment, B. Co., Woldingham.
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(Continued on page 220.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

The great War Loan, the prospectus of which is reproduced elsewhere, is the most gigantic financial proposition ever placed before the public. It is for an undetermined sum in hundreds of millions, required for the purpose of overcoming the Empire's enemies; it is issued at par, bearing interest at 4½ per cent.; it is conversionary, inasmuch as it enables holders of the 3½ per cent. War Loan, of Consols and Government Annuities to convert their holdings into stock of the new Loan; and, finally, it offers both the lower (I mean less prosperous) and upper classes similar opportunities for placing their savings at the Government's disposal. From five shillings to thousands of pounds—surely a more comprehensive range could not have been chosen! In a word, the loan is gigantic and, judging by all published accounts, its reception was hearty, spontaneous, unique, and the results achieved will, I am sure, be gigantic also. For there is not a single family throughout our vast Empire that will not contribute in one form or another to the 4½ per cent. War Loan of 1925-1945.

***

I regret to read of the death of Mr. Hajji-Pavlou, a prominent member of the best class of Cyprian merchants and a well-known figure in the island. The death of Mr. Demosthenes Hajji-Pavlou removes a well-known figure from the community. The firm of Messrs. Hajji-Pavlou Brothers, long established in Limassol, is a leading house in the wine and spirit industry, and has a wide reputation. They have been the recipients of gold medals from the Société Agricole of France, and have gained many medals and other honours at various exhibitions, and from other societies in Europe, including England. As Mayor of Limassol Mr. Demosthenes Hajji-Pavlou carried out much useful work, notably in the metalling and paving of streets. His loss will be felt by a very wide circle of friends of several nationalities.

***

Still another regret has to be chronicled from Cyprus. I understand that, in spite of all opposition, the Government has seen fit to allow the motor mail and passenger service on the island to be discontinued. Readers of THE NEAR EAST will remember my special plea some weeks ago for a compromise between the Cyprus Motor Transport and Development Company and the Government, with a view to maintaining the service, which was a boon to the country. At the eleventh hour, as a result of the petitions addressed to them, the Government made an offer increasing its subvention to the company, but this was still far and away below the company's minimum. It must be remembered that the Cyprus Motor Transport and Development Company has been working at a loss ever since they acquired the concession. The latter expired on May 31 last, and the company refused to renew it unless better terms were obtained. The Cyprus Government therefore invited tenders, without result, and it was then hoped that a compromise between Government and the holders of the concession, enabling the latter to show at least a small profit, would be arrived at. Unfortunately, it was not to be, with the depressing result that mails and passengers will in future be horse-driven, to the disgust of the local inhabitants. The company, I understand, is to be wound up. This is deplorable, especially at a time when we have many lukewarm "friends" in Cyprus. It is, however, thoroughly British—penny wise, etc.

***

The *Egyptian Gazette's* reference to a change of coinage in Egypt can hardly come as a surprise, the difference between the English and the Egyptian pound having often made more than one accountant curse his luck. It is now intended, it seems, to make the Egyptian pound equivalent to the English sovereign, both presumably equal to 100 piastres. The *talari*, still the medium of exchange in the cotton and other commodity markets, would then be worth exactly 4s., and not 4s. 2d., as at the present time. The change will be a doubly welcome one, because it will also normalise Egypt's postal rates, which still labour under fractional disadvantages. On the other hand, the suggestion now made by the Egyptian Government shows how easy it would be for us to turn our own awkward duodecimal system into a decimal one. As a correspondent suggests, this could best be done by dividing the shilling into ten pence, and giving a new name to the ten-shilling piece, which would then be equivalent to 100 pence or fifty piastres.

***

We publish on another page a further article on the Jaffa orange trade from a correspondent who is now in Egypt. I should, here, like to make some comment on the writer's statements. In the first place, he is evidently inclined to express his gratitude to the British authorities for having averted a disaster to the Jaffa orange trade by allowing shipments to "England and Egypt" on the one hand, and to "Dedeagatch, in transit for further destinations inland, and Turkish ports," on the other. *In transit for further destinations inland*, smacks extraordinarily like trading with the enemy, and if this trading has been aided and abetted by the British authorities, as seems to be suggested, words fail to express my surprise! Either the Jaffa orange traders are British subjects, in which case their trading with Egypt and England is comprehensible, and their trading with "Dedeagatch, in transit for further destinations inland, and Turkish ports," is not permissible, or they are not British subjects, and consequently have to be treated as aliens, with no claim to any special treatment. This is the more obvious when it is remembered that in these same columns some few weeks ago I registered the complaint of Cyprus orange traders at having no facilities offered them for exporting their products either to Egypt or to any other port "in transit for further destinations inland." Charity, I think, should begin at home. Evidently the British authorities in Egypt do not think so, because, instead of enabling the Cyprian trader to give a well-deserved fillip to the orange trade of the island this year, they would seem to have helped swamping Cyprus's only available markets with enemy goods.

The second comment concerns the paragraph regarding the introduction of oil into Jaffa, with a view to supply fuel to the irrigation engines in the orange orchards. If the writer is to be believed, the British authorities in Egypt at one time "were generously inclined to consider the licensing of the necessary quantities of petroleum into Jaffa to save the people from ruin!" In the eleventh hour our "generosity" seems to have cooled down, but that we should ever even have contemplated permitting the import of oil fuel to Jaffa passes all understanding. After this it can no longer come as a surprise to us if in Egypt, that happy land of paradoxes, enemy directors are openly allowed, at their own sweet will and pleasure, to sit on the boards of Egyptian companies.

***

"Greek firms would prefer British goods if they could only obtain terms similar to those given by competitors," I read recently in a Consular report. It is the old, old story, and, like others of its kin, it is an invariable factor. The whole question is: Are we, or are we not prepared to give the consumer in the Near East terms similar to those given him by our competitors? If we are not, there is no longer the slightest use in arguing or labouring the point. If we are prepared to do so, we must first of all start creating facilities whereby neither do we stand to lose anything by giving long terms, nor is the buyer too assiduously pushed for his payments. This can only be done by the institution of local British commercial banks, as far as possible under local management, but governed from headquarters in London. Without such banks—incidentally they would be good paying concerns—there is absolutely no chance of our ever being able to compete with the terms offered by our rivals, either in Greece or elsewhere.

***

While on the subject of Greece, I should like to point out that the United States are eagerly currying favour in that country. Communications are now frequently published in the *Daily Consular Reports*, urging the American manufacturer to do his utmost to push his trade in Greece, and giving him sound advice how best to do so. It is a point worth remembering. Surely, if it is worth the American's while to cross the Atlantic to trade with Greece, it should also be worth ours to push our trade in that country.

***

I again wish to draw my readers' attention to the appeal for beds for the wounded made by Nurse Wheatley, whose good work in the Near East—more particularly in Constantinople prior to the war—is well known to late British residents in the Near East. We publish to-day a list of those who have already subscribed to the fund, but a further sum of about £5 is needed to pay the costs and the expense of sending out the seven beds required at the clearing station at which Miss Wheatley is tending our wounded.

***

Owing to a change of programme, Dr. H. B. Gray did not lecture on Wednesday on the "Resources of Cyprus and Malta." The lecture was devoted to the resources of New Zealand.

COMMENTATOR.

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Alexandria Prize Court.

In re S.S. Koerber.

We have been favoured with a full report of the judgment in re s.s. Koerber, delivered by Judge Grain, of the Alexandria Prize Court on June 5. The following are extracts therefrom :—

Judgment.

The s.s. Koerber is an Austrian ship belonging to the Austrian Lloyd Steamship Company, 5,470 tons gross and 3,117 net register, fitted with wireless, and her master is Marco Antonio Zadro. She left Colombo for Djibouti on August 1, 1914, but on the following day, on the high seas, received a wireless message from her agent at Colombo not to call at Djibouti, but to steam at full speed for Trieste. This order was carried out, as the log book states that "on receipt of the message an order was given to drive the engines at full speed," and the master accordingly made for Trieste. On August 13 at mid-day she arrived at Suez, where the harbour master boarded her, and caused certain parts of her wireless to be removed; these having been removed, were given to the master (Zadro), and he was told not to use his wireless while going through the Canal. The ship only remained a few hours at Suez and then proceeded unmolested through the Canal to Port Said, where she arrived the following morning, August 14, at 7 a.m. The master, Marco Antonio Zadro, alleges in his log, his affidavit, and his evidence taken at Malta (where he is now interned) that the first knowledge of war having broken out between Austria and Great Britain was obtained on his arrival at Port Said on the morning of August 14, war having been declared between Great Britain and Austria on the midnight of August 12. Both the agent of the line and the master of the ship admit that the ship was free to leave the port of Port Said up to August 22, and as a matter of fact she was unmolested until on or about October 16.

But the agent and master differ as to their reasons for the ship remaining in port. The master of the Koerber in his report to the owners of the vessel states that he "Was officially informed by the local authorities that Austrian vessels would be allowed to leave the harbour until August 22 midnight, and after this date the departure would be prohibited."

Also in his log, under the date of August 14, he states: "In order to avoid certain capture by the enemy, the captain decided to remain in Port Said until the close of hostilities"; while the agent of the line states in his affidavit: "Although Zadro (the master) in his said report states that he decided to remain in Port Said he was under my orders. . . . and any decision he came to was the result of my instructions," and maintains that the reason for the ship remaining was that a free pass was refused and that Captain Trelawny, the Port Officer at Port Said, had informed him that the port was a neutral one.

It appears there were constant conversations by telephone, and at interviews between Captain Trelawny and the agent, and the agent and the master, but unfortunately there is no record obtainable of these conversations and consequently the parties have only their own memories to rely upon. As far as Captain Trelawny's memory serves him he says: "I may have acquiesced in a statement that the port was neutral, but never said definitely it was."

With regard to safe conduct passes, the agent states that on August 14 he went to Captain Trelawny and asked for safe conducts, that Captain Trelawny said: "She can leave up to August 22, but I cannot give you safe conduct." Although this statement is not definitely accepted by Captain Trelawny, nevertheless he does say that "on August 14 all safe conducts were withdrawn, but all ships were free to leave. If they had left at any time they would have been captured." On October 15 the master, under the orders of the harbour authorities, steamed out of the harbour, and an affidavit of Lieut. H. G. Briggs, of H.M.S. Warrior, states that she was captured as prize on October 16, 1914.

In coming to a conclusion on these facts as to whether this was a ship using Port Said as a place of refuge, and thereby ceasing to enjoy any protection under the stipulations of the Suez Canal Convention, or whether she remained there on account of guarantees of safety from the authorities at the port, I have two courses open to me, or perhaps three. I can either take the evidence of the master, or the agent, or a mixture of both (of which the affidavit put in by the master and dated October 28, 1914, is a fair sample), but I prefer to be guided by the plain statements made by the master of the vessel on his own initiative in his log, and in his unprompted written statement to his owners, rather than the affidavit which was prepared for him to sign, and the somewhat contradictory evidence of the agent and Captain Trelawny, which is made up of hearsay statements, telephone communications and conversations.

The master in his report to the owners of the vessel dated August 20, does not say a word about the port being considered a neutral one, but states, "as usual with our authorities nothing definite could be decided on." He does certainly in his log state, after he has entered his decision to remain until the close of hostilities, that "Port Said is considered a neutral port." But taking the master's evidence as a whole I am of opinion that he had at once, practically as soon as he heard of the war, decided of his own accord, to take shelter in Port Said, as the lesser of two evils, rather than venture out to certain capture. And, therefore, this ship comes under the "Gutenfels" judgment.

But Mr. Halford, who appears for the owners of this vessel, also puts in a plea under the Hague Convention, 1907, viz., that she is "a ship which has left its last port of departure before the commencement of the war and has entered a port belonging to the enemy while still ignorant that hostilities have broken out," and produces the evidence of the master, the wireless operator, first officer, second officer, and junior second officer, also the secretary to the Austro-Hungarian Consulate at Singapore who was a passenger on the boat. The evidence was taken on commission at Malta where the above-named are all interned, and was taken on oath.

I have studied that evidence very carefully, and it does seem somewhat extraordinary that although they appear to have heard of the war between every other nation they yet should not have heard of the war between Great Britain and Austria.

They heard that "Germany was at war with the whole world," that there was "war between Germany, France and Russia," "England and Germany," "Germany and Belgium," and "Austria and Serbia." But they, one and all, swear that they had not heard of the declaration of war between Great Britain and Austria, not only before entering Suez, but they state that even while there they did not hear of it, and that the first news they got was after passing through the Canal and arriving at Port Said. The operator states that from midnight on August 12 until his arrival at Suez he neither sent nor received any wireless message. And he further states that the first news he had was at Port Said, where he was told "war had broken out while his ship was passing through the Canal." The period, considering the difference in time between midnight at London and the next midday at Suez, is certainly very short for the news to have become generally known. The statements of all these witnesses are very definite, and were not in any way affected by the cross-examination, nor is there any definite evidence before me that they had knowledge of the war, beyond the probability that having wireless, they would have picked up this news. I am of opinion, therefore, that I must accept this evidence, which compels me to come to the conclusion that this was a ship entering the harbour in ignorance of the outbreak of hostilities between Great Britain and Austria.

The next question I have to consider is what is to be the form of order I make in this case. Although in a former and similar case to this, the President of this Court, with whom I was then sitting, made an order for detention and restoration after the war, from which order I differed, holding that the order should be one of detention with liberty to apply, viz., the "Chile" order, and on that occasion the President's view as the senior judge prevailed, nevertheless, without any desire to in any way show disrespect for that judgment, because I have the highest respect for the views the President has taken in these cases, I do not consider that the judgment binds this Court, and, that being so, I think I should be inconsistent if I did not adhere to my previous opinion. Therefore, the order in this case will be the "Chile" order, viz., detention during the war with liberty to apply.

DIRECTORY—*continued from page 218.*

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WHITTALL, Lady, Moda Cottage, Esher.
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WHITTALL, Edwin, and family, 16, North Road, Surbiton.
WHITTALL, Miss Enid, 84, Worple Road, Wimbledon.
WHITTALL, Miss Lucy, 60, Scarsdale Villas, South Kensington, S.W.
WHITTALL, Mrs Jack, Hotel Minerva, Athens.
WILKINSON, J. W., and family, Chios, Greece.
WOODS, Mrs. Harold, Baynton House, Westbury, Wilts.
WOODS, Harold, Continental Hotel, Cairo.

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Near East Markets.

LOCUSTS IN CYPRUS.

(From a Correspondent.)

Cyprus, June 4.

In dealing with locusts, the spraying method has been again successful; and this has been supplemented by purchase of the insects by weight where desirable. Amongst the locusts this year were some alien swarms of a very large species, which occasionally—but rarely—finds it way to Cyprus. The flights were apparently from Syria, which was this year a fertile and formidable breeding ground for the pest. From the south two invasions, in March and April respectively, attacked Egypt. The proximity of the Syrian mainland is always a source of danger from this scourge; so that even if in Cyprus the now indigenous swarms are almost exterminated, there may always be fresh incursions from neighbouring countries.

Of the carob crop it is still too early to speak, as the trees are always liable to suffer from an excess of hot, parching winds. The season for gathering is from the middle of August.

JAFFA ORANGE TRADE.

(From a Correspondent.)

Cairo, June 7.

It was predicted in my last report that, owing to the interruption of Jaffa orange exports during December and January, the two months wherein the shipments used, in normal times, to be most active, the season would be prolonged till the middle of May. As a matter of fact, it has actually been drawn till the very end of that month, *i.e.*, fully a month and a-half later than usual, the last shipment of about 6,000 boxes having arrived at Alexandria on May 29 by a Greek steamer that had been chartered and performed three successive voyages between Jaffa and Alexandria.

According to reliable statistics the total shipments of oranges effected to England viâ Alexandria amount to about 112,229 boxes, of which 89,874 to Liverpool, 20,759 to Manchester, 676 to London, and 920 to Hull. A further full cargo of about 25,000 boxes is said to have been shipped direct to Liverpool by a chartered Greek steamer, s.s. Ekaterini, in April last. Out of this total only about 13,000 boxes have been shipped between the end of October and end of November; while the large balance had to be shipped by every available opportunity between the following dates, February 5 and May 18. The shipments to Alexandria totalled about 55,000 boxes, and wholesale prices here averaged about 6s. per box. Never before have such large quantities of Jaffa oranges been imported into Egypt during such a period; and, while the consumers were delighted, the native orange growers resented the competition of this outside fruit which, by successive and comparatively heavy arrivals, led to a general pulling down of prices. In Liverpool, however, prices varied considerably according to the quality and condition of the fruit. While good and sound oranges fetched handsome prices, sometimes over 12s. per box, the lower grades could not stand the long voyage and arrived mostly in a wasty condition, fetching, according to the last reports, prices hardly sufficient to cover freight and expenses, which, this year, were unusually high. Anyway a complete disaster has been averted, and between the shipments made to England and Egypt, on the one hand, and to Dedeagatch, in transit for further destinations inland, and Turkish ports, on the other, probably more than the third of the crop has been saved from utter ruin, and the largest measure of the credit is due to the British authorities both here and in England for their generous and reasonable attitude.

The greater problem now is the maintenance of the orange orchards themselves. It is known that those orchards are supplied with well water which is rather deep, and is pumped up by means of oil motors. The old and primitive *naoura*, turned by animals, has been in almost every case superseded by modern steam-driven machinery. Now, as the Turkish Government has requisitioned most of (not to say all) the petroleum in the country, the merchants dared import no further quantities. At one time the British authorities here, having had their attention specially drawn to the important British shipping and trade interests involved in the Jaffa orange trade, thus seriously jeopardized, were generously inclined to consider the licensing of the necessary quantities of petroleum into Jaffa to save the people from ruin, and, at the same time, to protect future British interests, but as they had reason to believe that this exceptional measure would be nullified by the high-handed and heartless action of the Turkish Government, they let matters stand as they were.

In the case of certain British protected subjects, even the motors are said to have been confiscated by the authorities. Still, some hopes are yet entertained that these and other orchards, threatened with utter ruin, through the absence of oil, may yet be saved by the installation of the old *naoura* system. Although horses and mules have been entirely commandeered by the authorities, yet cows and donkeys may, as a makeshift, be temporarily substituted. But the scarcity of money and of wood may present yet another problem difficult of solution. The orange trees are usually watered during the dry season every five to six days, and it is said that if they be left unwatered for a few weeks at a stretch they run the risk of drying up completely. The fierce, and feebly checked, invasion of locusts, which are said to have devoured the tender shoots and flowers, have aggravated an already most serious condition of affairs.

COTTON REPORT.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Liverpool, June 24.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report:—

Egyptian Spot.—There has been a fair amount of business reported this week in cotton, but the tone has been quiet and prices have ruled in buyers' favour. Quotations show a decline of 15 points. The sales are estimated at 3,100 bales, as against 2,700 last week.

Manchester Report.

As forecast in our last report, the cotton trade dispute has been settled by acceptance of all parties concerned of the Board of Trade proposals. The general tone of the market continues quiet, and very little confidence in the future is displayed. The most important feature of the week has been the issue of the prospectus of the new War Loan, and it is feared in some quarters that the very generous terms offered by the Government may cause a run on the loan capital of the mills. Egyptian yarn continues neglected.

PRODUCE REPORT.

Currants.

London, June 24.

No arrivals have taken place, but the s.s. Salermo and s.s. Princesse Clementine are afloat with full cargoes. Nearly the whole of these have been sold to arrive. In the absence of sufficient stocks prices of all qualities are constantly hardening, and the choice of fruit offering on the market is extremely restricted. Business in new crop is being done at lower rates than present spot values, but as the goods can hardly be expected to arrive much before the end of September this reduction does not affect the present position. The crop prospects are reported to be good at present. Prices this past week for Provincial are 29s. to 29s. 6d., Amalias 30s. to 31s., Patras 31s. to 33s., Gulf 31s. to 32s., Vostizza 36s. to 40s., Island 30s. to 31s., smalls 29s. to 35s.

In Liverpool the general demand has been quieter this past week, but there was no pressure to sell, holders being firm and not inclined to accept any less money in order to make more sales ex quay. The business done was at full rates, and there is nothing now offering on the market under 27s. 6d. Zante of good quality was in request at 30s. to 32s., up to 33s. being paid for smalls Fine fruit is cleared from the Liverpool market, and good is getting into small compass.

Sultanas.

There is a good general inquiry at fully late rates, and there seems to be no prospect of further arrivals from neutral countries in the near future. New crop reports are varied, but with the existing difficulties of cultivation, including the absence of sulphate of copper for treating disease, no large yield can be expected. It is too early to speculate on the prospects of shipments from Turkey.

In the Liverpool market the few thousand packages that arrived by the s.s. Pontiac and s.s. Bulgarian met with an active demand, and nearly all cleared at 58s. to 65s. per cwt., so that, again, there is very little remaining in first hands, and there is nothing afloat for this market. Some Afghanistan fruit was sold at 54s. and 55s., showing an advance of 2s. per cwt. from previous sales.

Seeds.

Linseed is dearer, London-Calcutta being quoted 55s. for spot and 55s. afloat. Rapeseed is quiet, but steady; Cawnpore brown June-July is quoted 51s., and pure Guzerat 56s. Cotton seed has been inactive. London-Egyptian on passage, quoted £8 15s., and June shipment, £8 15s. per ton.

Oils.

Linseed oil continues to decline, but there is a better demand at the reduced rates ruling. On the spot, pipes, £26 5s.; barrels, £27 5s.; month, £26 15s.; July-August, £27 10s.; September-December, £28 12s. 6d. Rape oil has declined in value. Ordinary brown on the spot, naked, £36 to £40. Cotton oil shows a further reduction; crude, on the spot, pipes, £28 15s.; refined, on the spot, pale, pipes, £30 10s.; sweet, barrels, £36 to £37.

Oil Cakes.

Egyptian cotton cakes are only in moderate supply, but, with some falling off in the consumptive demand, quotations remain steady, best brands selling at £6 11s. 3d. to £6 12s. 6d., while for June, orders ask £6 10s. ex ship, and July £6 12s. 6d. Linseed Cakes.—There is some slight improvement in the tone of the market, and values are, if anything, the turn dearer both for foreign and home-made descriptions, more especially the latter, in consequence of short productions from the mills at the present moment. Best London made sell slowly at £10 2s. 6d. to £10 5s. Fine quality Greek in bags make £10 10s., ex. docks. Decorticated cotton cake is procurable in limited quantity at £8 15s. per ton, ex. dock.

Onions.

The export of this article to the Continent has practically been prohibited by the Government. With heavy stocks of Egyptian here and more on the way, the prices have slumped badly. Quotations, however, are well above the average for the time of year.

Locust Beans.

The scarcity continues, with prices for whole at £8, and kibbled at £8 10s.

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Trade Notes.

Egypt.

Tenders are invited for the supply of clothing for the pupils of the Bulâq Elementary Training College for Women Teachers, for the school-year 1915-1916, as shown in the following list:—

No. of Sample	Description.	Quantity.
1	Flannelette, width 74 centimetres, in two colours	2,570 metres
2	Printed calico, width 80 centimetres, in two colours	2,660 ,,
3	Coloured zephyr, for pinafores, width 90 centimetres	2,120 ,,
4	Native blue linen, for pinafores, width 97 centimetres	1,060 ,,
5	Muslin for veils, width 72 centimetres	1,520 ,,
6	White press buttons	700 dozens
7	Tape	1,660 metres
8	Shoes for girls; different sizes ranging from 37 to 42	660 pairs

The contractor may obtain the measurements necessary for the supply of shoes at the Bulâq Training College. Persons desirous of tendering should apply for inspection of samples and copies of the specification to the Central Stores of the Ministry of Education, Darb el Gamamiz, Cairo, any day (Fridays and holidays excepted) between the hours of 8 a.m. and noon. Tenders must be submitted on the form supplied by the Central Stores, and in double sealed envelopes, the object of the tender being indicated on the first, and the second bearing the address: "Ministry of Education, Sharia el Turka el Gharbi, Cairo." Every tender must be accompanied by a provisional deposit of two per cent. of the total value of the offer. Post office orders or cheques on local banks will be accepted, but not cheques on banks abroad. The provisional deposit may be replaced by a letter of guarantee from an approved bank in Egypt to the effect that the bank will hold at the disposal of the Government a sum equivalent to ten per cent. of the total value of the contract, in the event of the tenderer obtaining the same. Tenders may be submitted for the supply of some or all of the articles, but in no case will a contractor be allowed to supply other than the total quantity required of any one article. Tenders will be received by the Ministry up to noon on July 31, 1915. They will be opened on August 1, 1915, at 10 a.m., at the Central Stores of the Ministry of Education.

Tenders are invited by the War Office, Cairo, for the supply of 9,600 baskets, earth; 2,100 handled brooms, grass; 320 unhandled brooms, grass; 260 basins for *zirs*; six cooking pots, medium, copper; six cooking lids, medium, copper; twenty-four cooking pots, large, eighteen gallons, copper; eight skimmers, copper. Date, June 26.

Tenders will be received at the Central Stores of the Ministry of Finance for the supply of articles of stationery required for the Government Departments during the year 1915-1916. Persons wishing to tender should apply to the Economat Central at the Ministry of Finance in order to consult the conditions and specifications of the supply. Tenders will be received up to July 22, 1915, at noon.

Tenders are invited by the War Office, Cairo, for the supply of 650 lamps, candle (Shamadans), with globes; 1,000 globes, spare (Shamadans), for the Citadel Stores, Cairo. Persons wishing to tender can see the conditions of contract at the above office, any day, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., except Fridays and general holidays. Date, June 30.

Messrs. Compton and Sons were recently the successful tenderers to the Ministry of Education for the supply of blue suits for the Industrial School.

Messrs. Setton and Company, of Cairo, were the successful tenderers recently to the War Office, Cairo, for the supply of barley at the War Department Stores.

Agents, Egyptian subjects, established since 1903, desire to represent, on commission, British manufacturers and exporters of cinema films, textiles, clothing and underclothing (men's, ladies' and children's), novelties for ladies, glass and earthenware, ironmongery, etc. First-class English references. Address, Grossmann and Grunfeld, P.O. Box 831, Cairo, Egypt.

Cyprus.

The Board of Trade have been informed by the Chief Collector of Customs at Cyprus that raw cotton has been added to the list of articles the exportation of which is prohibited to foreign ports in Europe and on the Mediterranean and Black Seas, other than those of France, Russia (except Baltic Ports), Belgium, Spain and Portugal, under the Proclamation of March 15, 1915.

Under the power and authority vested in him by the Quarantine Law, 1879, His Excellency the High Commissioner orders that all direct arrivals from Greece shall be subjected to medical inspection, with disinfection of clothing and effects of third class and deck passengers, to be undergone either at Larnaca, Limassol, or Famagusta.

Greece.

The Egyptian military authorities have given orders to the Customs Department not to accept any goods from Greece that are not signed by the British consuls of their places of origin. With regard to exports from Egypt to Greece these must be accompanied by a declaration that the goods are for the use of the inhabitants of Greece.

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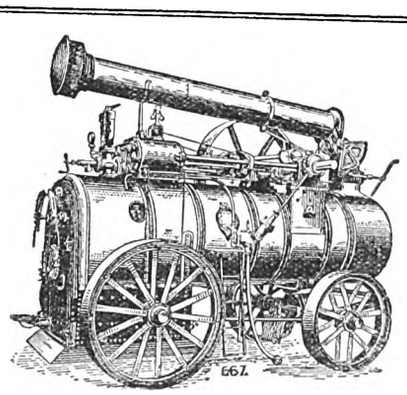

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Engineering Notes.

Forced Draught.

It is reported that owing to the high price of coal many steam factories in the Near East are seriously embarrassed, and that some have already been closed for that reason. We have mentioned in these columns that in some districts an inferior kind of coal (such as lignite, brown coal, also wood and a variety of woody substances) can easily be obtained at very cheap rates, but in most of the local factories, especially the larger ones, such fuel cannot be used with satisfactory results. The fault often lies with the construction of the chimneys, the plans and details of which are made and sent, as a rule, by the makers of the engines and boilers without any knowledge of, or consideration for, local conditions. The result is that such chimneys are often found unsuitable for inferior classes of fuel. Inefficiency to supply the needed draught for the combustion of the available fuel is the principal fault. In the circumstances, therefore, and given the present high price of fuel, the question of mechanical draught as applied to steam boilers is worthy of serious attention, especially when it involves a saving of from 3s. to 5s. per ton. An insufficient supply of air causes imperfect combustion of the fuel, indicated by the production of black smoke. An excess of air causes waste of heat. The maximum efficiency lies, therefore, between the two extremes.

The Chimney Draught.

The natural draught in a chimney is entirely dependent on the difference of temperature between the inside and outside. The higher the temperature of gases passing inside, as against a lower exterior temperature, the greater the velocity and consequent higher intensity of draught at the furnaces. With this increased draught a greater quantity of fuel can be consumed on the same grate area and a greater heat obtained. This, transmitted to the water in the boiler, increases the capacity of the latter by raising more steam in a given time. Similar results to the above described accrue from increasing the height of a chimney, but there are two important reasons why these methods should not be adopted by those desiring maximum efficiency with minimum expenditure: (1) The high temperature of the gases going up the chimney means an enormous and constant waste. (2) The tall chimney entails a very high initial cost.

Advantages of Forced Draught.

The installation of a fan for increasing the draught would give better results than the highest possible temperature of waste gases or the tallest chimney it is practicable to build. The results are due to a less volume of air being required, though at a higher pressure than with chimney draught. A chimney usually works at a vacuum of ½ in. to ¾ in., while an induced draught fan is generally arranged to give 1½ ins. to 2 ins. In consequence of this higher pressure thicker fires can be carried and higher temperatures maintained, resulting in more rapid conduction of heat through the heating surfaces, and therefore a greater economy of heat than with chimney draught. The increase in evaporating power of boilers fitted with induced draught fans is such that usually three boilers do the work of four with chimney draught, and in some instances two boilers have evaporated as much as three were previously doing. The principal economy, however, lies in the fact that with mechanical draught a cheaper and inferior fuel can be used than with natural draught; and this is of great importance to steam users in the Near East, who may find relief from their present embarrassment by adopting this system. British makers of such mechanical draught plants give, as a rule, particulars as to size required, price of same, and plans of erection to buyers abroad.

New War Motors.

Agents of American firms have recently been very busy in the Balkan States trying to obtain Government orders for a new and very unusual type of mechanical transport in the form of vehicles arranged so that all four wheels are utilised for transmitting the drive, steering, and braking. They assert that a large number of these have been supplied to the Allies, and it is stated that military authorities in the Balkan States are very favourably impressed with these new war motors. The advantage of this system of construction is that the vehicle can negotiate successfully broken and soft ground, as well as such severe inclines as would probably render mechanical transport by the ordinary rear-wheel drive and front-wheel steering type hors de combat. It is, of course, evident that when climing a hill a vehicle which has power transmitted to the four points that are in contact with the road must have the advantage over one which has only two points in contact; and so much is this the case, in fact, that the makers guarantee their armoured trucks to climb a gradient as steep as one in two, the power to enable them to do this being derived from petrol engines of 120 h.p. The steering gear is ingenious, as it controls both of the axles, so that the rear wheels follow exactly in the tracks of the front wheels. This feature, together with the four-wheel drive, makes the machines very serviceable on muddy and broken roads. It is stated that Russia has already given an order for 300 of these vehicles, costing £1,000 each.

Baghdad Railway.

On June 12, *Engineering* published the following review of work on the Baghdad Railway:—In spite of the war, or, as it is asserted in some quarters, owing to military considerations connected with the war, the work on the Baghdad Railway is being pushed forward with no small amount of energy, and by degrees the comprehensive scheme is being opened for general traffic. Recently the most important tunnel on the Baghdad Railway, the Bilemedik Tunnel, has been pierced and is approaching its completion; its length is 1,826 metres. The sections upon which work is most active are those in the Cilician Taurus and in the Amanus Mountains, which are associated with the military advantages that will be obtained when there is a direct railway connection from the Bosphorus to the Egyptian frontier. The work, however, is not confined to the above-mentioned remaining links in the Baghdad Railway system, which are deemed to be of immediate strategical importance, but also comprises more easterly portions which cannot be deemed to be of any direct military moment. Several fresh sections have been opened for traffic, both in the most northerly part of Mesopotamia and as regards the extension of the line from the coast to the Euphrates and a more southerly section in the vicinity of Baghdad. Unfinished portions in various districts of Asia Minor divide, so to speak, the Baghdad Railway from Konia to the Euphrates into three sections, and, as a fourth section, may now be counted the line which proceeds from Baghdad in a northern direction, the length of which is 120 km.

EGYPTIAN HALL MARKS.

The *Journal Officiel* of June 3 publishes the following communiqué from the Assay Office, Ministry of Finance:—

The attention of the public is called to the fact that the Egyptian Government hall marks on gold and silver jewellery have been slightly altered, and from June 1, 1915, will be as mentioned below. To protect themselves against fraud the public are requested to see that all gold and silver jewellery bought is stamped with the Government hall marks. Marks other than those of the Government carry no official guarantee whatever of the genuineness or quality of the article. The new hall marks are:—

GOLD.—(1) A rectangle containing the design of a bird. (2) A square containing the fineness, as karats, in Arabic figures, and letters denoting the Government Assay Office where stamped. (3) A square containing the Government private date mark. Where possible, marks 1, 2, and 3 will be stamped on all articles; on very small articles, No. 2 only will be marked.

SILVER.—(1) An oblong containing the design of a cat. (2) A square containing the fineness per cent. in Arabic figures, and letters denoting the Government Assay Office where stamped. (3) A square containing the Government private date mark. (4) The Turra mark (monogram of the Sultan of Egypt). Where possible, marks 1, 2, and 3 will be used on all articles; on very small articles, No. 2 only will be used. No. 4 will only be used on large articles of 90 and 80 per cent. fineness respectively, and always together with marks 1, 2, and 3.

INGOTS OF GOLD AND SILVER.—(1) An oblong containing the name of the Assay Office in Arabic. (2) Numbers (Arabic) denoting the fineness. (3) A square containing the Government private date mark.

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NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

It is stated that before the war there were bank notes in circulation in Egypt to the amount of £E2,700,000, whereas at the present time the bank note circulation is £E8,250,000.

The *Vossische Zeitung*, says an Amsterdam telegram, learns from Constantinople that a tunnel nearly three miles long, near Bagdje, through the Amanus Mountains, has been completed, thus connecting the Baghdad Railway on the Kiliki plain with Aleppo, in Northern Syria.

Mr. R. N. Ingham, Chartered Accountant, has been appointed Chief Accountant of the Khedivial Mail Steamship and Graving Dock Co., Limited, as from May 17, and has been invested with all powers formerly exercised by his predecessor.

Montenegrins in Canada, of whom there are 6,000, have been called home. They will leave with the Italian Reservists.

In reply to the inquiry sent by the Manchester Chamber of Commerce to the Foreign Office, Sir Edward Grey stated that the island of Mitylene must not be considered from a commercial point of view as a hostile island.

On June 19 the office of Egyptian and Foreign Trust, Limited, will be removed from 4, Corbet Court, Gracechurch Street, E.C., to 222-224, Dashwood House, New Broad Street, E.C.

The conflagration which devastated one of the most densely-populated quarters of Pera on Tuesday last, and lasted from noon till midnight, was one of the biggest fires, says an Athens telegram, ever reported in Constantinople. Hundreds of houses were detroyed.

Owing to the participation of Italy (Egypt's biggest supplier of paper) in the war, the Egyptian newspapers are suffering from a serious shortage of paper, and have been reduced in size.

The May issue of the *Boletin de las Cámaras de Comercio* (Madrid) states that, according to the Spanish Consul at Melilla the imports into that port during 1914 represented a value of 48,887,161 pesetas. The principal countries contributing to this trade were as follows:—Spain, 25,349,191 pesetas; United Kingdom, 8,758,434 pesetas; France, 6,246,179 pesetas; Algeria, 3,766,033 pesetas; Germany, 1,762,115 pesetas; Belgium, 1,242,291 pesetas; and Italy, 608,082 pesetas. The imports from the United Kingdom consisted chiefly of coke, gasoline, candles, common soap, cotton and woollen goods, cordage, carts and carriages, sugar, tea, condensed milk, and preserves. In view of the situation due to the European war it is to be presumed, remarks the Consul, that the imports from Germany and Belgium were confined to the first seven months of the year. The chief German imports were lubricating oil, window glass, fittings for doors and windows, metal manufactures, starch, common soap, cotton and woollen fabrics, paper in rolls, watches, typewriting machines, phonographs, electric wire, incandescent mantles, machinery in general, sugar, and toys.

The report of the Malta and Mediterranean Gas Company, Limited, states that the balance of the general revenue account is £7,335. The directors recommend the payment of the usual dividends on the first and second preference capital and a dividend of 4 per cent., free of income-tax, on the ordinary capital, making, with the interim dividend paid in December last, 6 per cent. for the year to March 31, leaving £2,420 to be carried forward.

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

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COMPANY MEETINGS.

BANK OF ROUMANIA, LIMITED.

The ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the Bank of Roumania, Limited, was held on June 23 at the offices, 7, Great Winchester Street, E.C., the Earl of Bessborough, C.V.O., C.B., presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. H. W. A. Kilgour) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: In rising to move the adoption of the report and accounts for the year 1914 I wish, first of all, to refer to the great loss which Roumania has sustained by the death of King Charles, who, after a reign of 48 years devoted exclusively to the welfare and progress of his country, passed away quite unexpectedly on October 10 last, and was laid to his rest amidst universal mourning. With regard to the balance-sheet, I may say that the result of the year's working has been quite satisfactory. However, owing to the unprecedented level of exchanges there has been deducted from the profits shown in Bucharest, after making provision for bad debts, a sum of Lei 370,400 to meet possible losses in exchange on unmatured operations, and after having written £6,661 8s. 3d. off investments there remains a sum of £17,171 8s. 10d. I would point out that the increase in deposits, for which there is a corresponding increase in the cash, is not a sterling liability, but a liability of our Bucharest Branch in Roumanian lei. A large part of the increase represents the proceeds of bills, etc., collected in Roumania on foreign account. Owing, no doubt, to the high rates of exchange and the difficulty of procuring remittances, much of this money is being left in Roumania for the present by the owners.

Turning now to the general state of affairs in Roumania, I may say that during the first half of the past year normal conditions prevailed there. The Balkan war being over, it was thought that peace in that part of Europe had been secured, at any rate for some years, and with the prospect of a good harvest the outlook was considered very encouraging, and a spirit of enterprise was manifest everywhere. These optimistic hopes were shattered by the outbreak of the European war, accompanied, unfortunately, by adverse reports from the country respecting the harvest. All this might have had serious results but for the far-seeing action of the National Bank of Roumania, to whom the financial and commercial community owe a debt of gratitude. In some quarters there was a demand for a general moratorium, but it was not acceded to, and it was only towards the end of December that a partial step in that direction was taken by decreeing a moratorium for foreign liabilities. This was done on account of the difficulty of procuring exchange, owing, firstly, to the war, and, later on, to the closing of the Dardanelles, Roumania's principal route for the export of her produce. The national accounts for the financial year ended March 31, 1914, resulted in a surplus of nearly £2,250,000; but those for the year ended March 31 last are not yet available. The National Debt was reduced, through the regular operation of the sinking fund, by £1,600,000 during the year; but in order to meet heavy military expenditure the Government obtained a loan of £8,000,000 from the National Bank.

The receipts from the national railways for the year 1914-15 showed a decrease of £200,000, owing to the dislocation of trade, while the output of crude petroleum for 1914 amounted to 1,783,947 tons, a decrease of a little over 100,000 tons compared with the previous year. Owing to unfavourable weather, last year's harvest did not come up to expectations. The crop prospects for the present year were very good until recently, but it is too early to speak definitely as to what the result will be.

I have again to express to the staff of the Bank, both here and in Roumania, my thanks for their conscientious services during these very trying times. In consideration of the exceptional state of affairs and the very serious increase in the cost of living at home and abroad we intend to make them a special allowance.

Mr. E. W. H. Berry seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The Chairman proposed that the retiring member of the board, the Viscount Goschen, should be re-elected a member of the board.

Mr. E. W. H. Berry seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. J. Mason Williams moved that Messrs. Jackson, Pixley, Browning, Husey and Company should be re-elected auditors for the ensuing year, and that their remuneration should be fixed at forty guineas.

Mr. G. H. Tuck seconded the motion.

Mr A.. Hood proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman, the board of directors, and staff.

Mr. W. J. Hoskins seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously, and the proceeedings terminated.

DELICIOUS COFFEE.
RED WHITE & BLUE
For Breakfast & after Dinner.
Wholesale, of Hanson's, London, England.

ALEXANDRIA WATER COMPANY.

The thirty-seventh annual general meeting of the shareholders was held in Alexandria on June 4, 1915, at which the following report and balance-sheet were unanimously approved. The number of shares represented was 22,878. The report states:

The directors, in submitting to the shareholders their annual report on the year's working, together with the accounts and balance-sheet to March 31, 1915, have pleasure in reporting that, in spite of the present circumstances, the actual revenue of the company shows only a slight diminution as compared with last year. A sum of £7,918 has been spent on new works during the course of the year. The length of new filtered and unfiltered water mains laid during the year amounts to 6,621 metres, and the length of high pressure mains to 1,297 metres. 6,816 new sprinklers and drenchers and 10 additional fire hydrants have been connected up to this latter installation. The high pressure service has been used for the extinction of 12 fires during the year, and has in each case proved its efficiency. At the Ramleh Pumping Station the second Diesel engine (250 h.p.) has been completed and started working in September last. In consequence of the high price of coal, the directors have examined the question of burning liquid fuel in our boilers. A trial plant that has been ordered will soon be at work and will enable us to ascertain the economy gained in using liquid fuel, and the advisability of adopting it in general so long as the supply of this article can be assured. The total receipts, which amount to £142,849, show a decrease of £1,421 as compared with last year; on the other hand, there is also a diminution in the working expenses of £973, making a nett decrease of £448 on last year's figures. The directors have written off a sum of £7,218 from buildings, machinery, mains, etc., which brings the total sum written off up to date to £100,101. The value of the securities, based on the nominal market price at March 31, 1915, shows a loss of £15,000 owing to the general depression of all first-class securities in consequence of the war; the directors have thought it prudent to write off this depreciation from the "profit and loss" account by the credit of a special account, "provision for depreciation of securities," reserving for themselves the right of subsequently transferring to the "profit and loss" account whatever increase in value the securities may attain, as soon as the situation seems to them to justify such a transfer, but, at any rate, not later than twelve months after the conclusion of peace.

The balance of the "profit and loss" account, after making the above depreciation and the usual allowances, and after deducting the interim dividend of 4 per cent. paid on December 15, 1914, is £57,000, from which should first be deducted 6 per cent. to complete, with the interim dividend, the 10 per cent. on the capital, namely, £36,000, leaving a balance of £21,000, of which one-half is due to the municipality according to the existing convention, and the other half to the shareholders, namely, £10,500, representing 1s. 9d. per share, and this added to the above makes a total of 7s. 9d. per share, which with the interim dividend of 4s. paid on December 15, 1914, makes a total dividend of 11s. 9d. for the year.

Baron J. L. de Menasce and Mr. A. L. Gorra were the two directors who retired by rotation, and, being eligible, offered themselves for re-election, which was duly confirmed.

Liabilities.

	£ s. d.
To Share Capital, authorised and issued—120,000 shares of £5 each, fully paid..	600,000 0 0
,, Creditors and other accounts—	
Deposits by consumers £25,354 3 3	
Sundries 23,581 13 10	
	48,935 17 1
,, Reserve, belonging to the shareholders	105,097 0 8
,, Provision for depreciation of securities	15,000 0 0
,, Profit and loss account—	
Balance carried forward March 31, 1915.....	57,000 0 0
	£826,032 17 9

Assets.

	£ s. d.
By Land, Buildings, Machinery, Mains, etc., at cost to the Company £469,522 15 8	
Less: Depreciation 100,101 0 0	
	369,421 15 8
,, Concession, at cost	233,684 18 10
,, Securities at market price at March 31, 1914:—	
£15,000 Agricultural Bank of Egypt 4% Preference Shares; £30,000 Egyptian Privileged Debt, 3½%; £111,900 Egyptian Unified Debt, 4%	152,335 19 11
,, Sundry Debtors:—	
Sundries 3,026 11 6	
Arrears due on water rates, etc..... 5,892 1 3	
	8,918 12 9
,, Cash at bankers and in hand.....	45,386 6 11
,, Stock of material in hand, at cost, less depreciation, as certified by the manager	15,385 2 1
,, Office furniture, at cost, less depreciation.....	900 1 7
	£826,032 17 9

Profit and Loss Account for Twelve Months Ending March 31, 1915.

	£ s. d.
To Dividend paid on June 15, 1914, at 8s. 9d. per share £52,500 0 0	
,, Municipality's Share to March 31, 1914, by Convention..... 16,500 0 0	
	69,000 0 0
,, Interim Dividend paid December 15, 1914, at 4s. per share	24,000 0 0
,, Depreciation on buildings, machinery, mains, etc.	7,218 2 6
,, Provision for depreciation of securities	15,000 0 0
,, Staff Assurance and Employees' Relief Fund	2,447 0 7
,, Gratuity to Staff.....	1,616 15 11
,, Provision for compensation claims ..	800 0 0
,, Balance carried to balance sheet	57,000 0 0
	£177,081 19 0
	£ s. d.
By Balance as per profit and loss account, March 31, 1914	69,000 0 0
,, Balance from revenue and expenditure account	98,940 18 7
,, Profit on ice works	876 12 0
,, Services and fittings, sale of material and sundry receipts	1,676 17 11
,, Interest on securities, etc.	6,587 10 6
	£177,081 19 0

WAR ON GERMAN TRADE.

In connection with the campaign undertaken by the Board of Trade, on the advice of the Advisory Committee on Commercial Intelligence, to assist British manufacturers and merchants to secure trade formerly in the hands of Germans or Austro-Hungarian firms, the Board continues to receive a very large number of inquiries for the names of sellers or buyers of articles.

Special arrangements have been made in the Commerical Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade for dealing with these inquiries, and lists are prepared and circulated of articles which inquirers desire (a) to purchase, and (b) to sell. List 26 is now ready, and may be obtained by United Kingdom manufacturers and traders.

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£4 10s. % WAR LOAN, 1925-1945.

ISSUE OF STOCK OR BONDS,

Bearing interest at 4½% per annum, payable half-yearly on the 1st June and the 1st December.

Price of Issue fixed by H.M. Treasury at £100 per Cent.

A full half-year's Dividend will be paid on the 1st December, 1915.

The Stock is an investment authorised by "The Trustee Act, 1893," and Trustees may invest therein notwithstanding that the price may at the time of investment exceed the redemption value of £100 per cent.

Applications, which must be accompanied by a deposit of £5 per cent., will be received at the Bank of England, Threadneedle Street, London, E.C., and may be forwarded either direct, or through the medium of any Banker or Stockbroker in the United Kingdom. **Applications must be for even hundreds of pounds.**

Arrangements are being made for the receipt of applications for smaller amounts than £100 through the Post Office.

Further payments will be required as follows:—

£10 per Cent. on Tuesday, the 20th July.
£15 per Cent. on Tuesday, the 3rd August.
£15 per Cent. on Tuesday, the 17th August.
£15 per Cent. on Tuesday, the 31st August.
£10 per Cent. on Tuesday, the 14th September.
£10 per Cent. on Tuesday, the 28th September.
£10 per Cent. on Tuesday, the 12th October.
£10 per Cent. on Tuesday, the 26th October.

THE GOVERNOR AND COMPANY OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND are authorised to receive applications for this Loan, which will take the form either of Inscribed Stock or Bonds to Bearer, at the option of the Subscribers.

If not previously redeemed the Loan will be repaid at par on the 1st December, 1945, but his Majesty's Government reserve to themselves the right to redeem the Loan at par at any time on, or after, the 1st December, 1925, on giving three calendar months' notice in the "London Gazette." Both Capital and Interest will be a charge on the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom.

The books of the Loan will be kept at the Bank of England and at the Bank of Ireland. Dividends will be paid half-yearly on the 1st June and 1st December. Dividends on Stock will be paid by Warrant, which will be sent by post. Dividends on Bonds will be paid by Coupon.

Inscribed Stock will be convertible into Bonds to Bearer at any time without payment of any fee; and Bonds to Bearer will be exchangeable for Inscribed Stock on payment of a fee of one shilling per Bond.

The instalments may be paid in full on or after the 20th July, 1915, under discount at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum. In case of default in the payment of any instalment by its proper date, the deposit and the instalments previously paid will be liable to forfeiture.

Scrip Certificates to Bearer, with Coupon attached for the dividend payable on the 1st December, 1915, will be issued in exchange for the provisional receipts. As soon as these Scrip Certificates have been paid in full they can be inscribed (i.e., can be converted into Stock); or, they can be exchanged for Bonds to Bearer (as soon as these can be prepared) in denominations of £100, £200, £500, £1,000, £5,000, and £10,000. Inscribed Stock will be transferable in any sums which are multiples of a penny.

CONVERSION OF

£3 10s. per Cent. War Loan, 1925-1928.
£2 10s. per Cent. Consols.
£2 15s. per Cent. Annuities.
£2 10s. per Cent. Annuities.

Holders of £4 10s. per Cent. War Loan, 1925-1945, will have the additional right, **in respect of each £100 Stock (or Bonds) held by them,** and fully-paid in cash, to exercise one or other of the four following options of conversion, **provided application for conversion is made not later than the 30th October, 1915.**

OPTION 1. Conversion of £3 10s. per Cent. War Loan, 1925-1928.

To exchange Stock (or Bonds) of £3 10s. per Cent. War Loan, 1925-1928, to an amount not exceeding £100 nominal, for fully-paid Stock (or Bonds) of £4 10s. per Cent. War Loan, 1925-1945, at the rate of £100 of the former, with a cash payment of £5 per cent. thereon, for £100 of the latter.

Persons who exercise this option will receive the dividend of £1 10s 11d per cent. payable on the 1st September, 1915, in respect of the £3 10s. per Cent. War Loan, 1925-1928, surrendered, and a full half-year's dividend of £2 5s. per cent., payable on the 1st December, 1915, in respect of the £4 10s. per Cent. War Loan, 1925-1945, issued in lieu thereof.

OPTION 2. Conversion of £2 10s. per Cent. Consols.

To exchange Stock (or Stock Certificates) of £2 10s. per cent. Consols to an amount not exceeding £75 nominal, for fully-paid Stock (or Bonds) of £4 10s. per cent. War Loan, 1925-45, at the rate of £75 of the former for £50 of the latter.

Persons who exercise this option will receive the usual quarter's dividend of 12s. 6d. per cent., payable on the 5th October, 1915, in respect of the £2 10s. per cent. Consols surrendered, and a full half-year's dividend of £2 5s. per cent., payable on the 1st December, 1915, in respect of the £4 10s. per cent. War Loan, 1925-1945, issued in lieu thereof.

OPTION 3. Conversion of £2 15s. per Cent. Annuities.

To exchange Stock (or Stock Certificates) of £2 15s. per Cent. Annuities, to an amount not exceeding £67 nominal, for fully-paid Stock (or Bonds) of £4 10s. per Cent. War Loan, 1925-1945, at the rate of £67 of the former for £50 of the latter.

Persons who exercise this option will receive the usual quarter's dividend of 13s. 9d. per cent., payable on the 5th October, 1915, in respect of the £2 15s. per Cent. Annuities surrendered, and a full half-year's dividend of £2 5s. per cent., payable on the 1st December, 1915, in respect of the £4 10s. per Cent. War Loan, 1925-1945, issued in lieu thereof.

OPTION 4. Conversion of £2 10s. per Cent. Annuities.

To exchange Stock (or Stock Certificates) of £2 10s. per Cent. Annuities, to an amount not exceeding £78 nominal, for fully-paid Stock (or Bonds) of £4 10s. per Cent. War Loan, 1925-1945, at the rate of £78 of the former for £50 of the latter.

Persons who exercise this option will receive the usual quarter's dividend of 12s. 6d. per cent., payable on the 5th October, 1915, in respect of the £2 10s. per Cent. Annuities surrendered, and a full half-year's dividend of £2 5s. per cent., payable on the 1st December, 1915, in respect of the £4 10s. per Cent. War Loan, 1925-1945, issued in lieu thereof.

In the event of future issues (other than issues made abroad or issues of Exchequer Bonds, Treasury Bills, or similar short-dated Securities) being made by his Majesty's Government, for the purpose of carrying on the War, Stock and Bonds of this issue will be accepted at par, plus accrued interest, as the equivalent of cash for the purpose of subscriptions to such issues.

A commission of one-eighth per cent. will be allowed to Bankers, Brokers and Financial Houses on allotments made in respect of cash applications for this issue bearing their Stamp; but no commission will be allowed in respect of applications for conversion.

Application Forms for Cash Subscriptions may be obtained at the Bank of England and the Bank of Ireland; at any Bank or Money Order Office in the United Kingdom; of Messrs. Mullens, Marshall and Co., 13, George Street, Mansion House, E.C.; and of the principal Stockbrokers.

Application Forms for Conversion will be forwarded with each Letter of Allotment.

The LIST of APPLICATIONS will be CLOSED on or before SATURDAY, 10th July, 1915.

Bank of England, London, 21st June, 1915.

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COMPANY NOTES.

Shell Transport.

Referring at the general meeting held on Tuesday to the company's interests in Roumania, Sir Marcus Samuel, the chairman, said :—"Coming events cast their shadows before, and for a considerable period before the actual outbreak of the war, the movements of our ships in the Black Sea were constantly interfered with. In many cases steamers leaving Constanza and Batoum were vexatiously kept by the Turkish authorities for long periods. I venture to hope (continued the chairman) that whatever may be the outcome of the final fate of the Dardanelles, these waters may be so settled that shipping shall never be hampered again by the vexatious regulations arbitrarily and unnecessarily enforced, which have frequently militated so greatly against all shipping engaged in the Black Sea trade. For a period of many months now shipments from Roumania and Russia have been impossible. In the case of the former country, the Government have done their best to minimize the serious inconvenience caused to producers by placing at the disposal of the various companies the whole of the tankage which they had prepared in connection with the pipeline from Bacoi to Constanza, in which facility the Astra-Romana participated. Under such circumstances, it was necessary to decrease output, or the figures of production of the Astra, excellent as they are, would have proved even more satisfactory. It is with much pleasure that I have to inform you that the Astra-Romana has acquired a new territory at Ochiuri, where the first well is already giving a production of 90 tons a day. It is a compact area of 1,300 acres, and the well referred to is situated 200 metres from the boundary, so that we have every expectation of developing a most profitable field there."

Ellerman Line.

The report states that the dividends on the guaranteed preference shares, the 5½ per cent. preference shares, and the preferred ordinary shares, to September 30, have been duly paid, and the dividend for the remaining three months has been reserved for. The directors have limited the dividend on the deferred ordinary shares so as to enable them to set aside the £750,000 by way of extra provisions, or to reserve fund, as provided for under the scheme of reorganization. Of this sum, £500,000 has been applied by way of extra depreciation and other provisions, including provisions made in the accounts of the subsidiary companies, and £250,000 has been transferred to reserve fund. At the present date substantially the £750,000 referred to is invested in outside securities, Treasury bills, and fixed deposits. The trading for the first ten months of the period under review was of a very favourable character, but the outbreak of war, in August last, necessitated large additional expenditure for war risk insurance, working charges, and to meet very considerable interruption and disorganization of the services. Notwithstanding the largely increased earning capacity, arising from additional capital represented by new tonnage, the results for 1914 showed little improvements over the results of 1913. The directors view with apprehension the great increase in the cost of working the steamers, which is bound to tell adversely on the future, as experience in the past has proved that expenses take a very long time to fall to anything approaching the normal again. Since the outbreak of war, the company has had steamers of a total gross tonnage of 174,827 requisitioned for Government purposes, and steamers aggregating 77,461 tons are similarly employed at the present time. Since the date of the last report the passenger steamers City of Exeter, City of Nagpur, and City of Cairo have been delivered, also several cargo steamers; and including the tonnage of subsidiary companies, and the estimated tonnage of the steamers building, the total gross tonnage of the fleet is now about 633,500 tons. The City of Mysore was unfortunately lost by stranding, and the steamers City of Winchester, City of Khios, Assiout, Flaminian, and Andalusian have been destroyed by the enemy.

Egyptian Agricultural Co.

The directors report that an arrangement to provide, for some years to come, on reasonable terms, the necessary funds for developing the estates was on the point of completion, but all such calculations were upset by the war. Outlay on the estates could not be wholly suspended without doing irreparable mischief, but everything short of this has been stopped. The profit and loss account for the year shows a deficit of £3,025. The cotton crops from the estates were excellent. The charge for interest is necesarily heavy and there is no "set off" from the Dreaga purchase, the purchaser having failed to fulfil his contract. The property, as soon as legal proceedings are completed, will again form part of the Chaba Estate Meeting, 57, Old Broad Street, June 28, 2.30.

Egyptische Hypotheken Bank.

During January the Banque Hypothécaire Egyptienne appealed against a decision of the *juge des reférés* at the Mixed Court of Mansourah forbidding the sequestration of property belonging to the bank's debtors, the bank pleading that they were not managing it properly. During the hearing of the appeal some days ago it transpired that the original name of this bank was Egyptische Hypotheken Bank, and it was urged that it could not, according to the terms of Sir John Maxwell's proclamation, appear before a Court in Egypt. This view was not held by the Court, says the *Egyptian Gazette*, as the proclamation refers to branch establishments of enemy firms, the head offices of which are in enemy countries, whereas the Hypotheken Bank was formed in Egypt and has no head office elsewhere.

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields.

The *Morning Post* says:—In times past the shareholders in the above oilfields have been treated to most optimistic reports as to the possibilities of the properties. At one time, in April, 1914, the company turned out rather over 17,000 tons in a fortnight, and in October last 7,620 tons were produced in a week, owing to the re-opening of the well on the Hurgada property. Since then the production has practically fallen off week by week until about a fortnight ago it had dropped to seventy-seven tons, the last return being 394 tons. It is thought that this falling off may be due to three reasons. One is that the Hurgada well may be corked again; secondly, a shortage of labour brought about by the war; and the last reason may be the crowded condition of the wharves and the difficulty of obtaining transport under present conditions. Whatever the reason is for present poor results, the shareholders feel entitled to be kept informed as to the real position, and it is certainly rather disconcerting to them to see the price of the shares continually falling. The annual meeting should be held shortly, but there is a demand that the directors should make a statement without delay.

BANK OF ROUMANIA, LIMITED.

Notice is hereby given that on and after the 2nd July, a DIVIDEND of 6s. per share, free of English Income-tax, for the year ended 31st December, 1914, will be PAID to the shareholders on the books of the Bank at the close of business on 5th inst. and against delivery of Coupon No. 23 of the shares to bearer.

The coupons must be entered on forms, which can be obtained on application at the Bank on and after 24th instant (Saturdays excepted) and left three clear days for examination.

H. W. A. KILGOUR, Secretary.
7, Great Winchester Street, London, E.C.,
23rd June, 1915.

THE GHARBIEH LAND COMPANY.

CAIRO.

Owing to present circumstances, a Resolution was passed at the Ordinary General Meeting of this Company in Cairo on 31st May, 1915, adjourning the Meeting to a date to be notified in due course by the Board of Directors.

WHEN WRITING TO ADVERTISERS
Readers are Requested
kindly to mention
"The Near East."

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE	Mean Price. July 27.	Min. Price. Mar. 20.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	—	92
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907	82	—	—
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909	80	—	66
City of Alexandria 5%, 1909	99	—	90½
City of Constantinople 4% Bnds	96	—	—
Egypt. Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan	93½	87⅛	87½
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	85	88⅝
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	88	78	78⅝
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82½	73½	78⅝
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	80½	75	75½
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	52	57
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	52	56½
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	45	49½
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	40	45
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	52	56
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	—	54
Do. 4 % Rails. Loan, 1902	77	—	70
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	94	—	95
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	—	76½
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	80
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	91	—	80
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £60p.	92	—	85
Servian 4 % Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855	103	97	—
Do. 4 %, 1891	94½	—	96
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	—	78½
Do. 4 % Loan, 1902	82½	—	—
Do. 4 % Unified	79	—	68⅝
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	65½	—	49 1/16
Do. 4 %, 1909	69	—	47 1/16
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	—	3⅜xd.
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	—	7
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.	80	—	73
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red.	83	—	76
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	—	10⅛
Bank of Abyssinia	½	—	—
Bank of Athens	£2	—	1⅝
Bank of Roumania	8½	—	—
Eastern Bank	5	—	85/9
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅝	—	6 3/32xd.
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	—	—
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅝	—	72/6
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	—	4⅜
National Bank of Egypt	13⅜	—	12½
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½% C.P.	8	—	6½
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8½	—	6⅝
Do. do. 5 % Debs., Red.	98	—	95
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I.	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88½	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17⅝	—	13½
Do. do. 6 % Cum. Pref.	22	—	15
Do. do. 4 % 1st Deb.	87	—	62
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb.	101	—	69
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	90	—	—
Do. do. 3 % Bonds	61	—	—
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	—	2/16
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	—	95
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	¼	—	—
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	—	2½
Do. Do. Def.	¼	—	—
Béhéra Co.	8½	—	7⅜
Do. Pref.	4⅜	—	3⅜
Daira Sanieh	2/2	—	2/9
Do. Def.	⅛	—	⅜
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	9/-	—	7/-xd.
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tst.	98	—	90
Do and Foreign Trust	5/-	—	4/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	—	1⅛
" " Founders	¼	—	—
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—	—
Do 5 % Debs. Red.	—	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	9⅜	—	8½
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	—	90
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	—	⅛
Sidi Salem Co.	⅛	—	⅛
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	—	⅜
United Egyptian Lands	1/8	—	1/-
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	—	11½
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt.	97	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	—	—
Egyptian Hotels	1½	—	—
Do. 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—	—
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅛	—	1⅛xd
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	99½	—	99
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	1/8	—	14/3
Do. 5 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	96	—	98
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	—	10/-
Do. do. Prefs.	3⅜	—	3½
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt.	90	—	85
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (fr.500)	£179½	—	£—
Upper Egypt Hotels	2½	—	—

OIL.	Price on July 30.	June 23.
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	⅜	3/-
Anglo-Persian	22/1½	21/6
Cyprus Oil Trust	2/3	2/3
European Oilfields	4/9	3/6
Roumanian	20/-	15/6

PARIS BOURSE.

	Jan. 4.	June 23.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane	—	470
Canal de Suez	4050	4350
Credit Foncier Egyptien	639	—
Turkish Unified 4%	61.50	62.75
Egyptian Unified 4%	87.75	90
Serbian, 1895	—	64.50

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COMPANY RESULTS, &c.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN OILFIELDS.—Gemsah production for the week, 24 tons; dec., 118 tons. Hurgada production for the week, 102 tons; dec., 110 tons.

BANK OF ROUMANIA.—Payment is announced on and after July 2, of dividend of 6s. per share, free of English income-tax, for the year ended December 31.

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAY.—Receipts for the 11 days ended May 31, £E3,794, as against £E5,736 for the corresponding period of last year.

EUROPEAN OILFIELDS.—Production for week ended 13th inst., 87,800 poods. Price of crude oil at Blacktown, 40½ copecks per pood.

ORIENTAL TELEPHONE AND ELECTRIC COMPANY.—Notice is given that the register of transfers of four per cent. redeemable debenture stock will be closed from June 17 to 30, both days inclusive, for the preparation of warrants for the half-yearly interest due July 1.

ROUMANIAN CONSOLIDATED OILFIELDS.—Week ended June 12, 2,004 tons.

SOCIÉTÉ ANONYME DU BEHERA.—Coupon No. 42 of debentures falling due on July 1, and Coupon No. 20 of preference shares which fell due on January 1, 1915, as well as the reimbursement of debentures that were redeemed at the drawing of May 29 last, will be paid on and from July 1 next at the offices of the National Bank of Egypt in London, Cairo, and Alexandria.

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.—Receipts of the Suez Canal of the 19th and 20th inst. amounted to 490,000fr., against 660,000fr. for the corresponding days last year.

TELEPHONE COMPANY OF EGYPT.—Notice is given that the register of transfers of four and a-half per cent. redeemable debenture stock will be closed from June 17 to 30, both days inclusive, for the preparation of warrants for the half-yearly interest due July 1.

ENEMY COMPANIES IN EGYPT.

The latest issue of the *Official Journal* contains the following announcements:—

Deutsche Orient Bank.

Notice is hereby given that under Article 8 of the Proclamation of January 25, 1915, the General Officer Commanding in Chief has appointed Mr. R. E. Moore as Controller of the Deutsche Orient Bank in Egypt in the place of Mr. F. G. Bonham-Carter, who has resigned.

Messrs. Mayer and Co.

Notice is hereby given that under Article 8 of the Proclamation of January 25, 1915, the General Officer Commanding in Chief has appointed Mr. R. E. Moore as Controller entrusted with the supervision of the working of the Egyptian branches of the firm of Messrs. Mayer and Co.

Stein's Oriental Stores.

Notice is hereby given that under Articles 8 and 10 of the Proclamation of January 25, 1915, the General Officer Commanding in Chief has appointed Mr. R. E. Moore as Controller entrusted with the supervision of the working of the Egyptian branches of Stein's Oriental Stores.

EGYPT'S COINAGE.

There seems to be a movement on foot in Egypt to reform the existing coinage, so as to make the £E1 (100 piastres) equivalent to the £1 (97½ piastres), and to modify the value of certain minor coins. The Government, it would appear from the *Egyptian Gazette*, have the matter under consideration, and have officially addressed seven questions to all the leading bankers in the country as a preliminary to the introduction of important reforms. The following are some of the principal questions:—

What are, in your opinion, the arguments for or against the alteration of the title of Egyptian gold by attributing to the Egyptian pound a value equivalent to that of the pound sterling? Do you approve of this modification?

Are there, in your opinion, coins of silver, nickel, or bronze which can be added with advantage to the list of Egyptian coins now in circulation? Amongst the latter are there any that it would be advisable to suppress?

It has been noticed that coins of a value less than 5 milliemes are not in general use and that the base of prices for retail sales tends towards the piastre and half-piastre to the detriment of the consumer. It has been proposed: (a) To put into circulation bronze coins of the value of 2 milliemes and one millieme of a larger size than those now existing in nickel of these values, which are inconveniently small. (b) To put into circulation a coin of 2½ milliemes. Which of these two measures in your opinion would best remedy the inconvenience above described?

In order to facilitate the distinction of nickel coins from silver it has been suggested to give to the former an undulating or polygonal form or to perforate the centre. Which of these do you consider preferable?

NATIONAL BANK OF GREECE.

ESTABLISHED IN 1841.

CAPITAL - Dr. 20,000,000. RESERVES - Dr. 13,500,000.

Head Office: ATHENS.

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Aegion, Agrinion, Almyros, Amalias, Amphissa, Arta, Atalante, Calamata, Calavryta, Céphalonia, Chalkis, Corfu, Corinth, Cythère, Dimitzana, Gythium, Ithaque, Janina, Karditza, Kyparissia, Lamia, Larissa, Lévadia, Mégalopoli, Messina, Missolonghi, Naupacta, Nauplia, Patras, Paxos, Pirœus, Poros, Pylos, Pyrgos, St. Maure, Salonika, Santorin, Sparta, Syra, Thèbes, Trikkala, Tripoli, Volo, Zante,

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NATIONAL BANK OF BULGARIA.

State Bank of Emission. *Established 1879.*

Head Office - - SOPHIA.

Branches at Sophia, Roustschouk, Varna, Philippopolis, Tirnovo, Burgas, Widin, Plevna, Sistov, Sliven, T.-Pazardjic, Shumla, Stara-Zagora, Gabrovo, Dede-Agatch, Xanthie, Gumuldjina, and 70 agencies.

Capital - 20,000,000 leva gold = £800,000. Reserve Funds - 10,500,000 leva gold = £420,000

EVERY KIND OF BANKING BUSINESS TRANSACTED.

Governor, CHR. TCHAKALOFF.

AGRICULTURAL BANK OF BULGARIA

(BANQUE AGRICOLE DE BULGARIE).

PRIVILEGED CREDIT ESTABLISHMENT.

ESTABLISHED IN 1864.

CAPITAL (fully paid-up) - - Frs. 45,500,000
RESERVE FUNDS - - - ,, 14,500,000

Head Office: SOFIA.

85 Branches and 100 Agencies in all the principal centres of Bulgaria.
Banking and Stock Exchange Operations undertaken. Special Service for Debt Collection Transfers, Letters of Credit, etc.

ROYAL EXCHANGE ASSURANCE CORPORATION.

Incorporated in A.D. 1720.
ROYAL EXCHANGE, LONDON, E.C.

FIRE AND LIFE.

Egyptian Branch: Head Office, Cairo.
39, Shareh el Manakh. Telephone 4114.

Agencies:

ALEXANDRIA - GABBARI STORAGE CO., 3, Pl. Mohamed Aly
Agents in all the principal towns in Egypt and the Sudan.

The Corporation accepts all classes of FIRE INSURANCE, such as MERCANTILE RISKS, HOUSE PROPERTY, FURNITURE, etc., etc., on the best possible terms and effects LIFE INSURANCE in Egypt at the same rates and under the same conditions as in England.

Proposals and requests for information should be sent to the Office of the Corporation.

EVERARD STOKES,
Manager for Egypt and the Sudan.

Telegraphic Address, "FOXHOUND," Cairo.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 217.—Vol. IX. FRIDAY, JULY 2, 1915.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

There are indications that the accession of Italy is strengthening the diplomacy of the Triple Entente in the Near East. The policy consistently urged in these columns of bringing Roumania, Serbia, Greece, and Bulgaria together by imposing upon them the terms which will settle their present controversies is now finding advocates in other quarters. A writer in the *Tribuna* on the diplomacy of the Entente Powers in the Balkans undoubtedly reflects the views of the Italian Government, and serves to illustrate the lines on which that Government has tendered advice to the Allies. The diplomacy of the Entente, it is pointed out, has been working on wrong lines. Instead of urging one or other of the Balkan States to take action inspired by an exclusive consideration of its own interests, and limited to its own individual national programme, they ought to have treated the question upon the only sound basis, that of the higher interests of all the Balkan peoples, and aimed at a revival of the Balkan League.

As we point out elsewhere, the Balkan League will have to be revived in fact or in effect at the end of the war. Its non-existence under present conditions predicates a state of affairs heading sooner or later for war. But if the settlement after the war is to be worthy of the name, it must imply that the danger of a conflict in the Balkans has been eliminated at least for some considerable period. Accordingly, on whatever lines the settlement is to run, it must see to it that no challenge of hostilities thrown down in the Balkans has the least chance of success. If this be done, any State nursing a grievance which it hopes to be able to remedy by an ultimate appeal to arms must be persuaded of its error, and be brought to realize that, unless it can arrive at an amicable arrangement now with its neighbours, it stands to have its grievances stereotyped for the better part of all time. In the face of this menace there will inevitably be a reaction in favour of a general settlement on terms. If, after a certain amount of discussion between the Triple Entente and the Balkan States, that settlement is imposed upon the latter as the final judgment of the Powers to whom they owe their existence as independent nations, there can be little doubt that the solution of the present *impasse* will be accepted with a feeling of relief.

Whether the proposal of the writer in the *Tribuna*, that a conference should be held to settle the matter, is sound we have serious doubts. Past experience of conferences of delegates from the Balkan States with or without representatives of the Great Powers does not encourage confidence in their ability to reach their goal speedily. Inasmuch as the basis of any settlement must be mutual concessions, to which the States will not voluntarily agree, there would seem to be no purpose in calling them together to record their differences. On the other hand, if the necessity of making these concessions be imposed upon them by the four Great Powers, there is nothing to prevent them, after accepting the situation, from coming together in their own time to make suitable arrangements between themselves in the light of the territorial concessions already exacted from them. Any refractory State—we are confident that there will be none—would easily be made to realize that it would stand out of the agreement at its own cost.

If in carrying into effect this plan of a settlement from without there may seem to be an echo of the German Emperor's "Woe to him who lifts up his hand against me," it has to be remembered that the method would come as a relief to the Balkan peoples themselves. Popular sentiment in the three neutral countries is strongly in favour of the Entente Powers, and the delay of the latter to take steps to enable that sentiment to be translated into action merely gives rein to the artificial opposition fed by German intrigues and bribes.

In an interesting article the correspondent of *The Times* in the Balkan Peninsula sets out the factors for and against intervention. Our readers will be familiar with most of these factors—the anxiety of the countries concerned to avoid a protracted war, the military prestige of Germany, and the "initial advantages in high places," which the Central Powers have used to the full. The fact that Germany and Austria-Hungary have also flung to the widest possible limits their net of intrigue in the Balkans is a matter of common knowledge; but few people in the West will have realized the part which bribery has played in the German programme. It has been employed, says the well-informed correspondent of *The Times*, on an unprecedented scale. "Functionaries and officials of every degree, from the highest to the lowest, have been corrupted, and immense sums

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have been lavished on the Press. Ingenious devices have been adopted in order to distract public attention. Thus at Bucharest *batailles de fleurs* have been organized with a view to providing the populace with frivolous amusements tending to obliterate the memory of suffering Transylvania; carriages and baskets of flowers have been provided gratuitously for those taking part in the fêtes." To the German programme the Allied Powers oppose the policy of regarding Roumania as a rational being, capable of weighing the pros and cons of any course and arriving at a sound decision. It may not flatter Roumanian vanity, but it credits her with the common sense and seriousness of purpose. In spite of vehement protestations and protracted bargainings, we shall refuse to believe that the Germans have gauged the Roumanian intellect more accurately.

Not the least pernicious aspect of the delay on the part of the Roumanian Government is the tendency it has to divide the nation into opposing camps. If the Government's policy had been demonstrably sound, it ought to have been an easy matter to convince the Opposition leaders that the interests of the country were being safeguarded, and that in due course the national ideals would be realized. In this way political demonstrations would have been avoided, as well as the folly of embittering political parties on the eve of what may prove the severest ordeal in the nation's history. The mistake made by the Bratianu Cabinet is the more remarkable as it was freely claimed by the Liberal party two years ago that it had compelled the Conservative Government to take the action against Bulgaria that led to the occupation and cession of the Dobruja.

The dramatic interest that would otherwise attach to the occupation of Scutari by the Montenegrins is overshadowed by more important events in other theatres of the war. Our knowledge of the actual course of events in Albania is scanty. A few weeks ago the Serbians had crossed the Albanian frontier, were in possession of Elbassan and Tirana, and were supposed to be marching on Durazzo. Their entry into that town, however, was not confirmed. Now we have the Montenegrins operating in Albania. They occupied San Giovanni di Medua, where the Albanians had been holding up and looting Montenegrin vessels using the Boyana River, and on June 27 took possession of Scutari. The Albanians, at Austria's instigation, have been administering both to Serbia and Montenegro a number of pinpricks in the form of raids. As the two Slav States are on the eve of a fresh advance into Austrian territory, it would have been suicidal to have left their Albanian frontiers exposed to any serious attacks. The decision was, therefore, taken to checkmate Austrian machinations by a joint occupation of Albanian territory. The Serbian expedition, as we have already seen, was entirely successful. The Montenegrins have also advanced without opposition, if we except the report of a skirmish in the Djakovitza Pass on the frontier.

According to the reports received from Italy, the occupation of Scutari was not only peaceful, but in accordance with the wishes of the populace. The inhabitants, including representatives of all denominations, went out to meet the Montenegrin troops, and accompanied them into the town. General Vukovitch, having taken possession in the name of King Nicholas, informed the inhabitants that they were henceforth Montenegrin subjects. The lowering of the Austrian flag over the Consulate will have completed the satisfaction with which the Montenegrins avenged the affront they had to endure two years ago when, after the successful capture of Scutari, they were obliged to evacuate it by the Powers at Austro-Hungarian dictation.

In a Note to the Powers who are her Allies in this war Montenegro has explained the circumstances which led her to occupy Scutari. At the same time M. Andre Radovitch, a former Prime Minister, has arrived in England on a special mission on behalf of the Montenegrin Government. It is stated that he has given formal assurances to the British and French Governments that Montenegrin troops had only occupied portions of Albanian territory for strategic reasons. Montenegro, he has added, has no intention of occupying Scutari, and, although the Albanian question is a vital one for Montenegro, King Nicholas's Government will always respect the decision of the Great Powers. Any seeming contradiction between M. Radovitch's statements and General Vukovitch's announcement to the inhabitants of Scutari will attract no notice at this stage. The Albanian question excites little interest outside the country, unless it be in Germany and Austria-Hungary. The chief interest of the Allies in Albania at the present moment lies in the prospect of keeping it quiet. With the Serbians and Montenegrins in occupation of the more important centres in the north, the possibility of unrest in the country is robbed of most of its dangers.

Such news as there is of the operations at the head of the Persian Gulf points to the expeditionary force still being employed in the work of clearing the Busreh vilayet of stray parties of Turks, who were left behind when the main forces withdrew. The district is settling down to its hottest season, and, although the climate improves the farther one withdraws northwards from the Gulf, it is unlikely that this period of the year would be chosen for a general advance up the Tigris.

Any advantage that the Turks may have in position on Gallipoli Peninsula is counterbalanced by the increasing difficulty that they must be experiencing in replenishing their supplies of munitions. We have seen what Austro-German superiority in guns and ammunition has accomplished in Galicia. It should not be outside the bounds of possibility that the same thing should happen in our favour on Gallipoli. So long as the supplies are in Turkey they will reach the Turks on the Peninsula; but we may at least hope that the facilities hitherto enjoyed by the Porte for replenishing those supplies have now been withdrawn. At the same time neither this country nor the men who are performing great deeds in front of the Turkish positions can rely upon the expected failure of the enemy's supplies. When shells run short, they will still have bayonets, and trenches will have to be won by steel against steel. In this connection a *caveat* may be entered against the placing of too much reliance on reports of the situation in Constantinople. Even if it were true that the appearance of British submarines threw the town into a panic, it is unlikely that the master minds which are directing the Turkish resistance shared or even noticed the alleged consternation of the streets.

Some notable progress has to be recorded in the operations on Gallipoli Peninsula. The Press Bureau issued on Wednesday afternoon a report, based on dispatches from Sir Ian Hamilton, which records an important advance made by our forces on June 28 in the neighbourhood of Krithia. The action opened at nine in the morning with a bombardment by our heavy artillery and that of the French. The field artillery and some of our warships soon joined in, and the latter were markedly successful in keeping down the enemy's fire in their neighbourhood. Shortly before eleven the Border Regiment, leaping "from their trenches as one man, like a pack of hounds" rushed an advanced work, known as the Boomerang Redoubt. To the west three lines of trenches were captured with little opposition, and to the east the Royal Scots carried two lines of trenches with a fine charge. The Royal Fusiliers, the Lancashire Fusiliers, and the Gurkhas were all actively engaged, and all did well, while the Australian Corps was ordered to cooperate by making a vigorous demonstration. During the night the enemy counter-attacked the furthest trenches gained, but was repulsed with heavy loss, and Sir Ian is able to report that, except for a small portion of trench held by the enemy, "all and more than was hoped for from the operations has been gained." As a result, our line has in places been advanced over a thousand yards. The Turkish losses are reported to have been enormous.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, June 21.

Austro-Hungarian Subjects in Egypt.

To the general satisfaction of the Entente colonies sterner measures are about to be taken with regard to the enemy subjects still left in this country. This step is foreshadowed by the publication of a notice from the General Officer Commanding the British Forces that, in view of the possibility of stricter measures being put into force with regard to Austro-Hungarian subjects, any such subjects desiring to be treated exceptionally owing to their sympathies being Italian or Russian must obtain certificates to that effect from the Consulates concerned. Since the British policy throughout has been to treat Austro-Hungarians more leniently than Germans, it is permissible to assume that these "stricter measures" will also be applied to the latter. Of German subjects there are comparatively few left in Egypt, but there exists a considerable number of subjects of the Dual Monarchy who up to now have been accorded exceptional treatment because they were protected subjects or hailed from the districts actually or about to be occupied by the Entente Powers and their Allies. It was obviously unfair that these people, merely because they had declared that they dissociated themselves from the actions of their country, or were reputed to be in sympathy with Italy or Russia, should be left unmolested. Their position under this arrangement became such that, no matter which side might win, they were perfectly safe, whilst at the same time it somewhat tied the hands of the Egyptian Government. Moreover, there is no doubt that those Austro-Hungarians who were pronounced pro-Germans were taking advantage of the situation to carry on under its cloak whatever intrigues are still possible. All said and done, the situation was in the highest degree unsatisfactory. Now all those who since the war are understood to have regretted their attachment to the Dual Monarchy will be able to regularize their position, and will have an opportunity to give practical evidence of the sympathies they have so often professed. It is to be presumed that great care will be taken in the granting of certificates, and thus the Government will be free to take the proper measures against all those who are unable to satisfy the Russian and Italian Consulates as to the bona fides of their sentiments.

The Sultanic Library.

It is understood that an Egyptian, Ahmed Lutfi Bey El Sayed, is about to be nominated Director of the Sultanic Library. Under ordinary circumstances such an appointment would not merit much comment, but to-day it may be taken as a sign of the times; for the Directorship of the Khedivial Library, as it was called under the old *régime*, has hitherto been one of the posts to which the Germans have always laid claim. For some time the Egyptian Government has wanted to appoint an Egyptian to this post, and it offered Berlin all manner of compensations in the way of appointments in other administrations. On the resignation of Moritz Bey in 1911 negotiations to this effect were opened up; but, for reasons best known to itself, the German Government proved obdurate, and after the post had remained vacant for two years, and the efficiency of the library administration was beginning to suffer, the Egyptian authorities had to give way and consent to the appointment of a German. The last incumbent left Egypt before war broke out; and now that an Egyptian is to be appointed to succeed him we may be certain that we shall not henceforward see any more posts reserved for the disciples of Kultur, as the other positions to which the German Government used to lay claim will certainly be either suppressed or filled up by Englishmen or Egyptians. In this respect the only international fetters binding Egypt to-day are the posts specially reserved by agreement for Frenchmen; but in view of the change in status it is to be assumed that at the end of the war this country will regain its complete liberty of action in regard to the nomination of its officials, as in other matters, and that thenceforward international and political expediency will not play therein the permanent and detrimental part that it has done in the past.

As far as one knows the proposed nominee possesses no qualifications, and is in fact a lawyer. Until recently he was the editor—no successful one—of a vernacular organ. Whether the appointment will be an improvement is, therefore, a moot question. The library, which is said to be the finest of its kind in the East, contains over 76,000 volumes, most of them extremely valuable books of reference and some of them exceedingly old MSS. Very great care requires to be shown in its management, and the director should be an experienced man and one who has special knowledge and aptitude. Under the old régime, of course, no Egyptian was ever trained with a view to assuming eventually the control of this important institution. The only Egyptian who might fill the post with success and with benefit to the library is one who is renowned for his research in Oriental literature and has an extensive library of his own, but who unfortunately holds an important position in the Government, which it is doubtful whether he could be persuaded to give up even for work that would be so near his heart. Failing the obtaining of the services of this savant, the wisest course would appear to be to postpone the excellent scheme of appointing an Egyptian and to select a foreigner experienced in this particular branch, whose mission, in addition to administering the library, would be to train up an Egyptian who would be qualified to succeed him in the post, which *par excellence* ought to be held by a native of the country.

PARCELS FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN EXPEDITION.

The War Office communicates the following:—

Opportunities sometimes occur for sending certain goods free of charge to troops serving in the Mediterranean. This free conveyance is provided in transports if the necessary accommodation is available, and applications for the conveyance of baggage and parcels by this means should be addressed to the Military Forwarding Officer, Devonport.

Applications to ship wines and spirits consigned to recognised messes, or sporting ammunition, should be addressed to the Secretary, War Office; but it should be noted that many of the transports at present employed have no spirit rooms, and that these goods cannot be shipped in the ordinary cargo space.

No parcels under 11lb. can be accepted. Goods should be packed in rectangular cases and not measure more than 30 cubic feet.

Carriage to Devonport must be defrayed by the sender, and from the port of disembarkation by the addressee if necessary.

BRITISH PRISONERS IN TURKEY.

It is officially stated that the Foreign Office has received information from the American Ambassador that sixty-five British prisoners of war, in the hands of the Turks at Afia-Kara-hissar, have been visited by a representative of the American Embassy in Constantinople, who delivered money, clothing, and supplies to them. He reported that both officers and men are treated well and are in good health, and that their present conditions seemed to be satisfactory.

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Funds - - £24,000,000.

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ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, June 13.*

The King's Illness.

The second stage of the King's illness has been even more grave than the first. As he began to grow worse on the evening of his birthday, it was thought that the relapse was brought on by excitement over the enthusiastic demonstrations made under the Palace windows by the people in their desire to express their joy at his Majesty's recovery. Only a few hours before the graver symptoms set in Professor Kraus had examined the patient and stated that he was no longer in any danger and that he had entered upon the convalescent stage. The Professor and his Austrian colleague were therefore about to embark for Piræus, where a destroyer awaited them. Thus if the Greek doctors, from nervousness at having to treat the King, and fearing to give him chloroform, performed their operation imperfectly, the distinguished German doctors' judgment was also at fault. On the other hand, it must be admitted that, although the first crisis may have been overcome by a miracle, the second yielded to the consummate skill of the Austrian surgeon, M. Eiselsberg, who performed the second operation with a local anæsthetic. After the operation there was an alarming rise in temperature and the pulse reached 155, but the patient's strength was kept up by serum injections. His Majesty is now free from fever, and though still very weak, he is steadily improving, and may be considered out of danger; but his convalescence will in all probability be very slow.

The Electoral Campaign.

The relapse of the King put a stop for the time to the electioneering campaign, which began again, however, as soon as his Majesty's condition improved. The Government published its electoral programme last Wednesday. M. Gounaris promises the introduction of a system of proportional representation and of decentralisation of public administration, modification of the Customs tariff, a more equitable distribution of taxes by increasing the direct and diminishing the indirect contributions, the foundation of a maritime bank and of a Greek assurance society, the formation of a large maritime mail company, measures for the benefit of the working class, solution of the agrarian question by reallotment of the large farms, and, finally, the State control of the raisin trade.

The reforms here promised are just those announced by M. Venizelos when he came into power, many of which have already been inaugurated by him, though his plans were hindered by the exceptional circumstances which embarrassed his Government. There is nothing new except the reform of the electoral system; but in Greece, where there are no parties apart from personal leaders, the introduction of proportional representation will not have the effect desired, for the candidates are too numerous, and will become more numerous still when the representatives of the minorities are included.

As regards foreign policy, the Government announces that it is willing to "admit, even during the international crisis, of any action necessary to guarantee the national rights and realize national aspirations, but remains firmly resolved to retain all territories already acquired."

The Device of the Government.

On the other hand, M. Gounaris takes every opportunity of reminding his electors that the return of M. Venizelos to power would mean war, without any guarantee of Greek territorial integrity, and he continues to accuse the ex-Premier of negotiating territorial concessions involving the sacrifice of large Greek populations, ignoring, as before, the promised compensations and the large Greek populations of Asia Minor which these would have united to the mother country.

The Reply of the Venizelists.

M. Répoulis, Minister of the Interior in the Venizelos Cabinet, replied to the above accusations, which he characterised as a "base calumny." He warmly defended the policy of his chief, and deplored the losses suffered by Greek interests through the policy of the present Government.

The view expressed in the Paris *Temps* that Italy's intervention has placed Greece in a much less advantageous position for negotiating terms has made a great impression on the public mind.

Probable Results of the Elections.

The sudden return of M. Venizelos to Athens and his action in going immediately to the Palace to present his respects and solicitations for the King's recovery have done much to restore him to his old place in the public favour. But the Government Press is unremitting in its efforts to prejudice the people against him, spreading false tales of his so-called intrigues, of the failures of the Allies in the Dardanelles, and of Germany's having promised to Greece what England has promised to Italy, i.e., Cyprus and the Dodecanese. Nevertheless, the victory of the Venizelist party is considered certain. It is only in Macedonia, where the Government candidates are supported by the Jews and the Turks, that they may be successful.

After the Elections.

The people will demand, by its vote, the return to power of M. Venizelos and his reconciliation with the King—if, indeed, this has not already been effected through the telegram of felicitations and sincere good wishes which M. Venizelos addressed to the King and his Majesty's reply, "Most hearty thanks," bearing his own signature. It remains to be seen whether, even in the event of the success of the Venizelist party, the health of the King will allow of any early change in the Government; for in the present trying circumstances the King would be faced with many difficulties, involving, probably, keen discussions, besides the usual formalities of presentation, signature of decrees, etc.

It seems probable, therefore, that the present Government will have to remain in power until the King is restored to health, perhaps even till July 20, when the Chamber meets again and will elect a President. The Government Press declares that if M. Venizelos persists in his policy of intervention, without making conditions with the Allies, the King will again oppose him and once more dissolve the Chamber, reinstating the present Government. The same papers maintain that the King would be justified in adopting such an attitude, because the Venizelist party did not make intervention part of its programme for the elections, so that the King cannot consider the victory of M. Venizelos as signifying the country's approval of this policy.

Lecture by the Italian Minister.

Count Bosdari, Italian Minister at Athens, in the course of a lecture delivered last week before the "Dante Alighieri Society," expressed regret that Italy's participation in the war had not roused any enthusiasm in Greece, but had on the contrary been rather coldly received, and had even given rise to expressions of distrust and hostility in the Athenian

* Delayed in transmission.

"Try a chota peg o' Perfection.
"Notice how mellow and silky it is?—not a touch of 'bite' or harshness. That's the effect of maturing in sherry casks. Makes it a little darker in colour, too.
"You'll order a case of Perfection?
"Well, everyone of 'ours' is doing the same. They all like it. Here's a toast, old man. Drink up—To Perfection, the best whisky in India, from the everlasting hills to the plains."

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Press. Count Bosdari was at pains to prove that the fears of the Greeks were without any foundation. Italy, he said, had always favoured Greek interests, and had supported Greek claims in Northern Epirus, and he hoped to see these suspicions quickly dissipated and confident and cordial relations established between the two sister nations. Reminding his audience that Italy had always faithfully observed the principle of nationality, Count Bosdari spoke of the Dodecanese, saying that Italy might for political reasons be obliged to make some slight departure from the rule in regard to the islands, and as for Asia Minor, the territories there were vast enough to satisfy the claims of all.

The effect of these statements was the reverse of reassuring. Behind the high-sounding diplomatic phrases of Count Bosdari people detected Italy's intimation to Greece that she intended to keep all the Greek islands which she wrongfully refused to give up to Turkey.

The Press observes further that Signor Salandra stated the other day when speaking at the Capital that Italy would have occupied Chios if she had not been prevented by Austria—doubtless in this also she was anxious to demonstrate her respect for the principle of nationality! Finally, the Italian Minister is reminded of the vexations caused to the inhabitants of Rhodes by the Italian authorities, who forbade any national demonstrations in their churches or schools, and the *Athenae* asks Count Bosdari whether the Austrian Minister would have been allowed to speak at Rome of Trieste and its Italian inhabitants in the same light way as the Italian Minister had spoken at Athens of the twelve isles taken from Greece by his Government.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Cyprus, June 11.

Officials and Service.

No encouragement is given to the younger officials to offer their services at Home; on the contrary, some who would gladly offer themselves are unable to do so. This seems very questionable policy on the part of the authorities. In these circumstances there is no apparent reason why a small local force of volunteers should not be organised, who could be drilled and practised in shooting. There is no lack of zeal and patriotism amongst officials, small as the numbers are, in all the districts of the island.

A Greek Patriot.

The unveiling of a statue of the late C. Sozos, who was Mayor of Limassol and member of the Legislative Council, and who lost his life while fighting for Greece in the Balkan War, will take place at Limassol on June 27. A marble memorial in honour of other Cypriot volunteers who fell during that war will also be unveiled. Invitations to be present have been sent by a local committee to the High Commissioner, the Greek Archbishop, the bishops, the Hellenic Consul, mayors of towns, and others. Speeches will be made by the Greek members of Council of the Limassol District.

GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES IN THE NEAR EAST.

Mr. Arthur R. Hinks, F.R.S., Secretary of the Royal Geographical Society, speaking on Monday evening last on the map which the society has compiled under the supervision of the geographical section of the General Staff of the War Office, gave an amusing account of the difficulties presented in the endeavour to find English spellings for Bulgarian, Serbian, modern Greek and other names. In the cases of Polish and other languages which use the Roman characters, but give them, or a slight modification of them, an entirely different significance, he said it was quite impossible. Thus a name which we commonly spelt Lodz was properly pronounced Woodsh. In the case of languages which used Cyrillic or other non-Roman characters transliteration was easy if there was an official spelling, but this did not always exist. Thus there was equally good authority for each of the three spellings, Bucureşcii, Bucureşci, and Bucuresti. Turkish presented the difficulty that many of the vowels were not written at all.

THE STATE OF SYRIA.

(From Our Correspondent lately in Palestine.)

Prior to Italy's declaration of war Syria was thrust into semi-obscurity; now, with Italy's entry into the conflict and the consequent cessation of the Italian steamship service, that obscurity has been rendered almost complete. The numerous friends of Syria will undoubtedly be interested to learn something more regarding the extreme plight of the unlucky country. The following narrative, therefore, which I succeeded in obtaining from an officer of an Italian steamer which was among the last ships to leave Syrian waters, may be of interest. The officer said:—

"Jaffa was the first port at which we touched. The number of boats that in ordinary times came off to the ship in order to land passengers had not diminished. Instead of disembarking passengers, however, they came with the object of buying food and some of the daily necessaries of life, which had totally disappeared from the market. Some destitute boatmen begged for food, while others described their terrible plight and destitution. Many unspeakable acts would these poverty-stricken and hungry boatmen commit in order to live. If murders, thefts, and assaults were everyday occurrences before the war, the state of public security must now be much worse.

"I could not elicit much information regarding the military preparations for the deferred invasion of Egypt, but I was told that the railway line running from Haifa to Nablus has been extended to Lydda, and that abundant railway material seems to be at the disposal of the Hejaz railway authorities. The construction of a further extension is still in progress.

"At such a time in a normal year, the Jaffa harbour would have contained not less than a dozen ships waiting to load oranges, but now not a single steamer was to be seen and the oranges are neglected. I welcomed the hour of the ship's departure from Jaffa, as I was anxious to be rid of the turbulent and begging boatmen.

"On the ship's approach to Haifa, once a thriving port, I was impressed by the silence of the place, which appeared like a cemetery. The agent boarded the ship and made his perfunctory visit, but, there being no mail and no passengers, the ship left at once.

"Beyrout presented a more cheerful aspect. Two powerful American cruisers are on constant guard there. The American College continued to show signs of life; for despite the effects of the war, it is still open, and lessons are given regularly. What does the S.P.C. apprehend as long as the Tennessee and the North Carolina keep vigilant watch? The American relief ship, Vulcan, which was the bearer of several hundred tons of provisions for distribution among the suffering inhabitants, was still in port. Her cargo had not yet been discharged, but the American Consul—whose great efforts on behalf of the safety and welfare of British subjects at the beginning of the war are universally appreciated—was endeavouring to procure for the provisions free and unmolested entrance through the Custom House. No agreement for an unhampered distribution had yet been arrived at, and it was feared that the Turks' insistence on appropriating a large part of the goods might compel the American authorities to abstain from discharging the cargo.

"The American community at Beyrout is rendering invaluable services to the people, and extending material assistance to the panic-stricken inhabitants. Relief in the form of money is distributed to the people, provided they work a certain number of hours daily; roads are being repaired, so that some streets are in a splendid condition now. The presence of the Tennessee and the North Carolina has also tended to assist the Beyrout shop-keepers and cafés.

"At Beyrout we received instructions to wait, as war was already in the air. Two other Italian ships were also awaiting instructions, so that in the event of Italy's entry into the war, the ships would convey Italian subjects to Italy or to another safe place. We had to remain three days at Beyrout, after which we steamed for Tripolis. It should be remarked, however, that at Beyrout the ship's agent who boarded the steamer on its arrival was not allowed to land until its departure, for fear of furnishing the boat's authorities with military information. In Tripolis no such restrictions are imposed. On the contrary, passengers were allowed to embark freely, and the ship took a cargo of silk.

"Our next destination was Alexandretta. From thence we proceeded to Mersina, where we took a cargo of cotton, sesame, and other cereals. A remarkable incident took place during the ship's stay at this port. Two natives were condemned to death on the charge of attempted escape from military service. One, a Christian, was hanged, while the other, a Moslem, was shot. On inquiry I discovered that such incidents often occurred on account of the considerable number of persons who attempt to evade military service. Apparently these measures had been adopted in order to impress upon the inhabitants the futility of attempting to escape."

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NEWS FROM TURKEY

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Athens, June 14.

Smyrna Quiet.

It was reported last week that the British and French subjects in Beyrout had been exiled to Urfa, and that those in Smyrna were to be sent to some town in the interior. This rumour has not, however, been confirmed. In fact, recent private information from Smyrna indicates that all is well there.

The news from Constantinople is indicative of a very disturbed state of affairs there, and the presence of British submarines in the Marmora and at Constantinople is highly disconcerting to the authorities, as it is now almost impossible to send troops and supplies to the Dardanelles by sea. Everything has now to go by train to Muradli, and from there to the Peninsula by whatever means is available.

The Coal Factor.

The shortage of coal is daily making the situation more acute, but in spite of the presence of the Russian fleet near the Bosphorus, a vessel now and then runs the gauntlet, and the other day the s.s. Zoungouldak got through with 1,800 tons. Considering how seriously the position at Constantinople is affected by the insufficiency of coal, the failure of the Russians all through the winter to make any real attempt to prevent supplies getting into the city is incomprehensible. The present situation might have been brought about last February had the Russians, upon the outbreak of war, adopted measures to stop coal going into Constantinople; but even now, when no Turkish warship ventures into the Black Sea, vessels flying the Turkish flag are able to go to the coal ports, remain there several days loading, and return to the Bosphorus. Even lighters, etc., at the loading ports are not destroyed. In the meantime the railway from Zoungouldak to Adabazar is, according to trustworthy reports, nearing completion, and when finished will enable Constantinople to receive regular supplies of coal.

The service of steamers on the Bosphorus is reduced to a minimum. The steamboat service on the Golden Horn is suspended altogether, and the only means of getting to the Princes Islands is by train to Maltepe and thence by small steamer.

Bread is obtainable in limited quantities, and only by means of a police ticket, and this leads to many struggles round the bakers' shops. This shortage of bread is not the result of want of wheat, but, rather, of the absence of fuel for the flour-mills, which are now at a standstill.

The papers definitely announce the arrival of one German submarine in Constantinople, and reports are current that three have entered the Dardanelles. It is rumoured that a large supply of ammunition from Germany for Turkey has been held up in Roumania; a certain amount of small shells, hand-grenades, etc., are apparently being made in Constantinople itself. Many German officers, travelling sometimes as professors, sometimes as commercial representatives, continue to arrive in the capital, but German and Austrian families are leaving.

The Spirit of Ottomanism.

The spirit of Ottomanism is stronger than ever, and every opportunity is taken to eliminate as far as possible anything European. For instance, signboards of shops must in future be written in Turkish, and a fortnight is allowed to carry out this change. The Greek schools must no longer be called "Hellenic," and one is almost afraid to make use of the name "Constantine," this name being to the Turks just now like a red rag to a bull. The Court Martial appears to be very busy with all sorts of trivial matters. A Turkish woman was sentenced to two months' imprisonment for not being veiled according to the prescribed form, and one, Sarikli Mehmet Agha, got five months for desecrating the Turkish flag by using it as a curtain!

The proprietor of the *Tanin* is now publishing a daily paper in French called the *Hilal*, but the "news" it contains is, of course, only from German sources, and the object of the publication, which is undoubtedly financed by the Germans, is to disseminate their own false information.

Taxes and Import Duties.

A law has been passed authorising certain taxation to provide funds for the support of widows and orphans of the soldiers who have been killed. There are three taxes: on telegrams and letters (letters must now bear additional stamps of 4 and 6 paras), on tobacco, and on spirits. The import duties have been raised to 30 per cent. Half of the duty on all such goods as may be required by the military authorities must be paid in kind. The municipal authorities have been authorised to collect and appropriate the rents on shops, etc., forming part of those foreign school buildings which have been seized.

The Government have announced that a *vecika* (receipt) for the purpose of future indemnification will be given to the proprietors of those houses which have been requisitioned by the military authorities, and during the occupation of such houses by the military the taxes will not be collected.

It is announced that the section of the Baghdad railway from Telahrad to Tuan in the Harran district, 62 kilometres in length, has been completed, and is open to traffic.

(From Our Correspondent.)

Odessa, May 30.

Russian Naval Activity.

The vigilance of the Russian Black Sea fleet, which is repeatedly making raids on the Turkish Black Sea coaling ports of Eregli and Zoungouldak, destroying each time numbers of colliers and transports, is evidently greatly upsetting the operations of the Turkish naval and military authorities.

Turkish prisoners, taken by the Russians from some of these transports, say that the German Ambassador in Constantinople found it necessary to issue a lying report to the effect that the Goeben had practically destroyed the Black Sea fleet, and guaranteeing Turkish sailors immunity from any danger; thanks to which declaration further Turkish transports ventured out to the coaling ports, only to find the Russian Black Sea fleet far too much alive to allow of their returning, the transports being destroyed and their crews sent as prisoners of war to Sevastopol. So much deceived were the Turkish sailors that, sighting a torpedo boat when near Eregli, they confidently concluded that it must be a Turk, and only discovered their error when escape was impossible.

Turkish Prisoners' Reports.

The Turkish prisoners, who were all very recently in the Turkish capital, all confirm that Turkey is in a terrible state economically, more so than she has ever been before. Gold and silver can be said to be no longer in circulation, Turkish officials remain unpaid since the commencement of the war, wheat and flour can no longer be bought, and many of the shops in Pera and Galata have closed down owing to the absence of fresh supplies.

Notwithstanding the danger from without, the prisoners say that the various political factions continue their strife unabated. In order to maintain their prestige, the Young Turks publish a daily bulletin of fresh Turkish victories by land and sea; but, in spite of the most stringent precautions, their opponents manage to issue and circulate proclamations advising the people not to believe the lying reports of the Young Turks, and recommending the people to revolt, to turn all the Germans out of Turkey, and to conclude a separate peace, as the only way out of the present impossible situation. The prisoners consider that the passage of the Dardanelles by an Allied Fleet will be the signal for a general revolt in Constantinople against the Young Turks and Germans. The Young Turk party appreciate this, and some of the best known of them have already departed from Constantinople; whilst the German officers and officials have taken the precaution of sending away their families.

Turks Short of Ammunition.

The Vice-Director of the Ottoman Bank, who has just arrived here and who left Constantinople only a week ago, brings word that the Turks' weakest spot is their shortage of ammunition. He also says that the Turks are feverishly fortifying Constantinople and that their German taskmasters will insist on their defending the capital to the last extremity.

The most important event in Russia's war with Turkey is the recent Russian occupation of Van, the ancient capital of Armenia, situated on the lake of the same name, and having a population now of about 50,000 people. The Turks are expected to make their next stand at Bitlis, on the south of the lake.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

Subscribers to "The Near East" who have left the Ottoman Dominions since the war will oblige by notifying the Manager of their new address as early as possible, so that the supply of the paper should not be unduly interrupted.

"The Near East" has largely increased its circulation in the United Kingdom since the war, and the Management is convinced that there are many people still who would be glad to know of its existence. Specimen copies will be forwarded post free if the names and addresses of friends are sent to the Manager, at 16-17, Devonshire Square, E.C

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ROUMANIAN LETTERS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, June 7.

Political Rivalries.

The struggle for the presidency of the Conservative party continues with unabated vigour, and the situation has now become quite Gilbertian. A meeting of the Consultative Committee, attended by representatives from various provincial centres, was held last Sunday at the Liedertafel Hall, and led to a violent scene amongst the sightseers outside the building, fisticuffs being freely indulged in, sticks wielded vigorously, and even revolver shots being fired. Matters became so serious that the police were unable to cope with the situation, and the foot gendarmerie had to be hastily summoned to separate the combatants. While this was going on outside, the scene inside the building was but little less discreditable, all attempts at speaking by either side being howled down by the other. The final voting—if such it may be called—resulted in favour of M. Marghiloman; but he, feeling the position to be a precarious one, and at the same time not wishing to abandon it, declared that he would take M. Lahovary as his adviser. The result was, as one person present put it, "We came to get rid of one President, and now we have two."

The leader of the anti-Marghiloman party, M. Nico Filipescu, followed these proceedings up with a most violent article against M. Marghiloman, wherein the latter is accused of having corrupted some of the members of the Congress with foreign money—meaning, of course, with funds supplied by the German Legation. M. Marghiloman demanded a categorical withdrawal of these statements, which M. Filipescu declined to make in the terms desired. This led M. Marghiloman to send a circular telegram to all the Conservative organizations in the country, relating the facts and declaring that he can no longer treat with M. Filipescu and his associates. Doubtless this will lead to M. Filipescu and his adherents calling a meeting of the executive committee of the party to proceed with the election of someone else in place of M. Marghiloman.

External Politics.

As regards external politics, the position is a strange one. Things have quieted down to an extraordinary extent, and it might almost seem that, after all, Roumania would be content with a "thinking part" in the great European drama now being enacted. The negotiations with Russia have come to a deadlock, or, if local and Russian journals are to be believed, Roumania has increased her pretensions rather than decreased them within the last few days. For the *Novoe Vremya*, in a leading article, says:—

The Bucharest Government would like to obtain Transylvania, the Bukovina with Czernowitz, and the Banat up to the Danube. Besides these pretensions the Roumanian Government raises the question of the European Commission of the Danube. And apart from all this the Roumanian representatives in the discussions in London and Paris have raised the question of the alteration of the Roumanian-Bessarabian frontier. Such claims are regarded as excessive, and, we learn from official circles, all discussion between Roumania and the Triple Entente are at an end. From the same diplomatic source we are informed that the Austrian Government, through its representative at Bucharest, not long ago offered Roumania, in exchange for her neutrality, three districts of Bukovina (between Campulung and Dorna-Sabra), and at the same time the Cabinet at Vienna intimated its readiness to discuss a rectification of the Transylvanian frontier.

In connection with this the *Adeverul* states that it was known some time ago that Roumanian politicians had decided to act in unison with Italy, and that in January an agreement (verbal) was come to by which Roumania was compelled to take action as soon as Italy declared war on Austria-Hungary. Now, the paper goes on:—

Roumania pretends that the Italian Government did not let her know, even at the last moment, of its decision, and therefore this country considers itself freed from all obligations in the matter. A Roumanian diplomatist of high authority informs us that this country will follow an independent policy, and only its own interests will be taken into account. Judging by popular feeling, many are still convinced that Roumania will grasp the real situation and will desire to satisfy national wishes, which are for active intervention.

There may be a good deal of truth in the quotation from the Russian paper; but it is quite misinformed as to any question of the abolition of the European Danube Commission, for this is a matter that does not concern only Russia and Roumania. As to the Bessarabian frontier, too, the journal must certainly be misinformed. Admittedly the topic is often discussed by café politicians, but it cannot be imagined that either in the Roumanian Cabinet or amongst leaders of the Opposition there exists any idea of bringing up such a matter for discussion. Since the Russo-Turkish war Russia has afforded the Roumanians in Bessarabia a full measure of liberty, and there are very few of them who are able to form a considered opinion on the point who would wish to see any change made. A new generation is springing up; and though language, dress, and national customs are adhered to, some of the most faithful subjects of the Tsar are to be found amongst the Roumanians of Bessarabia. Therefore, the member of the *Novoe Vremya's* staff who invented the Bessarabian idea has not hit on a very happy subject for the display of his ingenuity.

New "Wireless" Station.

There is now in existence at Bucharest a wireless telegraphy station much more powerful than the older one. On Tuesday night the new station "spoke" to Athens, which replied, and messages have since been exchanged with the Eiffel Tower.

It is worthy of note that, wireless apparatus and material being uniformly contraband of war, every part of the new installation has been constructed in this country, partly at the State railway workshops and partly in those of the Post.

Italian Reservists' Departure.

The Italian reservists who leave to join the colours are made the objects of enthusiastic demonstrations. A party of about 800 left from the Filaret station on Tuesday amidst intense excitement, being conducted to the station by a large crowd, in which students were conspicuous, with music and Roumanian and Italian flags. An equally inspiring scene was witnessed at Braila when a party of reservists and volunteers from the Italian colony at the Jacobsdal quarries in the Dobruja arrived there, accompanied by the band of the colony and the greater part of its members.

Attempted Smuggling of Munitions of War.

The strict measures taken by the Roumanian authorities to prevent any munitions of war passing through this country has been met by all sorts of ingenious attempts at evasion on the part of the Germans and Austrians, who are extremely anxious to smuggle through to Constantinople the ammunition that the Turks so urgently need. The latest attempt—unsuccessful, like many before it—was to pack shells in beer barrels, and to send these—in one of those specially constructed trucks which the Teutons employ for the transport of their beloved beverage—through to Bulgaria, whence, one supposes, the rest of the transport would have been an easy matter. The senders, with characteristic thoroughness, even went to the length of ordering ice at different stations to renew that packed round the barrels. Unfortunately for these ingenious

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gentlemen, the vigilant Roumanian Customs authorities insisted on tapping a barrel—with the usual result. Unfortunately for them, too, the forwarding agents are the Austro-German house of Schenker and Co., the same firm that formerly endeavoured to smuggle through a large quantity of ammunition which actually passed the Roumanian frontier and was only detected at Bucharest. For that offence they were mulcted in a fine of 10,000 frs., and now they have been forbidden to forward anything whatever over the Roumanian railways. It is of particular interest to note that the contraband consisted of, among other things, bombs containing asphyxiating gas and hand grenades.

BUCHAREST, June 13.

Negotiations with Russia Resumed.

At a Council of Ministers held on the 8th inst., M. Bratiano announced that the Russian Government had put forward fresh proposals, the terms of which, though far from acceptable to the Roumanian Government, made it possible to resume negotiations once more. A copy of the *aide memoire* sent by M. Sasonoff was handed to each member of the Council; and though the contents of this document have not been made known to the public, certain journals, which claim to know, state that Russia gives way on the question of the Pruth frontier, so that Czernowitz would become Roumanian, while as regards the Banat, proposals are made for a strategic zone that shall become Serbian. It is stated that the resumption of negotiations is due to the good offices of Italy.

One newspaper, generally well-informed on political matters, declares that the proposals of Russia vary but little from those previously made, save with regard to Marmorosch, which may be regarded as a step forward. The Note is couched in extremely friendly terms; but there is nothing at all to indicate that negotiations could be concluded on terms to induce this country to abandon its policy of neutrality for one of activity in the immediate future.

An Anti-War Meeting.

The grandiose demonstration of last Sunday is to have its sequel next Sunday, in a meeting announced in placards, posted about the streets, asking Roumanian citizens whether they wish to die, or see their children die, for the caprice of a lot of lunatics, epileptics, and criminals. These choice expressions are said by some to emanate from the German Legation, while others attribute them to M. Marghiloman and his supporters. What success will attend the meeting remains to be seen. On these occasions numbers go for very little; for sightseers are always more numerous than actual sympathisers; and it is for this reason, doubtless, that the meeting is called for a holiday, so that it may appear, to the uninitiated at least, to be of importance.

Battles of Flowers.

For some time there have been almost weekly battles of flowers, organised by one society or another, with a view to augmenting its funds. These have been held on the Chaussée, and have developed into something quite different from the orderly and innocent affairs one usually associates in one's mind with such things. Commencing at about 5 p.m., they have continued far into the night, and have spread from the Chaussée into the town and along the Calea Victoria. The last one or two appear, moreover, to have been attended by a class quite different from that they were intended to attract; and the rowdyism displayed has called forth many complaints from Press and public. As a result, the Prefect of Police, M. Corbescu, has very properly seen fit to issue orders that in future such fêtes must be confined strictly to the further end of the Chaussée, that no entrance fee whatever shall be charged, and that the "fighting" must be confined to the Chaussée only. (Hitherto, carriages have had to pay 40 frs., and motors 80 frs., while the public could look on, or join in, for a single lei.)

The Prefect's order is received with general approval, for it is felt that with half the world fighting, and with scores of Roumanians dying daily in the Austro-Hungarian Army, such displays of frivolity are entirely out of place.

More German Smuggling.

The cases of attempted smuggling of arms and ammunition by Germany, mentioned last week, have been followed by others. A few days ago it was announced that a number of new goods waggons for the Oriental railways were to pass through; and in due course some trucks, empty and innocent-looking in the beauty of their fresh paint, were actually passed on to Bulgaria. There, fortunately, a smart Bulgarian "smelt a rat," with the result that most of the trucks were found to have false bottoms, the space thus provided being packed with shells. Word was at once passed to the Customs authorities here, and about a score more trucks were seized. This should prove a useful haul for the Roumanian railways, which suffer from a chronic shortage of goods trucks.

The Conservative Party's Difficulties.

The crisis in the Conservative party is not yet over. M. Jean Lahovary, proclaimed chief of the party by M. Filipescu and his friends, acted in that capacity by publishing a notice in the *Epoca* setting forth his reasons for accepting the position. He shows that the Conservative party has always been in touch with the national aspirations; that from the first its representatives showed clearly that they were opposed to Roumania siding with the Central Powers; and that it was necessary for the country to act, and act on the side of the Quadruple Entente. From the moment that M. Marghiloman refused to conform to the wishes of the majority of the party he could no longer remain its leader. And, finally, the executive, by 36 votes to 34, withdrew the leadership from him and confided it to M. Lahovary.

Since then M. Marghiloman, in a speech to his supporters at Jassy, has declared himself in favour of action eventually—at the time of the Greek Kalends, one supposes!—and denies any pro-German sympathies. But he refuses to abandon the leadership.

German Propaganda.

In spite of their lack of success in this country, German propagandists are still active; and it is announced that the German agents who worked so actively in Italy are now to come to this country. As an example of the trivial means resorted to, it is credibly reported that, the news of the fall of Przemysl coinciding with one of those battles of flowers referred to above, the German agents, anxious to make it appear that Roumanians rejoiced at the event, paid people to join in the revelry. Two hundred people are said to have benefited by this means; and it is significant that at this particular fête the number of common people taking part in the "battle" seems to confirm the rumour.

The attention of the Minister for War has been called to the fact that the German agents have been distributing gratis in various barracks copies of the papers bought by their Government. A *communiqué* to the Press announces that this distribution will not be permitted in future.

KINDLY EGYPTIANS.

A correspondent writes to the *Westminster Gazette* giving some particulars of spontaneous demonstrations of sympathy with our wounded on the part of Egyptians, which are distinctly touching. He says:—

I have just heard from a young official who is taking in a number of wounded Australians, in a town south of Cairo. He tells me that the resident Egyptians were very much interested, and came to him repeatedly to ask about the wounded and how they were cared for; eventually many came privately to say they would like to help in the good work, and they brought money—one £8, another £5, and so on—which they asked him to send anonymously to the Red Cross Fund at Cairo.

I think it shows a very kindly feeling on the part of the Egyptians. Certainly no one would have asked them to contribute; but it was the sight of the wounded men which excited their interest. I may add that everyone likes, and everyone admires, the Australian wounded.

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THE SOUL OF THE SLAV.

It was in a village in Old Serbia, in the beautiful iris-spangled valley of the Morava, that I became acquainted with the Royal Prince Marko, the legendary hero of Serbian epic. Or rather, it was there that I learnt to know, and partly to understand, the wonderful hold which the Prince has over his people, how he inspires and leads them on even to-day, more than 400 years after his death. It was evening, towards nightfall, and the scene was a village inn, a simple building of no intrinsic beauty, but one which was to live, a lasting memory, in my mind. A wandering minstrel, strolling from anywhere to nowhere, stopped at the inn in the twilight, and was asked by someone for a song. Simply, and without ostentation, the minstrel seized his *goussle*, and began reciting, accompanying his chant with notes from the primitive instrument in his hand. The men—sturdy, strong, well-set, hard-featured—listened in silence. Peasants and farm-hands, their wives and children, returning from the fields, paused when passing the inn, then stopped, listening intently, drinking in the *gousslar's* words with their eyes and ears, swaying with the narrative as corn sways in the wind, now dreading for the life of their hero, now battling fiercely with him against the oppressor, now exultant in his victory. "He is singing them one of the Prince Marko epics," whispered my companion, and I listened to words that I did not understand. Yet so powerful was the simplicity of the song, so tense, nay, magnetic, had become the atmosphere, that I, too, was swayed. For the soul of the Slav, that indefinable something which has throughout the dim ages of oppression kept alive the national ideal and reared strong men and brave women, had been quickened on this memorable evening in my presence, as it is quickened year in year out in every village where the Jugo-Slav awaits the return of Prince Marko, seated on his piebald charger.

The above scene was brought back to me the other day in the Victoria and Albert Museum, in the hall where Ivan Mestrovic is exhibiting some statuary and a model Slav Valhalla. The discussion of art as such is sterile. If really the Slav people look up to Mestrovic as their national sculptor, who can carve their ideal out of stone or out of wood, and help the epics in their noble task of keeping the glorious past alive, then, truly, he is a great artist, a great sculptor, for he will arouse the soul of the Slav among the people just as the unknown *gousslar* aroused it one night at the village inn in the Morava valley.

What are, in a few words, the chief characteristics of Mestrovic's work as revealed to us by the exhibition at South Kensington? Strength of line and mysticism. Yet rarely do the two go hand in hand; both are, however, characteristic of the Southern Slav. Their heroes are men of superhuman strength, strong as the Titans of yore, muscular as the gods of the Norsemen's sagas. Prince Marko rides through the land of epics, the strongest of the strong; and as such Mestrovic has given him to us in an equestrian statue devoid of a soft line, full of power and action. The Slav to whom it is shown for the first time will pause and look long at his hero. It will invoke in his mind the wonderful deeds performed by rider and charger on the plains of Kossovo; he will see him battle with the Moor in Istamboul, or emerge from his castle in Prilip to right some maiden's wrong. For such is the power of art. The same happens when our Slav spectator stands in front of that other heroic figure, the portrait of Milos Obilic, the avenger of the battle of Kossovo; he who slew the Sultan of the Turks. Here we have the same strong lines, the same play of light and shade on an intensely muscular body (would not Michel Angelo and Ribera have revelled in this semi-torso!). Doubtless the sculptor has carved other Serbian heroes in the same way, hoping that some day they may find a worthy resting-place in that Temple of Fame which he is striving hard to have erected on the plains of Kossovo. But the two alluded to suffice to show how Mestrovic has seized and perpetuated the Slav's conception of his superhuman heroes.

The mystic side of the young artist's nature is revealed in more than one figure at the exhibition; and, strange to say, it reminds me of the Spanish school rather than of any other. Both are steeped in piteous sorrow: the Mater Dolorosa of the Sevillian school and Mestrovic's bold series of weeping widowhood. His aim, he has told us, is "to sing of suffering, so that others may bear their suffering with more strength," and the result is this series of nude statues, powerfully carved, and invoking pictures in the lives of men and women: the soldier's departure for the battlefield of liberty, that battlefield some hours later covered with slain, among whom lies the soldier; and then, his widow mourning at home, and vehemently, yet with an intense love, kissing the infant in her arms. Free from all mannerism, without either the extreme suppleness of the Italian or the intense vigour of the "heroic" lines, these figures tell a sorrowful tale of poignant woe that must perforce appeal to the Serbs, whose sons and husbands have bled by thousands for their country's freedom and for the national ideal of the Jugo-Slavs. Here, again, then, Ivan Mestrovic can be said to have grasped the significance of the soul of the Slav and to have translated it into imperishable marble.

In the preceding paragraphs I have attempted to show how and why it is that Mestrovic can lay claim to being the national Jugo-Slav sculptor. The psychology of his people is known to him, and he can lead them as the *gousslar* leads them. There is affinity between the wandering minstrel singing his songs into the air as a bird sings and this sculptor who, instead of a *goussle*, wields his chisel with an intense sincerity that convinces his spectators and inspires them.

But, having thus analysed Mestrovic as an artist embodying the ideals of his race, we pass to his significance as an individual artist. Frankly, there is much that is chaotic, incomprehensible, and small about a work that is otherwise great. Germany—or rather Vienna—has spoilt him (*vide* the bas-relief "Salome" and his architectural motives), and he has an inordinate hankering after Oriental (Babylonian and Egyptian) motives. I think, however, that the young sculptor's genius, young as years go, will eventually steer clear of the conventionalities which, like so many pitfalls, lure him into side-tracks, there to be lost. Take a case in point. Where is the description of Sharatz showing his mane to have been close cropped? The equestrian statue of the Royal Prince Marko loses by this conventional treatment; the eye is drawn willy-nilly to the mane, the only long, jarring line in an otherwise harmonious composition.

These remarks, however, compared with the tremendous significance of Mestrovic as a national poet in marble and bronze, may appear superfluous. For art creators will go their own way, whatever the critic may say. After all, it is just as well that it is so, because otherwise we should adopt a conventionalism equal to that of Egypt at her worst. I do not think that there is much fear, however, that Ivan Mestrovic will fall into this net; he is too great a man, and he is young. Time will flow on, his style will mature, and he will leave the extravagant, the conventional, and small for the simplicity of line, theme and motive. Whereupon his national significance will become intensified, and the Jugo-Slavs will have acquired an eloquent exponent of that artistic culture to which Lord Robert Cecil referred in his opening speech at the exhibition last Thursday.

C. R.

IN MEMORY OF KOSSOVO.

On Monday, which was the anniversary of the battle of Kossovo, which was fought in 1389, and in which the Serbs lost their independence, the South Slav Committee organised a patriotic festival. At noon a solemn Requiem Service was celebrated in the Russian Church for the Serbian heroes who fell in the great battle and for all South Slavs who since Kossovo have died for their country. The service was attended by representatives of Serbs from Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia, and Herzegovina, and by representatives of Dalmatia, Croatia, and Slovenia. Monsignor Smirnoff, who officiated, delivered a patriotic address, speaking of the brotherhood of all Slavonic nations.

At some subsequent proceedings M. C. Miyatovich spoke on the importance of the festival, and before separating cheers were given for King George and for the British Empire.

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IN STRICKEN SERBIA.

(Being further extracts from letters written by Dr. Lauwens, of the Wounded Allies' Relief Hospital in Serbia.)

SALONIKA, May 9.

I have been obliged to come here myself to hunt up 216 packages—boxes and beds—which have been detained here for twelve days. To-day I have succeeded in getting them despatched, and to-morrow morning I return. The journey back will take thirty-six hours, and I was forty-eight hours in coming down here—two nights in the train without a wink of sleep.

KRAGUJEVATZ, May 13.

I am back at Kragujevatz, tired but glad to have made the journey, for I have been able to expedite matters, and especially to make arrangements for the expeditions that are to follow. At Nish, where I had to spend a few hours, I took advantage of the opportunity to visit the military hospital, and gathered some hints that will be useful in our establishment.

Two days ago a lot of our material arrived, and we are hard at work on making our hospital ready, which it is rapidly becoming. The epidemic is steadily diminishing, and the rate of mortality is becoming much smaller. We shall have principally surgical work to perform as soon as the offensive is taken in this direction, and I have telegraphed to the committee to send us chiefly surgical material.

May 20.

We are still working like niggers, fixing up baths, etc.—for they know nothing of such things in Serbia—and getting arrangements for laundry work ready. We have received splendid bedding for 100 beds, and certainly our hospital will be the best equipped in the town. We have had to unpack and erect the beds and bedding, and to supervise the workmen who are building and plastering.

On Monday morning we were informed that in two hours we should receive some patients. As our installation is not yet complete, they have sent us sixty-five patients suffering from exanthematic typhus from another hospital. For a large number of serious cases had arrived from the front, and it was necessary to clear one of the completely-equipped hospitals for their reception. Yesterday and to-day we have had further arrivals; to-day we are seventy-nine. So we have made a beginning! I am eagerly awaiting the surgical material that the W.A.R.C. has promised me; for there are amongst the typhoid patients many cases that call for operation—gangrene, etc., etc., while we are waiting for cases of war surgery.

The typhoid epidemic is still diminishing, but is far from being stamped out. Now preparations are being made to face the cholera if ever it should make its appearance.

Four more nurses have arrived, so that our party now consists of two doctors and six nurses, which is sufficient for a hospital of 100 beds. We have not yet received any news of the W.A.R.C., nor of the material that was sent off on April 23. So we are just doing the best we can. I have to be quite a Jack-of-all trades: carpenter, locksmith, cook, housemaid, treasurer, and even doctor. I speak English, French, German in turn, and sometimes it is quite amusing. We have four servants—two prisoners and two Serbians—to look after our house, and in the hospital we have two interpreters and eleven Serbian *infirmiers;* but things will not go on by themselves, and one has to be constantly on the look-out, and sometimes scolding.

May 27.

There is plenty of work. We have had patients since the 16th, and to organise a hospital where everything is lacking is most exacting work. One must think of everything, from the dish-cloths and the brooms down to the temperature charts and the medicines, keep the books in order, and supervise every detail. However, things are beginning to move. We are waiting for the surgical material from London in order to begin our real work. According to current rumours we shall soon have wounded here. Serious happenings are expected at the front.

PROPOSED ENGLISH ORPHANAGE IN SERBIA.

It is the desire of the Serbian Relief Fund to establish an English orphanage in Serbia for the assistance of the children who lose their fathers in the war. Writing to *The Times* in support of the project, M. C. Miyatovich says: "This most terrible and cruel war has made many a child in Serbia fatherless and motherless. Our best women, under the leadership of Mme. Pashich, the wife of the Serbian Prime Minister, have joined hands and hearts to save these orphans. But they lack sufficient funds to organize proper orphanages. They have to appeal to the charitable friends of poor children. Through the exertion of Mme. Pashich our French friends have generously enabled her to establish a French orphanage at Kraguyevats. But there are many orphans who could not find place there. The Society of St. Helena, of which Mme. Pashich is the president, intends establishing, if possible, a British orphanage at Uskub, organized and carried on on British lines and in British spirit. I appeal specially—but not exclusively—to British children and mothers to enable us by their help to establish and keep up such a British orphanage in Serbia. It would be a touching monument of British sympathies with the Serbians, one of the many stirring results of the Alliance with Great Britain, into which God's merciful Providence has led our nation." Contributions should be sent to the treasurer, Sir Edward Boyle, Bt., Serbian Relief Fund, 55, Berners Street, W., and earmarked "Orphanage."

SERBIA AND BULGARIA.

The Serbian Legation has authorised Reuter's Agency to issue a categorical denial to the semi-official statement published in Sofia to the effect that news from Macedonia continually makes mention of the murder and ill-treatment of the Bulgarian population in the villages of Podarjikon, Dobrovitza, Dragobrachta, and Vinitza, and in the districts of Palanka and Kotchani.

RUSSIA AND THE BALKANS.

The following quotation from an article written in English by the editor of the *Novoe Zueno* (the *New Link*) of Petrograd is interesting as showing at first-hand Russian opinion concerning the neutral Balkan States. The first portion of the article reviews the possible effect that Italy's intervention may have upon Sweden and Holland. The writer proceeds:—

The effect on Roumania is more precarious. . . . Roumanian diplomacy has conducted the pourparlers, about the "pay" for the help of Roumania's army parallel with Italy, but not with equal success. Italy had received on paper the promise of her reward. Roumania has not. The conditions of discussions about Ismail or Bukovina are certainly worse for her than they were before April 25. . . . The position of Bulgaria and Greece depends on that of Roumania. Greece cannot move if not sure of Bulgaria. . . . It was justly said months ago that the key of the situation of the whole Balkan imbroglio lies in Sofia. What diplomacy has failed to realise until the very last moment was that this key can be placed in our hands not by demonstration of diplomatic weakness and pourparlers about the reward of Bulgaria, but by definite terms dictated to Sofia through Bucharest and Athens.

THE ANGLO-SERBIAN HOSPITAL.

Mr. James Berry, F.R.C.S., Senior Surgeon of the Royal Free Hospital, who is at present in charge of a Hospital at Vrnjatchka Banja, Serbia, writes, on May 31:—

I have just telegraphed again saying that I feel obliged to stay out here a while longer. I have been specially asked to do so, not only by the Serbian War Office but also by the Serbian Government and by Sir Ralph Paget, with whom I have been in frequent communication. There are plenty of doctors of all nationalities out here, but there are hardly any surgeons of hospital standing and experience at the present time, and so far as we can tell there will be a great deal of work before long. The head of the Army Medical Department was over here some ten days ago, and he has given a definite assurance, both to me and to Sir Ralph Paget, that if there is fresh fighting, we shall have numbers of serious freshly wounded cases to deal with here. Indeed, I have heard some talk of making this place a great centre for surgical cases. Our hospitals and sanitary methods appear to have made considerable impression here in Serbia. These are not ordinary times, and I have to consider first of all how I can be of most use to the common cause. In England there are hundreds of surgeons who can do my work there just as well as I can, but there are probably hardly any who could run this place satisfactorily. We have now built up a huge organisation of six separate hospitals in different parts of the town. We have an aggregate of over 300 beds, although at the present time only about 130 are occupied, as we are waiting for freshly wounded.

Colonel Gentchitch, Head of the Serbian Army Medical Department, expresses the hope that arrangements may be made by the British Committee for continuing the work which has been of so much service to Serbia. The administration of the Anglo-Serbian Hospital is under the supervision of a Committee in London, of which Mr. W. H. Dickinson and Sir Francis Layland-Barratt are active members. Further donations for the work will be welcome if sent to Mr. Reginald Garratt, Royal Free Hospital, Gray's Inn Road, London.

ARMENIANS IN PERSIA.

Writing from Ispahan on May 19, the day after the murder of the chief of the Russian Bank in that city, Mr. Allinson, a C.M.S. missionary, said: "The Britishers are all perfectly calm, and there is no need for distress; the mission work is going on as usual." For some time the people in Julfa (the Armenian suburb of Ispahan) had been greatly disturbed, but Mr. Allinson says: "The Archimandrite of the Gregorians addressed a special letter to the Government in Teheran, which was quickly followed by a visit of the Ispahan Governor to Julfa. The latter assured the Armenians that he was fully alive to all the rumours; that he was personally responsible for all Europeans and Christians; and that his arrangements were ample for all eventualities."

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THE SUDAN SUMMER.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

The most trying time of the Sudan summer season has commenced—that of the *habub* visitation. The first dust storm afflicted Khartoum on May 29, and, although proving far less savage than usual, its force sufficed to break down several of the fine trees which form so great an attraction of this city. No one who has failed to witness a real *habub*, or who has not been caught in one, can form any idea of its unpleasantness, or of the damage than it can occasion. The storm can be seen approaching at a distance of several miles, and when at its full blast neither man nor beast can stand up against it. The fine, powdery particles of sand, which feel to the skin as sharp and as penetrating as needle points, fill the atmosphere for fifty or sixty miles around, rendering objects invisible at a distance of more than one-half mile. Sometimes the storms, which arise and subside quite suddenly, will endure from nine o'clock in the morning to four or five in the afternoon, while so dark and dense becomes the air that travellers lose their way, and occasionally have been known to die upon the road. Formerly, troops on the march suffered terribly from these visitations; there is upon record the instance of an entire convoy on the march from Korosko to Abu Hamed having been destroyed by a violent wind. This was in 1897; while in the summer of 1891 an air-wave of a particularly dense description caught a party of Egyptian cavalry under similar circumstances, many men and horses being lost. The districts of Tokar and the Red Sea Littoral suffer the most heavily, as a rule.

HEAT AT KHARTOUM.

The excessive heat at Khartoum of the last three weeks of May, during which period, says the *Sudan Herald* of June 5, the average daily maximum temperature exceeded 110 degrees, has taken heavy toll of the City of London Regiment now serving in Khartoum, for they have lost no fewer than four of their number during the past week, all of whose deaths were either directly or indirectly attributable to the oppressive heat. Despite some months' sojourn in Malta, before arrival in the Sudan, the heat has proved more trying to the men of the battalion as a whole than that of the island.

"The duty (continues our contemporary) the battalion is performing here, though without doubt irksome to those whose very existence is one great longing to come into violent contact with their country's enemies, is none the less an essential duty, and no light part in the scheme of Empire, and one the value of which will not, we feel sure, be underestimated by our countrymen throughout the Empire when the history of our world-wide campaign comes to be written."

CEREBRO-SPINAL MENINGITIS IN THE SUDAN.

With regard to the epidemic of cerebro-spinal meningitis in the Sudan, the *Sudan Times* says:—

We are glad to be assured (from an authoritative source) that the spread of disease should not cause any undue alarm. It is already abating in the southern districts of the Sudan, where it first made its appearance, and seems to be moving northwards. It may continue to spread, in spite of all efforts, through the month of June; but in all probability, judging by past experience, it will disappear after the beginning of the rainy season. In this connection we may state that the greatest difficulty which the medical authorities are finding arises from the fact that the natives of the villages in which the disease appears do not inform the Government about such cases until several deaths have occurred, then they are alarmed and always make haste to inform the Government, appealing for help. Under such circumstances, the contagion would already have spread to a wider extent than the authorities can trace, and the next thing they know about it is when another appeal comes to them for help from a district hitherto considered unaffected.

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BRITISH HELP FOR MONTENEGRO.

Dr. Clemow's friends and admirers will read with peculiar interest and satisfaction the following official telegram which Sir J. Roper Parkington, Consul-General for Montenegro, has received from Cettinje:—

The doctors, nurses, and assistants of the English hospital mission have been received in Montenegro with the greatest enthusiasm and most sincere gratitude. Their ceaseless activity and boundless energy have proved most helpful, and numberless wounded and sick Montenegrins already owe their recovery to the skill and attention so willingly bestowed upon them. On Thursday last, the King received Dr. Clemow in private audience and most cordially thanked him and his devoted colleagues for all the benefits conferred upon his subjects. At a banquet in honour of Dr. Clemow and the members of the English mission, given by the "Croix Rouge" of Cettinje, the Minister of Public Instruction spoke in the warmest terms of the invaluable services rendered by the generous British nation in providing these hospital contingents, which had proved so great a blessing in a time of dire need. The Minister concluded his remarks with a touching reference to the deep gratitude all Montenegrins felt for the self-sacrificing hospital workers, and for the generous contributors to the fund which had made these missions possible.

MISSIONARIES IN PALESTINE.

The Church Missionary Society has heard through Government channels that the U.S.A. Consul-General at Beyrout received a letter from Miss Lawford, the C.M.S. missionary who still remains in Palestine. This letter is dated March 25, and it states that she and Miss Johncock and Miss Croft (nurses of the Edinburgh Medical Mission) believe that they are doing a good work in Nazareth, and that under the circumstances it is their duty as missionaries to remain there. Miss Lawford said in her letter that the head officials had been most kind and helpful.

Dr. Hoskins, American Presbyterian missionary of Beyrout, wrote on April 17, sending letters from the Rev. I. Baz, of Jerusalem, and the Rev. S. Saba, of Haifa. These show that the native Church work is going on regularly and without opposition, excepting in Jaffa and El Husn. The pastor (the Rev. B. Musa), the catechist, and the schoolmasters in Jaffa and district, after being imprisoned in Damascus for nearly four months, were allowed to rent a house there.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

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

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

THE FUTURE OF CYPRUS.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—With reference to the letter of Mr. Kenneth H. Ledward, who comments on a letter of Mr. George L. Houston, published in THE NEAR EAST of June 11, regarding the future of Cyprus, the arguments of the former do not appear to carry much weight. If we have been right in holding Cyprus for thirty-six years, there seems to be little reason for interrupting our work of regeneration in the island. (1) The argument that we are fighting for the principle of nationality, though true, has been overworked. If we were to abandon our hold on the ground of nationality only, the map of our Empire would undergo very considerable shrinkage. Moreover, the Moslem community of Cyprus, though relatively small, has been consistently and genuinely loyal during the whole of our occupation, whereas the Greek agitation, which has been persistent and has caused considerable trouble, has bordered on sedition. Full regard is certainly due to the Moslem population. (2) Though Cyprus has not been, for obvious reasons, "a paying concern," it is now paying its way, and on the direct road to a recovery of its prosperity. The statement that famines are frequent will, I believe, not bear examination. There is nothing to show that abandonment would not at present be, from a strategic point of view, a blunder. (3) The compensation which M. Venizelos seeks in return for Greek intervention in the war does not—as far as is generally known—include the cession of Cyprus. The administration of such territories as Greece is likely to acquire, in Asia Minor or elsewhere, would demand her full attention for many years to come.

If we were to abandon Cyprus to Greece not only would our work for regeneration be arrested, but there would be rapid retrogression. The state of the island is in many respects comparable to that of Egypt, as regards the results achieved and the evolution of order out of chaos. Lord Milner and Lord Cromer have shown clearly how disastrous, both from a material and moral point of view, would be our abandonment of Egypt to any Power that would not or could not govern on our lines. The future of Cyprus, if in question, will no doubt be settled on wide political grounds, in full agreement with our Allies; but no one who knows Cyprus can doubt that, as regards the welfare of the Cypriot people, the continuation of our administration for a long time to come is essentially the best outlook.—I am, etc.,

BRITON.

June 30, 1915.

SERBIA AND BULGARIA.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—Mr. Janitsch, in your issue of the 21st last, has sounded the signal for retreat, and I trust this will be the end of our discussion. Just a few words more. Mr. Janitsch is simply audacious, with no notion of responsibility for what he advances or the authority he cites in support of his contention. Just an instance.

I consider Sir Arthur Evans among the best authorities on the question of nationalities in Macedonia. Mr. Janitsch cites Sir Arthur, and says: "I do not know any English scientist acknowledged as an authority concerning the Slav languages and ethnography who asserts that the Macedonians are Bulgars. On the contrary, I know some of the English scientists who do not think so. Let me only mention the name of Sir Arthur Evans. . . ." Now, I happen to know very well Sir Arthur, and to remember the last visit he paid to Macedonia was about 1888. He travelled through Sofia and viâ Kustendil, accompanied by Mrs. Evans and Mr. Allan, then residing in Sofia. Sir Arthur's object was an inquiry in Kratovo, the traditional burial-place of Serbian kings during the forty to fifty years of Serbian rule over Macedonia. He was very anxious to award some portion of Macedonia to the Serbians on ethnographical grounds, and was in hopes of finding in Kratovo, if anywhere, traces of Serbian language or tradition. Mr. Allan, after experiencing the peculiar methods of the Turkish police, came back to Sofia and communicated to me the conclusion Sir Arthur had arrived at: "No, I cannot find anything Serbian here; everything is Bulgarian."

Sir Arthur had, at that time, another anxiety—to award the town of Pritep to the Serbians, *because it had been for a few years the capital of a Serbian prince*, Kral Marks, vassal to Sultan Bayazid, the Thunderbolt, in the end of the fourteenth century. Kral Marks fought equally well against the Christians as against the Turks. He died fighting on the side of the Turks against the Vlachs (now Roumanians) in 1394. He is, however, the subject of heroic songs and extraordinary but popular traditions. These heroic songs and traditions are common to the Bulgarians as well as to the Serbians; they are, however, more national in Serbia than in Bulgaria. I remember well Sir Arthur had no idea of awarding this Bulgarian district to the Serbians *on ethnographical grounds*.

Sir Arthur has crossed and re-crossed Macedonia, has studied the nations there, and has written and published sketch maps in the *Manchester Guardian* and elsewhere, giving the frontier lines beyond which, according to his knowledge, such or such nationality had not right of claim. Never to my knowledge has Sir Arthur given to the Serbians any part of Macedonia that the Bulgarians claim on ethnographical grounds or by the rights of treaty.

Sir Arthur and Mr. Allan are alive and, I trust, well. They can speak. *Ab uno disce omnes.*—I am, etc.,

Sofia, June 8, 1915. P. M. MATTHEEFF.

BRITISH REFUGEES FROM TURKEY FUND.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—The "British Refugees from Turkey Fund" was initiated by Lady Neave and some friends in January. On February 10 an urgent request by telegraph was received from H.B.M.'s Minister at Athens, asking for £1,000. At that time the fund had scarcely collected £100, but with the united efforts of the Executive Committee sufficient was subscribed to send to those in distress, not only in Athens but in Constantinople, Syria, and Paris, and to assist British refugees in England. No further testimony is required as to the utility of our work than these words of Sir Francis Elliot's:—"Not only has your help been invaluable, but also indispensable in helping British refugees stranded in Athens, and I regret I cannot say we shall not require further assistance from the fund. More and more is still needed."

The committee of this fund wish to thank all those who have so generously responded to their appeal, and hope that the following brief summary of the work already accomplished may be of interest to them:—

	£	s.	d.
Total received	2,267	7	8
Remitted to Constantinople (for distribution through the American Embassy)	620	0	0
Remitted to Athens (for distribution through the British Legation)	750	0	0
Payments in England (through the Committee in London)	278	7	4
Remitted to Dedeagatch (through Mr. Morgan)	80	0	0
Remittance to Paris	5	0	0
Administration Expenses	6	16	4

In many cases loans have been made which are being repaid, but the calls on our resources are still urgent, and subscriptions will be gratefully received.

DORINA NEAVE.
AIMEE BARKER.
ALICE LOWTHER.
BEATRICE BARCLAY.

Lowndes House,
Lowndes Place, Belgrave Square,
June 25, 1915.

BOOKS FOR OUR SOLDIERS.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—I think you will be interested to hear that many people have sent us books through seeing your notices in THE NEAR EAST. I thought you would be glad to know about this.

I am sending you a copy of the letter received from India this morning, which shows how much the books are appreciated out there.—I am, etc., EVA ANSTRUTHER.

Depôt for the Camps Library,
22, Earl Street,
Westminster, London, S.W.,
June 23, 1915.

[COPY.]

The Hon. Secretary,
Camps Library,
London.

Madam,—I have received from the Adjutant-General, India, a parcel of books for the use of the N.C.O.'s and men of my unit, sent from the Camps Library. Please accept my best thanks. There could be no more acceptable present for the men at the present time when, owing to the hot weather, they are obliged to remain in their bungalows during the greater part of the day.—Yours very sincerely,

(Signed) R. K. HARVEY, Lieut.-Colonel,
Commanding 1/5th East Surrey Regiment.

Cawnpore, May 26, 1915.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

ROUMANIA AND THE GREAT WAR.*

Dr. R. W. Seton-Watson has already laid the reading public under an obligation by his collaboration in "The War and Democracy," which holds pride of place as the best book in a short compass on the circumstances leading up to the war and the issues at stake. He now supplements this good work by a monograph on Roumania, based, as he reminds us, on a lecture delivered to the Royal Scottish Geographical Society. Here, in a few pages, Dr. Seton-Watson takes us hurriedly through the salient features of Roumanian history with a view to offering an estimate of Roumanian policy in relation to the war. The origin of the book precludes any elaborate inquiry into the antecedents of the Roumanians, or a full account of present-day conditions in the country. It offers the general reader, however, a comprehensive view of the stages by which Roumania has reached her present position, a clearer appreciation than the average Briton already has of what that position actually is in relation to the Great Powers and the Balkan States, and a sympathetic explanation of Roumania's delay in ranging herself unreservedly on the side of the Triple Entente.

The ignorance prevailing in Great Britain of Roumania and Roumanian affairs is mainly accidental. During the period in which the British public has manifested an increasing interest in foreign politics Roumania has contrived to maintain the even tenour of her way. Her military exploits in 1876 would probably have made a more lasting impression in this country if they had not been achieved at the expense of the Turks, whom we have allowed to monopolise for so long most of the sympathy and interest our foreign policy has been able to spare for the Near East. From that date Roumania appeared to be completely absorbed in the Austro-Hungarian and Russian orbits; she was spared the unenviable notoriety which attached to the domestic politics of the other Balkan States, and she lay off the main route from Western Europe to Constantinople, which clung to the unbroken train journey through Belgrade and Sofia, in preference to the no less interesting and more picturesque route over the Carpathians with a sea passage from Constanza, through the Bosphorus. Interest in Roumania revived slowly with the discovery of her commercial and industrial potentialities; but up to the outbreak of the second Balkan War the country did not command in Great Britain the attention it deserved, in view of the fact that the Roumanian Army takes rank immediately after those of the six Great Powers, while her trade almost equals in volume the combined trade of Serbia, Montenegro, Bulgaria and Greece. That trade, moreover, is backed by one of the great wheat granaries of Europe and the fourth largest oilfields in the world.

Now that the British public has "discovered" Roumania and has been led to expect her co-operation with the Allied Powers, it has reason to regret the policy of neglect, diplomatic, national and commercial, which has been adopted towards the Roumanians in the past. The interval of waiting for the Roumanian Government to take action cannot be put to better use than by gaining some insight into the considerations which on the one hand impel Roumania to make common cause with the Triple Entente, and on the other hold her back from military action at this juncture.

In desiring the incorporation of Transylvania, the Roumanians are actuated by something more than a platonic desire to round off the boundaries of their kingdom by the inclusion of their kinsmen on the other side of the Carpathians. They are urged on by the thought of all the oppression and injustice that has been the lot of these people for generations. Throughout this period the Roumanians of Hungary have shown themselves at one with their fellow countrymen by their contributions to the common fund of the race, alike in politics, in literature, and in economic progress. For this reason Dr. Seton-Watson lays emphasis on the situation of the Roumanians in Hungary. On the other hand, in the history of the Roumanians in Bessarabia he finds "an almost complete blank." He states the causes, and adds:—

> There is no such national movement as in Transylvania, and Bessarabia's contribution to the stream of Roumanian national life has been almost negligible. While Transylvania has supplied Roumania with a long succession of poets, journalists, doctors and politicians, Professor Stere, the distinguished Liberal deputy and economist, stands alone as the representative of Bessarabia."

In the negotiations now pending with Russia, it is understood that the question of Bessarabia has not been raised, and our author does not allow that province to appear in his estimate of "the new frontier and a just settlement."

Another point which this book clears up is the connection between Roumania and the late Triple Alliance. The secret military convention for defensive purposes was, as far as Roumania was concerned, "exclusively the work of King Charles himself, who, in recent years, had more than ever kept foreign policy in his own hands."

> Hence the remark addressed to the late king at the Crown Council held on the outbreak of war, when he failed to win support for his scheme to render aid to Austria. "In peace time it was possible for your Majesty to follow a policy contrary to the sentiment of the country, but to make war in defiance of that sentiment is impossible."

But if the sentiment of Roumania is wholly on the side of the Triple Entente, why does she delay to enter the struggle? Dr. Seton-Watson offers a variety of reasons:—Military unpreparedness (though he falls into a not unnatural error in supposing that the Roumanian army marched against Bulgaria in July, 1913, with anything like "extensive armaments." It was singularly ill-equipped with artillery, and remained so until after the outbreak of the present war); the need of intervening when she can hope to turn the scale without a long campaign; the equivocal attitude of Bulgaria; German intrigues having for their object misrepresentation of the Allies' intentions; uncertainty regarding the future of the Dardanelles. At the present moment we know that Roumania still holds back because she has been unable to obtain from Russia the terms she requires. Dr. Seton-Watson sketches the frontier which an equitable allocation of territory would give Roumania. It cuts athwart what the Roumanians are asking and what the Russians are prepared to give. Perhaps eventually they will agree to compromise and accept his verdict. The line of the Theiss he characterises as "merely ridiculous," adding that its acquisition would involve the occupation of the purest Magyar districts in Hungary, and even Debreczen itself, "the stronghold of Magyar Calvinism." He holds, too, that "the Serbian claims to the Western Banat are unanswerable on racial grounds, while on strategic grounds they are, if possible, even more overwhelming."

Appendices on the racial distribution in Hungary and an ethnographical map complete the valuable monograph.

* "Roumania and the Great War." By R. W. Seton-Watson, D.Litt. (Constable and Co., Ltd. Price, 2s).

BOOK RECEIVED.

Tales from Five Chimneys. By Marmaduke Pickthall. (Mills and Boon. 6s.)

FOR THE WOUNDED.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—A parcel of books arrived here to-day, and were quickly distributed among the men. As I keep a very sharp eye on them and see that all are returned and carefully dealt with, the library is a source of great pleasure to everyone—patients, both officers and men, and the staff. We have something to suit nearly everybody's taste now I think. One officer shouted with joy when he saw "Hajji Baba." I am very grateful, it gives the men such a great pleasure. They make a dash for books and papers as soon as they get into the wards. I have received the invoice for the beds to-day, so I shall soon be able to tell you of their arrival.—With many thanks, I am, etc.,

K. H. WHEATLEY.

June 24, 1915.

The following is a final list of subscriptions received by the Editor of THE NEAR EAST for Nurse Wheatley's appeal for seven beds for the wounded under her care:—

The Staff of the Imperial Ottoman Bank	£3	3	0
The Hon. Mrs. Sackville-West	1	1	0
Mrs. Bullard	1	0	0
Andrew Ryan, Esq.	0	10	0
J. P.	0	10	0
"Sphinx"	0	8	0
D. S.	0	5	0
"Baghdadi"	0	5	0
Dr. J. Leigh	0	5	0
"Gippie"	0	5	0
F. E. Roe, Esq.	0	5	0
J. M. Ruedi, Esq.	0	5	0
J. Bee, Esq.	0	2	6

The cost of the seven beds, including insurance and freightage to Southampton, is £8 4s. 6d.

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1915. July	1915. June		1333. Shaaban	5675. Tamuz
2	19	Friday	19	20
3	20	Saturday	20	21
4	21	Sunday	21	22
5	22	Monday	22	23
6	23	Tuesday	23	24
7	24	Wednesday	24	25
8	25	Thursday	25	26

To-day is the birthday of H.R.H. Princess Marie of Greece, wife of Prince George, who was born at St. Cloud, in 1882.

To-day is also the birthday of H.R.H. Prince Olaf of Sweden, who was born at Sandringham, in 1903.

Tuesday is the birthday of H.R.H. Princess Victoria, second sister of the King, who was born at Marlborough House, in 1868.

On Tuesday afternoon the King visited Sir A. Fripp's hospital, 17, Park Lane, and decorated some of the officers there. Amongst those thus honoured was Captain A. Carton de Wiart, 4th Royal Irish Dragoon Guards, who was invested by His Majesty with the insignia of a Companion of the Distinguished Service Order.

The Sultan of Egypt has created a special dignity, the Riasset, for bestowal only upon Prime Ministers.

The *Egyptian Gazette* understands that the Sultan intends to make a motor tour in the provinces of Lower Egypt after the month of Ramadan, and that the three new touring cars recently ordered from Europe are to be used for the purpose of the tour.

Under date of the 24th ult., Reuter's Amsterdam correspondent reports:—A telegram from Constantinople states that the Sultan has been successfully operated upon for stone in the bladder on the advice of Professor Israel, who was summoned from Berlin.

The Aga Khan has arrived in London from France, and is staying at 40, Wilton Crescent, S.W.

Sir Edward Grey has returned to town, but has not yet resumed his duties at the Foreign Office.

On the invitation of the Lord Mayor, Earl Kitchener has consented to address a meeting at the Guildhall next Friday afternoon on the subject of recruiting for the Army.

M. Andre Radovitch, ex-Prime Minister of Montenegro, has arrived in this country on a special mission from his Government to Great Britain and France in connection (Reuter's Agency is informed) with supplies and equipment for the Montenegrin Army. On Monday he had a conference at the Foreign Office and was also received by Lord Kitchener.

Mr. Noel Buxton, M.P., and Mrs. Buxton gave a luncheon party to meet Madame Pasitch, the wife of the Serbian Prime Minister, at the Hyde Park Hotel on June 25. There were present Lord Crewe, Acting Foreign Secretary; Lord Robert Cecil, Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs; Mr. Herbert Samuel, Postmaster-General; Lord Newton; Sir Edward Boyle, Hon. Sec. of the Balkan Committee; Monsieur Mestrovitch, the Serbian sculptor; Lady Grogan; Sir Arthur Evans, F.R.S.; Dr. Seton-Watson; Mr. C. R. Buxton; and others.

Field-Marshal Lord Methuen inspected on Saturday the Malta Corps of the St. John Ambulance Brigade for overseas service. The inspection took place at the Palace square in the presence of a large gathering. The Governor delivered a speech, in which he referred to the good work performed by the Association.

Mr. R. Pasitch, son of the Serbian Prime Minister, arrived in London last week.

M. Vesnitch, the Serbian Minister in Paris, whose arrival in England last week was reported in these columns, spent the week-end in the country on a private visit, and on Tuesday he left London for the Continent.

H.E. the Roumanian Minister was amongst the callers at the Foreign Office on Tuesday.

The Marquess of Crewe, Acting Foreign Secretary, received the Greek Minister at the Foreign Office on Wednesday afternoon.

Telegrams received from Bucharest announce that M. Jean Lahovary, one of the most prominent Roumanian statesmen, died suddenly on Sunday of heart disease. He was formerly Foreign Minister, and was quite recently elected as leader of the Conservative party, in circumstances that are fully described in our Bucharest Correspondent's letter.

Halil Bey, President of the Ottoman Chamber of Deputies, stopped in Sofia on his way back from Berlin to Constantinople, and had an interview with the Bulgarian Prime Minister, M. Radoslavoff.

A marriage has been arranged between Dr. A. R. Neligan, Physician to the British Legation at Teheran, and Kate Mary Leigh Spencer, eldest daughter of the Rev. G. L. Spencer and Mrs. Spencer, of The Priory, Clifford, Herefordshire.

Mr. H. P. Kingham, manager, and Mr. H. Hodgson, of the National Bank of Turkey, arrived in England last week from Constantinople, having travelled by way of Nish and Salonika.

On Tuesday Lady (Ralph) Paget presided at a children's meeting held at the Mansion House in connection with the Serbian Relief Fund. Mr. Crawfurd Price gave a suitable address, illustrated by lantern views. Madame Pashitch was present.

Mr. H. E. Poynter, formerly of the Ottoman Public Debt Administration, has been given a commission as lieutenant in the Army Service Corps.

A branch of the Royal Naval Medical Information Bureau has been started in Alexandria by Miss Violet Asquith, in order to send information regarding the sick and wounded of the Royal Naval Division in hospital at that town. Inquiries should be addressed to the Secretary, Royal Naval Information Bureau, c.o. the National Bank of Egypt, Alexandria. A similar branch has been established in Malta. Inquiries should be sent to Mrs. Lawrence Smith, R.N. Hospital, Malta.

Captain Guy B. Pears is, we are glad to learn, recovering from the effects of his wounds. His progress is, however, slow, and it will be several months before he will be fit to resume duty. Captain Pears' name figured in the *Gazette* on Tuesday last week as mentioned in despatches, and on the following day it was announced that he had been awarded the Military Cross.

Mr. Harkness, formerly the accountant of the Khedivial Mail Line, who recently joined the firm of Grace and Co., at Alexandria, has obtained a commission as first lieutenant and is acting as Embarkation Officer at Alexandria docks.

Lieut.-Col. Arthur Solly-Flood, who is suffering from the effects of gas poisoning, was an Adjutant of the South African Light Horse, and won his D.S.O. during the South African War. He was for some time attached to the Staff in Egypt, and has also served at the War Office. He assumed the command of the Royal Irish Dragoon Guards upon the promotion of the former Colonel R. L. Mullens to the rank of Brigadier-General.

The King has been graciously pleased to approve of the grant of the Victoria Cross to Lieutenant-Commander Martin Eric Nasmith, Royal Navy, for the conspicuous bravery specified below:

> For most conspicuous bravery in command of one of his Majesty's submarines while operating in the Sea of Marmora. In the face of great danger he succeeded in destroying one large Turkish gunboat, two transports, one ammunition ship, and three storeships, in addition to driving one storeship ashore. When he had safely passed the most difficult part of his homeward journey he returned again to torpedo a Turkish transport.

The King has further been graciously pleased to approve of the award of the Distinguished Service Cross to the undermentioned officers of the same submarine:

> Lieutenant Guy D'Oyly-Hughes, Royal Navy.
>
> Acting Lieutenant Robert Brown, Royal Naval Reserve.

Approval has also been given for the award of the Distinguished Service Medal to each member of the crew.

The promotion of Lieutenant-Commander M. E. Nasmith, V.C., to be Commander, was officially announced on Wednesday.

The Admiralty announces that the King has been graciously pleased to give orders for the award of the Distinguished Service Cross to Lieutenant H. Pirie Gordon, R.N.V.R., for services while attached to landing parties from H.M.S. Doris on the Syrian Coast. The official announcement adds:—"This officer has been specially mentioned for bravery under fire by the Commander-in-Chief, East Indies. The commanding officer of H.M.S. Doris reports: 'With regard to the officers who have taken part in the landing parties, I should like particularly to bring to notice the name of Lieutenant H. Pirie Gordon, R.N.V.R., who has landed on every occasion, and whose conduct has gained the highest approval at all times.'"

Lieutenant Pirie Gordon has a special and intimate knowledge of Syria and the Near East, which he has been able to turn to excellent account since he received his commission, last November.

The Admiralty also announces that the Distinguished Service Cross has been awarded to Skipper James Sargent, R.N.R., for services in the operations off Smyrna on March 8, 1915, when H.M. Minesweeper 285 was sunk by a mine. Skipper Sargent was in the armoured wheel-house when the explosion occurred, and, although severely bruised by a heavy iron plate, picked his way to the after-end of the shattered and sinking vessel with the object of ordering Second Engineman F. W. Ingram to stop the engines, the engine-room telegraph being broken. He continued to encourage his men, and did not leave the vessel until she sank beneath him.

Skipper Alfred Swain, R.N.R., and Skipper Alfred E. Berry, R.N.R., also receive the Distinguished Service Cross for services in connection with mine-sweeping operations in the Dardanelles.

The Admiralty further announces that Mahomet Salim, senior naval officer's interpreter, has been awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, for obtaining valuable information under dangerous conditions in the Shatt-el-Arab in December last.

We regret to learn that Mr. Albert Simmons, one of our fellow-countrymen who had to leave Turkey on the outbreak of war, and who is now residing at Wimbledon, has lost his son, Mr. Henry Cecil Simmons. The latter was serving with the 123rd Heavy

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Battery, R.G.A., and he died on May 7 from wounds received the previous day east of Ypres.

The *Westminster Gazette* states that Lieutenant Harold Gorst, 5th Battalion Yorkshire Regiment, younger son of Sir John Gorst, has been shot in the thigh. He is not seriously hurt, but is returning to this country to recuperate.

Lieutenant G. G. Eady, R.N.V.R., and Lieutenant E. Whittall, R.N.V.R., have been promoted to the rank of commander, and Mr. A. Charnaud, R.N.V.R., to the rank of Lieutenant.

It is announced that Brigadier-General Noel Lee, V.D., 6th Battalion Manchester Infantry Brigade, died at Malta on June 22 of wounds received at the Dardanelles on June 4. He was the second son of the late Sir J. C. Lee, of Lea Hurst, Cromford, Derbyshire, was appointed brigade commander of the 6th Battalion Manchester Infantry Regiment in September, 1911, and was formerly a member of the Territorial Advisory Council. During the time he was in Egypt before going on to the Dardanelles he made many friends, who will sincerely deplore his loss. He was forty-seven years old.

Lieutenant Boulanger, of the 8th Lancashire Fusiliers, late of the National Bank, Cairo, is going on satisfactorily. He was struck on the temple by a nail from a shrapnel shell and is at the Abbassieh School Hospital at Alexandria.

Among the Anglo-Egyptians who have returned wounded to Alexandria from the Dardanelles is Mr. W. H. Cadman, formerly of the Ministry of Education, Cairo, and now of the 6th Manchesters. He has been wounded through both arms by Maxim fire and is at Victoria College Hospital. In one arm the main nerve is severed and he has lost the thumb of one hand.

Mr. James T. Murdoch, who was engineer in the employ of the Egyptian Engineering Stores of Alexandria and Cairo, joined the 8th Manchester Regiment while they were at Abbassia, Cairo. His previous training in the Cadet Corps at Cheltenham College and in the Officers Training Corps at King's College, London, enabled him to enter the regiment as second lieutenant. The regiment has been to the Dardanelles and he has been returned to Alexandria, wounded by a bullet through the knee, but is progressing favourably. His brother, Mr. Gilbert Murdoch, has joined the R.A.M.C. as a private and is training somewhere in Wales. Both are the sons of Mr. Fred. T. Murdoch, British Consular Agent, Mansourah.

Miss Guinevere Kennedy, daughter of Mrs. Myles Kennedy, is making satisfactory progress towards recovery after her recent operation.

In our list last week of the members of the Imperial Ottoman Bank who have newly enlisted, Mr. H. W. Lyster should read H. N. Lyster, and Mr. E. W. Martin, said to have been given a commission in the 2nd/4th Batt. York and Lancaster, has been given a commission in the 1st Norfolk Regiment.

Our Larnaca Correspondent writes (June 18): Dr. Patrick, District Medical Officer, Larnaca, has severed his connection with the Cyprus Government and left with his wife, who is a trained nurse, to join the Red Cross. Dr. Patrick's departure leaves a blank which will be very difficult to fill, as he had made a great reputation all over the Island as a skilful surgeon, and was most amiable and courteous in his dealings with all.

Signori Vittorio and Pietro Mantovani, sons of the popular Italian Consular-Agent here, have left for the war, thus setting an example which is being followed by other members of the small Italian Colony of Cyprus. Two members of the Lapierre family have also left for service in France.

The Egyptian papers report the death at the Civil Hospital, Khartoum, of Miss Beddels, of the C.M.S. Mission in Palestine, who had lately been acting as superintendent of the girls' school at Atbara. She fell a victim to fever, and, though taken to Khartoum for better medical attention, died on June 1.

The many friends of M. Léopold Jullien, managing director of the Union Foncière d'Egypte, will be interested to hear that he is serving as a private in France.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, etc.

Our Bucharest Correspondent writes, under date of June 15:—"Local papers reported a day or two ago that M. Radeff, Bulgarian Minister here, was to be transferred shortly to another post. Inquiries prove this report to be quite without foundation. M. Radeff asked for two weeks' leave, for purely personal reasons, and he has actually returned from Sofia already. Far from the report of his transfer being true, it is generally recognised that relations between this country and Bulgaria have improved so much of late largely as a result of M. Radeff's skilful handling of affairs; and it is certain that neither Government would wish to see him moved from a post that he fills so admirably.

Our Larnaca Correspondent writes (June 18): M. Lambros Emyalis, Greek Consul, will soon be leaving Cyprus for Athens, to enjoy his well-earned pension. His successor will be M. Paraskeopoulos.

At its last sitting the Egyptian Council of Ministers decided to maintain Rear-Admiral Robinson, Director-General of Ports and Lighthouses, in the Government service for five years from next year, when he will attain the age of sixty years.

Captain John U. F. C. Alexander, Coldstream Guards, has been attached to the Egyptian Army as a special service officer. He has been granted the temporary rank of Bimbashi and attached to the 10th Sudanese for duty.

Bimbashi J. T. Simson has been transferred from the Sudan Government to the Medical Corps.

Kaimakam C. E. Vickery Bey, D.S.O., Sudan Government, has been struck off the strength of the Egyptian Army.

Mr. W. G. Hayter, of the Legal Department of the Egyptian Ministry of Finance, has been appointed to represent the Government on the board of directors of the Cairo Water Company in the place of Colonel Garner.

Mr. Dubrief, the Bulgarian Consul in Alexandria, has been appointed Attaché at the Bulgarian Embassy at Constantinople.

The following officers have recently been struck off the strength of the Egyptian Army: Kaimakam E. E. B. Mackintosh Bey, Assistant Adjutant-General; Bimbashi C. H. F. Cox, Sudan Government; Bimbashi J. L. F. Tweedie, Sudan Government; Bimbashi F. R. Roche Kelly, Sudan Government; Bimbashi P. D. Carey, Veterinary Department; Bimbashi J. C. Brand, 13th Sudanese.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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

BIRTH.

THOMAS.—On June 28, at "Glack," Braconing Avenue, Boscombe, the wife of L. Irving Thomas, of Constantinople, formerly of Amay, China, of a daughter.

MARRIAGE.

SCHEGLOFF—WHISKER.—On June 8, at Bucharest, by the English chaplain, the Rev. J. Howard Adeney, B.A., after a previous ceremony at the Church of the Russian Legation, Captain Alexander Schegloff, Imperial Russian Navy, to Jessie Annie Gertrude, only daughter of the late George E. Whisker.

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FRIDAY, JULY 2, 1915.

BULGARIA'S DILEMMA.

While we have never doubted that the self-interest of the Balkans will ultimately reassert itself and bring together the States that now look askance at one another, we have realised that the difficulties in the way of this consummation cannot be disposed of lightly. Even now, after eleven months of war, the cog-wheels of diplomacy revolve with surprising slowness. Stories in the form of reports of the withdrawal by Turkey of her forces from Adrianople to the Chatalja Lines indicate the direction in which the interventionist wind is blowing; but we are possibly still some distance away from the goal which the Balkan States must in their heart of hearts long to reach. The acquisition of territory, however ardently desired, is but a stepping-stone to the fulfilment of the national aspirations, which have evolved in each case the picture of the country enjoying its maximum strength from the incorporation of its available resources, and working out its own destiny in peace. Three years ago, for a brief space it was realised that the way to these national aspirations lay through an amicable understanding among the States, and the Balkan League was formed, to the astonishment of the Balkans no less than of the rest of Europe. Events proved, however, that the old feelings of antagonism had not been given time to die. The governments created the League, but the peoples remained estranged. The conception of common interests was of too recent growth to allow the compact to stand the least strain. Since the second Balkan War it would seem as if the old hatred had become intensified, and until the outbreak of the European war the last thing that was to be expected within twelve months was a revival of the Balkan League. But the conflict now being waged leaves little room for the minor hostilities of the Balkans; or rather shall we say, that the fierceness of the present struggle makes permanent peace the only possible outcome when finally the sword has been sheathed. Hence the Balkan governments feel that, as the arbitrament of war will not be tolerated again, they must make the best of such opportunities as they have for mutual agreement. Such an agreement, however, is only possible under the driving force of the great war, with the incentive coming from without.

Bulgaria is the pivot of any fresh understanding among the Balkan States, for it is the Bulgarians alone who have cause to resent the existing state of affairs. Before the outbreak of the war her course seemed clear. She had but to nurse a spirit of revenge, and trust to her own recuperation or the achievements of her somewhat erratic diplomacy, to bring her once more into her own. The greatest disservice that could be rendered her was to force her to take early action in the matter. But this is what has happened as a result of the war. She has to throw in her lot with one or other of the belligerent parties. If the Central Powers should win and Bulgaria remain neutral, she could expect no mercy; if the Triple Entente wins without her aid, she must be prepared to see the *status quo*, with all the injustice it implies to her, crystallised, if not actually aggravated, as a result of the settlement after the war. On the other hand, however much she may believe in the ultimate victory of Germany and Austria-Hungary, it is clear that they are in no position to render Bulgaria any assistance, and, if she throws in her lot with them, she must bear the brunt of the struggle single-handed. We shall do the Bulgarians no injustice if we suppose that their sympathies have been with the Triple Entente while they have been unable to decide who would be the ultimate victors. Their uncertainty regarding the issue of the struggle need cause no surprise. They have had no means of gauging the determination of the Allied Powers; on the other hand, they have had well dinned into them both what Germany and Austria-Hungary had already achieved and what they were resolved upon accomplishing in the future. To intensify their dilemma, when they sought to follow the line of their sympathies, they were met by rebuffs. The Powers of the Triple Entente were ill-advised enough until quite recently to give the cold-shoulder to Bulgaria. Under the unfortunate impression that, because Serbia and Bulgaria were at daggers drawn, they must adopt the predilections of their Balkan ally, they have allowed the whole strength of the Balkans to be neutralized. Only when the task of forcing the Dardanelles proved more formidable than had been anticipated did the diplomacy of the Triple Entente deign to inquire into the terms upon which Bulgaria was willing to give her co-operation. The blame, therefore, for Bulgaria's delay in making common cause with the Allies does not rest entirely with the Bulgarians. They had received no encouragement from the Triple Entente to abandon their neutrality, and no attempt had been made to see how far acceptance for their claims could be secured from the other Balkan States.

The failure on the part of the Triple Entente to keep in close touch with Bulgaria is the more remarkable as the grudge she entertained against the Central Powers was known. To some extent, it is true, the Bulgarians were the Ishmaels of Europe, their hand against every man and every man's hand against them. But their grievance against the Allied Powers was a negative one, in that the latter had failed to uphold the Treaty of London and the Treaty between Serbia and Bulgaria. Against the Central Powers they could bring a charge of active hostility—against Austria-Hungary for urging Roumania to demand the cession of Bulgarian territory as compensation for Roumanian neutrality, against Germany for having incited the Turks to further resistance, and, still worse, for having, in the person of the Emperor, "fought like a lion" to prevent Bulgaria from obtaining Kavalla. In these circumstances it ought not to have been difficult to obtain from Bulgaria the assurances that were needed to throw the whole weight of the Balkans into the Allies' scale. A sympathetic hearing of Bulgaria's claims against her neighbours would have compelled a review of the situation in the interests of the Balkans as a whole, and any settlement imposed by the Powers of the Triple Entente would have been accepted, with little or no demur, by all the States concerned. By waiting until the position at the Dardanelles has shown that the Allies require all the support they can obtain we have allowed the Bulgarians to place the lowest motives on our eleventh-hour interest in their affairs. Goodwill on the side of either of the contracting parties has clearly been excluded by self-interest, and Bulgaria, under such conditions, cannot be blamed overmuch if she sets a high price upon her co-operation and tries to postpone it until the last moment. She will do well, however, to recall that it is mainly the temporary difficulty at the Dardanelles which has given her her opportunity. If the Turkish defence should be broken through, collapsing suddenly for want of munitions, she might find the moment for her intervention had passed. Her neighbours cannot be expected to have any enthusiasm for the settlement which the Powers of the Triple Entente may have to impose, and they would welcome the passing of the need for Bulgaria's co-operation. If, therefore, Bulgaria has decided that her national honour requires her to draw the sword for the attainment of her rights, it is to be hoped that she will decide to strike while the opportunity is open to her.

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THE KHEDIVIAL WAKFS SCANDALS.—I.

(By Our Cairo Correspondent.)

The Egyptian Courts are being called upon to deal with a series of prosecutions undertaken against the trustees of the Seif-ed-Dine Wakf and others for misappropriation of certain funds belonging to that Daira and also for malpractices connected with that estate and with the Khedivial Wakfs. The notification of these prosecutions is the first official intimation of the conclusion of the inquiry, to which I referred in your issue of February 12 last. The amount involved in these prosecutions is small, but it is one in a series of most scandalous misappropriations running into several times six figures. It may interest your readers if I summarise, as briefly as circumstances permit, the salient features that have been brought to light in the course of the inquiry. Before I proceed to give these details, however, I must make the following explanation.

It is quite a common practice amongst devout Moslems to direct, either during their lifetime or by will after their death, that their estates shall be put in trust for their heirs, who receive their share of the revenues according to certain prescribed limitations, a part always being set aside for the endowment of mosques or for distribution in charity. The estates thus put in trust go under the name of "Wakfs," and the will constituting them is termed a "Wakfia."

All the wakfs in the country were managed by a central administration called the Public Wakfs Administration, which, since it was free from all uninterested and foreign control, became notorious for the scandalous abuses that were perpetrated in its management. In 1913 Lord Kitchener contrived to set a term to this disgraceful state of affairs by taking the administration of the wakfs away from the control of the Khedive and converting it into an independent Ministry directly responsible to the Council of Ministers. Although the short life of the new Ministry has witnessed the passage of two Ministers, whose names have not been free from scandal, it is believed that the reform is already having good effects, and that the national endowments will henceforward be honestly administered, and that their revenues will not be diverted from the objects for which they were intended.

Included in the wakfs administered by the Public Administration were certain wakfs belonging to the Khedivial family. These Abbas Hilmi Pasha ordered, by rescript on January 1, 1900, to be detached thereform and to form a separate administration under the denomination "Private Wakfs" (Aukaf Khussussia). The reason for this step is not recorded anywhere, but, as a year or so prior to this the Ministry of Finance had been authorised to exercise some control over the accounts, it is to be presumed that the ex-Khedive, fearing that this would inevitably lead to a control over the administration, thought best to ensure that certain wakfs should unreservedly be left in his hands, and so signed the rescript in question.

To these wakfs were from time to time added those belonging to rich Moslems, whom Abbas Hilmi Pasha, by devious ways best known to himself, persuaded to nominate him as trustee. One of the most notable and most recent instances of valuable wakfs being diverted from their rightful trustees to the Khedive's hands was the Kasr-el-Ali wakf constituted in favour of the widows of the late Ismail Pasha, and to which reference was made at the time in The Near East. It may be remembered that the Cadi, on the death of the last widow, interpreted the wakfia to mean that the Khedive was the rightful trustee since he was the "worthiest" member of the family. Thus property with an annual revenue of £E60,000 passed into the control of the Khedive.

For years the members of the Khedivial family and those who were interested in the wakfs controlled by the "Aukaf" have openly complained of the administration, which annually resulted in a decrease in the revenues accruing to them therefrom, and as soon as the new régime was started, an inquiry was set on foot. Simultaneously the affairs of the old Wakfs Administration were looked into very closely by the new Ministry, but whilst no details are available as to the revelations made by the latter, the facts elicited in the course of the "Aukaf" inquiry are quite sufficient to convey a conception of what abuses of power and trust went on under the old régime, and, to justify the general complaint of the beneficiaries, that no sooner did a property become wakf than its revenues fell off in a remarkable manner.

The inquiry into the "Aukaf" has demonstrated that the administration was carried out in a most disgraceful manner. The staff, from the director downwards, was absolutely subservient to the will of Abbas Hilmi Pasha, who indulged in a sort of roving commission over the funds. The latter were handled most irresponsibly and solely with a view to the interest of those who administered them, and the "Aukaf" acted throughout as a most accommodating banker to the various directors and to the Daira Khassa, which, it must be explained, was the Privy Purse of the ex-Khedive, and so was synonymous for him.

Owing to the woefully involved nature of the accounts and to the chaotic state of the administration, it has been, so far, impossible to ascertain what total amount has been mishandled since the creation of the "Aukaf." While documentary evidence, as is usual in such cases, shines by its absence, little reliance can, of course, be placed on what the accused parties state; but a study of certain items, traced during recent years, affords an instructive insight into the morality of those responsible, and, albeit it is not pretended that the figures given are in any way complete for the years referred to, the instances quoted should be quite sufficient for their purpose.

During the fifteen years that the "Aukaf" have existed there have been only two trustees. The first was Ahmed Khairy Pasha, one-time Mudir of Behera, who retained his appointment until January, 1913, when he had a disagreement with the Khedive. It has been ascertained that, amongst other sums as yet to be investigated, this worthy gentleman withdrew between 1906-1912 £E22,400, for which he was supposed to present vouchers in justification of the expenditure incurred by him. Of this over £E12,600 went in the purchase of land. The Pasha did not see why he should bear the risk of what he frankly admits were speculations, so all his land transactions were debited to an account "Payments to be accounted for," and the fees were paid by the "Aukaf." At the same time the management was entrusted to the staff, but the land was registered in his own name. Little by little the land was sold off and the corresponding debits disappeared, though none of the profits appeared in the books, and by the time he resigned there remained only 22 feddans, on which he stood debtor for £E2,300. In reality his indebtedness was greater, as he had caused to be passed to his credit the entire purchase price in cases where payment was to be made by instalments, and had opened accounts in the names of the purchasers for the amounts in question. Of the balance of £E10,000 all but £E3,000, for which no regular vouchers can be found, was subsequently adjusted by vouchers drawn in accordance with the wakfias, but no proof is forthcoming that the amounts in question were actually spent on the objects mentioned; it is highly probable that the whole of this sum went the same way as other amounts.

In addition to the foregoing, £E20,650 was withdrawn as "Advances." According to Khairy Pasha, all the sums that went to make up this amount were either handed personally to Abbas Hilmi Pasha at his request or were paid on his orders to certain people. He declares that Abbas Hilmi Pasha had no intention whatsoever of reimbursing these amounts in cash, but gave him instructions to settle them from the following sources: Firstly, came the interest on the funds deposited at the Deutsche Orient Bank. Originally these funds were deposited at the National Bank of Egypt without interest, as the Islamic Law forbids the putting out of money at interest. But in 1906 they were transferred to the German bank, which, according to the letter of the head of the Khedive's legal department, had by arrangement with the Khedive agreed to pay what was picturesquely deserbed as a "compensation for deposit." But Khairy Pasha explains that, ever solicitous for his sovereign's honour, he did not wish that the Cadi should find out that his Highness had transgressed Moslem teaching, and, preferring to risk the blame himself, he arranged that this "compensation for deposit" should be credited to his own account! Being also trustee for the Seif-ed-Dine estate and, no doubt considering that the example set by his Highness

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was one to be followed in this case as well, he placed the funds of that Daira also at interest, arranging likewise that the proceeds should be credited to his own account.

Secondly, it was understood that he was to use the revenue from the non-wakf property, although, as it had been purchased with wakf money, the return should have gone to the wakf funds. Thirdly, certain sums reserved for charity were to be utilised. This gave rise to an exceedingly disgraceful abuse of trust, to which reference will subsequently be made. Fourthly, drafts were to be made on the administrative expenses, which, as they are allotted by the Cadi to the Nazir —the Khedive—are considered to have legally been his rightful due. It is to be noted that sometimes the amount paid in was less than that withdrawn from the various sources, in which case one wonders whether his Highness or who else pocketed the difference; at other times a round sum was made up by the convenient device of issuing a pay order on the Kavalla Wakf for "distribution to the poor"!

In this way Khairy Pasha had paid off over £E14,000 of the advances by the end of 1912 when his difference arose with Abbas Hilmi Pasha. To facilitate his resignation it was arranged that his outstanding of £E6,300 should be adjusted. The adjustment was carried out in the most audaciously and barefacedly illegal manner. In the first place, the 22 feddans referred to, and on which £E2,338 was owing, were revalued at £E4,488, the £E2,338 was written off, and the "advances" were credited with the difference. Next, a statement was prepared to the effect that £E2,850 had been spent on the Kavalla refugees in and outside Egypt and the Kavalla Wakf was debited therewith; various small sums were taken from the other sources agreed upon, and finally the advances account was wiped out by another small draft of £E132 on the ever-convenient Kavalla Wakf, on which the poor were such a drain.

In the settlement of these £E20,650, only £E5,200 were taken from a source which could legally be defended. The balance all came from falsified book entries, or from the proceeds of misappropriated funds. It is to be noted that in addition, Khairy Pasha withdrew £E2,500 from the interest and £E500 from the revenues of the non-wakfs, for which no entry can be traced. Khairy Pasha pleaded that throughout he was but a tool, that he carried out implicitly the orders of the Khedive, and that, moreover, he knew no French, and had absolutely no experience of business. Whilst the first part of his defence may quite possibly be true, the ignorance he pleads of business methods is nothing short of "judicial ignorance," for it is to be noted that whilst his ignorance led him to leave to the "Aukaf" the management of property that was registered in his own name, it did not prevent him from drawing all the revenues, which in the five years amounted to the tidy sum of £E3,500, as well as the proceeds of the interest. No amount of business inexperience can excuse such acts, the gravity of which should have been apparent to a man of his standing. The proffering of such an excuse only serves to aggravate his offence.

(To be continued.)

MONTENEGRO AND ALBANIA.

Sir J. Roper Partington, Consul-General for Montenegro, has received the following official telegram from Cettinje:—

"In view of the statement published by the telegraphic agency at Petrograd, concerning the supposed intrigues of the Austrian Consul at Scutari to incite the Montenegrins to occupy that town, in order to divert our troops from direct attacks on Austria, the Press Bureau at Cettinje authorises the following announcement: Montenegro has been quite aware, from the very commencement of the war, that the Austrian agents were doing all in their power, by promoting raids of armed Albanians across our frontier and systematic robbery of provisions and stores, to force our attention from the actual central conflict and thus deprive our friend and ally, Serbia, of our support. The Austrians were enabled to organise these schemes by their secret agents in Albania, owing to Scutari having been withheld from us after the last Balkan war. At the conference held in London at that time, the Austro-Hungarian Empire successfully prevented Montenegro from obtaining a reasonable rectification of the frontier, and so necessitated a constant guard to be kept on the Albanian border. The position became quite intolerable of late, as the Albanians seized our transports on the river Boyana and pillaged or destroyed the cargoes of food and provisions destined for our troops and populace. The Montenegrin Government had no alternative but to put an end to these wanton attacks, and was, therefore, forced to occupy certain important positions on the frontier, and so render further annoyances of this nature impossible. The entire Albanian population in the neighbourhood of Scutari have followed the example set by the nobles and chieftains of the tribes, and surrendered the arms distributed to them by the Austrian Consul at Scutari, at the same time expressing loyalty to our authority. The Mayor of Scutari personally visited the Montenegrin commander to assure him of the existing friendly feeling, notwithstanding the difference of creeds. It is evident that it was vitally necessary for Montenegro to effectually put an end to these Austrian intrigues, so that the larger portion of the Montenegrin troops guarding the Albanian frontier could be released to take part in the wider field of war against our common enemy."

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Army Veterinary Corps in Egypt. June 24.

Mr. HARRY HOPE asked the Under-Secretary of State for War if he would state what were the rations which the men of the Army Veterinary Corps in Egypt received.

Mr. TENNANT: The men of the Army Veterinary Corps receive similar rations to those provided for other soldiers of the Regular Army serving in Egypt. The precise details of the scale of rations fixed for the troops have not yet been reported to the War Office.

Letters to Prisoners in Turkey. June 28.

Mr. PETO asked whether the Foreign Office had yet succeeded in establishing direct postal and parcel communication with the interned British seafarers in Turkey?

Lord ROBERT CECIL: The answer is in the affirmative. Letters and parcels for British prisoners in Turkey should bear a clear indication of the name, rank, or rating, and place of internment of the prisoner, if known, and addressed to him at the Central Post Office, Constantinople, care of the General Post Office, London. The Swiss Postal Administration has agreed to act as intermediary in the transmission of the correspondence.

News of Dardanelles Operations. June 30.

Sir H. DALZIEL suggested that the Government might give more frequent announcements regarding the progress of the Dardanelles operations. Could not the Home Secretary give an assurance that at no distant date they might have a Ministerial statement as to the progress of the operations up to the present time? Up to the present time the House had had no communication from Ministers in regard to these particular operations, and there were many questions which they might be disposed to ask. Some might like to know why we gave two months' notice to the enemy before we landed a single soldier, thus allowing them to construct fortifications and prepare for any attack that might be made. But for the moment he would content himself by asking whether the Government will not promise to give the public at no very distant date more information than they have had up to the present time?

Sir A. MARKHAM, who associated himself with the observations of his right hon. friend, remarked that those who had relatives fighting in the Dardanelles had no more information than the man in the street as to the position in the Dardanelles. The public, who made sacrifices of relatives and of money, were entitled to know how the wars in which the nation was engaged were being conducted, and he asked the Home Secretary to state frankly what were the military reasons which prevented such information being given to the House. If there were good military reasons why the information should not be given they would be willing to remain uninformed; but how was it that in every one of nine wars the policy of concealment continued to be practised?

Sir J. SIMON (Home Secretary), in the course of his reply for the Government, said: My right hon. friend said he hoped the time would soon come when a statement might be made with the authority of the Government as to the course of operations in that part of the field of war. I am very glad to be in a position to make a statement to the House on this point, and I am authorized by the Prime Minister to say that as soon as the national interests permit, a suitable occasion will be taken for making a statement as to the operations of the Allies in the Dardanelles. I am very glad to be able to inform the House that a despatch from Sir Ian Hamilton has been received, and arrangements for its publication are in an advanced state, and will shortly appear in the London Press. I am glad to be able to deal to that extent with the point raised by the right hon. gentleman. He put one other point. He wanted to know what was meant when it is said the military authorities had to censor the unofficial reports from the Dardanelles. I understand that the plan is this. I am told that there are more British and Colonial correspondents at the Dardanelles than there are in Flanders, and of course they write their accounts and reports there on the spot. It is quite inevitable that they should be censored, within limits, on the spot. I do not believe that in any field of war any other course could ever be followed, but the despatches, having been in that way reviewed, are sent by the quickest possible route to this country, they are instantly handed out to the newspapers concerned, and it is not the practice of the Press Bureau to censor those newspaper accounts as they reach this country further than they have been already censored. . . . I assure my two hon. friends, so far as I am concerned —and I believe I am speaking with the authority of the whole Government—that it will be our constant object to make the publications as full as we can, keeping back only such matter as the expert authorities assure us is calculated to be helpful to the enemy.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

While trustworthy news from Persia is scarce just now, reports of one kind and another are plentiful. A good many of them concern Herr Pugin, whose "designs" appear to be almost as numerous, if neither as commendable nor as successful as those of the great architect who has the same name. One of these reports has it that this ingenious would-be Consul-General and pseudo-convert-to-Islam, in the course of his endeavour to enlist recruits for his own particular section of the German-made Jehad, incurred liabilities to the extent of nearly £6,000, and that when his scheme failed to mature the German Legation at Teheran calmly disowned all connection with him. As a result, the report runs, he found it advisable to make himself scarce. Hence his hurried departure to Birjand, where, one may suppose, it is hoped that his reputation has not preceded him.

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I see it is reported that the German Consulate at Haifa has been bombarded by a French warship, as the result, apparently, of the Huns' representative having incited some natives to desecrate the burial-places of French soldiers interred on Mount Carmel. I sincerely hope the news of the bombardment is true, and I could only wish that the egregious Hardegg had been buried in the ruins of his home; for if ever a consul abused his official position, this hard-boiled ruffian has done so, and he deserves any ill that may befall him. You may remember that I chronicled some of his doings in these columns five months ago. His compatriot, Herr Lange, to whose conception of his duty as Belgian Consul at Haifa I also drew attention (December 4 last), and he are clearly a well-matched pair.

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Apropos of the puzzling paragraph, concerning the list of French and British prisoners issued by the Red Crescent Society of Constantinople, which I reproduced last week, a correspondent has been kind enough to send the Editor a suggested solution of the mystery. This is that "surname" is a printer's error for "name"; and the correspondent adds: "In Syria it is usual to call any man by his father's name added to his own, as, for example, Faris Ibrahim." I am obliged to the writer for trying to help me, and I am ready—especially after last week's "Tangier to Teheran"!—to believe that a printer is capable of almost any crime. But I fear we cannot saddle him with this particular offence; for "surname" occurs twice, and the wording of the paragraph is such that it must have attracted the attention of printer and printer's reader alike. Moreover, the reference to "the Oriental custom" seems to show that the writer of the paragraph was acquainted with the use of the father's name, as mentioned by the Editor's correspondent. So I still have to "give it up."

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I referred last week to the *Busra Times*, and remarked that it was going very strong. Now I learn that, thanks to British enterprise, it actually had a rival in Baghdad at the end of last year. This information I gather from the following letter, which appeared in the "Correspondence" column of the *Busra Times* of May 7:—

> Sir,—It may interest some of your readers to learn that your valuable paper is only senior by a few days to another British newspaper in Mesopotamia. On December 3 last there was issued in the British Residency, Baghdad, for the entertainment and instruction of the imprisoned British community, numbering over fifty, the first number of the *Baghdad Bugler*, edited by Mr. E. B. Soane, of the A.P.O. Co. The issue was continued daily for a week with great success, when it was brought to an untimely end, as the authorities, becoming alarmed at the sounds of unceasing typewriting emanating from the newspaper offices, seized the machines. The *Bugler* did not survive their blow, but perhaps one day he will bugle once more.—I am, etc.,
>
> ONE OF THE BAGHDAD REFUGEES.

May the hope hinted at come true soon! In the meanwhile I would suggest that an appropriate call for the *Baghdad Bugler* to practise would be the "Recall." I fancy, by the way, that the *Bugler* was not the first British paper run in Baghdad. Over twenty years ago, unless my memory plays me false, a typewritten sheet made its appearance for a few numbers—and was then "suppressed by the Censor," or something of the kind.

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I see that things have been lively on one of the great Central African lakes, and that an armed German vessel has been driven ashore and pounded into impotence by the guns of one of His Majesty's ships. I wonder how many people realise what an important part our unofficial Navy is constantly playing in the history of our Empire. We all know the proud part played by our gunboats at the battle of Omdurman, but there have been many days since then. Gradually, as the railways of the Sudan expand, gun-boats are becoming of less military importance than in the old days, but they will always remain, as they have always been, of great moral value to the country. With guns that roared their warning message over the heads of hostile natives, they were the pioneers of civilisation in the Southern Sudan where, in the far off channels of the Nile, the white man was until quite recently unknown. During the campaign which culminated in the fall of Omdurman these gunboats were under the command of naval officers, but although these have long since been replaced by civilians during the years of peace, the efficiency of the boats as a fighting machine has never been forgotten in the Sudan.

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From Egypt comes a tale that has the true flavour of the Thousand Nights and a Night; the tale of an idle, but doubtless virtuous and beautiful lady, of daring robbers and dashing police officers, of mysterious funerals and a lonely—I am not quite sure about this, but I trust it *was* lonely—cemetery. Do not all these characters and accessories figure again and again in the pages of the Nights? Of course they do; and the obvious thing, therefore, in passing on the story to which I refer is to do so as best I may in the style of those fascinating tales. But which translation shall we take as pattern? The immortal Burton would without a doubt have handled the affair worthily, not to say racily; but THE NEAR EAST is sometimes read by the Young Person. To attempt the style of Lane would entail a fresh visit to the scene, with pages of description of its setting, to say nothing of pages of notes or of innumerable diacritical marks; and the Editor might object. A judicious blending of the two appears to be called for. So——

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You must know, then, that in the reign of the great and glorious Sultan Hussein Kemal (may Allah prolong his days!) there dwelt in Boulak a lady of most excellent virtue and most surpassing beauty. Her gait was like that of the young gazelle; her form was supple as the willow; her eyes, which were like sloes, were arched by brows slender as the new moon of Ramadan; and her complexion, delicate as the first hint of dawn across the desert, was fairer than that of the daughters of Egypt; for she came from Italy (Good luck to her—I mean, May her shadow never grow less!). And it so fell out that, her lover having departed to his own land to fight the savage enemies of his King and country, who needed him, the lady found time hang heavy on her hands. But, instead of sitting sewing shirts for soldiers, she, being indolent, preferred to sit at the window and observe what went on in the streets.

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And sitting thus one day, she observed a funeral procession leave a neighbouring house. The next day she saw a similar procession leave the same house at the same hour; and so the thing happened on the third day and on the fourth. Then the lady, fearful lest perchance some sore pestilence had taken hold of the neighbourhood, and lest the stricken household had failed to convey information of their misfortune to those officers whom the Sultan had deputed to combat such evils, hastened to a certain official who was said (but God alone is all-knowing) to be her friend, to whom she imparted the tale of what she had witnessed. The official, having heard her out, bade her keep silence regarding the matter, saying that he would attend to it forthwith. And the very next day, when yet a fifth funeral started from the house of ill omen, it was met by many officers of the police, who bade the mourners stand, and, in spite of many indignant protests on their part, insisted on examining the corpse.

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Then did the mourners beat their breasts with vigour ten times greater than any they had shown before, wailing aloud the while, and calling down curses on the hard-hearted officers who would thus shamelessly profane the dead. But the police persisted in their purpose; and, lo and behold! in place of a corpse there was found much stolen property. For the mourners were a band of robbers who had hit upon the plan of using a tomb as the receptacle for their booty; and if they had not been tempted by avarice into over-confidence their bold design might well have enabled them to escape detection. As it is, they are probably wishing that the Italian lady had gone to her own country to help nurse the wounded, or to—well, to any other place far removed from Boulak. . . . Such is the story as it was told to me. As to its truth, I can only say once more, with the ingenious *raconteur* of the Nights, "God alone is all-knowing."

CORSAIR.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

France and Syria.

M. P. Ginest contributes to the *Dépêche Coloniale* an important and interesting article on Syria, in which he says:—

I do not see why we should not realise in Syria what England hopes to accomplish in Mesopotamia. From a political point of view our installation in Syria appears still more important. It is also necessary that Alexandretta should be the head of a line of railway connecting with the Baghdad Railway, whose shareholders include many people of French nationality. It is important, too, that the port should be equipped with modern plant, and that it should complete the system of which Toulon and Bizerta are already the principal citadels. Let the English possess their line head at Busreh, let the Russians penetrate into Asiatic Turkey, viâ Constantinople, but on condition that we possess Alexandretta. From time immemorial the Marseilles merchants have expected from our installation in Syria an important expansion in their trade and a remunerative increase of their exports. All this will come about only on condition that we hold the door to Syria.

Serbia and the Enemy.

The correspondent of the *Morning Post* (June 25), writing from Budapest on the 12th ult., laid bare the details of a new move in the Austro-German diplomatic campaign against Italy. The information contained in the following extract from his dispatch is almost bewildering, as such proposals, coming at the present time, can hardly be expected to influence the other Balkan States towards the continuance of a policy of neutrality towards the Central Empires:—

A few days ago the Austrian and German Press, especially those journals which are inspired by their respective Governments, including the *Fremdenblatt* (the Emperor's paper, connected with the Austro-Hungarian Foreign Office) and the Budapest *Az Ujsaz*, Count Tisza's organ, have been gently insinuating that a separate peace should speedily be concluded with Serbia. They generously acknowledge that Serbia has fought valiantly and successfully, that she is a nation which deserves independence, territorial concessions, and an outlet to the sea through Albania, and that, in a word, the Central Empires have no objection now to her realising all her national aspirations.

The Suicide of Turkey.

In an article under the above heading in the *Moslem World* (July), Mr. Cassamally Jairazbhoy, vice-president of the Moslem League, says that—

The history of the great war of 1914 will contain no more amazing chapter than that which records the entrance of the Ottoman Empire into the lists; nor does the history of the civilised world afford any parallel to the manner in which that ill-fated Empire has been decoyed to its end by its false friend Germany.

The writer places the responsibility for Turkey's downfall upon the shoulders of the Young Turks, who, he avers, led their country along to certain ruin.

Cliques and parties quarrelled among themselves, tried statesmen were thrown on one side, or—as in the case of Turkey's finest soldier, Nazim Pasha—were ruthlessly murdered to make way for young upstarts without experience and without knowledge, men in whose ears German promises sounded like the assurance of a worldly paradise to be attained with scarce an effort. Under such men Turkey fell an easy victim to one enemy after another.

He concludes with the argument that it is now to the best interests of Islam that she should be released from the tyrannical influence of Stamboul, but asks for the assurance of the Allies that the person and dignity of the Sultan may be protected.

Austria Hungary.

According to an article contributed by a special correspondent to the *Daily Chronicle* (June 25), the Hungarians are now in complete control of the destinies of Austria-Hungary:—

The German-speaking Austrians have collapsed like the effete oligarchy that they were. Roumanians, Italians, and Serbs are cowed, Ruthenians and Poles are sullen, Bohemians are openly, defiantly hostile. But the Tyrolese, the Bosnian Mohammedans, and the Hungarians remain.

The writer goes on to say that great efforts are being made to throw dust in the eyes of the public by publishing assurances that the "Serbs were dully quiet and the Roumanians splendidly loyal." How far these assurances are compatible with actual fact may be gathered from the following extract from his article:—

There are 15,000 prisoners in Arad fortress, of whom 12,000 are "politicals"; nearly all Austro-Hungarian subjects, by race Serbs or Roumanians. They represent the intelligence, the potential leadership of the subject races. Yes. The Magyars are a race of rulers—but a grim, savage, despotic, grinding sort of rulers. What time the Emperor-King decorates with much fuss a few of his Roumanian officers his functionaries are doing their best to crush out Roumanian spirit. The leaders are all interned or exiled, the men pressed into service, the priests silenced, the teachers terrorised, the whole population is under the vigilant surveillance of an army of spies and "agents provocateurs."

The active help of the Transylvanian peasants will, in the opinion of this writer, be of the greatest value to Roumania if she decides to cross the Carpathians.

Palestine and the War.

Mr. F. J. Scrimgeour, writing in the *Moslem World* (July), gives a very interesting description of conditions in Palestine from the beginning of the war until the time that German intrigue had drawn Turkey into hostile action. He shows that prior to the war Christians and Moslems were living upon terms of the utmost good fellowship, and points to the fact that the action of the Jews in attempting to obtain "certain fields in the vicinity by illegal means" has still further lessened the separation between Moslem and Christian. The current of popular feeling appears, indeed, to have been entirely with the Allies in their fight for freedom at the beginning. Then, however, the Germans started their great and ultimately successful campaign to influence the Mohammedan population towards active participation in the war.

Beyond all shadow of doubt the entire resources of Germany were marshalled to achieve this end, and the nature of the means employed was such as can only be termed despicable. The certainty that all members of the Christian communities would continue to sympathise with the cause of the Entente Powers led Germany to employ all her arts in the endeavour to raise a spirit of Holy War.

Gradually, feeling began to change, and in view of the falsehoods exposed in the following extract, this is certainly not surprising.

According to German announcements to the inhabitants of the coast towns, Britain was preparing to destroy all Moslems and their property by naval fire. To avoid the unspeakable atrocities which, they stated, would accompany the landing of a British force the German families moved to their inland colonies. This led to the evacuation of Acre by the Moslems, who fled to the villages on the hills. Every idea which appealed to religious fanaticism was urged upon prominent Moslem families and leaders of Arab tribes. Reports of the wholesale conversion of Germans, even including the highest in rank, to Islam, were allowed to remain uncontradicted. Indeed, it became clear that the German policy was to influence the Moslems of Syria and Palestine towards war, not as Ottomans . . . but as followers of the Prophet, who would drive the infidel from Egypt.

The Dardanelles.

Not only in Palestine have the Turks been deluded and oppressed by German lies concerning the British. The *Liverpool Daily Courier* (June 28) published a most interesting article on the Dardanelles over the initials of "A. T.," in which an almost incredible story is told. The correspondent received his information direct from a British sailor who had come straight from the Dardanelles, where he had served on a hospital ship, and we quote from that portion which deals with the attitude of the German-driven Turk towards his British captors when they were brought aboard wounded:—

They were brought from the shore in lighters, and they cowered in dark corners like frightened sheep awaiting the butcher's knife. . . . They were in the last stages of nervous fright. . . . Whenever an English officer or sailor approached a prisoner, the Turk would be seized with a fit of trembling pitiable to see. There was a Turkish officer, a man of education, who spoke English, and when he was questioned as to the cause of this fear, he told how the ignorant and credulous Turkish privates had been deceived by their German officers with wild tales of British barbarity to wounded prisoners, and consequently were in constant dread of torture and death. He said that although the Turkish officers had striven to persuade their men that the English were humane to prisoners it had no effect. In one case this false rumour had a tragic sequel. A Turk was brought on board with an arm blown off from the shoulder by shell fire. He was brought before the ship's doctor. The doctor made a movement to examine the wound. The Turk fell dead at his feet. In the kindly act of the doctor he had seen the beginning of torture and the shock killed him. It was only after they had been a few days in the sick wards . . . that the fear of death began to leave their faces, and they began to realise how foreign the idea of barbarity is to the English character.

Articles to Note.

"The Next Ally," by Wm. A. M'Garry in the *Irish News* (June 25).

"A Year After," in the *Westminster Gazette* (June 28).

"Mesopotamia and the Jewish Future: Interview with Sir John Jackson," in the *Jewish Chronicle* (June 25).

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

The following was sent me by a correspondent, not of British nationality, in Egypt:—"The solemn declaration (he writes) of Sir Henry McMahon that free trade will be maintained here in Egypt, and that no special privileges will be bestowed on British trade, has reassured all traders and has again revealed the generosity of the British nation and the beautiful traditions of the Liberal Party." As my correspondent is not a British trader, I can understand his gratitude; but I would ask: What does the British trader think of the fact that in a British possession he is to enjoy no privileges over and above his foreign competitors, who, in nine cases out of ten, are backed by foreign banking concerns? My correspondent's effusion reminds me of the story of the boastful traveller narrating in his club in glowing language a courageous fight he had had with a lion—much to the lion's discomfiture—when a quiet voice broke in from beside the fireplace asking pathetically: "Dear me, I wonder what the lion's version of the story would be?"

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A subject of peculiar interest to British exporters is revealed this week in the announcement, published elsewhere, of the formation of a new company, to be called by the awkward name of the "Society (?) for Promoting British Trade, Limited." The object of this company is stated to be to enter "into a contract with C. Marks" (a gentleman unknown to me) "for the acquisition of the benefit of his knowledge and experience relating to the carrying on of exhibitions in Great Britain or abroad in connection with British and colonial manufactures and trade." The idea, admittedly, is an excellent one, and deserving of all the support it can obtain. My readers will remember that about a year ago I started a campaign in these columns for the formation of a British Exhibition Company, whose object it was to have been to run a series of sample exhibitions in the Near East with a view to promote British trade in the regions covered by this journal. Support, I am glad to say, was forthcoming from many quarters, but, unhappily, the war broke out, and the scheme, together with many others that would likewise have favoured our trade with the Balkans and Turkey, was postponed *sine die*. It would now seem that with an initial capital of £2,000 the project has been taken up by a company which has practically chosen the world as its playground. This is ambitious. It would be better for the company to limit the scope of its activities to one particular ground, and I can do no better than recommend the Near East. Of course, now is not the moment to put any such scheme into operation, but the preparatory steps must be taken *now*, and it is these latter, I take it, that the "Society for Promoting British Trade, Limited," has in view. I trust, however, that they have no intention of passing over the Near East—one of the most important of our future markets.

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This last assertion has been championed in these columns week after week, and, to judge by the July number of *Kelly's Monthly Trade Review*, my contention is rapidly becoming recognised as sound and essential to the development of our home industries. I have always maintained that the Near East is an excellent market (prospective); that it requires, or stands in need of, "forced" treatment; and that the *sine qua non* of a successful exploitation of that market consists in the creation of trading facilities—*i.e.*, in the establishing, primarily, of commercial banks in the various Balkan States, said banks to be under British control and financed largely, but by no means entirely, by British capital. If we get our banks (incidentally they will pay excellent dividends if run on anything like business lines) we shall get the Near Eastern trade. This view is corroborated in all its essentials by the writer of the article on "The Necessity of Establishing British Banks in Russia and the Balkans" in the review alluded to above. His conclusions are identical with those which I have expressed over and over again, as the following quotations will show:—"In the Balkans, buyers are accustomed to pay by accepted bills part, if not all, of the value of their purchases. British manufacturers are accustomed to payment against shipping documents in England. This has been a severe handicap to British trade in foreign countries where the Germans have had matters much their own way. Throughout the Balkans our manufacturers and traders urgently require a powerful banking institution behind them, which will enable them to do business on broader and speedier lines and to give wider financial terms to the foreign buyer. It ought to be possible for merchants and traders of repute in these countries to obtain loans by means of bills of exchange with the guarantee of merchandise or other security. New banks should be able to buy or sell international bills of exchange or open credits in foreign money for the operations of the exterior commerce and the facilitation of commerce. . . . No stronger incentive to trade could be given than by the establishment of an 'English' bank, with branches in Belgrade, Bucharest, Salonika, Sofia, Varna, Constantinople, etc."

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I have been maintaining the same thesis over and over again, and am pleased to see that my views are gaining ground. I will go a step farther, however, and state that we will not be able to do justice to our own industries in the Near Eastern market unless we have our Anglo-Balkan bank. As I remarked last week, the whole question amounts to this: Is the Near Eastern trade worth our while? If it is not, let it slide into foreign hands; if it is, we must have our commercial bank—not a bank working on philanthropic lines, that is to say, eating up its capital and paying no dividends, but one paying handsome dividends and doing good, useful work for British trade at the same time. Surely the prospect, based on foreign banking results in the Near East during the past twenty years or more, should appeal to the investor, and, surely, if *bonâ fide*, it ought to receive the support of the Government.

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I trust the matter will not be allowed to drop now that it has become more popular than it was some months ago. Of course, what applies to the Society for Promoting British Trade applies to the banks in question, namely, that the only immediate course to be followed is a preparatory one, but that *now* is the time to make all preparations. As far as the bank is concerned—and I do not only speak from hearsay—some such movement as analysed above is already on foot. Unfortunately, its scope, as in the case of the Society for Promoting, etc., is so vast that the Balkans will be like unto a drop in the bucket. This is unfortunate. For what we want is an Anglo-Balkan commercial banking institute, pure and simple, with British and local (Greek for Greece, etc.) capital, and devoting itself almost exclusively to commercial business and Government contracts.

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The accompanying extract from an interview given to a Reuter's representative by an Englishman occupying an influential position in Constantinople, and who left that city in the middle of June, will be of some interest:—"The chief feature of life is the shortage of petroleum, which is a serious matter for the large section of the community who do their cooking by oil. Food supplies were dear, but relatively plentiful. The stories of the failure of electric light and shortage of coal were not in accordance with fact up to the time I left, and the various accounts of a panic-stricken city were equally baseless. There was not the slightest sign of panic." From which it would appear that the exploitation of the Zunguldak coal mines, reported as interrupted by the Russians, continues without halt. It is to be regretted.

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The following interesting survey of Roumania's financial position is from the Earl of Bessborough's speech at the meeting of the Bank of Roumania, published last week:—"During the first half of the past year normal conditions prevailed in Roumania. The Balkan War being over, it was thought that peace in that part of Europe had been secured at any rate for some years. These optimistic hopes were shattered by the outbreak of the European war, accompanied, unfortunately, by adverse reports respecting the harvest. In some quarters there was a demand for a general moratorium, but it was not acceded to, and it was only towards the end of December that a partial step in that direction was taken by decreeing a moratorium for foreign liabilities. This was done on account of the difficulty of procuring exchange, owing to the war, and, later on, to the closing of the Dardanelles. The national accounts for the financial year ended March 31, 1914, resulted in a surplus of nearly £2,250,000, but those for the year ended March 31 last were not yet available. The National Debt was reduced, through the regular operation of the Sinking Fund, by £1,600,000 during the year, but in order to meet heavy military expenditure the Government obtained a loan of £8,000,000 from the National Bank."

COMMENTATOR.

Bank Rate 5 per cent. (Aug. 8, 1914.)

SETTLING DAYS.

STOCKS AND SHARES.

In Mining Shares the next carry-over is July 9.

Continuation Day.	Ticket Day.	Pay Day.
Mon., July 12.	Tues., July 13.	Wed., July 14.

NEAR EASTERN EXCHANGES.

On the dates given the rate of exchange ruling in the undermentioned centres on London was:—

ALEXANDRIA.....	June 30 ..	97¼ p.t.
BUCHAREST.....	May 13 ..	20 frs., equivalent to 30 lei.
SOFIA.....	May 29 .	— 4·50 leva.

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Egyptian Wheat Problem.

Maize a Good Substitute.

During the greater part of two centuries, from the time when Cleopatra poisoned herself so as to escape from figuring in a Roman triumph, in 30 B.C., until the time of Marcus Aurelius (A.D. 161-180) Egypt contributed so much of Rome's food-supply that she exercised no small influence. She had the power to starve Rome into submission had she revolted, and the Roman emperors, therefore, administered Egypt as a personal domain, in charge of an autocratic Prefect, who had the power to take any necessary action without reference to the Senate.

The grain ships loaded up in the harbour of Alexander's city, to the east of the modern Ras-el-Tin, with wheat from the basin-lands which in those days covered not only Upper Egypt, but the Delta also. Sometimes, when there was famine in Egypt through a defective flood, as in the reign of Trajan, the grain ships returned to Alexandria, bringing back the exported corn to save the situation.

In those days the summer crops were negligible, since all the cultivable land was inundated by the flood, and maize had not then been introduced to the Old World from the New. In modern Egypt there is but little basin-land left, none of which is in the Delta; the summer crops are the mainstay of the country—always excepting the Egyptian clover, on which all Egyptian agriculture depends—maize is the principal food-crop, and less wheat is grown than is consumed. The Granary of the Roman Empire is no longer a wheat-exporting country.

The old reputation dies hard, however, and many eyes have been turned to Egypt as a possible source from which to augment the wheat supply of the world, under a vague impression that the famous fertility of Egypt is capable of anything. When the cotton area was restricted, this impression was much strengthened. As a matter of fact, Egypt has double the population nowadays as compared with that which she supported in Roman times, and she can make but little difference to the world's wheat-supply, partly because the bulk of her crop is unsuitable for European bread-making, partly because it requires a great deal of cleaning, even if it were suitable, and partly because the quantity she can grow is limited.

"Hindi" Wheat.

Taking these three difficulties in order, some of the wheat grown in Egypt is better than the rest, not being Egyptian. In the beginning of this century the State Domains and Khedivial Agricultural Society introduced the Muzaffinagar white wheat from India, and under the name of "Hindi" this is now grown extensively, but only under perennial irrigation, since if it cannot be given water when the grain is swelling, the crop is poor. Such Hindi wheat is a fairly saleable product on the home market, though it is nothing at all special, and is capable of a great deal of improvement, which has actually been effected in India. Areas freed from cotton could be planted with this wheat, followed by maize in the summer, if there is enough seed-wheat available, but the saleability of the product would be affected adversely by the second consideration. Meanwhile, the ordinary Egyptian wheats are scarcely saleable in Egypt, being deficient in "strength." This does not merely apply to those native wheats which belong to the macaroni type, and are unsuitable for making bread, but to the ordinary flour-wheats of the country, other than Hindi. Some years ago large shipments of wheat were made from all parts of the world in the course of an inquiry by the millers, and the two Egyptian shipments were adjudged to be quite definitely the worst in the world for English bread-making. These are the wheats which are grown on the basin land, and also—with Hindi—under perennial irrigation.

These poor-quality native wheats are the same kinds as those which Egypt supplied to Rome, and it may be asked why they are not good enough for modern Europe. The reason is that the public taste has changed, demanding a light spongy loaf, such as can only be made from "strong" wheats. Wheats lacking in "strength" make flour which bakes into a tough, rubbery loaf. Most of our English wheats also have this defect, though to a less extent, and the millers can, in consequence, only use them in the proportion of one part to four or five parts of the strong wheats from Canada, the U.S.A. and Russia. Native Egyptian wheat could only be used in a still smaller proportion, scarcely worth the trouble of mixing. Even the Hindi wheat would not be used alone, being by no means strong enough. This lack of strength is only a trifling disadvantage to the native Egyptian, since his bread is made up in flat pancakes, often kept for weeks and soaked in water before being eaten, and rubberiness and toughness are unimportant.

Difficulty of Cleaning.

The next objection to Egyptian wheat is the amount of cleaning which it requires. Supposing the Hindi wheat to be grown for export, threshed on the threshing-floor with the norag in the usual manner, and then sent to Europe, it would only be saleable at a heavy discount, on acount of the earth, dust, and stones which it contains. If these were not removed before grinding they would play havoc with the rollers of the mill. Their removal involves a great deal of trouble, since ordinary dressing machinery is not designed to handle this kind of impurity in the grain. Some very angry remarks have been made by millers handling experimental consignments of Egyptian wheats, even though these had been threshed with care on big estates. It may be taken for granted that in order to establish any sort of reputation, every ounce of wheat exported from modern Egypt would have to be specially dressed before it went on board ship, in special dressing-machinery, since even machine-threshed Egyptian wheat is not entirely free from the roller-destroying rubbish. This would involve the locking-up of a good deal of capital, the inspection of consignments, and an increase in the cost of production, which would only be worth while if the wheat were of good quality, selling at a high price. It would certainly not be worth while with inferior wheat, such as the native kinds, and but doubtfully so with Hindi. With wheat as with cotton, the prime necessity for Egypt is quality. Experimental consignments such as have recently obtained favourable reports from the Imperial Institute are no guide, since they had clearly been specially cleaned, whereas a single shipload of ordinary Hindi, threshed with the norag on the threshing floor, would damn Egyptian wheat for a decade to come.

Lastly, there is the question of quantity. Wheat is too expensive a crop for the fellah to grow extensively nowadays, when he has maize as an alternative crop. Maize occupies the land for about four months at most in the summer, as compared with six months for wheat in the winter, and its yield is about half as great again as that of wheat from the same area. The result is that the wheat crop of Egypt is not more than thirty million bushels, while the maize crop is quite sixty million bushels. But this does not suffice for the needs of the inhabitants, the equivalent of some five million bushels more of wheat being imported, mostly as flour from France. This is due to the changing taste of the upper classes, and to the European colonies in Egypt, who prefer European bread to native bread, and can only obtain such light bread from imported wheat or flour. Thus, before Egypt can begin exporting wheat, she has to make up leeway to the extent of some 15 to 20 per cent. increase in her present wheat crop in order to wipe out this import.

There seems to be some idea that Egypt still exports wheat and maize, since such exports figure in the Customs' returns. Actually, however, this export is almost entirely the supply of food to the annual Pilgrimage to Mecca. It is far outweighed by the imports, mostly of flour.

It remains to be seen whether Egypt can make up this leeway and become a wheat-exporting country. This, in the first place, necessitates the exclusion of some cotton, since, although wheat is a winter crop, it is not harvested until long after the cotton has been sown. Thus, the same piece of land cannot carry cotton after wheat in the same year. Wheat must be followed by maize. Assuming Egyptian cotton to have become unprofitable, owing to the ravages of the boll-worm, and to remain at the area of one and a-quarter million acres at present fixed by decrees, could the remaining half-million acres be all put under wheat? It is a difficult question, but the history of Egyptian exports and production for the last few years indicates fairly clearly that wheat would stand little chance in rivalry with beans. The export of beans from Egypt has been diminishing steadily, as more land went under cotton, the yield of beans is larger than that of wheat from the same area, with much the same price—thus making it the more profitable crop for the grower—and lastly, instead of having to make a new market under disadvantages, Egyptian beans have long been on the Egyptian market, with a good reputation behind them. Probably an increased supply of Egyptian beans could be readily absorbed.

Beans More Profitable.

It is more than probable that the fellah, looking very carefully to his own pocket, will put his land under beans, rather than wheat, if he cannot grow cotton on it. He can sell his surplus of beans, and over-feed himself on the subsequent maize crop. Beans also have the advantage that they do not diminish, and may increase, the nitrogen-fertility of the soil on which they grow, thus leaving it practically unimpaired for the following maize crop.

Again, even if beans did not rival wheat successfully as a business proposition, much of the land set free for a wheat crop through the prohibition of cotton would normally be put under berseem (clover) to maintain its fertility, and this could not be dispensed with in favour of wheat.

It seems reasonable to assume that not more than two-fifths of the area set free from cotton will be put under wheat, making 200,000 acres in all. This is probably an extremely high estimate, but if this land produced thirty bushels an acre, which is well over the average yield in Egypt, it would give a crop of six million bushels. This amount is just about equal to that which the country has been importing in the form of flour and grain.

Thus, Egypt can be self-supporting (given a milling industry), but at the present rates of yield there is no likelihood of her exporting more than a trivial amount of wheat, if, indeed, any at all.

Maize Flour.

On the other hand, her export of beans might be greatly increased, and the question of maize is on an entirely different footing. In this case the whole area freed from cotton could be turned over to maize. This crop, yielding about 40 bushels an acre, would give—on the half-million acres turned over from cotton—a crop of some 20,000,000 bushels, none of which would be needed for native consumption, already fully supplied, and therefore free for export; this amount would be roughly a hundredth part of the total maize crop of the world, but since most of the world's maize crop is consumed locally, only a small part being exported to Europe, it would make a conspicuous figure on the world's maize markets. It would, in fact, have to be handled with care, or it might become almost unsaleable through over-supply, unless its appearance were notified to the trade in advance, and public opinion duly prepared to make more use of maize in the public diet. At a time of high wheat prices the employment of maize flour has much to recommend it. The flour is too "weak" to make a good loaf by itself, but it can be mixed with strong wheat in the proportion of half and half, and then bakes satisfactorily, while there are many special preparations in which it is employed. Lastly, for those consumers who were willing to abandon the conventional loaf, it could be made into the flat pancakes of native bread, as in Egypt.

Summarising, it would seem that an export of wheat from Egypt is very unlikely.

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British Interests in Turkey.

Red Tape versus National Interests.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—Our trade with Turkey consists in exports and imports, and as money is cheap here and dear there, we are always creditors and very seldom debtors. Such being the position when war began with that country, our outstanding balance there, roughly speaking, could not have been under two million pounds, the fate of which becomes daily more uncertain as the war drags on and the Turkish Government's power of spoliation increases with its greater needs.

Earlier than this our merchants had, on account of the war with Germany, curtailed credit to Turkey and called for outstanding balances. Those of the Turkish merchants who were able to cover their debit balances took the earliest opportunity to ship produce as cover (or part cover) to this country. A few of them, feeling insecure with their own Government, sent us even shipments in excess of their indebtedness so as to leave them in secure hands on this side. All this took place in the usual way of legitimate business, which the Government of this country is constituted to protect, and lays itself out to promote for the benefit of its people.

What was, therefore, the surprise and consternation of merchants on this side, on arrival of the steamers bringing these shipments, which left the Turkish ports before war was declared, to find the Government claim them as enemy goods I leave you to imagine!

In the majority of cases our merchants were expecting to sell these goods, and with the proceeds to meet other engagements they had, and perhaps to pay current expenses, too. They found themselves deprived of them, and, in consequence, some were thrown in difficulties and had to suspend payment altogether. Others, more fortunate, were not injured beyond having to wait for their money, and are still waiting the pleasure of the prize court.

Here, then, was the Government, instead of giving protection to legitimate trade, doing wilful harm to its *own* traders, and jeopardising its reputation for honour with their clients, who in 99 cases out of 100 are friends and not enemies to this country.

It was my duty as a senior of a business firm—quite disinterested in the result—to call the attention of the proper authorities, outside the prize court which is supposed to act on their behalf, to this failing, and I am glad to say they admitted that there can be no claim on the part of the Government to the goods, beyond preventing the proceeds from leaving this country during the war, or allowing any debtor, having interest in these goods, to avoid settlement here of an unsecured debt.

This, however, left the question of the prejudice caused by the temporary sequestration. This sequestration was effected in two ways. One way was that the Government took the goods and disposed of them; the other way was that it allowed the merchants to receive the goods, giving it a banker's guarantee for the proceeds thereof, and we know that bankers will give no guarantee without being paid for it, while requiring a security of equivalent value to the guarantee, so the one way is like the other—the merchant remains deprived of the use of his money for the time being.

This prejudice was recognised, too, but as an only excuse for its creation, the Government says that it has no means of telling which of the goods are British firms' absolute property as cover for money lent on interest, and which are alien enemies' absolute property sent here on consignment!

Consequently merchants will have to put up with the prejudice until the prize court and the committee attached to it can go into these matters and examine the proofs which merchants can produce for their title in the goods.

A more absurd and arbitrary way than this procedure can never be registered against any Government.

It is, therefore, necessary to call the attention of Parliament, first to the violation of the law, which requires any claimant to property in a third party's possession to prove his title to it, before putting sequestration upon it; second, to the incapacity of Government officials in dealing with the task, after knowing that they were causing prejudice and waste of public money and time.

I will make no comparison between our treatment of this question and our Allies' handling of it, but leaving our Government to follow its own conclusions, I ask what would have been simpler than to appoint forthwith an assessor who could have called on the merchants interested, and offered for a small charge to examine their books and correspondence relating to the goods in dispute and settled the claims according to law and equity?

Unfortunately, mere Government clerks cannot see or do such things, and the heads of departments are content to go on with routine work for ever, or to shift responsibility from one shoulder to another!

The Government has certainly a great deal to do just now; nevertheless, it is to our benefit to see that competent specialists are made use of where and when required, or as the Arabic proverb says, "to give our bread to the baker to bake, were he to eat half of it," *i.e*, sooner than losing it all by entrusting it to incompetent hands!—Yours,

ALEXANDER SEFI.

Cricklewood, June 30, 1915.

BRITISH SEAMEN'S HOSPITAL IN CONSTANTINOPLE.

Reuter's Athens Correspondent (June 26) stated that, according to advices from Constantinople, it is understood that the British Government refuses to continue to contribute towards the upkeep of the British Seamen's Hospital in Constantinople. It is feared that, consequently, the Turkish authorities will seize the property, which would mean the loss also of the Consular residence, the sailors' home and the prison, all of which are adjoining buildings. It is necessary (continues the correspondent) to draw the attention of British shipowners' associations and the Chamber of Commerce to this state of affairs, and the risk of losing such valuable property, purchased with shipowners' money. It is urged that steps should be taken to preserve valuable and useful institutions which are the pride of the British colony and monuments to British trade and commerce in the Levant.

The *Daily Telegraph* Athens correspondent cables a similar plea, saying that the hospital was built with funds contributed by British shipowners, and that "it is most undesirable that this fine hospital should fall into the hands of Turks."

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BRITISH TRADE WITH GREECE.

The following information is from the report by H.M. Consul at Piræus (Mr. W. J. Norcop) on the trade of that district in 1914, which will shortly be issued:—

With the acquisition of new territory there arose an inclination on the part of private individuals having a certain amount of capital at their disposal to establish industries; and there was a sensible increase in the number of enquiries for British-made machinery of various kinds, including boot-making plant, machinery for making cigarette boxes, tobacco packets and currant boxes, stone-breaking machinery, tar-spraying apparatus, small turbine plants and pumping machinery in general. The trade in motor cars, both for private and commercial purposes, increased considerably, and several agencies carrying stocks of motor tyres and other accessories were established in Athens, with branches at the various large centres. There was also a much increased demand for cotton and worsted yarns, and enquiries were made for machinery with a view to the opening of new mills. These enterprises, together with the enquiries for boot-making plant already mentioned, were a direct result of the late wars; the increase in the numbers of the Greek army on peace and war footing and the doubling of the population owing to the acquisition of fresh territory, gave rise to a natural desire to be able to manufacture the large supplies of military equipment hitherto obtained from abroad, and to a feeling that the new markets opened up in Macedonia, Epirus, Crete and the other newly acquired islands should be catered for by the mother country herself.

Imports into Greece from Germany and Austria-Hungary have certainly diminished, though they have by no means ceased. German shippers continue to extend the same terms of credit that they gave before the war. On the other hand, some British manufacturers, who formerly gave credit, or who accepted cash against bills of lading on presentation in Greece, now demand either cash with order, or a confirmed banker's credit in London to guarantee cash before shipment. To the further detriment of British trade with Greek ports, freights are high and uncertain. The result is that Greek merchants are being forced to apply to American exporters for such articles as they can no longer obtain from Germany and Austria-Hungary.

One reason why German and Austro-Hungarian firms have done well in Greece is because they have always been willing to suit the requirements of the market in many ways which British manufacturers in general have not appeared willing to do. Other factors contributing to the success of German and Austro-Hungarian firms are the cheapness of their goods, long credit (60 to 120 days), c.i.f. prices which include cost of packing, discounts, quick delivery of goods, the use of the metric system of weights and measures, and the employment of smart travellers with a practical knowledge of their duties, who gauge how much credit can be given.

There have been many complaints at the slackness of delivery on the part of British firms which has deflected much business from them, and has enabled competitors to step in and secure trade by prompt deliveries.

Strange as it may appear, it is nevertheless true that Greek merchants have found it easier to obtain goods from Germany than from the United Kingdom. At least a proportion of the orders which have been sent there have been executed with great promptitude and without any change of terms, the long credits which have always been allowed by German firms being still allowed without difficulty or question. Thus a good opportunity has been lost by British manufacturers of securing the German trade.

Greek firms would prefer British goods if they could only obtain terms similar to those given by competitors. The Greek buyer wants credit because the customs duties in Greece are very high, and, as he has to pay these duties before he can get delivery of the goods, he wants time before he pays the bill of the exporter.

The exportation of tea from Egypt is now permitted.

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Egypt and the War.

Openings for British Trade.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, June 18.

The British Chamber of Commerce of Alexandria, to which all British manufacturers, who trade with Egypt, owe so much and which is ever on the alert for opportunities for improving the commercial relations of the British Empire with this country, has not lost much time, and following the example of its prototypes at Home and in the Colonies, it has set itself to a serious study of the openings, which will result from the exclusion of Germany and Austria from the Egyptian market. The fruit of this study has just been given to us in the form of a most interesting report on the subject. This document might, with advantage, be read side by side with the article entitled "German and Austrian Trade with Egypt," which was published in The Near East of November 13 last, for whilst most of the statistics and points were already noted in that article, the Chamber's report supplements it with many useful details and items of information.

The statistics printed below either did not appear in the table accompanying the above-mentioned article, or were included in the figures for the category to which they belong. The notes appended are, perhaps, the most interesting part of the report. Thus, under textiles, the imports of which amount annually to about £E3,000,000, we are informed, that, whilst grey and bleached cotton piece goods and most printed calicoes come from the United Kingdom, Austria and Italy monopolized the imports in flannelettes, longer credits being given for coloured than for white goods. Plain and fancy dyed cotton goods came principally from Italy, Austria and Germany, the quality being inferior to that produced in Great Britain and the lower prices appealing more to the natives. It is pointed out that this trade has much increased of recent years and that it deserves the special attention of British manufacturers, as it is one, where they have been beaten by Continental competitors, whose goods have superseded various plain white and grey goods made in Lancashire. It is interesting to note that the United Kingdom has held its own against Continental manufacturers in the matter of Cotton Single Yarns, but that a large share of the trade has gone to India, where the yarn spun by the local mills is good enough for the native weaver. In cotton hosiery there is a large growing demand chiefly in the cheap lines. Whilst the German article has somewhat cut out the British, owing to price, it is curious to note that the latter, itself, has been ousted by articles of Japanese manufacture.

Machinery.

Under machinery we find that the bulk is imported from the United Kingdom, but that other countries have of late begun to compete, notably Germany, which considerably increased its imports. Electric motors, principally, come from England, but, in electric appliances, British manufacturers have neglected the market the bulk of which, especially metallic filament lamps, have been supplied by Germany and Austria. The United Kingdom supplied a considerable share of the iron and steel, but Belgium was predominant in iron and steel plates and bar and angle-iron and girders and latterly German imports were annually increasing. In hardware, as in machinery and metal goods, German manufacturers captured a great part of the market by offering long credits and by supplying inferior goods at low prices. It is stated that five or six years ago more tools were imported from England than from all the other countries put together, but the British manufacturers could not compete with their German competitors under the circumstances, since the inferior article appealed to the purchaser by reason of its cheapness. The same applies to the bedstead trade, which up to two years ago was confined to Great Britain. It is further pointed out that the trade in cheap articles has been encouraged of late years by the Government, which, in putting its requirements up to public tender, has apparently favoured the lowest priced articles without sufficient consideration for the quality.

There would appear to be great openings in table cutlery, window glass, lamp-glasses, paints and colours, etc. Germany seems to have ousted the French make of table cutlery, which is in more demand than the bone or ivory-handled variety, with an article similar in appearance, but, of course, cheaper in price. Belgium has almost entirely supplied the window-glass, whilst lamp-glasses, the stock of which is very low, came almost exclusively from Germany and Austria. In colours and paints the better class article has been supplied by Great Britain, but in the lower grades Germany, whose prices often defied competition, Italy and Belgium held the market.

Leather and Stationery.

In leather goods of every description Germany has generally done the most business owing to the demand for a cheap article. The English goods have usually been found too heavy and of too good quality for the local buyer, though when an English-made article has been purchased by a client, he has always found that the higher price was compensated for by the durability.

A large trade is apparently to be done in pencils, penholders, leather-board and cardboard. Pencils were almost entirely a German speciality, cheap qualities of blue and red pencils, both combined and separate, carpenters' pencils and cheap penholders being in great demand. The two other articles were chiefly supplied by Germany and Austria, and a large trade is to be done, there being especially a big demand for brown cardboard used in the soles of boots.

Imitation jewellery was largely supplied by Germany and Austria. Real gold was furnished chiefly from Germany at cheap prices on account of no hall-mark being necessary. In this connection we obtain an insight into German methods, for the report goes on to say that 13-carat gold is often stamped 18 carat.

How to Work the Market.

Having in this manner indicated briefly where openings exist, the Chamber proceeds to call the attention of British traders to the procedure which they should adopt if they wish to do successful business with this country. In the first place they should bear in mind that business in manufactured goods, with the sole exception of cotton piece goods, is largely done in Egypt through the medium of local commission agents, and that the home export houses are rarely utilized. Consequently it is important that they should appoint agents in every case and should ensure that the men they want to appoint are responsible and competent by consulting the Chamber on this point. Secondly, when the magnitude of the business or the prospects warrant the expense and time, merchants should, themselves, visit the country and should periodically send out travellers. The Chamber, very rightly, draws attention to the fact that the percentage of British travellers, who visit Egypt, is very small compared with those from other countries, and that many of them speak no other language than their own. It points out that Egypt is not only on the way to the Far East, but is also the centre for visiting Syria and the Near East generally, and that it should be possible for travellers to break their journey here without any great extra expense. In this connection it mentions that reduced travelling rates for commercial travellers are granted on Continental steamship lines and suggests that British traders should take measures to obtain similar facilities on British steamship lines.

Of the accuracy of the Chamber's remarks on the subject of travellers there can be no question. German manufacturers never dream of sending out a representative, unless he can speak at least French and English, and very often the men, who come to this part of the world, can also speak Italian and Greek. When one considers the vast cosmopolitan population of this country and the fact that a very great part of the retail and agency business, when it is not done by natives, is in the hands of Levantines and Greeks, one can readily understand that to succeed in Egypt, "push and go" methods require to be supplemented by linguistic qualifications.

Studying the Local Market.

The Chamber might with advantage have drawn attention to one other important requirement—viz., the great necessity for home

Table Showing Comparison between German, Austrian, and British Trade in 1913.

	Total.	Germany.	Austria.	United Kingdom.
	£E.	£E.	£E.	£E.
Leather	142,996	11,092	23,323	40,927
Fancy leather goods	18,608	3,200	8,500	4,400
Writing and printing paper	110,964	9,300	46,700	23,744
Cigarette paper	46,529	13	31,207	500
Cardboard in sheets	29,453	7,400	13,600	1,700
Cardboard Boxes and other cardboard articles	34,084	11,400	1,100	9,900
Packing paper	109,151	7,300	39,200	2,200
Account and note books	27,667	4,600	1,100	7,000
China and glazed earthenware	68,939	20,400	14,300	3,800
Other articles in glass	114,123	24,803	58,357	4,155
Aniline dyes	18,145	10,983	903	3,214
Boot polish	13,898	4,310	1,766	3,305
Salamac	4,486	2,628	—	1,858
Carbonic acid	2,369	1,458	—	—
Perfumes	49,501	8,744	1,901	6,747
Cotton thread for sewing	74,380	1,085	24,293	43,301
Cotton lace and embroideries	54,691	5,450	15,693	13,833
" " wide for furniture, curtains, etc.	19,941	2,720	6,340	747
Velvets and plushes	36,579	10,782	6,515	11,519
Woollen piece goods	372,917	58,751	99,259	131,658
Shawls	92,761	48,463	28,257	2,706
Mixed fabrics	273,878	25,173	20,054	33,116
Ready-made underclothing	315,472	9,002	45,814	84,295
Knitted and woven articles	248,906	76,435	20,203	23,733
Ready-made clothing	305,912	6,116	165,480	49,984
Enamelled ware for domestic use	40,919	5,209	33,901	45
Iron and steel bars and angles	174,732	18,271	4,811	24,405
Wrought iron and steel pipes	158,114	52,271	—	86,016
Window and door fittings	110,925	57,533	1.902	28,503
Copper and bronze articles	59,335	19,995	153	11,008
White metal and aluminium articles	29,536	6,863	6,737	6,293
Locomotives	55,132	51,592	—	1,387
Railway trucks, carriages, trams	47,478	5,037	20,940	1,520
Jewellery, gold	18,744	1,421	11,789	87
Ditto silver	6,940	2,233	958	1,130
Clocks	4,915	3,275	229	613
Playing cards and games	44,099	15,598	3,604	10,744
Haberdashery	27,475	5,348	9,527	3,413
Lamps	73,075	21,009	28,665	5,655
Organs, pianos	13,955	10,112	450	1,675
Surgical and optical instruments	62,246	21,093	1,462	20,318
Electrical apparatus	139,223	24,798	15,109	46,107

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manufacturers, if they want to extend their trade, to study the local market and to be prepared to adapt themselves to the requirements of that market. Whilst one of the reasons they were beaten in the past by their German and Austrian competitors was that the latter undersold them at every turn; it cannot be denied that they asked for trouble by refusing to supply anything which was not of their own standard or which necessitated any deviation from their methods. Thus, in many instances of which the writer is personally aware, home manufacturers steadily declined to deliver goods packed and folded in the manner asked for by the local traders and consumers, with the natural result that the German and Austrian, who were far more accommodating and enterprising, found that the market was, so to speak, thrown at them when it was known that they were ready to comply with any request, no matter how trivial, presented by their clients. Of course, there are limits to compliance with buyers' requirements which are apt at times to become somewhat exacting, but it cannot be contested that in the past the British trader has been far too conservative, and that, as a consequence, he has in many cases lost leeway to his foreign competitor solely through this characteristic.

Parcels Post.

A case in point, as it happens, is cited by the Chamber in its report—viz., the proportion of trade done by the United Kingdom by parcels post. It is pointed out that a large amount of trade is done with Egypt in this manner. Thus in 1913 imports through this medium came to £E967,284, and in 1912 to £E949,869. The principal lines are hats, clothing, stationery, fancy leather goods, photographic supplies, and small articles of hardware. The report states that while the United Kingdom supplied in 1912 more than 30 per cent. of Egypt's imports, she sent only 19 per cent. of the parcels received from abroad. The reasons for this are that, firstly, British manufacturers often refuse to accept small orders, while foreign firms cater for this class of trade; and, secondly, that the conditions of the British Post Office are less favourable, the cost being 50 per cent. to 100 per cent. more than that imposed by the French, Italian, Austrian, and German Post Offices, the maximum bulk allowed being much less, the time in transit longer, and the risk of damage greater, due to packing in bags instead of in baskets or in boxes.

C.O.D. System.

Further, the Chamber points out that, although the C.O.D. system was inaugurated between the United Kingdom in 1908, little advantage has been taken of it. In 1913 13,985 parcels valued at £E21,697 were exchanged with the United Kingdom compared with 27,880 parcels, valued at £E50,156, with France, and 28,844 parcels, valued at £E35,312, with Germany. Frequent cases have arisen where British firms have either shown complete ignorance of the existence of this system or have simply refused to send goods by this route. If this refusal is due to fear that consignees will decline to take the goods when eventually tendered by the Egyptian Post Office, it may interest home manufacturers to know that, according to statistics obtained by the Chamber, only 1 per cent. of C.O.D. parcels are returned to the senders for various reasons.

The Chamber closes what must be considered a most valuable report with the suggestion that the manufacturers, traders, chambers of commerce, and other corporate bodies in Great Britain should be more adequately represented by properly qualified Government trade commissioners, or, failing that, that the services of the British Chamber of Commerce, with its trained staff, should be officially made use of. It also suggests that when the time is opportune a British pattern and sample exhibition should be organised in Egypt. These are matters that the home traders should consider. In the meantime they should, whenever the opportunity arises, put themselves into communication with the British Chamber of Commerce at Alexandria, which can supply full information on many of the branches of trade that have not been dealt with in its report, and can give sound advice on all commercial questions submitted to it, for its members comprise experienced and reliable representatives of practically every British commercial interest in the country.

Trade Notes.

Egypt.

Messrs. Alfred Setton and Co. were the successful tenderers recently to the War Office, Cairo, for the supply of Indian grain bags.

Tenders are invited by the Egyptian Ministry of Finance for the supply of office articles of stationery (including paper fasteners, pens, pencils, ink, gum, typewriter ribbons, etc.) required for the use of the various Egyptian Government offices during 1915. Copies of the conditions and form of tender, etc., may be obtained from the "Economat Central, Ministère des Finances," Cairo, at which address also sealed tenders, made out on the proper form and accompanied by samples of the articles it is proposed to supply, will be received up to noon on July 22.

A provisional deposit equal to 2 per cent., or a bank guarantee of 10 per cent., of the value of the offer must accompany each tender. A copy of the *cahier des charges*, together with lists of the various articles required, may be consulted by United Kingdom manufacturers of the goods mentioned at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade.

Cyprus.

The Board of Trade have received copy of a Proclamation, dated May 23 last, which prohibits the exportation from Cyprus of "empty barrels" to all destinations.

Crete.

H.M. Vice-Consul at Canea (Mr. E. C. D. Rawlins) reports that a local firm, which has hitherto dealt almost exclusively with German and Austrian firms, desires to get into touch with United Kingdom manufacturers of woollen vests and pants; suède, woollen and all kinds of gloves; straw and felt hats; caps; handkerchiefs; cotton, etc., socks; and shirts and collars. It is understood that the firm is also interested in perfumery. During the war the firm in question is willing to accept goods sent c.i.f. Piræus, and to pay net cash on delivery of goods or on arrival of shipping documents at Canea. Correspondence should be in French. Quotations should be accompanied by samples, and in this connection H.M. Vice-Consul remarks that the sending of gratis samples is a feature in the methods of foreign competitors who have built up a successful trade with Crete.

United Kingdom manufacturers of the goods mentioned should apply, in the first instance, to the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C., for the name and address of the inquirer. Further communications should be addressed to the British Vice-Consulate, Canea.

Karachi.

A recent Consular report states that various kinds of combs are in demand just now. The market for combs here has always been good, but now, when Germany has been shut out, the market should prove to be really worth cultivating. Combs set with jewellery are wanted as well as the plainer ones. Celluloid combs are likewise in demand. Parsee women, as a rule, use a large number of combs in their hair, as they seldom wear hats, but throw a light piece of silk or other material over their heads. Imported celluloid dressing-combs should be about 6 ins. long, and they would sell at 2s. 6d. to 3s.

WAR ON GERMAN TRADE.

In connection with the campaign undertaken by the Board of Trade, on the advice of the Advisory Committee on Commercial Intelligence, to assist British manufacturers and merchants to secure trade formerly in the hands of Germans or Austro-Hungarian firms, the Board continues to receive a very large number of inquiries for the names of sellers or buyers of articles.

Special arrangements have been made in the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade for dealing with these inquiries, and lists are prepared and circulated of articles which inquirers desire (a) to purchase, and (b) to sell. List 27 is now ready, and may be obtained by United Kingdom manufacturers and traders.

CYPRUS TRADE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cyprus, June 18.

Trade is very stagnant, especially as regards exports, though some wool is being sent to England. There are plenty of last year's carobs on hand still, but freights are practically prohibitive. The prices of all necessities are rising, the prohibition of export of cattle has done nothing to lower the price of meat, and until the municipalities take this question up we cannot expect meat at a reasonable price.

CLOTHING TRADE IN EGYPT.

The following information regarding the clothing trade in Egypt is extracted from recent issues of the "Journal of the British Chamber of Commerce of Egypt":—

The total imports of ready-made clothing into Egypt in 1914 were valued at slightly over £E1,000,000. Of this amount, imports from Austria-Hungary represented about 28 per cent., from the United Kingdom about 16 per cent., from Germany nearly 14 per cent.; the bulk of the remainder was furnished by France and Italy.

The predominance of Austria-Hungary in this trade has probably been due mainly to long credits, the average being nine months from the date of arrival of the goods. But apart from the question of facilities as to payments, Austrian firms have especially laid themselves out to meet the taste of native customers, sending representatives twice a year to Egypt. Both Austrian and German firms were able to quote c.i.f. prices when requested to do so. The establishment of retail shops in Cairo and Alexandria, and branches in other towns, has also formed an important part of the Austrian and German systems of obtaining trade in Egypt. As a result of the war Austrian and German competition has been eliminated, and the bulk of the business is now being done for cash or on greatly reduced terms of credit. With the elimination of this competition, which has depended more on terms of credit than on prices, the principal obstacle to British trade has been removed. If British manufacturers desire to obtain a larger share of the clothing trade in Egypt, they must study local tastes and requirements. Small orders should be taken and c.i.f. prices quoted if necessary. With reference to the taking of small orders it may be noted that ties are chiefly imported by parcels post, and clothing could also be imported by means of the same service.

In view of the heavy demand for fezzes in the Near East and North Africa the suggestion is put forward that factories should be started in the United Kingdom for the manufacture of these goods. It is also suggested that, under present circumstances, the question of opening branches in Egypt is worthy of serious study by some of the large retail establishments in the United Kingdom dealing in ready-made clothing.

The section of the public which buys ready-made suits has been accustomed for many years to the Austria "cut," and Vienna firms make a speciality of supplying the designs of cloth most favoured by native customers. The tendency on the part of the natives in the towns is to adopt European clothing. In many cases, however, their limited means do not permit of the purchase of new garments, and this fact may lead to a fairly large trade in second-hand garments.

The trade in Egypt for hosiery is of considerable and growing importance. The native demand is principally for cotton hosiery in cheap lines, not too flimsy but with a fair amount of weight. German articles were sold cheaper than those of British manufacture.

The imports of shawls into Egypt during 1913 were valued at £E92,761, of which more than half was manufactured in Germany, about a quarter in Austria-Hungary, and only £E2,706 was furnished by the United Kingdom. The qualities most in demand are of two distinct manufactures: one known as the zephyr is made of low quality wool zephyr and sold by the kilogramme; the other is a mixture of cotton and wool, made in all fancy colours and various sizes.

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EGYPTIAN COTTON.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Alexandria, June 21.

As a result of Italy entering the war, prices have dropped. Exports have weakened, and it looks as though the stocks held here until next season will amount to about 700,000 cantars.

In view of the excellent outlook for the coming Egyptian and American crops, speculation is circumspect, and prices show no tendency to rise. The Egyptian Government is beginning to sell the cotton stored in order to realize the prices paid for its stock.

The Egyptian crop is progressing favourably, though it is ten days later than last year. Worms have appeared on the leaf in some districts, but the heat of the past few days prevents the disease from spreading.

761,500 bales of cotton have been exported this season, as against 906,000 bales during the same period of last year.

Arrivals from the interior amount to 6,300,000 cantars as against 7,590,000 cantars last year.

The results obtained by the Sudan Plantations Syndicate in 1914 were not so satisfactory in consequence of the partial failure of the crop and the low prices at which the cotton had to be sold, and the dividend was reduced to 2½ per cent. The latest reports of the Zeidab crops are very good.

COTTON MARKET.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Liverpool. July 1.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report :—

Egyptian Spot.—There has been a fair demand for cotton this week, and good business has resulted. Prices have ruled rather in buyers' favour, and quotations of Brown, Upper, Joannovich, and Nubari are reduced five points, and Abassi ten points, while those of Sakellarides are unchanged for good and below, and five points lower for fine and extra fine. The sales are estimated at 3,200 bales, against 3,100 last week.

Manchester.

With the cotton trade dispute out of the way, at any rate for the present, there has been a fair business doing. We hear that it is principally in the low counts, but on the other hand we gather that the higher counts are likely to come more into demand in the near future.

SUDAN COTTON-GROWING.

In their report to the shareholders, the directors of the British Cotton Growing Association refer to cotton growing in the Sudan as follows :—

Owing to the war the arrangements for raising the loan of £3,000,000 for the development of the Sudan had to be suspended. In the meantime some preliminary operations were put in hand, and it is understood that the investigations prove that no unforeseen engineering difficulties are likely to occur when the work of construction is commenced.

A pumping station has been erected at Barakat, a little south of Wad Medani, and a considerable quantity of land was planted with cotton in 1914. The plantation at Tayiba was extended to 2,000 acres. The latest reports of the crops at both stations are very good.

A new co-operative system, which may have most important results, was introduced by Lord Kitchener at both these stations. The Government provide the land and the water and receive 35 per cent. of the proceeds of the crop. The Syndicate will provide the financing, direction, and management, and will receive 25 per cent. This leaves 40 per cent. to go to the tenant for his time and labour. Lord Kitchener is much to be congratulated on the boldness and simplicity of this scheme.

Arrangements have been made by the Association to assist in the financing and marketing of the 1914-15 crop, and it is hoped that the assistance given by the Association will ensure that the native grower will receive the highest possible price that the market will justify. This is the more essential at the present juncture when prices are on the low side.

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Near East Markets.

CYPRUS GRAIN.

The Government of Cyprus offers for sale 218,500 kilés (bushels) of barley, and 42,000 kilés of oats, both of this year's harvest, subject to the retention of such amounts as may be required for seed corn advances. Particulars of the amounts to be retained may be ascertained from the treasurer. It is estimated that all this grain will be placed in the stores between the month of June and October 31, 1915, and delivery must be taken within a period to be arranged with the treasurer, but in no circumstances later than November 30, 1915.

The grain alluded to will be placed in varying amounts in the different Government stores, and tenders for the purchase of any one or more lots will be received by the Treasurer, Cyprus, on or after July 10, 1915. (Tenders may be submitted for lots of 2,000 kilés of barley for early payment and delivery.) Samples of the grain at the various stores may be obtained from the commissioners of the districts, but no sale effected on the basis of this notice shall be deemed to be a sale by sample. All the stores, with the exception of the store of Nicosia, which is connected with the Famagusta Harbour by railway, are situated near the sea shore.

CORFU OLIVE OIL.

H.M. Consul at Corfu reports: "The 1914 olive oil crop was insignificant, producing only about 20,000 barrels (of 16 gallons) of a very poor quality. The 1915 crop is expected to be a very good one, although no estimates could, at the time of writing, be formed. The prices of olive oil fluctuated between £40 and £60 per tun f.o.b., casks included. A small quantity of extra fine oil was shipped to the French and Italian Riviera (Nice, Porto Maurizio, Oneglia, San Remo, and Lucca), where it is bottled, etc., and sold as Lucca oil.

MALT EXPORTS TO THE NEAR EAST.

Answering a question by Mr. Gretton, Mr. Montagu on Wednesday gave the following figures showing the amount of corn malt, the produce of the United Kingdom, which was exported from the United Kingdom to certain countries during the months of January to May, 1915, and during May this year:—

	Jan.-May, 1915. Cwt.		May, 1915. Cwt.
Greece	4,739	....	1,200
Egypt	12,961	....	400
Gibraltar	46	....	46
Malta and Gozo	167	....	84

NEAR EAST SILK PRODUCTION.

The following figures, showing the Near East silk production in 1913 and 1914 (estimate) are from statistics published by the Lyons Silk Merchants' Union (quantities in kilos):—

	1913.		1914. (estimate)
Turkey-in-Asia—			
Brousa and Anatolia	465,000	..	360,000
Syria and Cyprus	490,000	..	420,000
Other provinces	135,000	..	110,000
Turkey-in-Europe	85,000	..	60,000
Balkan States (Bulgaria, Serbia, and Roumania)	135,000	..	105,000
Greece, Salonica, and Crete	185,000	..	150,000
Caucasus	385,000	..	350,000
Turkestan and Central Asia (exports)	225,000	..	—
Persia (exports)	210,000	..	—

The world's total production in 1913 was 27,320,000 kilos (China and Japan together 20,000,000 kilos) as against an estimate for 1914 of 21,870,000 kilos.

GREEK CURRANTS.

The following information is taken from the reports of the British Consular officers at Zante and Cephalonia:—

Zante.

According to the official statistics of the Privileged Company for the Protection of Currant-growers and Merchants, which has the control of the currant trade, the total crop of the island reached some 9,000 tons in 1914, against 8,000 tons secured in 1913, of which, however, only 7,000 tons were more or less marketable, whilst about 1,500 tons were completely ruined by the heavy rains in August.

With the outbreak of hostilities the position of the commodity became precarious, not only owing to the closing up of the German and Austro-Hungarian markets, but also to the stoppage of shipments for the Netherlands, normally a large consumer of Zante currants. The trade was thus confronted with an impending crisis, to avert which the Government resorted to the expedient of increasing by 15 per cent. the quantity which by law must be retained in the country, with a view to enhancing the value of the commodity by restricting the amount available for exportation. The quantity thus retained was raised from 35 to 50 per cent. in the Morea, and from 40 to 55 per cent. in the Ionian Islands. This measure, put into effect only after a considerable quantity of currants had been exported, produced some activity in the market, but prices were dsadvantageous to the producers, who had already sustained a loss to the extent of 20 per cent. of their produce through the rains.

As the season advanced, conditions in Greece improved somewhat, in consequence of the demand from the United Kingdom and America, and also on account of large shipments being permitted for Italy and the Netherlands. About 3,000 tons of the crop were exported from Zante to the United Kingdom, and 500 tons to the Netherlands. Some 2,500 tons of rain-damaged fruit entered the stores of the Privileged Company for retention, and about 1,500 tons remained in the hands of producers and merchants by the end of the year. Prices opened at 135 drachmae per 1,000 lbs. for sound fruit, but gradually fell to 125 drachmae per 1,000 lbs. as the British market became replete with the Morea produce; whilst the rain-damaged fruit realised from 85 to 120 drachmae per 1,000 lbs. These prices were considered unsatisfactory, in view of the increase of shipping expenses, high freights, and cost of packing brought about by the war.

Cephalonia.

The currant crop in Cephalonia was about 4 per cent. below that of 1913. About two-thirds of the crop was housed dry, as was also 1,000,000 lbs. which had been partly rain-damaged; the greater part of the remainder which was on the drying grounds was so badly damaged by the continual rain that followed that about 3,500,000 lbs. were delivered into the stores of the Privileged Company for the Protection of Currant-growers and Merchants up to the end of the year, and probably a further quantity will have to be delivered out of the fruit left behind. The price obtained for prime fruit shipped from the opening of the season to the end of the year was from £1 3s. 6d. to £1 5s. 6d. per cwt. c.i.f., including the risk of war, the average price being £1 3s. 6d. per cwt. c.i.f.; for the slightly rain-damaged fruit, which was sold as sound, prices were between 1s. and 1s. 6d. c.i.f. below that for prime fruit.

The July number of the Chamber of Commerce Journal publish a special supplement entitled "Trade Products of the British Empire." It is a statistical account of the resources of the British Empire as a supplier of foodstuffs and of raw materials for British industries, with statistics and notes as to foreign sources of supply.

PRODUCE REPORT.

Currants.

LONDON, July 1.

In the absence of stocks on spot, business has been confined to sales of parcels afloat by s.s. "Salermo" and "Princesse Clementine." New crop sells well, so far as Pyrgos is concerned, but owners' ideas for better descriptions are higher than buyers are willing to pay

In Liverpool there have been no further arrivals, but the s.s. "Avon" is just due with about 1,000 tons. The demand during the week was good, and holders in some instances made slight concessions in order to clear ex quay. Good to fine qualities are difficult to obtain, and any odd parcels available command high prices. Advices from Greece are firm, and prices quoted higher.

Sultanas.

After the late great activity the market for Smyrna fruit is quiet, but prices are steady at late rates. There has been a good business in Afghans, which are relatively cheap. In Liverpool, owing to scarcity and the advance in prices asked for the few that are offering, there has been very little business doing. Should there, however, be any extra demand, dealers will have difficulty in finding any fruit for their requirements, as there is very little now remaining in first hands, and apparently nothing further to come forward.

Dates.

There has been only a moderate demand at recent rates. Persians are quoted 14s. 6d. to 20s.

Onions.

The present outlook for this article is far from promising. Heavy offerings of Egyptian meet with a dragging sale, and quotations are again lower for all qualities. Some faulty parcels changed hands last week at from 3s. 9d. to 4s. per bag at the auction.

Seeds.

Linseed is steady, but generally quiet:—London-Egyptian spot and afloat quoted 52s. 9d., June-July was sold 53s., July-August 53s. 4½d., August-September 54s. Cotton seed is steady, but rather quiet:—London-Egyptian spot quoted £8 17s. 6d. and June £9 2s. 6d. per ton. Rapeseed is steady, but generally quiet; pure Guzerat June-July is quoted 56s., and brown Cawnpore ditto 51s.

Rangoon beans are firm at 74s. ex wharf, whilst for June-July shipment £16 10s. per ton c.i.f. terms is quoted.

Oils.

Linseed Oil.—The market is quiet, and prices for arrival are lower in some positions. On the spot, pipes £26 5s., barrels £27, month £26 12s. 6d. to £26 15s. sellers, July-August £27 7s. 6d., September-December £28 5s. Rape oil is dearer only for Japan, but otherwise there is no change to report. Ordinary brown on the spot, naked £36 to £37; English refined, barrels, £38 to £40. Cotton oil has improved in value; crude, on the spot, pipes, £29; refined, on the spot, pale, pipes, £31; sweet, barrels, £36 to £37.

Oil Cakes.

Cotton Cakes.—Recent arrivals of Egyptian have been principally disposed of, but with a fair quantity obtainable afloat the market is with difficulty held up, in spite of higher quotations from the other side. Spot values are £6 10s. to £6 12s. 6d., while for June shipment holders ask £6 10s., and July shipment £6 12s. 6d. to £6 15s. per ton. Decorticated cotton cakes may be bought in limited quantity at £8 15s. to £9 per ton.

Linseed Cakes.—The market this past week has been extremely quiet, with very little business passing, but with no pressure on the part of the holders values remain firm, while in forward positions a premium of fully 10s. to 15s. per ton is demanded. Best London-made make £10 2s. 6d. to £10 5s.; fine quality of Greek in bags offer at £10 10s.

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Macedonian Timber.

Mr. F. A. Salaman recounts in the *Timber Trades Journal* of June 5, a visit of inspection to a large timber estate in Naoussa, Macedonia, from which the following extracts are reproduced :—

The town of Naoussa is built on a commanding picturesque plateau, overlooking a garden scene of marvellous beauty, thickly planted with mulberry trees that are interspersed with productive vineyards. Numberless silkworms are reared in this fertile region, from which is obtained the raw silk which provides the nucleus of an extensive silk industry. There are several cloth and silk weaving mills possessing numerous spindles, all driven by water-power, clear and sparkling, supplied by various streams that flow from the surrounding hills. Three miles from Naoussa the forest begins extending in one unbroken line almost for nine miles northwards in the direction of Vodena, another flourishing city of 15,000 inhabitants, and taking this line as a central pivot the forest lies east and west on either side for seven miles—i.e., fourteen miles east and west. The topographical nature of the country is highly undulating and hilly; the sides and summits of the highest elevations being clothed in a dense mass of virgin timber, with oak, chestnut, beech, box, walnut, and other varieties in a lesser degree; the principal trees predominating in the order named. The majority of the oaks are of large size, straight, with clean stems; the timber is a fine hard wood, and when cut in the quarters show extremely good figuring.

Chestnut.

The trees of this species are of colossal dimensions, some of them overgrown and only fit to be turned into tannic acid. The owner, at great expense, has built an up-to-date factory ready to be equipped with the necessary machinery to operate this particular industry. The commercial timber can be used for a variety of purposes; in its texture it closely resembles oak, is specially adapted for cabinet work of all kinds, and is one of the best woods for veneering, taking glue well.

Box.

These trees are well grown; the wood is of a light yellow, silky lustre, works up smoothly, is very durable, and it would be easy to make a cut of from 100 to 150 tons per annum of two inches and over in diameter.

Walnut is found in patches growing on various parts of the estate, running from two to over three feet in diameter; many of the trees possess burrs of small and large dimensions. The colour of the wood is black, streaky, and most suitable for gun-stocks and veneers.

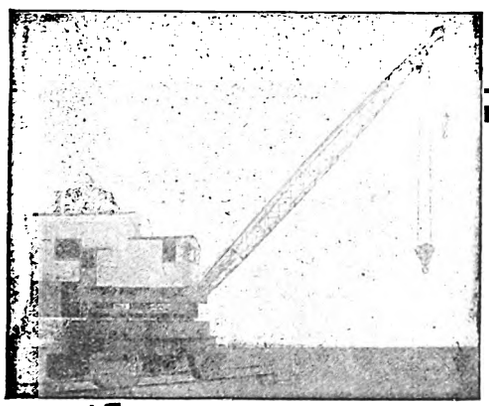
The configuration of the country lends itself to economical logging, as many of the more elevated portions slope abruptly into the valleys from whence roads radiate to the main roadway, which has been well made, properly ballasted, and right up to date in every respect.

When viewing this vast amount of splendid standing timber, I could not help asking myself how and why it had so long escaped the attention of the ubiquitous saw-mill men who are continually searching the world for supplies to meet the ever-increasing demands of Western Europe and other countries.

When I left London early this year the majority of those engaged in the timber trade deplored the scarcity of all kinds of hard woods, declaring that should the war continue for any lengthened period there would result a great scarcity in London by the end of the year. I will say to these pessimists—Try Macedonia for hard wood; there you will find sufficient timber of this class to meet most of your immediate requirements. One London firm, viz., Millars' Trading Co., has already entered this field and are now operating there to advantage. It appears they have contracted with the owner on mutual terms for the whole beech cut. They have built an up-to-date band saw mill, manufactured by Ransome and Co., Ltd., of Newark-on-Trent; they have cut and constructed timber roads radiating into the forest, and linked up the mill by an aerial railway with the station at Goulachan on the line of railway leading to Salonika.

ROUMANIAN PETROLEUM.

Although many Roumanian petroleum producers cut down operations, the total Roumanian output for the first quarter of the year was 468,685 tons, against 434,280 tons last year, an increase of about 8 per cent., due to a number of new gushers in the district of Baicoi. The returns for January were 168,561 tons, for February 137,966 tons, and for March 162,158 tons. Export difficulties have caused producers to accumulate large stocks. About a month ago exports viâ Predeal were resumed, but again interrupted a fortnight later owing to transport difficulties on the Hungarian railways. Producers have some apprehension, says the *Morning Post*, lest the space still available in the reservoirs becomes exhausted. Raw oil and oil products have been chiefly diverted to the reservoirs, and the Government has taken steps to encourage the management of the various concerns to see to the storing of arrears. The recapture by Austria-Hungary of the oil-producing district of Baryslaw-Tustanowice is regarded as a factor calculated to aggravate matters in the Roumanian industry. Prices of raw oil have again weakened, and buying has been checked.



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Engineering Notes.

Cobalt Steel.

In recent works of reference, Cobalt is described as "a grey metal, malleable and resembling nickel, found in combination with arsenic and sulphur," and that "it is of great value in the arts as a colouring medium, its protoxide yielding a brilliant blue, largely utilised for colouring glass and porcelains, as well as painting pigments." Yet, to-day, cobalt is recognised as a most valuable engineering material, which, like tungsten and molybdenum, has come to be of great industrial importance. At the present time, when there is a great need of tools for the production of shells and munitions, tool-steel is needed in every factory at home, as well as in other friendly or neutral countries, in order to cope with the increasing demand of output. Considerable quantities of the steel in question were hitherto exported from Germany to other countries, but that source being closed, buyers experience great difficulty in obtaining the required supplies. It will, therefore, be of interest to them to hear of a new British tool-steel, and its superior properties. Recent experiments have shown that tool-steel made of a suitable alloy of iron, carbon, and cobalt, is capable of speeding up to a remarkable degree any work in connection with the production of war material, so far as turning, planing, slotting, drilling, and milling of iron and steel is concerned. This special steel, which is a British production, has been tested in America against a vanadium steel with a ½-inch diameter twist-drill. The cobalt steel drill made 15,200 holes before the drill required to be ground, the hole depth being ½-inch through a malleable casting, and the drill running at 820 revolutions per minute under a large stream of oil. No other alloy steel drill could do better than 2,200 holes under similar conditions before re-grinding.

Treatment of Cobalt.

The heat treatment of cobalt steel is simpler than that of any other high-speed tool-steel. The forging of tools is done at a yellow heat, and hardening is effected merely by heating up the tool to a white heat, and allowing it to cool in the open air. Superheating to a fusing point is entirely unnecessary with cobalt steel, and quenching in the usual media, such as air-blast, tallow, whale or linseed oil, molten lead, petroleum, or water, is not required.

German scientists and experts admitted that "the employment of cobalt in the production of high-speed steels is followed by a remarkable increase in the cutting power and durability, without increasing the purchasing price above the average market price," which is about 3s. 9d. per lb.

According to Professors Arnold and Read, whose paper on "The Chemical and Mechanical Relations of Iron, Cobalt, and Carbon" was read at a recent meeting of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, cobalt steel may be produced by melting together in suitable proportions ingots of pure cobalt, Swedish bar iron, and Swedish white iron, afterwards adding pure metallic manganese and aluminium ten minutes before teeming. Cobalt has a brilliant silver-white appearance when polished, and, like iron, is very magnetic, being, in fact, next to iron on the list of magnetic metals. It melts at 1,490 deg. Cent., as compared with 1,520 deg. for iron, while its specific gravity of 8.8 is well above that of iron, which is 7.8.

British Resources.

Canada is the world's principal producer of cobalt; in fact, all the cobalt of commerce emanates from the neighbourhood of the town of Cobalt, which is situated in North Ontaria, near the shores of Lake Tamagaminque. The deposits, which were only recently discovered, are immensely rich also in silver. It is hoped, therefore, that now that the value of cobalt steel has been realised, there will be an ever-increasing demand for a metal of which our Empire appears to possess unlimited supplies.

THE BAGHDAD RAILWAY.

We reproduced last week from the *Engineer* a paragraph dealing with the Baghdad Railway. The following table, from the same source, gives particulars of the sections opened for traffic at the beginning of the present year, and the dates when they were made available for general use. They constitute about half the entire comprehensive scheme of railway construction in these regions, and, barring the short passages of the mountains, the most difficult part technically, the lines which still have to be built in Mesopotamia altogether pass through level country:—

West of the Cilician Taurus.

	Km.
Konia-Bulgurlu (October 25, 1904)	200
Bulgurlu-Ulukisla (July 1, 1911)	38
Ulukishla-Karapuna (December 21, 1913)	53
Total	291

In the Plain from Adana.

	Km.
Dorak-Jenidje-Mamure (April 27, 1912)	115
Toprak-Kale-Alexandretta (November 1, 1913)	60
Total	175

Between the Amanus Mountains and the Euphrates.

	Km.
Radiun-Aleppo-Djerablus (December 15, 1912)	203
Euphrates Bridge-Tel-el-Abiad (February, 1915) about	60
About	263

In Babylonia.

	Km.
Baghdad-Sumikeh (June 2, 1914)	62
Sumikeh-Istabulat (August 27, 1914)	38
Istabulat-Samarra (October 7, 1914)	30
Total	130

Added to this there is the small branch line in the Adana plain—Adana-Mersina, 67 km.—which the Baghdad Company has acquired, and which, until the opening of the port of Alexandretta for the Asia Minor portions of the Baghdad Railway, represents the only access to the sea. That makes an aggregate of 926 km. of the Baghdad Railway so far opened for traffic, whilst the entire distance from Konia to Basra amounts to 2,190 km.

In addition to the portions of the main line which still have to be built (a further section—Tel-el-Abiad-Ras-el-Ain—was opened last week), a number of branch lines have been planned, which can be built by degrees and independently of each other, but the plans for which have already in the main been drawn up. These are:—

	Km.
Bagliche-Marash	65
To Aintab	40
Djerablus-Bireduk	38
To Uria	40
El Helif-Mardin-Diarbekr-Charput	220
Mossul Erbil	100
Sadije-Chapikin	130
To Tus Churmatli	95
El Badji-Hit	160
Total	888

These branch lines with the main railway and the Adana-Messina and Toprak Kale-Alexandretta branch lines, already opened for traffic, and with an aggregate length of 127 km., make an aggregate of 3,205 km. of railway in this region of the Near East. The Germans count upon these as a future German railway system, and also the railways in Anatolia already built or, so far, only planned. Likewise, the Angora-Sinas line, which was planned just before the war broke out, but the construction of which in the meantime probably will be left in abeyance. This railway, which is the first effort in the matter of railway building in Northern Asia Minor, where no line has hitherto been constructed, at the wishes of Russia, is, no doubt, only the beginning of a comprehensive overland line, which will join with the above-mentioned branch line of the Baghdad Railway, the Charput-Diarbekr-Mardin-El Helif line. It may be mentioned here that the construction of this new overland line means the realisation of the oldest project in connection with the Baghdad Railway, which was dropped owing to Russia's objection to any railways being built through North and East Asia Minor, when the present Baghdad scheme through Southern Asia Minor was substituted. The war has relieved Turkey of any considerations as regards Russia.

EGYPTIAN VESSEL TORPEDOED.

On June 1, s.s. Saidieh, of the Khedivial Mail Line, was torpedoed in the North Sea by a German submarine. The first news of this hostile act was received in Egypt from the London offices of the company. It appears that the losses include one English lady passenger and six Greek firemen and one Greek sailor.

The following information is from the *Egyptian Gazette*:—The s.s. Saidieh used to travel on the Piræus-Constantinople line before the war and was a favourite steamer. Her old skipper, Captain Findlay, is now in command of the s.s. Abbassieh, which is at the present moment in Leith. Her present skipper was Captain Ryall.

The s.s. Saidieh left Alexandria on May 15 for Hull. She was chartered by Cox's Shipping Agency and carried a cargo of cotton seed and onions. She was fully insured.

The manifest was as follows:—

Behrend and Co., Ltd., 933 cotton seed.

	Bags Onions.
H. Deff	500
F. Vidal and Fils	1,000
R. Toriel	1,000
G. Philippidis	1,000
A. Constantinou	500
Farg. Bey Said	987
Kaniskeri	11,218
	16,205

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Alexandria Notes.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

ALEXANDRIA, June 22.

Local conditions have improved, in spite of the fact that the cotton crop has brought us in £16,000,000 less than last year. Sugar, onion, and barley crops have been good, but, on the other hand, the bean crop has not been good, and the wheat crop disastrous. Rice, however, presents a record crop, owing to the restriction of cotton-growing.

Though the Stock Exchange is still officially closed, "street" operations are frequent. The most sought-after shares are Crédit Fonciers, National Banks, Agriculturals, Turkish Lottery Bonds, Salt and Sodas, Port Said Salt Company, and the Levant S.S. Company.

Union Foncière d'Egypte.

As a result of the important sums taken from the profit and loss account for extraordinary amortisations, the balance-sheet for the year shows a loss of £E14,614, from which must be deducted last year's carry-forward, leaving a net loss of £E9,784.

The effects of the war and of the cotton crop have been felt by the company. Thus, the total value of the arrivals in Alexandria of cotton and cotton seed is £E15,626,017, as against £E31,503,643 last year. The company owns 9,170 feddans of land.

Nungovich Hotels.

Profits for the financial year 1914-15 amount to £E17,712, which, with the carry-forward of last year, brings the total profits up to £E23,401. Expenditure, including redemption of debentures, etc., amounts to £E25,230, so that the final balance-sheet shows a loss of £E1,828. The tourist season was *nil* this year, but, in spite of this, the company was able to meet all its financial charges. As a result of the war, the company was obliged to limit its work to local requirements. The Grand Continental was open the whole winter, and results were satisfactory. In spite of the bad year, the thermal establishment at Helouan did well. The Savoy Hotel and the Hotel des Bains and the Grand Hotel at Helouan remained closed. As for the Casino San Stefano and Mena House, they were both requisitioned as military hospitals. When war broke out the company had started building and improvement works, which had to be stopped.

The capital of the company in shares is £E144,300, and its immovable property is estimated at £E563,318. The reserve stands at £E104,704, and the mortgage debentures in circulation amount to £E357,396.

EGYPTIAN REVENUE DECREASE.

Cabling on Monday, the Cairo correspondent of *The Times* gave the following final figures of the State accounts for the year ended March 31:—

	£E.
Revenue	15,389,124
Expenditure	16,857,783
Deficit	1,468,659

which is debited to general reserve, reducing the latter to £E3,634,890 on April 1 last.

The revenue was £E2,198,876 and the expenditure £E1,304,217 less than had been budgetted for, thus making the deficit £E894,659 more than had been expected. During the period £E115,800 of the Public Debt was amortized.

ENEMY COMPANIES IN EGYPT.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, June 15.

An interesting question has come up for settlement by the local authorities. Amongst the many commercial enterprises which the active Teuton founded in this country as an outward sign of his peaceful mission, but in reality as a covering to the web of political intrigue that he was ordered to weave by the Wilhelmstrasse, was a cotton ginning and cotton pressing company under the name of the Baumwollpress Aktien Gesellschaft. This company was, of course, on the outbreak of the war regarded as an enemy concern and treated as such. A short while ago, the company changed its name to that of the "Egyptian Cotton Presses," and made to recommence operations. The military authorities intervened and refused to sanction the change of name. It now transpires that three-eighths of the capital (£E30,000 out of £E80,000) and one-half of the debentures belong to British subjects, and that there is not a single German left in the company, whilst the local banks, who had a lien on certain stock, had appointed the Bonded Stores to manage the affairs of the company. The authorities have now been approached for permission to carry on the business of the company, and there is little doubt, as it is now under entirely British management, that permission will be secured for the benefit of the British capitalists interested, and that provision will be made for the setting apart of the profits accruing on the German capital invested therein against the day when all enemy property will be taken over on account of indemnities due from Germany for damage done to private properties of the Allied subjects.

NATIONAL BANK OF GREECE.

ESTABLISHED IN 1841.

CAPITAL - Dr. 20,000,000. RESERVES - Dr. 13,500,000.

Head Office: ATHENS.

BRANCHES.

Aegion, Agrinion, Almyros, Amalias, Amphissa, Arta, Atalante, Calamata, Calavryta, Céphalonia, Chalkis, Corfu, Corinth, Cythère, Dimitzana, Gythium, Ithaque, Janina, Karditza, Kyparissia, Lamia, Larissa, Lévadia, Mégalopoli, Messina, Missolonghi, Naupacta. Nauplia, Patras, Paxos, Piræus, Poros, Pylos, Pyrgos, St. Maure, Salonika, Santorin, Sparta, Syra, Thèbes, Trikkala, Tripoli, Volo, Zante,

Every kind of Banking Business Transacted. **Correspondents in all Parts of the World.**

Cable Address—NATIONALBANK, ATHENS. Codes Used—LIEBER'S; A.B.C. (5th Edition).

NATIONAL BANK OF BULGARIA.

State Bank of Emission. Established 1879.

Head Office - - SOPHIA.

Branches at Sophia, Roustschouk, Varna, Philippopolis, Tirnovo, Burgas, Widin, Plevna, Sistov, Sliven, T.-Pazardjic, Shumla, Stara-Zagora, Gabrovo, Dede-Agatch, Xanthie, Gumuldjina, and 70 agencies.

Capital - 20,000,000 leva gold = £800,000. Reserve Funds - 10,500,000 leva gold = £420,000

EVERY KIND OF BANKING BUSINESS TRANSACTED.

Governor, CHR. TCHAKALOFF.

AGRICULTURAL BANK OF BULGARIA

(BANQUE AGRICOLE DE BULGARIE).

PRIVILEGED CREDIT ESTABLISHMENT.

ESTABLISHED IN 1864.

CAPITAL (fully paid-up) - - Frs. 45,500,000
RESERVE FUNDS - - - ,, 14,500,000

Head Office: SOFIA.

85 Branches and 100 Agencies in all the principal centres of Bulgaria.
Banking and Stock Exchange Operations undertaken. Special Service for Debt Collection Transfers, Letters of Credit, etc.

ROYAL EXCHANGE ASSURANCE CORPORATION.

Incorporated in A.D. 1720.
ROYAL EXCHANGE, LONDON, E.C.

FIRE AND LIFE.

Egyptian Branch: Head Office, Cairo.
39, Shareh el Manakh. Telephone 4114.

Agencies:
ALEXANDRIA - GABBARI STORAGE CO., 3, Pl. Mohamed Aly
Agents in all the principal towns in Egypt and the Sudan.

The Corporation accepts all classes of FIRE INSURANCE, such as MERCANTILE RISKS, HOUSE PROPERTY, FURNITURE, etc., etc., on the best possible terms and effects LIFE INSURANCE in Egypt at the same rates and under the same conditions as in England.

Proposals and requests for information should be sent to the Office of the Corporation.

EVERARD STOKES,
Manager for Egypt and the Sudan.

Telegraphic Address, "FOXHOUND," Cairo.

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COMPANY MEETINGS.

BANK OF ATHENS.

At the recent general meeting of shareholders of the Bank of Athens, which was held in Athens, the Chairman of the Board of Directors made the following statement:—

"Last year the new and grave difficulties with which the bank was confronted by the stir made by the prosecution of the former managers, and by the clauses of the moratorium, did not permit the Board to present the shareholders with anything better than a trial balance-sheet, as the task of meeting these difficulties took all the time of the general management and made the exact evaluation of the assets impossible. It was hoped that such exceptional circumstances would soon cease to exist and that a detailed statement might be drawn up as the directors had wished. That has not been possible, unhappily. The prosecutions which were started in September, 1913, lasted the whole year, and their continuation is aggravating in the highest degree the state of mind of the public, for whom the persistence of the judicial action, the scope of which they had not at first understood, had a significance which inspired them with lively uneasiness and prevented them from giving their entire confidence to the bank. The consequences of this state of mind are to be found notably in serious withdrawals of deposits, a total of 29,189,000 drachmas, which is a source of continual worry to the directors. The foreign markets were also profoundly impressed, and under such conditions it was difficult, not to say impossible, to think of finding any support whatever or of finding a basis for a new financial organisation. The moratorium was not only maintained in Greece, but circumstances imposed similar methods in Turkey and also in Egypt. This prevented any useful action for the realization of the assets of the bank. The most formidable war that history has known has for ten months hurled five Great Powers one against the other, as well as several smaller Powers, and if Greece has so far stood apart from the hostilities, it should be remembered that three of the countries in which the bank has agencies, Great Britain, Turkey and Egypt, figure among the belligerents, and that we are suffering from all the difficulties of the state of war peculiar to each of these countries, as well as the general consequences of the upheaval that has taken place in the domain of economics. The events which last year made the drawing up of a trial balance-sheet necessary, far from diminishing, have become extended and aggravated, and have even more imperiously obliged the Board this year to present a similar balance-sheet." The Chairman of the Board, after this frank statement of the difficulties with which the bank found itself confronted, wound up his declaration with the encouraging assurance that, after all, there was plenty of life left in the bank as the National Bank of Greece was the chief shareholder, and that groups of French financiers, represented by the Banque de l'Union Parisienne, had promised help after the war.—*Egyptian Gazette.*

ELLERMAN LINES.

The fifteenth ordinary general meeting of the Ellerman Lines, Ltd., was held on Wednesday at the offices, 12, Moorgate Street, E.C., Sir John Ellerman, Bart. (Chairman of the company), presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said that the shares in the hands of the public carried a limited dividend and limited rights, and the results showed that, in the aggregate, the dividend was covered more than five times by the earnings of the company. During the greater period of the year under review the receipts were very satisfactory, and they had anticipated a largely increased profit. The declaration of war in August last had entirely changed that view; expenses were largely increased, delays and congestion took place, and the Government requisitioned steamers for the purpose of carrying troops and stores. He was glad to say that, owing to their policy of largely adding to their fleet in former years, they were able to give to the Government steamers aggregating practically 175,000 tons. Some of those steamers had now been returned, and now they had steamers aggregating nearly 80,000 tons employed by the Government. The rates which the Government paid were a little less than half of the market rate, so that all shipowners who were cheerfully accepting those rates were taking a share in the conduct of the war. Since January 1 of this year freights had increased very materially, and the results for the coming year should be of a favourable character. Rates, he thought, would continue to increase. They had suffered the loss of five steamers by the enemy, and the "City of Mysore" had also been lost by stranding. The construction of the steamers which they had building, involving about £1,000,000, had been very much delayed, and in many cases it was a question whether they would be able to obtain delivery until some time after the termination of the war. The financial position of the company was very satisfactory, and the value of the fleet, on the basis of the present market prices, was something like £10,000,000, as against the £3,500,000 at which it stood in the books of the company.

Mr. M. W. Mattinson, K.C., seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

EGYPTIAN AGRICULTURAL COMPANY.

Presiding at the annual meeting held on Monday, the chairman said that all their calculations had been upset and most of their hopes frustrated by the war. The cotton crop was about double in quantity that of the last year, and the quality was excellent, but prices realised were so much lower that the final results showed a set-back, especially as owing to the partial suspension of development work, a larger proportion of fixed charges had to be borne by revenue. Arrangements for providing funds were nearly completed last July when the war put an end to the negotiations for the time being, though it was hoped they would be revived when matters became normal. Meanwhile, such expenditure as could be prudently cut down was being provided for by temporary advances secured on the estates and assets. A moratorium having been declared in Egypt and business brought almost to a standstill, little progress could be made in realising outside assets, and there seemed no other course than to await the advent of better times. The report was adopted.

SUDSLAVISCHE BANK.

Head Office: 9, KARAGEORGE STREET, BELGRADE, SERVIA.

Branches: USKUB and MONASTIR, SERVIA.

BANKING, COMMISSION AND GENERAL AGENCY

Servian Municipal and Industrial Loans negotiated.

CONTRACTORS TO THE SERVIAN GOVERNMENT FOR THE SUPPLY OF ARMY EQUIPMENT AND RAILWAY MATERIAL.

SHIPBROKERS AND FORWARDING AGENTS.

Economical, Financial, and Commercial Information furnished. British Manufacturers and Contractors desiring to do business with Servia invited to communicate. Correspondence in English, French, and German.

COMPANY NOTES.

Bank of Abyssinia.

The report presented to the shareholders at the annual meeting of shareholders, held in Cairo on May 28 last, states that the gross profits for the year ending December 31, 1914, amounted to £8,621 13s. 5d., but the directors considered it necessary to set aside a sum of £12,000 as provision for bad and doubtful debts, to make various amortizations amounting to £2,247 12s., and to make a provision of £15,563 18s. 9d., corresponding to the depreciation in the value of the bank's assets caused by the heavy fall in the value in gold of the Maria Theresa dollar. Thus, after deducting a total of £29,811 10s. 9d., there is a debit balance of £21,189 17s. 4d.

Flower Motor Ship Company.

The directors report for the year ended December 31 that the running of the engines of the two vessels delivered to them, namely the Arum and the Arabis, has not been so successful as they had hoped. An agreement has been arrived at with Messrs. Swan, Hunter, and Wigham Richardson, Limited, by which they have assumed responsibility for the running of these ships, and have agreed to pay the shareholders 4 per cent. per annum interest. The m.v. Abelia, contracted for delivery in 1913, has not yet been delivered. The company has taken no further commitments and, consequently, it is not necessary to call up any further capital. Under these circumstances the company's capital remains intact, and after crediting interest earned and sundry profits, £7,954 18s. 10d., and debiting expenses, £317 17s. 9d., there remains at the credit of profit and loss account £7,637 1s. 1d., out of which your directors recommend the payment of a dividend of 4 per cent. on the paid-up capital (less income tax, which will be deducted at the rate of 1s. 6½d. in the £), leaving a balance of £637 1s. 1d. to be carried forward. Mr. Andreas Rickmers has ceased to be a director. In accordance with Article 90 of the Articles of Association, two directors, Sir Marcus Samuel, Bart., and Mr. James N. Graham, retire from the board, and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

British Cotton-Growing Association.

The directors report that during the year subscriptions amounting to £2,230 have been received from the North and North-East Lancashire Cotton Spinners' and Manufacturers' Association, £268 from the members of the Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' Association, £1,000 from the Liverpool Cotton Association, and £773 from the Co-operative Societies, operatives, and others, altogether amounting to £4,271, and making a total capital of £474,582, of which £454,225 has been allotted in the form of shares. The balance of capital yet to be raised amounts to £25,418, towards which £13,000 has been promised conditionally on the whole of the capital being subscribed, leaving a net balance of £12,418 still to be found. The business of the association was considerably affected by the war during the latter part of the year, as cotton was difficult to sell even at the low prices prevailing. The turnover in cotton in 1914, therefore, shows a reduction on the 1913 amount.

NEW COMPANY.

Society for Promoting British Trade, Limited.

Under the above heading a new company was registered at Somerset House on June 24, with a capital of £2,000 in £1 shares. The object is stated to be: to enter into a contract with C. Marks for the acquisition of the benefit of his knowledge and experience relating to the carrying on of exhibitions in Great Britain or abroad in connection with British and Colonial manufactures and trade. The management is vested in an executive council, consisting of not less than ten nor more than twenty members, the first of which are: Sir Francis Osborne, Bart., Sir Henry C. Eggar, Kt., M.V.O., W. Tarver, J.P., F. Shelford, Com. C. A. Denison, R.N., C. W. Forward, J. Simpson, C. Marks, W. I. Thomas, E. H. Laird, C. F Higham, R. L. Service, C. J. Drummond, C. J. Horner and J. Nayler (all permanent, subject to holding fifty shares).

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COMPANY RESULTS, &c.

BRITISH COTTON GROWING ASSOCIATION.—The tenth annual meeting of the shareholders will be held at the offices of the association, Manchester, on July 6.

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.—Receipts for the ten days ended June 10 amounted to £E3,494, as against £E5,588 for the corresponding period of last year.

EGYPT AND LEVANT STEAMSHIP COMPANY.—An interim dividend in respect of the year to January 31, 1916, at the rate of 5 per cent., less income-tax, has been declared on the ordinary shares, and is payable at the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Ltd., Cairo and Alexandria, or at the registered offices of the company in London, on presentation of Coupon No. 10.

KENEH ASSOUAN RAILWAY.—Coupon No. 40 of the 1st debenture issue of 1895 and Coupon No. 35 of the 2nd debenture issue of 1898 of the Société Anonyme du Chemin de Fer Keneh Assouan will be paid on July 1, at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum, at the Cairo, Alexandria, and London offices of the National Bank of Egypt.

LAND BANK OF EGYPT.—The numbers are announced of 275 4 per cent. debentures, Series I., 92 4 per cent. debentures, Series II.; and 62 4 per cent. debentures, Series III., redeemable on and after July 1.

MONTENEGRO 5 PER CENT. LOAN.—Messrs. Boulton Bros. and Co. announce that they have not yet been placed in funds to meet the half-yearly coupon due July 1, but that as soon as the necessary funds have been received by them an announcement will at once be made.

ROUMANIAN CONSOLIDATED OILFIELDS.—Production for the work ended 19th inst., 1,556 tons.

NATIONAL BANK OF ROUMANIA.

BALANCE-SHEET, MAY 23/5, 1915.

ASSETS.

Metallic reserve: Gold (specie)	161,644,411	
On deposit	25,220,000	
Gold (bars)	165,000	
Foreign bills payable in gold	71,032,341	258,061,752
Silver and other coins		640,572
Roumanian and foreign bills		219,345,358
Advances against Government securities	27,923,200	
On current account	49,962,800	51,670,106
Unused balance	26,215,894	23,746,906
Loan of 15 millions to the State		11,273,958
Loan to Government on 4 per cent. Treasury Bonds (1914)		179,138,495
Bank's capital invested in Government stock		11,537,860
Reserve invested in Government stock		16,476,677
Reserve, depreciation of buildings, furniture and printing machinery		3,965,281
Premises		6,733,709
Furniture and printing machinery		1,107,106
General expenses		1,370,315
Government and other securities deposited		130,697,741
Four per Cent. Gold Treasury Bonds as security for loan to State		200,000,000
Securities held against advances or temporarily lodged		162,737,933
Current accounts		21,231,251
Security accounts		22,289,826
Sundry accounts		30,493,068
Total Lei		1,328,771,008

LIABILITIES.

Capital	12,000,000
Reserve	39,714,199
Reserve, depreciation of buildings, furniture and printing machinery	5,768,306
Notes in circulation	640,329,300
Profit and loss account	6,698,029
Current accounts and drafts at sight	62,894,091
Securities, etc., held on account of customers	493,435,674
Sundry accounts	67,931,409
Total Lei	1,328,771,008

Bank Rate, 6 per cent.

CITY of ALEXANDRIA FOUR per CENT LOAN. The National Bank of Egypt announces that COUPON No. 27 of the City of Alexandria Four per Cent. Loan, due on 1st July, 1915, will be PAID at 3 and 4, Lothbury, London, E.C.

AGRICULTURAL BANK of EGYPT FOUR per CENT. CUMULATIVE PREFERRED SHARES. The National Bank of Egypt announces that COUPON No. 22 of the Agricultural Bank of Egypt Four per Cent. Cumulative Preferred Shares, due 1st July, 1915, will be PAID at its offices in Cairo, Alexandria, and London (3 and 4, Lothbury, E.C.).

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Situation au 30 Avril, 1915, publiée en conformité de l'Article 8 des Statuts.

SERVICE DE BANQUE.

Titres d'Etat et Titres garantis par le Gouvernement Egyptien		£E. 222,206
Titres divers		397,635
Comptes-Courants		295,088
Avances sur Marchandises		1,018,396
Avances sur Titres Locaux et Etrangers		1,635,126
Avances sur d'autres garanties		1,093,721
Effets sur l'Etranger		1,616,756
Effets sur l'Egypte		404,245
Immeubles et mobilier		244,574
Placements à courte échéance		1,638,000
Comptes Banquiers		811,028
Gouvernement du Soudan		428,665
Encaisse:		
Espèces:		
Or	£E.94,116	
Argent et nickel	£E.55,941	
	£E.150,057	
Billets de Banque	£E.537,469	687,526
Divers		107,709
		£E.10,600,675

	£E.
Capital	2,925,000
Réserve:—	
Statutaire	1,267,500
Comptes-Courants, Dépôts et autres	4,019,095
Tribunaux Mixtes	1,317,177
Ministère des Finances	511,195
Ministère Compte spécial	14,084
Comptes Banquiers	93,504
Chèques et effets à payer	186,144
Divers	266,976
	£E.10,600,675

SERVICE D'EMISSION DE BILLETS DE BANQUE.

Espèces	£E.5,310,369
Titres	2,439,631
	£E.7,750,000
Billets émis	£E.7,750,000
	£E.7,750,000

AGRICULTURAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Situation au 30 Mai.

Prêts Existants:

	1914. £E.		1915. £E.
Prêts à court terme	38,293	..	6,452
Catégorie "B"	6,161,481	..	5,465,768
Total	6,199,774	..	5,472,220
Echéances:			
Dues	32,180	..	23,325
A échoir	1,176,675	..	974,557
Total	1,208,855	..	997,882

Perceptions:

	1914. £E.		1915. £E.
Arriérés au 31 janvier	704,977	..	1,394,516
Restant	596,007	..	1,272,313
Perçu	108,970	..	122,233
Echéances:			
Perçu	5,014	..	5,402
Total perçu sur annuités échues	113,984	..	127,635

GREEK DEBT.

RECEIPTS FROM ASSIGNED REVENUES.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders issues the following information compiled from figures published by the International Financial Commission at Athens with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek Debt from January 1 to April 30, 1915 (New Style: January 14 to May 13, 1915) :—

—		Monopolies, Tobacco, Stamps, Stamped Paper, Naxos Emery.	Piræus Customs.
		Drachmæ.	Drachmæ.
Gross Receipts, Apr.,	1915	3,110,116	2,205,274
Do. do. do	1914	2,627,615	2,521,489
Estimated Receipts for 4 months (Law of Control)		9,633,333	3,566,667
Actual Receipts, 4 months,	1915	12,717,086	8,842,887
Do. do. do.,	1914	13,442,646	10,115,333
Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 4 months	1915	+ 3,083,753	+ 5,276,221
	1914	+ 3,809,313	+ 6,548,666

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

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE	Mean Price. July 27.	Min. Price. Mar. 20.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	—	92
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907	82	—	—
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909	80	—	66
City of Alexandria 5%, 1909	99	—	90½
City of Constantinople 4% Bnds	96	—	—
Egypt, Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan	93½	87⅛	87⅛
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	85	88⅜
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	88	78	78⅛
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82½	73½	78⅜
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	80½	75	75⅜
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	52	56⅛d
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	52	55½d
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	45	50½d
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	40	44
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	52	55½
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	—	51½d
Do. 4 % Rails. Loan, 1902	77	—	68½d
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	94	—	95
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	—	77½
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	91	—	80
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £60p.	92	—	85
Servian 4 % Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855	103	97	—
Do. 4 %, 1891	94½	—	86
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	—	78½
Do. 4 % Loan, 1902	82½	—	—
Do. 4 % Unified	79	—	58
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	65½	—	49⅞
Do. 4 %, 1909	69	—	47⅛
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	—	3⅜
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	—	6⅜d
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.	80	—	73
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red.	83	—	76
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	—	10
Bank of Abyssinia	½	—	—
Bank of Athens	£2	—	—
Bank of Roumania	8½	—	—
Eastern Bank	5	—	85/9
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅜	—	6⅝
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	—	—
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅞	—	72/6
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	—	4⅜
National Bank of Egypt	13⅜	—	12
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½% C.P.	8	—	6½
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8½	—	nom. 6⅜
Do. do. 5 % Debs., Red.	98	—	95
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I.	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88½	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17⅜	—	13½
Do. do. 6 % Cum. Pref.	22	—	15
Do. do. 4 % 1st Deb.	87	—	62½d
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb.	101	—	69½d
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	90	—	—
Do. do. 3 % Bonds	61	—	—
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	—	⅜
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	—	95
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	¼	—	—
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	—	2⅛
Do. Do. Def.	¼	—	—
Béhéra Co.	¼	—	—
Do. Pref.	8¼	—	7⅜
Daira Sanieh	4½	—	3½d
Do. Def.	2/2	—	2/6
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	⅜	—	20/-
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	—	—	—
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tst.	9/-	—	7/-xd
Do and Foreign Trust	98	—	90
Gharbieh Land Co.	5/-	—	⅜
" " Founders	1⅜	—	1⅛
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	¼	—	—
Do. 5 % Debs. Red.	—	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	—	—	—
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	9⅜	—	7⅛
New Egyptian Co.	97	—	90
Sidi Salem Co.	9/3	—	1/2
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	⅜	—	⅜
United Egyptian Lands	1½	—	⅜
	1/9	—	-/10½
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	—	11
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt.	97	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	—	—
Egyptian Hotels	1½	—	—
Do. 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—	—
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1 1/16	—	1½d
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	99⅜	—	99
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	1/16	—	14/3
Do. 5 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	96	—	98
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	—	10/-
Do. do. Prefs.	3⅜	—	3xd
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt.	90	—	85
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (fr.500)	£179½	—	£—
Upper Egypt Hotels	2½	—	—

OIL.	Price on July 30.	June 23.
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	3/16	7/16
Anglo-Persian	22/1½	21/-
Cyprus Oil Trust	2/3	2/3
European Oilfields	4/9	3/6
Roumanian	20/-	15/-

PARIS BOURSE.

	Jan. 4.	June 30.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane	—	465
Canal de Suez	4050	4305
Credit Foncier Egyptien	639	585
Turkish Unified 4%	61.50	61
Egyptian Unified 4%	87.75	88.15
Serbian, 1895	—	64.50

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 218.—Vol. IX. FRIDAY, JULY 9, 1915.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Much has been published during the week regarding the operations at the Dardanelles. One dispatch from Sir Ian Hamilton deals with the fighting between June 30 and July 2, in which the enemy is estimated to have lost 20,000 men. The scene was the ground won by our troops on the previous days in the neighbourhood of Krithia, and the Turks assumed the offensive. In the middle of the night of June 29, after a day of unsuccessful attacks, they were discovered by the searchlights of H.M.S. Scorpion, to be advancing on our trenches. Few of that half-battalion escaped from the ship's gunfire, but it was only the prelude to a series of attacks delivered throughout the night. Twice our troops were driven back a short distance, but in the early morning the trenches were retaken, "and they have since been strengthened." These attacks, according to the statements of prisoners, were made by the personal order of Enver Pasha, who was present in the trenches on June 29. Stringent orders had previously been issued that no further attacks were to be made, because, if the Turks remained on the defensive, the British would be forced to attack, and would suffer as severely as the Turks had hitherto suffered. But these Fabian tactics did not suit Enver Pasha's impetuous disposition, and he is credited with having given the order that the Australians were to be driven into the sea.

The complete failure of Enver Pasha's tactics, which were renewed on July 2, and again on July 4, with as disastrous results as before, will lead, it is to be feared, to the re-adoption of the policy which he overruled. The contention that, if the Turks remain on the defensive, we shall have to attack is sound; but we shall hope to find that from now on our troops will not suffer as severely as the Turks did, nor as the Allied forces have suffered in the past. Up to the end of May the total casualties among the British naval and military forces were only a few hundred short of 39,000. There has been heavy fighting since, and in five weeks these figures will have received substantial additions. But gradually the Allies must be overhauling the disadvantages under which the attack has had to be carried out hitherto. No attempt is now made to minimise the seriousness of the task before our naval and military forces, and we may expect our superior resources in men and material to tell before many weeks have passed.

Elsewhere in this issue we publish extracts from Sir Ian Hamilton's dispatch on the operations at the Dardanelles up to May 5. Few people will be able to read his stirring narrative without a thrill of admiration for the troops who undertook what might well have been regarded as an impossible task. But there is the other side of the picture. When the operations covered by the dispatch were over, the Allied position on Gallipoli Peninsula was almost as far advanced as it is to-day. The slight progress achieved in the intervening two months and the heavy toll of life that it has entailed tell their own story. To-day the Dardanelles operations occupy a different position from that which they were intended to assume when they were first planned. They have become virtually an objective in themselves, and are no longer a means to an end. The opening of the Straits and the Bosphorus will be in due course an incident of the war; but we shall do well not to seek to measure its results by the cost of the operations on Gallipoli.

Under the heading "Calais or Suez," the *Deutsche Tageszeitung* gives prominence to an article appearing in *Das Groessere Deutschland*, which discussed the relative importance of Calais and Suez to Great Britain. A British statesman, it is pointed out, if confronted with a choice between "an anti-British Calais or a non-British Suez, a menace to the English Channel or the closing of the Egyptian canal, would without hesitation or doubt resign Calais and stand by Suez." This ingenious dilemma, which has special significance at this moment, serves the writer as an introduction to the statement that it is still essential to Germany that Egypt should be conquered. The attempt made at the beginning of the year was merely a "*Studienreise*" undertaken with the express intention of gaining experience and fixing the conditions under which the real attack would have to be made. "German engineers are now building to this very end a Syrian railway and a Sinai railway, which will later on bring up the necessary heavy artillery and convey it across." The way from Constantinople will then be free, and the way from Berlin to Constantinople, it is asserted, must become free as the result of the decisive victory in Galicia. "There and then can England be struck, and receive her death-blow—let us hope before this war is at an end."

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The *Deutsche Tageszeitung* endorses all that its contemporary has to say about Egypt and the Suez Canal, and bids its countrymen reconcile themselves to a long war in order that the object in view may be achieved. Great Britain, we are told, is the soul and leader of the anti-German Coalition, and her destruction cannot be postponed; therefore, it must certainly take place "before this war is at an end." But at the same time the *Deutsche Tageszeitung* cannot allow the idea of a German Calais to be dismissed lightly. Suez does not exclude Calais, nor does Calais exclude Suez. The two objectives must not be regarded as alternatives, but must be pursued simultaneously. The point is not one on which we are able to give the Germans any advice; they must decide for themselves how many or how few "first objectives" they set out to attain. We welcome, however, the candid assumption that it is Germany who is to be established at Suez as well as at Calais. Her Turkish allies will, no doubt, be pleased at the prospect, and, after their experience of German rule in Constantinople, will redouble their efforts to win Egypt for the Germans.

When the article was written any further "thrust at Calais" seemed almost as remote as a second advance against Egypt; but the report that Calais, by order of the German Emperor, has still to be taken at all costs raises the question whether a more resolute attempt may not yet be made to throw an invading army across the Suez Canal. On this subject Djemal Pasha has had some interesting remarks to make to a German correspondent. He claims that the Turkish frontier line has now been shifted three hundred miles westwards, from El Arish and Akaba to a point near the Canal. This "conquered" territory, he added, is being developed in every direction. "We have constructed there numerous wells, which will supply water to our troops, and we have taken other measures to enable our army to stay and to march there. . . . Since the English have turned the Canal into a war zone, we too no longer regard the Canal as neutral territory, and have, therefore, placed mines in different parts of it, by which one ship has already been sunk." Djemal Pasha's line of reasoning in regard to the fortification of the Suez Canal is thoroughly in keeping with that of his German overlords, and no doubt he reflects the intentions entertained at one time or another by the German authorities in regard to Egypt. But there is reason to believe that the army for which the Sinai Desert has been made to blossom as a rose has received an urgent call elsewhere, and that Djemal Pasha himself has had to go to the Dardanelles. It would be in keeping with German practice to emphasize the greater importance of the Suez Canal at a moment when a fresh attempt on Calais was being prepared.

The incidence of the harvest and the fact that negotiations are actually in progress combine to account for an absence of definite news from the Balkans. Both in the case of Roumania and Bulgaria the approach of harvest time would offer a strong inducement to postpone for another few weeks a declaration of war that had been put off until that moment. This year the crops, in addition to being well above the average, are vested with special importance for any country about to be drawn into the war. At the same time the Roumanian no less that the Bulgarian Government is glad to have so ready an excuse for deferring its fateful decision. The prospect of a long war can have no attractions for a Balkan State, and in a campaign in which war expenditure can be reckoned in substantial sums by the day even a week's postponement becomes an important consideration.

The situation in the Balkans is admitted to have been the chief subject discussed between the German Imperial Chancellor and the Austro-Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs at the meeting which took place in Vienna during the latter part of June. This fact is only a further indication of the importance attached by the Central Powers to the maintenance of Roumanian and Bulgarian neutrality. No stone is being left unturned to influence the two Balkan countries in favour of Germany and Austria-Hungary. We may affect to despise their methods, but it has to be admitted that neutrality continues to be maintained in three Balkan States. The importance of this fact to the Central Powers can be gauged by the successes they have achieved during the last month in Galicia, which would not have been possible if Roumania had already taken the field. Among the measures taken to influence Roumanian opinion may be mentioned the distribution of thousands of copies of a book containing Count Tisza's speeches on the Roumanian question, including statements on Hungary's policy towards the Roumanian nationalities within her borders.

The announcement is made that Mr. H. J. O'Beirne, Counsellor of Embassy at Petrograd, has been appointed British Minister to Sofia in the place of Sir Henry Bax-Ironside. A change of Ministers at Sofia at this moment can hardly be dissociated from the negotiations now in progress between the Bulgarian Government and the Entente Powers. Ten months after the outbreak of the European War the British Government tardily admits the importance of having Bulgaria on the side of the Triple Entente. It is thus realised apparently for the first time how far during the last few years Bulgaria has been allowed to drift from a natural friendship with Great Britain. In order to win her back again, not by intrigues after German methods, but by the establishment of normal diplomatic intercourse, special missions have become necessary and a change of British representatives in the Bulgarian capital. We have had to pay dearly for the preoccupations of British diplomacy, which have not allowed British interests in the Balkans to receive adequate attention in the past. Mr. O'Beirne goes to Sofia with a reputation of consummate tact and marked ability. His known sympathy with the Bulgarians should stand the country in good stead at the present time.

In the course of his reply to a deputation of the Southern Slav Committee, Lord Crewe, acting at the Foreign Office for Sir Edward Grey, made some remarks, which may well be taken to heart at this time in the Balkans. Never, he said, in so far as he had studied history, neither in consequence of a war of liberation, boldly undertaken, nor with the help of powerful coalitions, had any nation realized to the full extent all its desires of expansion or its dreams of territorial acquisition. It was useless to ask why. Doubtless it has sometimes been because there existed, so to speak, a fringe of population on the frontiers which it was difficult to classify as belonging to one race rather than another. We could not hope that at the end of this war history would not repeat herself. These words of caution may not be necessary for the Balkan Governments; they are undoubtedly necessary for the Balkan peoples. In the Press particularly little heed would seem to be paid to the axioms to which Lord Crewe gave expression. If the lesson had been learnt in the Near East there would be far less mutual recrimination between the leading newspapers of the different countries.

In a letter to the *Egyptian Gazette*, Bishop MacInnes, of Jerusalem, touches upon Cairo's need for a new church or cathedral. Not only is the present structure in a very bad state, but it is now far too small for the congregation during about five months of every winter season in normal times. Although the committee of All Saints' Church has decided to postpone the issue of an appeal until the autumn, Bishop MacInnes has been asked to make a statement on the subject, in order that gifts or promises of help may be received at once. The proposal, it is hardly necessary to say, is one with which we are in hearty sympathy. We can conceive of no more fitting memorial of this war in its relation to Egypt, the establishment of a Protectorate, the magnificent achievements in Gallipoli Peninsula of the troops, based on the country, than a cathedral in Cairo. A lasting

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tribute must be raised to the heroic feats of arms associated with Gallipoli. The Peninsula itself will not offer a suitable site, but there is much to be said for the selection of Egypt. We shall hope to find, therefore, that Bishop MacInnes' proposal meets with a spontaneous response. Into the question that it raises of a cathedral without a bishop we need not enter here, for by the time the building is completed this difficulty may have been overcome.

In referring to conditions in Constantinople, the correspondent of *The Times* in the Balkan Peninsula mentions the fact that much relief is felt in the city because the British submarines in the Sea of Marmora abstain from torpedoing passenger steamers. On one occasion a steamer plying from Constantinople to Skutari met a submarine sailing on the surface with the British flag displayed. Great panic prevailed on board, but the steamer was allowed to proceed unmolested. As a rule there is reason to be sceptical of reports regarding conditions in an enemy country; but, apart from the medium through which this information reaches us, it is evident that the action of our submarine commanders in sparing passenger steamers has sufficiently impressed the Turks to allow them to testify to their relief. We may hope that they will go further and compare the British action with the "frightfulness" their German allies practise on the helpless passengers in the ships which their submarines meet.

An official despatch from Constantinople states that in the Bahr Sorak region a British expedition which was being conveyed by the Euphrates railway northwards suffered a defeat at the hands of the Turks and was forced to retire. The report requires confirmation before it can be believed in all its details. There is, however, no reason why a British force should not be operating in the region mentioned. With the occupation of Amara it was clear that force of circumstances had compelled a modification of the original intention to confine the Expeditionary Force to the Shatt-el-Arab. Any movement up the Tigris would entail a second line of advance, which would naturally follow the Euphrates valley. When the facts of the second advance are known, we may hope to find that the Turkish "success" has been greatly exaggerated.

The future of Hamburg is of greater concern to Germany than to the Near and Middle East. But the latter are regarded as of considerable importance to Hamburg, and it is of interest to note how the city which has suffered more than any other in Germany is being buoyed up with hopes of what the future has in store. It is admitted that a long time must elapse before Germany's trade with her present enemies can assume the proportions it reached before the war. On the other hand, make-weight, it is stated, will be found in a closer relationship with her Allies, while a particularly attractive outlook offers in the "Mohammedan world." The completion of the Baghdad Railway is to work wonders for German trade in Mesopotamia and Persia, to which have to be added Afghanistan and Baluchistan. Tripoli, Morocco, and China are also to be at Germany's feet as a result of the war. The picture is painted in purely commercial colours, and does not appear to rest on any sweeping victories for German arms. From the point of view of Hamburg's mercantile marine, however, it overlooks one important consideration; it is that, if at the end of the war Germany were denied for a substantial period the use of the Allies' coaling stations, her shipping would hardly be seen east of Gibraltar.

THE GALLIPOLI LANDING.

SIR IAN HAMILTON'S DISPATCH.

The following are extracts from Sir Ian Hamilton's dispatch of May 20, referred to in our Notes of the Week. They are taken from the introductory remarks, which explain many points that have hitherto presented puzzles to students of the Dardanelles operations.

In accordance with your lordship's instructions I left London on March 13 with my General Staff, reaching Tenedos on March 17, shortly after noon.

Immediately on arrival I conferred with Vice-Admiral de Robeck, commanding the Eastern Mediterranean Fleet; General d'Amade, commanding the French Corps Expéditionnaire; and Contre Amiral Guepratte, in command of the French squadron. At this conference past difficulties were explained to me, and the intention to make a fresh attack on the morrow was announced. The amphibious battle between warships and land fortresses took place next day, March 18. I witnessed these stupendous events, and thereupon cabled your lordship my reluctant deduction that the co-operation of the whole of the force under my command would be required to enable the Fleet effectively to force the Dardanelles.

By that time I had already carried out a preliminary reconnaissance of the north-western shore of the Gallipoli Peninsula, from its isthmus, where it is spanned by the Bulair fortified lines, to Cape Helles, at its extremest point. From Bulair this singular feature runs in a south-westerly direction for fifty-two miles, attaining near its centre a breadth of twelve miles. The northern coast of the northern half of the promontory slopes downwards steeply to the Gulf of Xeros, in a chain of hills, which extend as far as Cape Sulva. The precipitous fall of these hills precludes landing except at a few narrow gullies, far too restricted for any serious military movements. . . .

The three dominating features in this southern section seemed to me to be :—

(1) Saribair Mountain, running up in a succession of almost perpendicular escarpments to 970 ft. The whole mountain seemed to be a network of ravines and covered with thick jungle.

(2) Kilid Bahr plateau, which rises, a natural fortification artificially fortified, to a height of 700 ft. to cover the forts of the Narrows from an attack from the Ægean.

(3) Achi Babi, a hill 600 ft. in height, dominating at long field-gun range . . . the toe of the peninsula.

Altogether the result of this and subsequent reconnaissances was to convince me that nothing but a thorough and systematic scheme for flinging the whole of the troops under my command very rapidly ashore could be expected to meet with success; whereas, on the other hand, a tentative or piecemeal programme was bound to lead to disaster. The landing of an army upon the theatre of operations I have described—a theatre strongly garrisoned throughout, and prepared for any such attempt—involved difficulties for which no precedent was forthcoming in military history, except possibly in the sinister legends of Xerxes. The beaches were either so well defended by works and guns, or else so restricted by Nature that it did not seem possible, even by two or three simultaneous landings, to pass the troops ashore quickly enough to enable them to maintain themselves against the rapid concentration and counter-attack which the enemy was bound in such case to attempt. It became necessary, therefore, not only to land simultaneously at as many points as possible, but to threaten to land at other points as well. The first of these necessities involved another unavoidable, if awkward contingency, the separation by considerable intervals of the force.

Before doing anything else I had to redistribute the troops on the transports to suit the order of their disembarkation. The bulk of the forces at my disposal had, perforce, been embarked without its having been possible to pay due attention to the operation upon which I now proposed that they should be launched.

Owing to lack of facilities at Mudros redistribution in that harbour was out of the question. With your lordship's approval, therefore, I ordered all the transports, except those of the Australian Infantry Brigade and the details encamped at Lemnos Island, to the Egyptian ports. On March 24 I myself, together with the General Staff, proceeded to Alexandria, where I remained until April 7, working out the allocation of troops to transports in minutest detail as a prelude to the forthcoming disembarkation. General d'Amade did likewise.

By April 7 my preparations were sufficiently advanced to enable me to return with my General Staff to Lemnos, so as to put the finishing touches to my plan in close co-ordination with the Vice-Admiral Commanding the Eastern Mediterranean Fleet.

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ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, June 27.

Result of the Elections.

After having done its best to conceal the result of the elections, the Government has finally acknowledged defeat. The President of the Council, who at first was at pains to inform the Press that out of 315 seats the Government had gained 165, was ultimately compelled to admit that the Vénizelist Party had obtained the majority. The number of Vénizelists elected appears to have been 180, showing a majority of 55 votes over all the other parties put together. It must be noted, however, that of the 74 seats in Macedonia, M. Vénizelos obtained only five or six, all the others having been won by the Government. This is due to the fact that its candidates coalesced with the Turks, who detest M. Vénizelos, and with the Jews, who form the bulk of the population in the Salonika district. Thus, leaving out of account the seventy-four seats in Macedonia, M. Vénizelos has obtained 175-180 votes out of 250 throughout Old Greece and Epirus, as well as in the islands, that is, wherever Greeks only have voted. The Greeks, as a whole, have proved once more their patriotism and sound political judgment, in spite of the calumnies heaped on M. Vénizelos and the efforts made to undermine his popularity. Not a single Anti-Vénizelist was elected in either Athens or the Piræus.

The Political Situation.

M. Gounaris, in communicating to the Press the news of the Liberal Party's triumph, expressed regret that, owing to the illness of the King, which made it impossible for His Majesty to give his attention to a change in the Ministry, he was not in a position to hand in his resignation, and he must, therefore, wait till the meeting of the Chamber. He added, however, that should the King's condition sufficiently improve to admit of his interesting himself in political events, he would lose no time in taking the course indicated by the elections.

In spite of these declarations, however, the Government is endeavouring to come to terms with the Rallists and Theotokists, and taking steps to secure the votes of the Anti-Vénizelist deputies in favour of the Government candidate for the presidency of the Chamber. It is now asserted by the Vénizelist organs that portfolios have been offered to attract Vénizelist deputies, or at any rate to prevent their return to Athens for the presidential election. The same papers suspect that the German Propaganda Bureau has made similar efforts to prevent the return to power of M. Vénizelos. They hoped that, if their candidate were not elected, they would at least be able to so weaken the Vénizelist party's majority as to render impossible the formation of a stable Cabinet, and that the result would be a second dissolution of the Chamber, in which case the present Government would remain in power to proceed with new elections.

Greece's Foreign Policy.

According to the Government organs, the King is more determined than ever to refuse his consent to the abandonment of neutrality, and, should M. Vénizelos wish to return to power he will have to renounce his policy of action, and make the *amende honorable* by acknowledging his mistake. Otherwise there will be another dissolution of the Chamber. These statements, however, reflect only the opinions and wishes of Government circles, and perhaps of certain military and foreign circles, for as the King is not yet in a fit state of health to interest himself in matters of State, his views cannot possibly be known.

Bulgaria and the Entente.

The attitude of Bulgaria continues to play an important part in shaping the decisions of Greece. After the irreparable indiscretion of M. Gounaris, who revealed the plan which M. Vénizelos had entertained for the cession of Kavalla to Bulgaria, the latter insists, and will continue to insist, on having that region handed over to her. On the other hand, the Entente Powers, realising that they cannot rely to any extent on the co-operation of Greece, have decided to proffer their aid to Bulgaria in inducing Greece to cede the territories she claims. This fact, which has greatly disconcerted official circles, undoubtedly constitutes a check for the present Government, seeing that the same Powers had promised M. Vénizelos that they would not ask for any concession whatever from Greece in favour of Bulgaria. Now, it is quite possible that Bulgaria may make an attempt to occupy this territory, the Powers having made it tacitly understood in their offer that she would have their consent to such a step. Greece might then find herself at any moment confronted with a war which she would have to wage alone, without the assistance, either military or financial, of any of the Powers and, moreover, without having anything to gain, but merely in order to defend the contested territories.

Greece's position would not be any better if Bulgaria came to an understanding with the Powers and decided to take part in the Dardanelles operations, for the Powers would then have no further need of Greece. The rôles of the two countries would be reversed, and it would be Bulgaria who, profiting by her opportunity, would become the stronger of the two.

M. Venizelos' Role.

As Greece cannot in any case take any action for two months, until such time as the new Government is installed and the country's eventual participation in the war is negotiated and decided on, M. Vénizelos will have ample time to follow the course of events. By that time the Entente Powers will have come to an arrangement with Bulgaria which will exclude the intervention of Greece in the Dardanelles; or else the negotiations will have definitely failed, in which case the Powers, having no longer to consider Bulgaria, will be in a position to guarantee the territorial integrity of Greece. This will decide the entry of Greece on the side of the Entente Powers, above all if the danger of an Austrian descent on the Balkans is averted. Greece would then be able to send a force of 100,000 to 150,000 men to the Dardanelles, which should speedily bring operations there to a satisfactory conclusion.

The German Propaganda.

The actions of the German propagandists who are working in Athens, under the leadership of the famous Baron Schenk, have of late become such as to call forth indignant protests from all sides demanding his expulsion. This outcry has somewhat worried the poor Baron, and it is reported that, in order to protect himself against any measures that may be taken against him, more especially when M. Vénizelos returns to power, he is about to join the German Legation as "Commercial Attaché."

PERSIA'S NEUTRALITY.

Reuter's Agency is informed that, according to a Persian official telegram received from Teheran on Monday, the Persian Government is taking every precaution to prevent any action on the part of individuals or otherwise likely to prejudice its neutrality, and adding that Dr. Pugin, who, it was reported some days ago, was starting or had already begun a journey towards the Afghan frontier, had not started, but was in Teheran. The telegram states that the situation in Ispahan is quiet and that there is no cause for anxiety.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

Subscribers to "The Near East" who have left the Ottoman Dominions since the war will oblige by notifying the Manager of their new address as early as possible, so that the supply of the paper should not be unduly interrupted.

"The Near East" has largely increased its circulation in the United Kingdom since the war, and the Management is convinced that there are many people still who would be glad to know of its existence. Specimen copies will be forwarded post free if the names and addresses of friends are sent to the Manager, at 16-17, Devonshire Square, E.C.

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NEWS FROM TURKEY

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Athens, June 21.

The event of the week in Constantinople has been the celebration of the 462nd anniversary of the taking of Constantinople by the Turks. Last year was the first time that this event was officially celebrated, and the celebration this year was carried out with much more pomp and bluster, though the Sultan does not appear to have taken any part in the proceedings. Stamboul was beflagged, and crowds thronged the streets. A procession was formed outside San Sophia and marched to the Fatih Mosque, where speeches were made over the Conqueror's tomb. There is a certain irony in celebrating the foundation of the Ottoman Empire on what looks like the eve of its dissolution.

Situation in Constantinople.

This week's arrivals from Constantinople all describe the situation there as extremely critical, and one marvels at the submission of the Turks to their German taskmasters, who seem to be thoroughly hated. The city is crowded with wounded; and many empty houses, including some English residences at Kadikeui, are being occupied by them. Owing to the difficulty of transport, many wounded are now being left at one or other of the small towns between the Peninsula and Constantinople. They get very little, if any, attention.

It is estimated that the Turkish losses must now exceed 120,000 men, and it is said that the Turkish troops now fighting at the Dardanelles are much inferior to those who were on the Peninsula when the Allies landed. German officers continue to arrive in Constantinople to replace losses, but German families are leaving. The Turkish people, fed by the newspapers, are quite confident that the capital will not fall into the hands of the Allies. The British submarine's appearance at Constantinople seems to have caused more alarm than anything else. A few more similar raids and some bomb-dropping on the Arsenal and on the ammunition factory at Macrikeui and other places would probably produce a real panic in Constantinople, which might bring about a change in the political situation. The creation of such panics in the capital itself would make more impression on the Turks than any amount of fighting at the Dardanelles.

Supplies of Coal.

The Russians seem powerless to prevent coal finding its way into Constantinople; for further supplies have arrived, and the flour mills have again been able to work. Wood, too, is being accumulated to replace coal in the mills, factories, etc. Bread is therefore still obtainable, though in limited quantities. There are very few steamers running on the Bosphorus or to Kadikeui, and gas for domestic purposes is supplied in limited quantities.

Krupps appear to have converted the workshop of the Tramway Company at Chichli into a factory for making munitions, and many workmen from Germany are there making shells, hand grenades, etc.

Several German submarines are said to have entered the Marmora, and a small Turkish submarine appears to have come into existence, but is not in a working condition. The Breslau received serious damage in her last encounter with the Russians, and on her return to Constantinople about thirty of her crew were buried at Chichli. The Turkish *communiqué* states that she sank one Russian torpedo-boat and damaged another. The steamer torpedoed by our submarine in Panderma appears to have been the large Government transport Gul Djemal.

(From An Occasional Correspondent.)

Athens, June 22.

Treatment of Englishmen.

I have received many interesting details as to the present condition of affairs at Constantinople from a particularly well-informed Greek subject who has just arrived from that city. His position enabled him to mix freely not only with the British and other subjects of the Allies, but also with the Germans and Turks, and he had special opportunities of observing everything. The following is a résumé of his interesting story:—

As a rule the British who remain are not molested. The chief exception has been Mr. Churchill, whom the Turks treated with the utmost cruelty, in the hope of getting useful information out of him. He has now been released. The Rev. Robert Frew is still bravely carrying on his work of mercy among the British prisoners, without hindrance from the Turks. I am assured that the prisoners, and particularly the wounded, are really well treated, the principal reason being that, in consequence of the scarcity of Turkish medical men, they are looked after by Greek doctors, who are as attentive and kind as they dare be to them. My friend saw several of these prisoners at Maltepe, near the Seven Towers, on the outskirts of Stamboul—not the place of the same name on the Asiatic shore of the Sea of Marmora.

Appearance of the British Submarine.

My informant happened to be near the Galata Bridge when our submarine put in an appearance. There was a regular panic, and all the shops were quickly closed, but the police immediately afterwards insisted on these being opened again. The torpedoed transport was not lying by the Arsenal in the Golden Horn, but alongside the quay at Galata, outside the bridges. It would in any case be very difficult for a submarine to pass under the floating bridges, because the Turks, or rather the Germans, have placed obstacles in the water, in the shape of chains, wire-netting, etc. The Turks are in such mortal dread of our submarines that they adopt some very absurd precautions. For example, the boatmen and caique men of Galata, who are mostly Greeks, are not allowed to leave the shore, "in case they carry fuel or provisions to the submarines"! For the same reason no boat is allowed to cross the Marmora, or from one of the Princes Islands to another, unless accompanied by a policeman, who assures himself that no goods are to be carried to the enemy. But that is not all. At the point of departure a list is made of the persons in the boat, and this is checked at the point of arrival. Again, on the return journey the full number must turn up, otherwise there will be trouble! Fishing is entirely prohibited.

Another point of deeper military interest is that reinforcements for the Dardanelles are no longer sent by sea, for fear of the submarines, but are despatched by train to Uzun Keuipru, on the route to Adrianople, whence the troops have to march to their destination. This takes several days, and they usually arrive in a state of great exhaustion.

Life in the City.

There is practically no business being done, and those shops which remain open have mostly been obliged to do so by the police. Bread is doled out to the Mohammedan population, but the Christians have great difficulty in procuring any. It is of a dark grey colour. Coal is unobtainable. A few vessels are still forced to sail into the Black Sea to ship coal, but few of them ever return, as they are mostly sunk by the Russians. The captains of these vessels are threatened with death if they refuse to sail. To supply themselves the Turks have now instituted a search in all Christian houses, where they commandeer all the coal found. Petroleum costs about £T1 (18s.) per tin, and other commodities in proportion. The Army, however, seems still to have a good stock of supplies, and my friend saw trains full at various places. These come through Bulgaria.

Christians Disarmed.

All Christians have recently been disarmed. A thorough search was made in every house, and all sporting guns, revolvers, pistols, and other weapons were simply confiscated. This has created much alarm among all Christians, because the Turks have been allowed to retain their arms, and if the Turkish mob should turn upon the Christians they will be absolutely defenceless. Executions are constantly taking place, and a day or two before my informant left seventeen persons—mostly Armenians, but also including two or three Greeks—were hanged in Stamboul.

Serious Quarrel at the Dardanelles.

Details of the quarrel between Turkish and German officers at the Dardanelles have been leaking out little by little, but my informant obtained his information at first hand from both Turkish and German sources. It seems that the Turkish officers objected to the advances against positions in solid formation in the German fashion, and pointed out the deadly effect of British machine gun fire against such formations. It was downright slaughter, they said, and they insisted on adopting more open formations. There were also other causes of dispute. The Germans in their arrogance would not listen, and the quarrel became acute. Some officers were killed on both sides, and the result was that most of the Turkish officers were arrested and bundled back to Constantinople, to be replaced by others more appreciative of German methods.

Scarcity of Water.

Owing to the shortage of coal, the pumping machinery at Dercos, which provides the city with its sole pipe-water supply, no longer works, and water is extremely scarce. At the recent great fire in Pera not a drop could be got from the pipes, and the fire was simply allowed to burn out. It ravaged the district behind the Greek Embassy and nearly consumed that building.

Feeling Among the Turks.

Many Turks would like to make peace, but Enver either refuses to listen or is too secure in the clutches of his masters the Germans to be able to do anything but fight. Turkish officers assured my friend that the first attack on the Dardanelles very nearly succeeded; and they declare that if it had been continued a day or two longer the Turks would then have given way. But during the long interval which

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elapsed before the present attack there was ample time to prepare the most elaborate defences, and the Turks are now again quite hopeful.

A German officer boasted to my friend of the great resisting power of their elaborate series of concrete trenches, which he declared were practically indestructible. But it is apparently quite true that the men are becoming disheartened and demoralised. They are not accustomed to this slow trench warfare, in which the enemy rarely shows himself. "Show us our enemy," they say, "and we will fight; but we can see nothing until they are upon us like a thousand devils, and then we have no chance against their superior weapons and skill."

The Goeben and Breslau.

The Goeben still lies in the bay of Stenia, in the Bosphorus, surrounded by lighters to protect her from torpedoes. She seems to be quite *hors de combat*. The Breslau lies in the Golden Horn, showing, even to the passing observer, evidence of severe damage in her upper works amidships, as a result of her last encounter with the Russian fleet. The Russian bombardment of the Black Sea entrance of the Bosphorus is clearly heard in Pera, and some of the shells aimed high at the forts find their way down near Therapia.

General Limann von Sanders, who is in supreme command, travels constantly between Hademkeui, near Chatalja, and the Dardanelles. He is said to wear armour of some kind, not only over his body but over his head, and one seldom sees more than a pair of eyes looking through huge goggles. He fears assassination by some "disenchanted" Turk. At his house no one is admitted unless he is personally known. There is a small sliding panel in the door, by the use of which visitors can be thoroughly examined to make sure that they have no evil intentions.

Reports regarding the state of Constantinople are somewhat conflicting, being tinged inevitably by the hopes or fears of those who are responsible for them. In these circumstances the view taken by a neutral free from bias is of peculiar interest, and we have pleasure in publishing the following extracts from a letter written by an American resident in the city on June 18. The writer has since left Turkey. We are indebted to the recipient of the letter for permission to publish these extracts:—

Since we have received no English mail at all we fear you also have received little news from Turkey. We live in suspense from day to day, praying for the English to come in. The Germans fill the city and think they own the whole place—it is so disgusting! The language of the place is Deutsch; even the beggars on the bridge ask one for *zehn Para*. Everything has risen so in price that people do not know what to do. Oil is a lira a tin, candles and matches so expensive that people go to bed in the dark. Thread is 2½ piastres a spool, and everything else proportionately higher in price. Nothing has come in this year except the Deutsche, and you can't imagine how hard it is to get anything. . . . The English left in Constantinople have been treated very well. . . .

Enver Pasha has built three palaces this year—two in Bekitash and one on the hill above Karouchesme. He has robbed the people right and left. . . .

—— and —— are remaining this year, as travelling is next to impossible. Really, it never was so bad. . . . Oh, if the English don't soon come in life will be unbearable!

There are 50,000 wounded Turkish soldiers in the city, and everyone is doing Red Cross work. When we go to the hospital they say, "Sen Allemand?" When we answer "American," you should see their countenances fall. There are a few English soldiers in Gulhané Hospital. There was one over at Beylerbey, who died the other day. We all had been over there to see him, and the Bebek and Hissar ladies went over often and took him nice things to eat. They tried to have him moved to where the other English soldiers were, but no such joy was granted him. He was the only English soldier there, and he was for seventeen days with only Turkish-speaking companions. He wrote on a paper what he wanted, and through that the English and Americans learned he was there. Then a nurse came to his ward who spoke some English, but all in vain. . . .

Did you hear the story of the Goeben? It had been lying at Stenia all the winter, and the sailors were having a fine time, doing nothing but drink beer and eat sausages. So one day the Turkish *hanums* went to them and said: "Why don't you go to the Dardanelles and fight, where our brothers, husbands, and fathers are dying? You sit here and eat our bread and live on the fat of the land," and so on. Well, the next morning the ship left, but it was not gone long!

The British Hospital may be soon in the hands of the Turks if the British Government does not do something to hold it. They have ordered the staff home, and the Red Cross cannot raise enough money to run the whole establishment, for there are so many wounded now at Tash Kishla, near Bekitash. We hope the Government will do something, for we know what the Turks would do to it if they have half a chance.

Another letter which reaches us from a trustworthy source gives news of Constantinople up to June 18:—

You have doubtless heard of the large fire which occurred in Constantinople on Tuesday last, when between 1,500 and 2,000 houses were destroyed. The fire raged from 11 a.m. till past midnight, and for the benefit of those of your readers who know Constantinople I would add that it included the Chikour, Bostan, and Jehanghir quarters—that is, from the back of Galata Serai down towards Tophaneh and up towards the Italian Hospital (which was saved), and back towards Rue Sira Selvi. The Rue Rodolphe is all destroyed, as well as part of the continuation of same, known as Rue Faik Pasha. Several mosques were burned, and a few lives were lost. At one time the Tophaneh Artillery Administration was in danger. The wind was very high, and during the progress of the fire changed from north to south.

On Wednesday, 16th, at daylight, the Turks hanged twenty Armenians on the Sultan Bayazid Square, supposed to belong to the Hintchakist party. They have been in prison over eight months. Those hanged included several school teachers, from different parts of Turkey, and a doctor.

Several Sisters (nuns) have come through. One of them, who was imprisoned by the court-martial, was so ill that the American and Italian Ambassadors and the Pope's representative at Constantinople were so active on her behalf that the Turks eventually released her. There are still some Sisters and priests locked up. I am told that twenty-two Sisters while in prison occupied a room five metres square with only two or three beds amongst the lot, and they used to take it in turns to rest. The Sister Superior of the Convent of Notre Dame de Sion has been, and is still, in prison, since May 10. She was condemned by court-martial to death, but the ambassadors intervened, and succeeded in getting her sentence commuted to fifteen years' penal servitude, which after the war she has to undergo in Germany.

One of the Sisters still in prison is sixty-five years of age. The principal charges against the religious bodies is that of carrying on a correspondence with the enemy. Some postcards produced, and explanations demanded, were again very amusing. One spoke of the "Lamentations of Jeremiah," which puzzled the Turk, and it was only after great difficulty that the Dragoman of the American Embassy could get the Turks to understand what it meant. Another was signed with initials which, of course, were wrongly interpreted. "Frcs.," a scribble, and short for Francois, the censor declared meant "Faire Regne Cesser Sultan!"

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Cyprus, June 26.

The Government Offices removed to Troodos for the summer months during the week ending the 19th instant.

His Excellency the High Commissioner and Lady Clauson arrived at Government Cottage, Troodos, on Friday, the 18th instant. On the previous Wednesday his Excellency paid a visit to Famagusta.

Mr. Alexander Mavrogordato, Financial Assistant, Public Works Department, has been appointed Registrar of Co-operative Credit Societies. The Bill for the establishment of these societies was passed in the Legislative Council session of last year, and has since received the Royal sanction.

A scheme is under consideration for erecting a hospital for consumptives at Limassol, or possibly a wing may be added to the existing municipal hospital there for the reception of cases of phthisis. It is understood that Government has promised a grant of £350 for this object.

The first batch of convalescent wounded arrived yesterday, in all about 250. These are being conveyed from Famagusta to the new railhead at Gorykhon, and thence by motor ambulance to Troodos, where every preparation for their comfort has been made.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Larnaca, June 27.

A large number of counterfeit Cyprus Government £1 banknotes were recently put in circulation in the island, but, luckily, the fraud was quickly detected and the offenders arrested, thanks to the able manner in which the police acted in the matter. With the false notes the culprits had bought a quantity of grain, for which they paid high prices, but which was seized before it was shipped.

The Rev. John Hackett, D.D., who died recently at Lyme Regis, was well known in Cyprus, where he resided several years as Chaplain to the Forces, and where he collected data for his monumental work on the "Orthodox Church of Cyprus." He took a lively interest in Cypriot affairs, especially in the controversy which some years ago divided the island into two parties owing to the Archiepiscopal question, and published in the *Irish Church Quarterly* (October, 1908), the *Guardian*, and other papers, several articles dealing with the subject. His death is deeply deplored by a large circle of Cypriot friends. To the widow and the only son, Lieut. John Hackett, R.N., who is now serving in the Dardanelles, we beg to convey our sincere condolence.

An interesting article entitled "Valentina Visconti" (Queen of Cyprus, 1378-1393) has appeared in the May issue of the Italian Review *Rassegna Nazionale*, and is worth reading.

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BULGARIAN LETTERS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Sofia, June 15.*

Bulgaria and the Entente Powers.

The reply of the Bulgarian Government to the proposals put forward by the four Entente Powers on May 29 is to be delivered very shortly, certainly this week, possibly even to-day. Judging by the favourable tone of the official (Ministerial) Press, it may be confidently anticipated that this reply will prove satisfactory to the Entente, and that it will serve as a basis for general discussion and arrangement of differences and difficulties. According to well-informed circles, the reply will not contain any impossible or impracticable demands about guarantees for the compensation offered in Macedonia. As to the "Contested Zone," for which the Serbo-Bulgarian Treaty of 1912 provided Russian arbitration, the Bulgarian Government in its reply is now going to suggest arbitration by the four Entente Powers. The demands of Bulgaria in other regions are based on the principles of nationality and on commercial and economic exigencies.

Since the date of the proposals the political atmosphere here has undergone a distinct change in favour of the Entente. The Ministerial *Narodni Prava*, the organ of the Prime Minister, in a couple of leading articles dwelling upon the success of the present Cabinet's foreign policy, announces to the nation that the time for the reparation of the wrong done to Bulgaria by the unjust treaties of Bucharest and of Constantinople is rapidly approaching: the favourable opportunity of "unfurling our flag," as King Ferdinand said two years ago to the disbanding troops, has now come. This article and another about the preparedness of the Army have served to raise the spirit of the nation, and the general feeling has now changed in favour of the Entente.

Albania and the Powers.

The Albanian colony here has to-day handed to the representatives of the Great Powers a memorandum protesting against the Serbian invasion of their country, and urging the maintenance of an independent Albania, guaranteed by all the Great Powers.

The Casino Outrage Trial.

The 23rd inst. is fixed as the date for the trial of the accused in the case of the bomb outrage at the *Bal masqué* at the Casino on February 13, and in the plot against the life of the King and the attempted murder of the lawyer, M. Dobrinovitch. The accused are seven in number, and amongst them is M. Vikentia P. Anastasoff, a high functionary in the High Court of Accounts. Amongst the witnesses—about eighty in number—who have been summoned to appear is Dr. Gennadieff, the leader of the Stambulovists. The accused will be tried by the ordinary military tribunal at Sofia. Your readers will remember that the bomb outrage resulted in the death of Lieutenant Boyadjieff, son of General Boyadjieff, a former Minister for War; of Mme. Bajaroff, daughter of General Fitcheff, the present Minister for War, and others.

A Postal Notice.

Yesterday the Direction of Bulgarian Posts and Telegraphs issued a notice declining any responsibility for the loss of registered letters sent for Servia or Turkey. The reason for this step is that the military censors in the two countries mentioned are taking possession of and confiscating postal correspondence.

Bulgarian Reply Delivered.

P.S.—I have just received a telephone message stating that the Bulgarian Government's reply to the Entente Powers has been delivered this morning by the Prime Minister, who called personally at the four Legations.

Sofia, June 22.

The Political Situation.

As reported in my previous letter, the Bulgarian reply to the four Entente Powers was delivered last Tuesday. About the contents of this reply absolute secrecy is maintained; but judging by the subsequent acts of the Bulgarian Government, it seems that they mean business and earnestly desire to come to a satisfactory arrangement. Last Saturday the Prime Minister, Dr. Radoslavoff, requested all the newspaper editors to meet him, and informed them regarding the political situation and the efforts which the Cabinet is making to secure the abrogation of the Treaty of Bucharest. For the sake of the vital interests of the country the Premier urged them to avoid publishing false rumours and criticisms which might be prejudicial to the success of the negotiations with the Entente.

Meantime, notwithstanding the friendly attitude of this country towards Turkey in this crisis, the Turks have replied to the Bulgarian proposals for a rectification of the Turco-Bulgarian frontier, in accordance with the Treaty of London, by reinforcing their frontier posts and the garrison of Adrianople, strengthening all their fortifications, and mining the bridge over the River Arda and all other railway and road bridges. These hostile measures caused the Government here to summon M. Koloucheff, the Bulgarian Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, to Sofia for consultation and explanations. He arrived here last Friday, and in view of the strained situation his return to Constantinople seems somewhat problematical. Indeed, a rupture of relations with Turkey is anticipated.

The Casino Outrage.

The trial of the alleged perpetrators of the Casino bomb outrage of February 13 last, which begins to-morrow, continues to attract widespread interest here. Every event connected with it is keenly followed, not only because the trial concerns the misdeeds of an anarchical group, but because the reputed prime mover in the alleged plot, Vikentia P. Anastasoff, is reported to have been in close relations with Dr. Gennadieff, by whom, it is reported, funds were supplied "for the Macedonian cause."

Bulgarian Refugees from Macedonia.

According to private information from Stroumitza, ten thousand fresh refugees have arrived from Serbian and Greek Macedonia during the past week. Half of them are Turks.

A sad scene was witnessed at Pirot railway station last Friday by some Russian diplomatists and British travellers, who were on their way to Sofia. Five Bulgarian women, three of them in peasant costume, accompanied by four young children, were suddenly ordered by the station police to leave the train; and their baggage, which included various household effects, was thrown out on to the platform. The women and children broke out into lamentations, which increased as the train departed, leaving them behind. They were on their way from Uskub to join their male relatives, who had already emigrated to Bulgaria.

For Armenian Victims.

Last Sunday a requiem service was celebrated at the Armenian church here for the Armenians lately killed at Constantinople. As your readers will doubtless have been informed, the Young Turk authorities last week hanged fifty Armenians and shot five in Constantinople, and three more were shot at Adrianople. Another Armenian, who said that the Bulgarians would soon be seen in Turkey, was also condemned to death. The service here was attended by representatives of various Armenian and Macedonian revolutionary organisations, and touching addresses were delivered.

* Delayed in transmission.

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SERBIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Nish, June 19.

The Balkans and the Entente.

Great disappointment is felt in Serbia at the turn of the campaign on the Russian frontier. It was at one time confidently expected here that the Russian forces, once across the Carpathians, would have a walk over in Hungary and be joined by the Serbian forces on the way to Budapest.

The hard battles fought in Galicia and the plain hints regarding the necessity of an understanding between the Balkan States in order that they may play their part in the war and help to bring the operations of the Triple Entente to a successful issue seem not to have produced the desired effect either in Bulgaria or Serbia. Bulgaria, it is said, insists on wholesale concessions on the part of Serbia. But neither the Serbians nor the Greeks are disposed to make any concessions, and the Governments of both the latter countries are to a great extent under the influence of public opinion; and to this fact must be added the attitude of the military party.

The semi-official organ *Samouprava*, in an article published the day before yesterday, says that most of the Bulgarian newspapers and members of the Bulgarian Parliament are of opinion that the Bucharest Treaty is a political mistake.

The Bucharest peace (says *Samouprava*) was the result of circumstances consequent on the initiative of the Bulgarian Government. It is a heavy chain for Bulgaria in its political life, but it is the result of errors in Bulgarian diplomacy, and is a well-earned chain. It appears to be the opinion in Bulgaria that Bulgarians, like the Germans, are the chosen people of God, and that it is allowable for them to commit political errors without having to suffer for them. Through their conceit of exaggerated power they have deceived themselves and brought harm on themselves, and not only that, but they have also not ceased to make demonstrations against Russia and Serbia. That is surely not the way to come to an understanding with Russia and Serbia, who, although the Slav question is of great importance to them, will not make any concessions to Bulgaria until Bulgaria does something to aid in the Slav question.

The Belgrade *Pravda* states that, according to the Russian Press, Greece proposed to Serbia to resist jointly the granting of any concessions to Bulgaria, and that Greece will on no account cede Kavalla or any other territory.

Serbo-Italian Relations.

Yesterday the *Samouprava* published another article referring to Serbo-Italian relations, and quotes an interview with M. Sasonoff, published in an Italian paper. In this article it is stated that the Russian Minister said that in future Italy will exercise in the Balkans the greatest part of the influence which Germany and Austria-Hungary formerly wielded there. The Adriatic is, through Otranto, Pola, and Valona, a closed sea; and Italy need not fear Russia, which only asks of Italy that she should not do anything inimical to Slav interests. Nor is it likely that Italy will commit the same errors that Austria made in preventing the Slav commercial and cultural development. As regards Bulgaria, she will find out sooner or later that she will be compelled to act on the side of the Triple Entente.

Serbia and Albania.

In a former letter I alluded to the advance of Serbian forces in Albania. These continue to execute their allotted task. It is stated that Serbian telegraph and post offices have been opened at Elbassan, Tirana, Liumi, and Pishkopeia.

Exchange of Prisoners.

Referring to the agreement with Austria-Hungary for the mutual exchange of interned Austrian and Serbian subjects respectively, the arrival in Serbia is announced of two parties, one consisting of 360 persons and the other of 330 persons, who came by way of Turnu-Severin (Roumania) to Prahova (Serbia). The remainder of the interned in Austria-Hungary are expected to arrive in about a week.

The German aviators, Lieutenant Schaefer and his companion, who were made prisoners last week at Kriva Palanka have been sent on to the Serbian headquarters at Kragujevatz.

SUDAN NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Recent Legal Appointments.

Mr. C. F. Ryder, formerly Second Inspector, has now been made Province Judge at Port Sudan. He has been in the service of the Government since the latter part of 1905. Several other legal appointments have been made by the Governor-General recently, including the conferring of District Judgeships upon Messrs. B. H. Bell, stationed at El Obeid, Province of Kordofan; R. V. Winter, stationed at Wad Medani, in the Blue Nile Province; E. G. Sarsfield Hall, stationed at Singa, in the Sennar Province; A. G. Pawson (lately on leave), and Major S. K. Flint, stationed at Halfa, in the province of that name.

Honour for a Loyal Sheikh.

Sir F. Reginald Wingate, in his capacity of Governor-General, has just conferred upon the Sheikh Mohammed Gadah el Dam, Sheikh of the Fellatas, the Robe of Honour of the Second Class, "for services rendered." The Sheikh is one of the many Sudan chieftains who have behaved with great loyalty and devotion to the British Government during the crisis in Egypt and the Sudan. The Fellatas—who are also known ethnologically as the Felatas, Foulahs, Fellatahs, Fulani, and Fulhe tribe, inhabit the west and central Sudan, and are often erroneously allied with the Nubas, with whom, however, they have nothing in common. They were originally Hamites, now fused in many places with the surrounding negro peoples. The Fellatas, like the Hausas and other tribesmen from the regions mentioned, are included in the general term "Takarir." A number of them remain as permanent settlers in the Sudan, and several small colonies of them are to be found in Kordofan, especially around Dilling and in the south of the Bara District. They are very amenable people, who earn their living by cultivation, gum collecting, and, in the towns, by water-carrying and other menial work.

Khartoum's Police Magistrate.

Captain F. Burges, the well-known and popular police magistrate at Khartoum, is at present on leave, granted on "medical grounds." Captain Burges's is one of the busiest courts of justice in the Sudan. It was created in the earliest days of the British Occupation—March of 1899. Although invariably patient and attentive in dealing with each case as it comes before him, Captain Burges arrives very rapidly at a decision, and thus is enabled to deal with several hundred cases—mostly of a trivial nature—in the course of a single day's hearing. During the sixteen years that he has been in the Government service, the Police Magistrate of Khartoum has acquired a close insight into the character of the people; he benevolently regards them more or less in the light of children, to be handled with corresponding thoughtfulness and gentleness; and it is but seldom that he passes a severe sentence. On the other hand, he displays but scant sympathy with, or clemency towards, the hardened offender. During the course of the year many thousands of cases come before him, and he has the law and the best manner of applying it at his fingers' ends.

BRITISH REFUGEES IN ATHENS.

The attention of ex-British residents of Constantinople at present in Athens is drawn to the fact that "The Near East" is on sale every week at M. Th. Vafiades' Bookstore, where subscriptions are also received.

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PERSIAN NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Persia's Embarrassing Position.

The position of Persia has been most embarrassing since the beginning of this war. She declared her neutrality at the outbreak, and emphasised it by the issue of an Imperial Firman to that effect. Ever since then the Persian Government has rigorously, and by every means at its disposal, striven to maintain that neutrality; but unfortunately it has not been able to make it respected—the Turks invaded Persian territory, in the province of Azerbaijan, arguing that Russian troops were already there and were threatening the Turkish right flank. The protests of Persia to both sides were of no avail; the Turkish and Russian forces came into conflict, and Azerbaijan became the scene of fighting.

A mistake made at this juncture, and one which certainly aggravated the situation, was the employment of Shuja-ed-Dowleh by the Russian authorities. Shuja-ed-Dowleh's antecedents are known to everybody, and it is notorious that by his cruelty and tyranny he had made himself most unpopular in Azerbaijan, and is especially hated by the Kurdish tribes on the borders of Turkey. Nothing, therefore, could have aggravated the Kurds and alienated their sympathies from Russia more than such a step. Shuja thus did more harm than good to the cause of Russia. What is more, if report speaks true, he ran away as soon as the first shot was fired by the Turks; and a quantity of ammunition and a number of guns belonging to the Persian Government, which he had taken with him from the arsenal in Tabriz, fell into the hands of the Turks when he sought safety in flight.

It is recognized by those Europeans who are well-informed, and especially by those who come from Persia, that had the Russian troops been withdrawn from Persia at the beginning, the Turks would not have dared thus to violate the neutrality of the country. As it is, the presence of the Russian troops has furnished the Turco-German propagandists with a strong weapon. The Turks and Germans use every possible means to win over Persian public opinion, and to induce the Persians to throw in their lot with them. The Turks induced the Ulemas of Nejef and Kerbellah to issue *fetvas* calling on the Persians to make Jehad (Holy War). The Persian Government energetically put a stop to this, though, it must be confessed, it was a difficult task.

Then the Persian Government had to deal with the question of Herr Wassmuss and Dr. Pugin. The former the Germans proposed as Consul-General in Shiraz, and the latter at Ispahan; but the Persian Government refused to recognize either, as both had been carrying on propaganda in favour of Germany and Turkey.

Then came the Turkish incursion into Kermanshah, which has aroused great indignation among the Persians against the Turks. The Turkish advance was resisted and checked by the population of Kermanshah.

The Ispahan Incident.

M. von Kaver was the manager of the Russian Bank at Ispahan. He had at the same time undertaken the management of the vast properties of Prince Zill-es-Sultan at Ispahan, receiving a very remunerative salary from the Prince. His immunity and position as manager of the Russian Bank and acting Vice-Consul of Russia gave him vast powers; and these, it is stated, he used injudiciously, and thus made many enemies, especially among the retainers of the Prince. One of the latter, Garib Khan, was murdered some time ago, and his relatives and friends attributed the murder to the instigation of M. von Kaver. The assassination of the latter is regarded by everyone in Ispahan as a vendetta on the part of Garib Khan's friends. It was in no way due to anti-foreign and far less to anti-Russian feeling or agitation. The incident caused painful regret among all classes of Persians, and most of the Persian newspapers in their leading articles expressed their indignation and regret. The Persian Government spontaneously offered ample reparation, and paid a considerable sum to the widow of the late Vice-Consul.

Persia and the Propagandists.

Judging by letters lately received from Persia, it is quite erroneous to say that German or Turkish propaganda is having any considerable success there. The Persians have always had the highest friendship for the English, whom they consider as the protectors of liberty and of liberal ideas. Moreover, from time immemorial they have looked upon Great Britain as the champion of the maintenance of the integrity and independence of Persia; and this not only because she has proved herself to be the defender of the rights of small nations, but also because the maintenance of Persia as a buffer state is, for obvious reasons, so vital to the defence of her Indian Empire. But it is regrettable to see how little her agents in Persia are doing to keep up Britain's prestige and fair name, and to combat propaganda on the part of other foreign agents. Should these propagandists have any success it will be due largely to the fact that since the beginning of the European War England has shown very little interest in Persia; and especially will it be due to the fact that Russia has not been, and is not, doing anything to win public opinion and to inspire confidence. Mistakes of policy and method are continually committed. Reference has been made above to the great mistake of making use of Shuja-ed-Dowleh, and to the harm it did to the Russian cause. And now the Teheran newspapers are full of the account of a political crisis which they refer to as a "contemplated coup d'etat." They report that Mr. Marling, the British Minister, with Mr. Churchill, the Oriental Secretary to the Embassy, accompanied by Monsieur Back, the Russian Chargé d'Affaires, had an audience of the Shah, which lasted three hours; and it is said that the object of the audience was to induce His Majesty to appoint Saad-ed-Dowleh as his Prime Minister. Now Saad-ed-Dowleh is one of the best-hated men in Persia, if not the best-hated. He was the right-hand man of the Ex-Shah when he bombarded the Mejliss, and he was exiled, together with the Ex-Shah. But he has always enjoyed the goodwill of the Russians, in the same way as the Shuja-ed-Dowleh.

Two years ago Saad-ed-Dowleh, who is an old man of eighty-five, was permitted to return to his family from exile; and once before (soon after his return) the Russian Legation in Teheran proposed him as a candidate for the Premiership, but the mere mention of his name caused agitation and public demonstrations, and the idea had soon to be dropped. To put forward such a candidate, whom both the Russian and British Legations knew well from previous experience, was astonishing. It would have been blind policy in ordinary times; but how unpardonable and disastrous at this juncture when everything should be done to win public opinion and to inspire confidence!

To resume—the Shah is reported to have replied to the British and Russian representatives that as a constitutional sovereign he had to refer the question to the Mejliss, and could confide the Premiership only to a statesman who enjoyed the confidence of the majority. The members of the Mejliss were indignant when they learnt that the name of Saad-ed-Dowleh had been suggested. Meanwhile, the people had also heard about these events, and protest meetings and demonstrations were held in public places. What still further aggravated the situation was the report that, once appointed as Prime Minister, Saad-ed-Dowleh would become Dictator and would close the Mejliss and suppress the newspapers. In fact, he would rule Persia as Shuja-ed-Dowleh rules Azerbaijan. In short, it was considered that it could not have been worse if a Russian Viceroy came to take over the Government of Persia. This incident had a most regrettable effect on the prestige of Great Britain and Russia in Persia.

The more regrettable is it that it should have occurred soon after the arrival of Mr. Marling, the new British Minister; for, thanks to skilful representations by interested parties, many people were persuaded that he was the promoter of the scheme. That, it need hardly be said, is a mistake; but it is to be feared that certain parties who ought to have had regard for British interests and British prestige did—unwittingly, let us hope—play into the hands of those who were behind the manœuvre.

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OUR SERBIAN ALLIES.

The following official statement was issued by the Serbian Press Bureau on Thursday of last week:—

On June 27 early in the morning we succeeded in forcing a landing at Micharska Ada, to the east of Shabatz, and captured the place. We took 185 prisoners. The enemy's losses were heavy. We captured a field telephone, 106 rifles and bayonets, and five ammunition waggons.

On the morning of June 28 four hostile aeroplanes flew over the outskirts of Belgrade. On being fired at by our artillery they changed their course and made for Obrenovatz. One of the machines was badly damaged, and was forced to land on the heights of Bejania, where it caught fire. The three others dropped bombs on Obrenovatz without any result. Prisoners were taken at Micharska Ada, and more than 200 arrived at Nish yesterday.

In connection with the aeroplane raid it may be of interest to quote the official *communiqué* issued in Vienna on June 30. It said:—

As a reprisal for the Serbian attack near Shabatz, one of our aerial squadrons early yesterday morning bombarded the wharf at Belgrade and the military camp of Orasae, south-west of Obrenovatz, with very good success.

According to a message forwarded from Corfu to the *Corriere d'Italia*, two Serbian regiments have occupied Durazzo, and the Italian Minister there has left for Rome to confer with his Government on the situation.

Great Britain and the Jugo-Slavs.

Last Friday Lord Crewe, as representative of the Secretary for Foreign Affairs, received at the Foreign Office a deputation of the Jugo-Slav Committee. The deputation was presented by Dr. A. Trumbitch, deputy of the Dalmatian Diet and President of the Committee, and included Dr. Ivo de Giulli (Ragusa), Dr. Gustav Gregorin (Trieste), Mr. Ivan Mestrovitch (Dalmatia), Dr. Nikola Stojanovitch (Bosnia), Mr. Frano Supilo (Croatia), Mr. Duyan Vasiljevitch (Bosnia), and Dr. Niko Zupanitch (Carniola).

Dr. Trumbitch explained that the organisation represented all the Jugo-Slav provinces of Austria-Hungary, its object being to enlist sympathy for the national aspirations of their people. Living under eleven different administrations, they suffered from the odious domination of their enemies. Though described as Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes they were one nation, and they sought deliverance from the Austro-Hungarian yoke and union with their brethren of Serbia and Montenegro. Of old their task was to bar the way against Ottoman invasion. Their new mission was to serve as a dyke against the Germanic tide, which tended to flow towards the Ægean and the Mediterranean. They could only do this if formed into a single State. If Serbia had been overthrown by the Germans and Austrians the British possessions of Egypt and India would have been threatened. Those Jugo-Slavs who inhabited all the northern and eastern coasts of the Adriatic were mariners whose qualities would complete in the happiest manner those manifested by Serbian deeds on the battlefield. That population and its territory ought therefore to be preserved to the Jugo-Slav nation.

In reply, Lord Crewe expressed his regret that Sir Edward Grey had not been able in person to welcome the deputation. He then went on:—Permit me to say that I have given great attention to the political and moral considerations of which you have given an outline. Questions of nationality, aspirations towards the complete expression of racial genius, have always had the liveliest sympathy of the English people. From the 16th Century to the present day the annals of our country and the memoirs of our statesmen have continually testified to this fact. Therefore, after the victorious conclusion of the war, which we all expect, you may count upon our goodwill to realise, in proportion as the map of Europe may be rectified by the Powers, the principles of which you are evangelists. You must, however, pardon me if I add in a frank and friendly manner a word of caution on this subject. Never, as far as I have been able to peruse the historic annals to which I have referred, neither as the result of a war of liberation boldly undertaken nor with the help of allied Powers, has any nation realised to the full its desire for expansion or its dreams of territorial acquisition. It is unnecessary to ask why. Sometimes it was because there existed on the frontier a fringe of population who could not be said to belong definitely to either of the races concerned, and we cannot hope that history will fail to repeat itself at the close of the present war. In any case, however, the deputation may rest assured that the Slav spirit will find great opportunities of expansion, with a future of incontestable grandeur and prosperity on new and wider fields.

"More than Gilbertian."

The Times special correspondent in Belgrade declares, in an article published on Wednesday, under the heading "River Warfare in Serbia," that "the present situation in Belgrade is almost more than Gilbertian." Nobody acquainted with the facts of the case will feel disposed to dispute that statement. The correspondent referred to goes on to say that the Austrian monitors on the Danube, "since their number was reduced from seven to six by a pretty piece of torpedo work on the part of the solitary little picket boat commonly known as 'The Terror of the Danube,' have been singularly unenterprising." That, of course, is not Gilbertian. But what follows is distinctly so:—

There are understood to be weighty reasons why nothing must be known in England of the composition of the mixed artillery force which, under General Jivkovitch, military commander of the district, has charge of the defence of Belgrade. Its composition is thoroughly well known to the Austrians. The essential facts have been published in French, American, Swiss, and other newspapers. But it appears that the most calamitous consequences might be expected to follow any publication of the same facts in England. One can say nothing, then, except that the force is charmingly cosmopolitan, and that the young gentlemen (I cannot, happily, at the moment remember their nationality, for I have not seen them since lunch) who have charge of the Terror of the Danube have great larks with it. They poke their way on dark nights into creeks and passages where they are not in the least expected and annoy the Austrians dreadfully.

The Austrians have three picket gunboats which look like toy Dreadnoughts, with machine guns mounted in their turrets. Anyone of them could eat up the "Terror" in a few minutes if it could get at it. But the "Terror" comes up when it is nice and dark, and makes rude remarks with its single machine gun to one of the Dreadnoughts and then runs like a hare. Ten days ago one of the Dreadnoughts chased it into a prepared minefield, and the Dreadnought's remnants drifted ashore on Kojara Island, in mid-stream, where the hull and turrets are plainly visible from Belgrade. . . .

The young gentleman in command of the "Terror" (whose nationality still escapes me) has within the last two days been decorated by his Government with a —well, what corresponds to a D.S.O. And most thoroughly has he earned it. Night after night he and those with him go gaily on errands of the utmost danger, and they keep fairly terrorized an enemy force of . . . literally more than a hundred times their strength. It almost makes one weep that one cannot say who these young men are.

Mercifully, *The Times*, greatly daring, adds:—"We understand that the officer referred to by our Correspondent is Lieutenant-Commander Kerr, R.N., who has recently been awarded the D.S.O. for the 'pretty piece of torpedo work' mentioned. The crew of the boat (The Terror of the Danube) all received the Distinguished Conduct Medal."

In this connection we may venture to note that photographs have been reproduced in several English papers during the past week showing various scenes in connection with the fighting in Serbia, and that, to the uninitiated at least, quite a number of the "Serbians" look extraordinarily like our own soldiers and sailors. One artillery man, for instance——. But there! Of course they were all men of the Serbian Army—and Navy!

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

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

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

GREECE AND KAVALLA.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—The late various attacks against the Greeks which have been recorded in your review have made all Greeks reading and appreciating your review feel very sorry.

In the issue of June 18, under the title of "Notes of the Week," you say:—"There are many Hellenes on the coast of Asia Minor, but it is impossible that the Hellenes of Greece should feel toward them as the Roumanians do towards their kinsmen in Transylvania, or the Bulgarians towards their Macedonian kinsfolk. . . ."

I can assure you that we love and look towards the liberation of our kinsmen more than any other nation. We have proved it in our various wars, which were always carried on for the liberation of our fellow-countrymen under the yoke of Turkey.

But how do you want us to give Kavalla, a country which we have liberated only a year ago, to the Bulgars? How do you want us to enslave a Greek population in order to give freedom to another equally Greek? Who will guarantee to us that Bulgaria, her appetite once whetted, will not want to swallow the city of her dreams—Salonika?

No, you must not blame us for not wanting to surrender Greek territory inhabited by pure Greeks.

We will deliver all our kinsmen, but shall enslave none.

Our sympathies are fully for the Triple Alliance. We wish and hope she will have the final success; we will always stand for her, but let her not ask us to surrender any Greek territory to any country.—I am, etc.,

41, Lycabette Street, D. A. NAOUM.
Athens, June 26, 1915.

[We entirely disclaim any desire to make "attacks" upon the Greeks. If we imagine Greece confronted with the two alternatives of "redeeming" scores of thousands of her fellow-countrymen in Asia Minor and of retaining about a thousand who might otherwise pass over to Bulgaria, and if we find that she deliberately chooses the latter, the inference is that she is not impelled by any ardent desire to redeem the scores of thousands in Asia Minor.—ED.]

POLITICAL MANŒUVRES IN GREECE.

A correspondent forwards us some extracts from a letter received this week from Athens:—

In spite of the elections, which were in favour of Venizelos, Gounaris is determined not to let the power go out of his hands. He has the strongest support on the part of the Queen. Despite threats and strong measures, Piræus voted for Venizelos. The consequence is that it is now under military occupation. Nobody is allowed to discuss or to form groups there. The papers even went so far as to say, in leading articles, that votes for Venizelos were votes against the King. All sorts of tricks are played in Macedonia and elsewhere. They are trying to carry the day in Greece by terrorism. Meanwhile the state of the poor King seems desperate. He has grown so weak that he cannot be transported to his country residence, and his brother, Prince George, was not allowed to see him lest the emotion should be too much for the King. Despite all efforts at repression, the party in favour of Venizelos continues as strong as ever.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

FROM SUSSEX TO SYRIA.*

To very few readers of THE NEAR EAST can Mr. Marmaduke Pickthall need any introduction. In "Said, the Fisherman," "The Valley of the Kings," and "The Children of the Nile" he has shown us that he knows Syria, Palestine and Egypt, and the life and ways of thought of their peoples, as comparatively few Englishmen can claim to know them; and that he can write of them as no other living Englishman can, recalling to us all their subtle charm, yet keeping always a keen perspective and a nice sense of light and shade that is too often lacking in the work of other more pretentious—and, it seems, more "popular"—writers. He revels in the Eastern sunlight, but it does not dazzle him; he can, and does, write with sympathy and insight about the Fellah, whether of Syria or of Egypt, but he declines to gush about him; and he is as free from pose as he is from prejudice.

The title under which the present volume of short stories and sketches makes its appearance will probably puzzle some people until they read the explanation of it which is given in a short prefatory note. It is, however, well chosen and attractive. Mr. Pickthall's old admirers will find no fault with it, and if it serves to draw the attention of new readers to whom a title suggesting the Orient pure and simple would make no appeal, that will be to their advantage. For all the stories are delightful, though they are varied in character to a surprising extent. Many of them are of the East, eastern; many are so purely English that one might fancy the author had spent all his life in some quiet nook in Sussex or Suffolk; others owe their interest to the play of East on West and of West on East; while in two instances Mr. Pickthall breaks what is, one thinks, fresh ground for him, in Switzerland. But wherever the scene is laid the author's art makes it stand out before us clearly, and the characters who move in it are real men and women, not mere puppets. As far as the Eastern tales are concerned, this is not at all surprising, for the creator of Said, the fisherman, is no tyro, but a master craftsman. But, to be frank, "Brendle," though a clever novel, had not prepared us to find him handling purely English subjects with such success as he has done in some of the stories in this collection. One or two of them are so good as to remind one of some of Mr. Thomas Hardy's short stories, and to make one believe that if Mr. Pickthall tried his hand at a longer tale of rural life in Sussex or Suffolk, in, say, the style of "The Trumpet Major," he would make of it a great success.

Probably, however, in spite of the changes that it seems destined to undergo, and that he must surely regret, the Near East will continue to claim the largest share of his interest, and to provide him with subjects in plenty for work in the future. For our own sakes we hope it may be so. For nobody but Mr. Pickthall could have given us quite such a faithful picture of Druze character as it set before us here, in a few pages, in the story of "The Just Steward." The next tale, "Father Saba," is a fine bit of character study, as is, too, "Jenab ul Emir." In lighter vein, "Hashish" and "The Cook and the Soldier" are almost equally good, while "The Story of Hafiz," which tells of the rise to favour and the subsequent fall from favour of an Egyptian village watchman, is a gem, despite its painful ending. "Count Abdullah" will repay reading by adventurous spinsters who have a taste for making acquaintance with Levantine "gentlemen" in unconventional circumstances—and if *they* do not quite enjoy it, those who do not love Levantines will do so. For the same reason "Virgin and Martyr" will find its admirers. The two Swiss stories are frankly frivolous, but they make good reading.

NEAR EAST BOOK NOTES..

The Royal Asiatic Society has just issued "The Babylonian Tablets of the Berens Collection," by Dr. T. G. Pinches. It is a study of inscriptions found at Tello, on temple records, and is illustrated with reproductions of texts and cylinder seals. The price is 5s.

Vol. V. of "Nelson's History of the War," which is edited by Mr. John Buchan, deals in part with the campaign in the Near East.

Messrs. Forster, Groom and Co. are the publishers of a little book with the alliterative title "Turkish for Tommy and Tar," the price of which is threepence.

* "Tales from Five Chimneys." By Marmaduke Pickthall. (Mills and Boon. 6s.)

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1915.	1915.		1333.	5675.
July	June		Shaaban	Tamuz
9	26	Friday	26	27
10	27	Saturday.....	27	28
11	28	Sunday	28	29
				Ab
12	29	Monday	29	1
			Ramadan	
13	30	Tuesday	1	2
	July			
14	1	Wednesday	2	3
15	2	Thursday	3	4

Monday is the birthday of H.R.H. Prince John, fifth son of the King and Queen, who was born at Sandringham in 1905.

Monday is also the birthday of H.M. King Peter of Serbia, who was born in Belgrade in 1844.

Our Belgrade Correspondent writes:—Prince George, eldest son of King Peter, has been rewarded for his bravery in the present war. He has been decorated with the Karageorgevitch Star with sword, which his gallant conduct has well merited.

Prince Paul of Serbia left London on Monday for Scotland.

The Aga Khan had the honour of being invited to luncheon with the King and Queen on Saturday. On Wednesday his Highness was received at Marlborough House by her Majesty Queen Alexandra.

Madame Pasitch, wife of the Serbian Prime Minister, has left London for the Continent in connection with the work of the Red Cross Society.

M. Radovitch, ex-Prime Minister of Montenegro, called upon the Russian Ambassador on Tuesday evening.

M. Pasitch, son of the Serbian Prime Minister, left London last Friday for the Continent.

Lady Paget left London last week for Serbia. The Serbian Minister and Mme. Pasitch were at the station to see her off.

H.E. Boghos Pasha Nubar has arrived in London from Egypt and Paris on a political mission on behalf of his fellow Armenians.

Under date of July 3, Reuter's Sofia correspondent reports: Sir Henry Bax-Ironside, the British Minister, who is taking leave of absence next week and who will probably not return here, held a brilliant reception this evening. All the principal personages of Sofia, including Dr. Radoslavoff, the Premier, and the Staffs of the Allied and neutral Legations, were present.

A Reuter's message from Sofia, dated July 6, reports:—King Ferdinand to-day received in prolonged audience Sir Henry Bax-Ironside, the British Minister, who is leaving for England. In the course of the audience his Majesty presented the Minister with a tie pin. The Queen received Lady Bax-Ironside.

An official statement, issued by the Press Bureau on Monday, says that Mr. Hugh O'Beirne, C.V.O., C.B., Counsellor and Minister Plenipotentiary at his Majesty's Embassy at Petrograd, will act as Chargé d'Affaires at his Majesty's Legation at Sofia, during the absence on leave of Sir H. G. O. Bax-Ironside, K.C.M.G., his Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary.

A telegram, dated July 4, from Reuter's Petrograd correspondent announced that Mr. H. J. O'Beirne, who has been Counsellor at the British Embassy at Petrograd since 1906 (with the rank of Minister Plenipotentiary since 1913), had left for Sofia to take up the post of British Minister to Bulgaria.

Mr. Hugh James O'Beirne, C.V.O., C.B., entered the diplomatic service in 1892, and was the same year appointed to St. Petersburg as an attaché. Promoted a Third Secretary in 1894, he was transferred to Washington in 1895. Two years later he was promoted to be a Second Secretary, and in 1899 (March) was transferred to Constantinople. The same year he was temporarily employed at Athens, and in 1900 he was transferred to Paris. In 1904 he was promoted to be a First Secretary, and was later appointed British Agent on the North Sea Inquiry Commission. Next year he was sent once more to Washington, where for a time he was Chargé d'Affaires. He was then transferred to Paris (August, 1905), whence a year later he was once more sent to St. Petersburg, being promoted Counsellor of Embassy. There he has acted frequently as Chargé d'Affaires. He was made a C.B. in 1905, and a C.V.O. in 1908. He received the Coronation Medal in 1911, and was appointed a Minister Plenipotentiary in August, 1913.

Lieutenant H. C. Lukach, R.N.V.R., has for some time past been lent by the Government of Cyprus to act as Political Adviser to Rear-Admiral Wemyss in the Ægean in connection with the operations at the Dardanelles.

The Roumanian Conservative Party has chosen M. Filipescu as its leader in succession to M. Lahovary.

Lord Islington, who has been elected president of the African Society for the year 1915-16, will take the chair at the annual meeting of the society to be held this afternoon at four o'clock, at the Royal Society of Arts, John Street, Adelphi.

Sir Frederick Treves has been confined to his bed as the result of his recent visit to the Near East. In a letter which he sent apologizing for his absence from a meeting of the National League for Physical Education and Improvement, held on Monday at the Mansion House, he wrote: "I am sorry I cannot attend the meeting. More than a month ago—just before I left for Mudros—I acquired, through flies I expect, a complaint in Alexandria which has got gradually worse, until now I am laid up in bed and unable to do anything."

We regret to learn that Mr. Lawrence G. Binns, formerly of Constantinople and now residing at Scarborough, has been seriously ill. Happily he is now much better and able to leave his rooms, but he will be unable to attend to correspondence for some little time.

In a letter, dated the 5th inst., acknowledging the receipt of a parcel of books for the wounded, Nurse Wheatley informs us that she hopes to get home on leave this week.

A Cyprus correspondent writes:—Captain G. A. Williamson, of the Territorials, formerly for several years District Medical Officer, Larnaca, has been appointed military doctor in charge of the convalescent camp for wounded soldiers on Troodos. Captain Williamson has been for four years Professor of Medical Science at the Aberdeen University.

Mr. W. S. Hill, of the English Coaling Company, Port Said, is returning to that town, and leaves England on Saturday.

Our Larnaca (Cyprus) Correspondent writes (June 27):—Mr. T. F. Bowen Rees, of the well-known firm of T. Bowen Rees and Co., of Smyrna, shipowners and army contractors, is in the island on a visit.

A correspondent writes from Canada:—It may interest some of your readers to learn that both the sons of the Rev. W. E. Cockshott, formerly Chaplain to H.B.M. Embassy at Constantinople, and grandsons of the late Dr. John Patterson, an old resident of Cairo and Constantinople, are now serving with the Canadian Expeditionary Force. The younger, Private Basil P. Cockshott, is now at the Front; the elder, Private Maurice C. Cockshott, is in the 48th Battalion at Victoria, B.C., and expects shortly to proceed to the Front.

Last Saturday, at Holy Trinity, Sloane Street, the marriage took place of Mr. Oliver Francis Haynes Atkey, Sudan Medical Department, with Miss Dulcibella Clifford, daughter of the late Mr. P. H. Clifford and of Mrs. Clifford, of 2, Lurgan Mansions, Sloane Square.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Mr. Maurice Bonham Carter and Miss Violet Asquith, elder daughter of the Prime Minister, who has recently returned from Egypt.

Mr. John Edelmann, of Cairo, is now in an officers' training corps in England.

Writing under date of June 15, our Sofia Correspondent reports:—Miss Helen Scot Hay, a well-known American lady, who, during the Balkan war, rendered great service to Bulgaria as a hospital nurse, arrived here yesterday from Chicago, and is staying at the Hotel Bulgaria as the guest, it is understood, of the Palace. Miss Hay, who is a personal friend of the Queen, visited the Palace yesterday and was received in audience by her Majesty.

The Exarch Joseph, who had been at the head of the Bulgarian Church for thirty-seven years, died at Sofia on Saturday afternoon. He resided at Constantinople, and enjoyed the title of Beatitude. He received an annual subvention from the Kingdom, and exercised jurisdiction over the Bulgarian hierarchy in all parts of the Ottoman Empire.

We regret to learn that Second Lieutenant Crewe Coles, of the 4th East Lancashire Regiment (T.F.), was killed on June 4 in the fighting at the Dardanelles. He was gazetted to the East Lancashire Fusiliers last February, and was the third son of Coles Pasha, C.M.G., late Inspector-General of Prisons, Egypt, and of Mrs. Coles, Stone House, Bishops Hull, Taunton. He was twenty-six years of age.

From Egypt we learn that Mr. McKinnon, who for some years resided at Alexandria, has been killed in action. He held a commission at the time in a Scotch regiment.

Lieutenant Harold Edward Gorst, 5th Battalion Yorkshire Regiment (Territorial Force), who, as reported last week, has been wounded with the Expeditionary Force in France, is the only surviving son of the Right Hon. Sir John Eldon Gorst, of Castle Combe, Wilts, his elder brother, Sir Eldon, who succeeded Lord Cromer in Egypt, having died about four years ago. Lieutenant Gorst was born in 1868, and, an author of repute himself, is the husband of Mrs. Harold Gorst, author of "The Thief on the Cross" and other well-known novels.

Captain Ralph Micklem, Royal Engineers, who has been wounded while on service with the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, was formerly attached to the Egyptian Army. He was born in 1884, and, joining the Royal Engineers in 1902, was promoted to his present rank eighteen months ago.

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The partnership formerly existing between Messrs. Joseph Cohen, Jacques Eskenazi, and N. Babani having been dissolved, the Han Halil shop of JOSEPH COHEN is now in the same road, near the Arch Way, Cairo, entrance from the Mousky. Friends and customers are respectfully requested to visit the new shop when visiting the Bazaar, where they will find a rich assortment of carpets, embroideries, etc., etc.—Advt.

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Honorary Captain and Quartermaster Arthur Harman, 1st Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps, is reported killed in action. Born in July, 1865, he served in the ranks twenty-one years. He received his commission to the honorary rank of lieutenant in 1909, and during the war was gazetted to the honorary rank of captain. He took part in the Egyptian Expedition to the Sudan in 1884, and was at the battle of Tamai. He received the Sudan medal with clasp and the bronze star. In the South African War (1899-1902) he saw much service.

Captain Roland Henry Gallagher, who has died in hospital at Boulogne as the result of a motor accident, was a brother of Captain A. E. Gallagher, D.S.O., chief commandant of military police in Cyprus.

The *Egyptian Gazette* of June 26 reports that El Bimbashi Barlow, Inspector, Sinai, is in hospital recovering from wounds received at the Dardanelles.

We regret to announce the death, which occurred at Alexandria on June 24, of Dr. Thomas J. Finney, senior member of the American Mission at that town. Dr. Finney was born in Mansfield, Ohio, U.S.A., on September 12, 1852. He went to Egypt in 1882, immediately after the Arabi Rebellion. After one year in Cairo and fourteen years in Mansoura he removed to Alexandria, which, since 1897, had been his chief centre of work. In addition to his many labours in the church and community and in every variety of mission effort, he was the editor of the *Negm* and *Huda*, two Arabic weeklies published by the American Mission and widely read in the Egyptian Evangelical Church. By this means and by long tours upon the Nile he came into intimate touch with the people.

The death occurred last Friday at 96, Eaton Place, S.W., of Mr. Alfred Hambley Rowe, formerly of Cairo. The deceased gentleman was sixty-seven years of age.

The death has taken place at Khartoum, as a result of a fall from his horse at Wad Medani, of Mr. Turner, of the Sudan Plantations Syndicate, brother of Major Turner, R.E., a former Director of Posts and Telegraphs in the Sudan. Mr. Turner was attended by Dr. Christopherson, and an operation was performed, but without success.

A *matinée* is to be held at the Queen's Theatre this afternoon at 2.30, in aid of comforts for the British wounded in the Dardanelles, when the programme will include an English version of Pailleron's "Le Monde où l'on s'ennuie" and "A Midnight Meeting," by the Marchioness Townshend.

A musical and dramatic *matinée* in aid of St. John Ambulance Special Fund and the hospitals for wounded in the Dardanelles is being arranged by a committee of ladies, and will take place at the Royal Court Theatre, Sloane Square, on Tuesday, the 13th inst., at half-past two o'clock. Princess Christian is patronizing the entertainment, which is being supported by many well-known soldiers and sailors. Tickets may be had from the Assistant Honorary Secretary, St. John Ambulance and Red Cross Special Fund, 5, Belgrave Place, and Miss Collum, 35, Oakley Street, Chelsea, S.W.

A large party of wounded soldiers now located at the nursing homes in Folkestone held a picnic on Saturday at Earl Kitchener's residence, Broome Park, eight miles from Folkestone. The party were taken thither in a large motor-coach, and after arriving at the Park were delighted by a surprise visit from Lord Kitchener, who conversed with each of his visitors, asking where and how they were wounded and if any of them had been gassed. He told them to visit the Park as often as they liked and to enter the garden and help themselves to the flowers. The wounded men gave three hearty cheers for Lord Kitchener before leaving.

General Gouraud, Commander-in-Chief of the French Mediterranean Expeditionary Corps, has been wounded and invalided to France. He was struck by fragments of a shell that burst near an ambulance station to which he had gone to visit the wounded. General Bailloud has provisionally taken over the command.

The Paris correspondent of the *Morning Post*, in commenting on General Gouraud's return, writes: Great regret has been caused by the news that General Gouraud has been wounded in the Dardanelles and forced to return to France. Few French generals commanded more completely the confidence of their men, and the Colonial troops, who had followed him throughout the campaigns that earned him the proud position of the youngest general in the French Army, declared that under his leadership they would go anywhere. He was well known for his reckless daring. While commanding in France he was wounded in the arm, and the one fear of his soldiers was that the unlucky bullet might deprive them of their leader.

The Times Athens correspondent telegraphs (July 6): According to information received by the Press, General Liman von Sanders Pasha was wounded in one of the recent battles in the Dardanelles while visiting the Turkish trenches with other officers of the High German Command in order to encourage the Turkish soldiers.

Reuter's Athens correspondent telegraphs (July 5): Colonel von Leipzig, the German Military Attaché in Constantinople, has been found dead in his apartment. The official version of his death says that he committed suicide.

In connection with the above paragraph, it may be remembered that a telegram from Sofia on June 24, announcing the recall to Berlin of the German Minister in Bulgaria, stated that he was to be replaced provisionally by Colonel von Leipzig.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, etc.

It is understood that the post of Director-General of the General Accounts Department in the Egyptian Ministry of Finance, which will be vacated by August Adib Pasha in the autumn, will be split up into two parts, and that Mr. R. S. Patterson, Director of Accounts in the Ministry of Public Works, will be appointed to one of the new posts in question.

M. Rendis, Secretary in the Hellenic diplomatic service, is acting as Chargé d'Affaires at the Legation at Cettinje.

M. Saltaferos, Secretary in the Hellenic diplomatic service, has been appointed to the Enos consulate.

In a letter only received this week, though forwarded on June 15, our Sofia Correspondent writes: The unofficial Press announces this morning that Djavid Bey, a former Turkish Minister Plenipotentiary to Serbia, has been appointed Minister Plenipotentiary here. Fethl Bey, the present Ottoman representative here, has been recalled and will shortly leave for Constantinople. It is stated that he will be promoted to the dignity of Pasha, and that he will take part in the defence of the Dardanelles with a high rank.

Our Belgrade Correspondent writes (June 19):—Colonel Milivoje Nikolaievitch has been appointed Serbian Military Attaché in London.

Some time ago we announced that a new Egyptian Order had been created by the Sultan. A list of the first recipients of the Order has now been published, among whom we find the following names of Anglo-Egyptian officials:—

Grand Cordon. — Lord Edward Cecil, Financial Adviser; Sir Reginald Wingate Pasha, the Sirdar; Sir Ronald Graham, Adviser to the Ministry of the Interior; Sir Malcolm McIlwraith, Adviser to the Ministry of Justice; Dr. Douglas Dunlop, Adviser to the Ministry of Education.

Second Class.—Sir Murdoch Macdonald, Under-Secretary of State for the Ministry of Public Works; Hon. J. Lindsay, Under-Secretary of State for the Ministry of Finance; Mr. Hayes, Under-Secretary of State for the Ministry of Agriculture; Mr. Brunyate.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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

BIRTH.

BAWDEN.—On July 1, at Innesfree, Bulkeley, Ramleh, Alexandria, the wife of Niel R. Bawden, of a daughter.

DEATH.

HAUGHTON.—Killed in action on June 24, Alfred John, Second Lieutenant, 9th Durham Light Infantry, only son of D. Haughton, Sandbach, Cheshire, and husband of Lylie Haughton, Louvaine House, North Shields.

WHERE TO STAY.

Cairo's Hotels de Luxe.

SHEPHEARD'S HOTEL.
Open all the year round.

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Splendid position on the East Bank of the Nile.

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

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Every modern comfort and luxury. Private apartments with bath-rooms attached & combined suites.
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Hot and cold water in each bedroom. Large and luxurious dining rooms. American bar and restaurant stocked with best wines and liquors. Garden terrace. Verandah. Lift. Motor Car, Guides and Interpreters meet all trains and ships on arrival.
Moderate and Inclusive Terms

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Most delightful and healthy situation of any Hotel in Alexandria. Electric Light throughout. Daily Concerts on Verandah. Meals served *al fresco*. French Cuisine and English Management.
Inclusive Terms from P.T. 50 (10s.) per day.
Special Terms to Government Officials, Commercial Travellers, and for long stays.
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FRIDAY, JULY 9, 1915.

PERSIA AND THE WAR.

Persia's interest in the war is far from being an academic one. Internal dissension and organic weakness have made of her an international Tom Tiddler's ground, and with the entry of Turkey into the European struggle, her territory has exercised a powerful attraction not only for some of her own exiles and the Turks among whom they have taken refuge, but also for Dr. Pugin and his fellow-agents from Germany. The peculiar position of the province of Azerbaijan may be held to have justified the Turks in regarding it as a Russian possession, and in seeking to turn the Caucasus army by an attack on its left flank. They were not, however, justified in devastating every part of the country through which they advanced, regardless of the fact that the population was Persian, and that no Russians were to be found there. It showed a still more cynical disregard of Persian rights to dispatch a force in the direction of Ahwaz in an attempt to injure certain British interests in that portion of the country. Both these incidents, however, will have proved instructive to the Persian Government. The conditions of the ill-defined protectorate established over Persia by the British and Russian Governments could never be wholly agreeable to the Persians, and they must have occasionally wondered whether protection from a different quarter might not prove more to their liking. Their experiences in this war will, we may trust, have undeceived them on this point. The place of Great Britain and Russia could only be taken by Germany and Turkey, and both these countries have given an earnest of what their attitude towards Persia would be, if she were ever to find herself at their mercy. As far as the Turks are concerned, not even the religious ties which might be supposed to bind them to Persia have prevented them from letting loose Kurdish hordes on defenceless Persian subjects. The Germans, too, have shown conclusively that they would stop at no measures of deception to induce Persians to sacrifice themselves to German interests. There may be some difficulty in discovering much altruism in the past attitude of the Russian and British Governments towards Persia; but Germany, who might so easily have posed as the affirmation of all that the Persians lacked before in their international relations, could not sufficiently disguise her own intentions in order to profit by her enemies' mistakes. Her agents do not hesitate to bring the religion of the country into contempt, and seek to exploit to their own advantage the lawlessness which has been Persia's undoing in the past.

It should not be difficult in these circumstances for the Persian Government to convince the protecting Powers that it has no interest in taking or countenancing any action likely to prejudice its neutrality. The war, indeed, it is to be hoped, will ultimately prove an unmixed blessing to Persia. Her territory was violated by the Turks and Germans, and the line of their advance was sufficiently scored by excesses to rouse the lasting enmity of the people. With the establishment of British control over Mesopotamia the menace to which the lawlessness of the tribesmen has always exposed Persian territory will be removed, and an end will be put to the encouragement that the Turks have given to domestic strife in Persia. At the same time we may expect that a readjustment of the understanding between Great Britain and Russia will make for a more settled state of affairs in the country. One of the chief troubles of the Persians hitherto has been the uncertainty that has gripped them in every sphere of life. The absence of a common purpose in Persia has stultified whatever good intentions the British and Russian Governments may have had, while the unfulfilment of Russia's aspirations in other directions led her to adopt a policy which neither her own need nor Persia's interests required. The Persian Government was forced to look to the protecting Powers at every turn, but at best it was only offered half-measures. Financially it was forced to live from hand to mouth; the restoration of order was carried out slowly and only partially; the frequent changes in the Ministry betrayed the chronic difficulties with which the country was beset. It will not be possible to remove all the anomalies from which Persia suffers, while the war in Europe continues; but now that Persian territory has been cleared of the common enemy it should be possible to take some steps to lighten the load of the Persian Government. Already an earnest of better things to come is foreshadowed from Teheran. It is announced that there has been an exchange of views on various matters, including agrarian problems and land taxes, between the Russian and Persian Governments. Of the former's reply it is noted with considerable satisfaction that it is couched in such friendly terms as to invest it with special significance in the history of Russo-Persian relations. Russia is at pains to emphasize her desire for an amicable adjustment of the interests of the two countries, and, it is added, the establishment on general lines of an *entente* profitable to both parties thus becomes possible.

The Persians and their Government, however, cannot divest themselves of all responsibility for the future course which the development of the country is likely to assume. Their troubles are mainly of their own creation, for the most potent source of evil has been the venality and incompetence of the official class. From the Persian Notes, which appear elsewhere in this issue, some idea can be formed of the way in which this unsatisfactory feature in Persian public life reacts on the well-being of the country. Our correspondent voices popular opinion in inveighing against two of the most prominent personalities in Persia to-day. But if the Russian and the British Government had to explain why they had made use of the services of Shuja-ed-Dowleh and Saad-ed-Dowleh they would probably maintain that in the circumstances maladministration was preferable to administrative chaos. Not the least of the protecting Powers' difficulties is the lack of suitable men who can be relied upon to build up under friendly advice strong and honest government in Persia. We do not need to inquire whether the alleged "contemplated *coup d'état*" had any real foundation or not; for the important factor is that, rightly or wrongly, the Persians have satisfied themselves that they cannot look to Great Britain to take any action independent of Russia. It would be idle to disguise the fact that the Russians have made themselves suspect in Persia or to deny that the Persians have some justification for their attitude. Nothing, however, in Great Britain's conduct towards Persia ought to have brought her under the same ban; but by adopting an entirely negative policy, and refusing to treat with the Persian Government independently of Russia, Great Britain has come to be regarded as merely Russia's echo. If Persia is to be saved in spite of herself, she must have confidence in the intentions of the protecting Powers. It is impossible that she should gain this confidence unless she has reason to believe the British Government capable of taking up a line of action independent of Russia, and at times of opposing, if necessary, her will to that of Russia's. Fortunately, there is no reason to suppose that occasion will arise in the future for differences of opinion between the two Powers. But for the success of what it is hoped will be a new order of things in Persia it is essential that Great Britain should take the direction of it until the misunderstandings caused by the action of Russian officials, often in antagonism to their Government's policy, have had time to be eliminated. Persia, however, must not forget her part; for failure to devise a *modus vivendi* with the protecting Powers can only result in the development of the country being carried out under a more direct system of foreign control.

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THE KHEDIVIAL WAKFS SCANDALS.—II.

(By Our Cairo Correspondent.)

Amongst the various entries by means of which the settlement of Khairy Pasha's advances of £E20,650 was effected there appeared an item which merits some special reference. This item was purported to have been paid to a certain Hussein Fahmy, a lawyer at Assiut, who, it appears, had defended the interests of the "Aukaf" since its creation—i.e., for ten years—without receiving any remuneration. Not unnaturally he at length claimed payment of his fees, which he modestly assessed at £E1,024. Khairy Pasha states that the ex-Khedive sent for him and told him to pass that sum as having been paid to the lawyer and to credit his advances with it, it being his intention to accord the lawyer a "moral reward." Fahmy, who doubtless knew by experience the value of these "moral rewards," held out for a material reward as well. After lengthy negotiations Khairy succeeded in getting his Highness to agree to pay Fahmy £E300. At the inquiry Khairy Pasha naïvely stated that when Abbas Hilmi Pasha said he was going to accord Fahmy a "moral reward" he at once understood that he intended to confer on him the "Mutamaiz" (first-class Beyship). Basing himself on this, the reader might spend an interesting quarter of an hour drawing up a scale of the values of the various other decorations and grades which the ex-Khedive bestowed so promiscuously on those who were willing to pay for them or had served him in some private capacity.

It has already been mentioned that the Daira Khassa treated the "Aukaf" as a bank. It proved more accommodating than most banks, seeing that it charged no commission or interest on the transactions carried out by it. Since both were so completely under the control of the ex-Khedive, this relationship was not difficult to maintain. About £E50,000 was paid as advances to the Daira Khassa between 1904 and 1910. All the sums were eventually repaid in full, though in many instances the loans were outstanding for some long time.

The most important transaction was, however, the sale to the "Aukaf" of the Ragdia and Sabarbay estates of Abbas Hilmi Pasha, about 1,900 feddans in area. His Highness had for some time been contemplating this deal, and he ordered the "Aukaf" to keep uninvested a sum of £E107,000, which it happened to have at its disposal from exchanges of land that had been effected for account of certain Wakfs. The sale price of the two estates was, however, £E315,000, so, to make up the difference, his Highness ordered the "Aukaf" to sell certain lands, which, although they were held in connection with the Wakfs, were not inalienable. The £E107,000 cash and the proceeds from the land were paid over to the Daira Khassa before the deed of sale of the two estates was signed, or even before the consent of the Cadi to the acquisition by the "Aukaf" was obtained. Eventually the authority of the Cadi was secured, and, of course, it was based on reports made by notables of the districts in question. But from the figures there is little doubt that the interests of the "Aukaf" were not for one moment considered, for the non-wakfs property disposed of gave a much better return, and the surplus money in the hands of the administration could have been more profitably invested by the purchase of that property instead of being used for the acquisition of two estates which were far below the value set upon them.

It appears that, apart from the operations which the higher officials of the administration effected, advances were made, on the instructions of Abbas Hilmi Pasha, to Yusef Pasha Saddek, in the days of the boom a stockbroker in Cairo, recently Kapou Kakhadai (Khedive's agent) at Stamboul, and his master's boon companion. These advances amounted to £E9,000 between 1904 and 1908. Of this amount Saddek Pasha, whose name figures frequently in the inquiry, and who must not be confounded with Ahmed Bey Saddek, the sub-director of the "Aukaf," still owes £E3,500. Of the balance only £E2,500 was repaid in cash; the remaining £E3,500 was deducted as commission on the sale of certain Wakfs' property and as remuneration for services rendered in Constantinople in the interests of the Wakfs. No one knows, however, what these services or sales of land were.

In connection with the Daira Khassa, it is interesting to note that Saddek Bey, on entering the "Aukaf," had no means whatsoever beyond his pay. In course of time he opened accounts with various banks, amongst them the Banco di Roma, where in eighteen months he accumulated over £E20,000. When the moratorium was declared the Banco di Roma, to which the Daira Khassa owed a large sum, proposed to set off Saddek Bey's balance against it. But Saddek Bey did not relish becoming a creditor of the ex-Khedive, and demurred. The matter was, however, referred to the latter, who ordered Saddek Bey to clear off the Daira Khassa's debt, and it appears that he personally paid off a substantial amount!

On Khairy Pasha resigning in 1913, Shafik Pasha succeeded him. He proved himself an adept emulator of his predecessor in office. Saddek Bey was the evil genius in this as in the Seif-ed-Dine affair. Much that might be interesting, however, remains hidden, for the time being, at any rate, as Shafik Pasha is in Constantinople, and is unlikely to return. Certain details have been obtained from Saddek Bey, who on the outbreak of the war was arrested as a political suspect, and was retained in custody for some time. He was recently released for no evident reason, and he has now followed the example of his chief and taken refuge abroad—it is believed in Italy or Switzerland. In the light of the revelations subsequently made this leniency on the part of the authorities is much to be regretted, as it will greatly hinder the completion of the inquiry that should be made into the entire administration. So far it has been found that during his eighteen months of office Shafik Pasha drew £E2,925, for which he undertook to produce vouchers, and also £E1,500 from the interest on the funds. The major portion of the information that has been obtained concerns the Charity account, an examination of which reveals a most scandalous state of affairs. It should be explained that certain amounts are annually earmarked out of the various Wakfs funds for expenditure on particular charitable objects indicated by the Wakfias, or on charity in a general way. What has been discovered shows that Abbas Hilmi Pasha, through his favourites, disgracefully abused what were quasi-religious trusts, and used the name of charity as a cloak for his extravagance and political intrigues, etc. The amount misspent since the creation of the "Aukaf" must run into many thousands, if some of the items traced between January, 1911, and May, 1913, are any criterion. The Kavalla Wakfs in particular revealed many disgraceful abuses.

During 1911 and 1912 Khairy Pasha is known to have withdrawn £E8,000 for charity, but only £E1,600 can be traced as having been expended thereon. Particular interest, however, attaches to an item of £E5,000, which was drawn between January 5 and May 5, 1913. Of this £E2,000 was handed personally to Abbas Hilmi Pasha by Shafik Pasha and Saddek Bey; £E1,000 was given to his moawen for transmission to his Highness; £E800 was sent to M. Haccius, who was the director of the school where the ex-Khedive had studied in Geneva, and who has acted as agent of his Highness on many occasions of recent years; and the balance went in entertaining his Highness's guests and into the pockets of disreputable scoundrels and politicians, who took advantage of his petty foibles and battened on the proceeds of his financial expedients.

Many facts hitherto unexplained have been revealed. Thus, periodically, Abbas Hilmi Pasha invited Moslem and Turkish personages and notables to reside in Cairo at his expense. Knowing their Sovereign's parsimonious temperament, people were wont to be surprised, and to speculate as to what was at the back of this sudden access of generosity. But they could have quickly satisfied their curiosity by examining the "Charity" account at the "Aukaf." Probably the Young Turks who periodically came over to Cairo would not be much perturbed to hear that they have been indebted to charity for their visit to Cairo, but one can picture the frame of mind of the Cherif of Mecca when he learns that the cost of his son's stay in Cairo was not borne, as he thought, by the pious Hajji, Abbas Hilmi Pasha, Khedive of Egypt, but that it figures in the books of the "Aukaf" as having been expended on "the deserving poor"!

His Highness, also, was not above accepting charity for his own private expenses. Were technical work required at Kavalla, did he want plans drawn up in connection with his Doloman estate, did he require horses, did his daughter in Constantinople stand in need of nurses for her children, all went down as gifts to the poor at Ramadan or to deserving refugees; and it might be mentioned that amongst the items appeared a payment of nearly £E400 for the expenses at the Imperial Hotel at Vienna of a lady whose identity Saddek Bey declined to reveal, but who, there is every reason to believe, was the Princess Djawidan, the name taken by the famous Countess Torok after she embraced Islam and married Abbas Hilmi Pasha four years ago. There is also another item of £E250, which came under the same heading, and which was expended on the cost of repairing motor-cars that had been sent to the ex-Khedive's estate at Doloman. This would not, on the face of it, appear to have much connection with charity, but the reconciliation between these two contradictory facts was made in an ingenious manner. The cars were destined, it was explained, to enable the Kavalla refugees to learn how to drive, and so be able to earn a living on the estate! In Saddek Bey's mind this sufficiently justified the debiting up of the cost to charity.

Perhaps the most shameless affair was that concerning what it known as the Hani Om Khalil Wakf. This Wakf consisted of 22 feddans, which an old Egyptian woman had constituted years ago on the condition that three-fourths of the revenue should go to her family, and that the remaining fourth should be expended in charity and in the reading of the Koran over her grave. For years her instructions had been faithfully carried out. Suddenly, in 1911, Khairy Pasha bethought himself of this Wakf, and ordered the payments in charity and to Koran readers to be stopped and the sums in question to be paid in in reduction of his own advances. Whilst the fact that the whole amount involved only totalled £E41 speaks for the petty minds of these individuals, this incident itself is illustrative of the callous manner in which those responsible observed their trust.

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GREAT AGE AND BOUQUET.
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H.M. KING OF SPAIN.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

Some days ago I was waiting to see the Editor. No one ever sees an editor without waiting, and when it is over one frequently wishes it wasn't—this, however, is by the way. While I was waiting I glanced casually through some foreign papers on the table before me, and in doing so came upon a list of names, subscribers to the Prince of Wales's Relief Fund. One grows so accustomed to these things nowadays that I was passing it by when my eye caught a familiar name, and I stopped to investigate. And what I saw made me proud to have known the Sudan, prouder still that I can boast acquaintance with the owners of some of the names which figured in that list. For, generous as has been the response from all quarters to his Royal Highness's appeal, the Sudan officials deserve a place in the very front rank. They are not rich, many of these Englishmen who in these scorching days of the Sudan summer are doing their duty by the Empire no less than our soldiers upon the field of battle, yet over and over again I came upon the bracketed note that told of regularly received monthly subscriptions against the sum of pounds that I know must have come out of a poor man's salary.

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While yet I was exulting over the wonderful story of deathless heroism that came to us from Sir Ian Hamilton yesterday, a friend came in, and leaving, left a paper that robbed me of half my joy. It was a copy of the *Devon and Exeter Gazette*, not a new one; but having known that journal in bygone days I turned its pages and found the paragraph that swept my mind from one quarter of the Near East to another:—

"The people of England seem to have forgotten us," is the pathetic cry of a soldier serving with the British Expedition at the head of the Persian Gulf; "we have not had as much as a box of matches from England."

The pathos of that appeal is not to be denied. Steadfastly, gloriously, our soldiers in the far-off Gulf region have fought, driving the enemy before them, through swamp and river or across arid wastes. Yet, if the quotation I have used is to be relied upon, and I have no reason to doubt it, those men have been forgotten in the din of nearer alarms, or at least they have received the impression of loneliness which is every whit as bad. The value of a gift is not in its intrinsic worth. That is a platitude with which we are all familiar, so let us remedy the evil of this impression in the minds of our comrades, before it eat into the soul and destroy the charms of victory. Equally with the men in Flemish trenches, equally with the men who figure in Sir Ian Hamilton's report, these men have done their duty: their burthen no less light, their hardships no less real. I hope that each person who reads this paragraph will remember. For that is our least duty.

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My story of the Fair Lady of Boulak, the Robbers, and the Police has reminded a correspondent of two good tales of a somewhat similar character that Baron de Kusel tells in his entertaining book, "An Englishman's Recollections of Egypt." Both concern the activities of smugglers, and, curiously enough, the detection of the attempted fraud was due in both cases to a horse. In one instance the smugglers employed a closed carriage, drawn by a pair of splendid horses, with an outrider in front, and "doors and windows hermetically closed, as is usual when ladies are inside"; and this so impressed the Octroi guard that not only did they not seek to examine the carriage, but, supposing it belonged to some Great One, they regularly saluted it. Then one day, alas and alack! just as the equipage was passing the obsequious guard, the horses slipped and came to the ground. The officer dashed forward to assist the ladies to alight, and, opening the carriage door, found—many packages of opium and tobacco. The result was a rich haul for the Octroi, which seized not only the opium and tobacco, but also the carriage and horses; while the coachman and outrider were, of course, imprisoned.

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In the second instance an Arab "funeral" was passing through the town gates (at Alexandria) when a pair of bolting horses scared the bearers so badly that they dropped the coffin and bolted. "There was," writes Baron de Kusel, "a smash—and when they went to look for the corpse they found instead a fine load of the same contraband articles, opium and tobacco." And he adds, rather sadly, one suspects: "Funerals of this kind had been passing through the gates for months."

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Young as it is in comparison with the rest of Egypt, the Suez Canal has seen some stirring times during recent years. Only a very short time ago her waters were ploughed by a ship which bore the crowned King of England to the great Durbar. The banks of the Canal were guarded, then, as now, with soldiers, but there were no adjacent trenches, no materials of war: the great ship passing along was an impressive emblem of triumphant peace. On that occasion a British officer distinguished himself by accompanying, on horseback, the Royal ship from end to end of the Canal. This was no easy matter, as the land makes particularly bad going at places, but he stuck to it, and he was rewarded by his Majesty's notice and appreciation.

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A Bulgarian correspondent sends me a story of self-sacrifice on the part of a Bulgarian peasant woman, which seems to me to afford a fine example of the true patriotic spirit. He writes:—"During the Macedonian insurrection of 1903 a poor Bulgarian woman, a native of the town of Struga, living in Roumania, having nothing else to sacrifice for the good of her fatherland, offered her necklace, consisting of nine large Austrian gold coins, worth about £2 each, and two loose coins worth about £1 each. This was, in fact, her 'last reserve.' The Ochrida Charitable Society was much touched by this proof of a rare charitable spirit on the part of a poor woman who did not even wish her name to be published. In fact, it could not at the time bring itself to part with such a precious offering, and so kept it until now, as a cherished souvenir. Lately it decided, the poor woman being dead, to present her offering to the National Ethnographical Museum, for exhibition as a memorial to the donor and an example to the nation. But in order to increase the value of the offering, the Society has decided that the necklace shall be offered as the prize of a lottery of 2,000 fr., which sum shall be employed in some way to perpetuate the memory of the original donor, while the prize itself shall be left in the museum, the committee of which has gratefully accepted the offer." If I understand my correspondent aright, the committee appears to have conducted a smart bit of work on lines that are not altogether unfamiliar at charity bazaars in this country. In any case "the widow's mite" seems to have borne good interest at last.

CORSAIR.

CENTRAL ASIAN SOCIETY.

The anniversary meeting of the Central Asian Society was held at the society's rooms in Albemarle Street on Wednesday last, Colonel Sir Francis Younghusband presiding.

In opening the proceedings, the Chairman said that among those the society had lost by death was Dr. Cotterell Tupp, one of its founders. They would all like to express their condolence with Mrs. Tupp in her loss, and he would like to say how very much the society was indebted to Dr. Cotterell Tupp for the very great energy he had shown on its behalf at its inception and since.

The Secretary (Miss Hughes) read the report of the Council for 1914-15. This stated, *inter alia*, that the membership of the society was about the same as a year ago, and that there had been no diminution of interest in the papers read before it. These had dealt mainly with the influence, direct or indirect, of the war on different countries in the East.

Sir Thomas Hildich moved the adoption of the report. He said that in Central Asia the one thing that Englishmen thought most about was the spread of Russian influence through the regions that lie to the southward of her present borderland. He hoped that one result of the present war would be that the British public generally, and politicians in particular, would acquire new views as to the policy and aspirations of Russia in Central Asia. He personally had never thought that the spread of Russian influence in those regions could be a menace to England, or could be anything but a benefit to the inhabitants of the countries immediately concerned.

The report was adopted, the formal business of the meeting transacted, and a vote of thanks to the chairman terminated the proceedings.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Dardanelles Despatch.

Sir Ian Hamilton's dispatch from the Dardanelles, containing, as it does, the record of achievements of most remarkable and sustained valour, the following quotations from the London Press concerning it will be of interest:—

The Times (July 7) says:—

Troops which have shown such astonishing valour in effecting a lodgment on the Peninsula are not to be denied. It may take them long, it may require infinite patience, but we are convinced that the lofty and unflinching courage which inspired our men on the narrow fire-swept beaches will carry them to their goal, no matter how heavy the odds against them.

The *Morning Post* (July 7) pays the following tribute:—

Words fail us to express the admiration we feel for such deeds as these. The men in the field at least have added to the imperishable traditions of the British Army the lustre of achievements worthy of their forefathers. . . . It is well for the people of this country and the people of the Empire that the British soldier and the British sailor are what they are. And it is very ill for the enemy. Germany, it seems, wanted war, and she has got it.

The *Daily Chronicle* considers the dispatch in conjunction with the fuller official reports recently received, and says:—

On the whole these reports afford ground for encouragement, and the despatch enables one better to appreciate it. The enterprise is an extremely difficult one; but it is not a wildcat enterprise, and by the exercise of patience, skill, and heroism, those engaged in it may reasonably look forward to final success. Sir Ian Hamilton's account places the factor of heroism beyond all doubt; the work so far achieved is some of the bravest ever done.

The *Daily Graphic* also refers to these reports:—

Now that the country has learnt how much was accomplished . . . we need have no anxiety about the completion of the work. Within the last two days news of good progress has arrived, which clearly indicates that we are mastering our difficulties.

The *Daily News* concludes its leading article with the following paragraph:—

The blood of our brave sons has watered that desolate land, but out of their sacrifice, we are satisfied, will come the first clear assurance that the struggle for the liberties of Europe will not be in vain.

The Irresolute Neutrals.

Dr. E. J. Dillon is the author of a lengthy article under the above heading in the *Contemporary Review* (July). The first part of his work is devoted to a study of the psychology of the Balkan States, in which he intimates that "the mental moral mechanism" of Balkan nations being "worked by a set of levers that differ widely from those of the more developed peoples of Europe," it is impossible to place any reliance upon the movement of the Balkan nations mainly because they are moved by aims or are menaced by dangers similar to those which forced the Italian people to declare war. In regard to Bulgaria he considers the diplomacy of the Entente Powers to have been at fault, although he places the responsibility of her continued neutrality upon the shoulders of her King. Roumania, he thinks, runs the risk of losing her grand opportunity altogether by a continued policy of delay:

The line of reasoning pursued by Italian publicists during the recent negotiations is equally applicable to Roumania. Suppose, they said, that in this struggle the Allies are reduced to impotence by land and sea, and their enemies are triumphant; suppose, further, that Italy is recompensed for her neutrality or her belligerency by . . . rewards so bountifully bestowed upon her in advance by the Kaiser's agents, her frontiers would then be extended on the map, but her liberty of action in foreign affairs would be paralyzed by the Austro-German *bloc*. And whither would she turn for allies in case she had a difference with the supreme rulers of the world?

It is clear that her condition would be no better than that of a vassal. And it is equally clear that if this war should end with the defeat of the Allies and the victory of the Teutonic *bloc* all the neutral States of Europe would become the vassals of the victors to the same extent and with the same consequences as if they themselves had withstood the Germans in the field and been worsted.

Dr. Dillon thinks that although the Dardanelles Expedition and the belligerency of Italy have not yet produced their full effect in Bulgaria, they will eventually lead her to the side of the Allies in the field, in which case the Roumanian interventionalists would force their Government to follow her example.

The Balkans and "Frightfulness."

In an article entitled "The Balkan Watchers," a recent number of the *Globe* dealt in a straightforward manner with the question of the neutrality of these States. The writer, after reviewing the territorial ambitions of the various neutrals, together with the influence that blood relationship with the Hohenzollerns has upon the reigning houses in Greece and Roumania, says:—

The true causes which restrain the Balkan States are exhaustion and fear. Roumania alone has escaped the effects of a desolating war. . . . The sentiment which is common to them all, and which has had by far the greatest influence in keeping them back, is fear. . . . They knew the thoroughness of the German preparedness, and they dreaded the fate with which their countries would inevitably be visited if Germany did what all the German strategists were convinced she would accomplish. "Frightfulness" in Belgium was intended quite as much as a hint to the Balkan States as to terrorise the Belgian people, and it was not without its effect. But of late military opinion in these States has undergone a marked change. Their experts no longer believe in a German triumph, and have come to a better understanding than they had before of the illimitable reserve forces of the British and Russian Empires.

The Near East and the War.

"Outis," writing in the *Fortnightly Review* (July), proceeds from an examination of the rival claims to success that may be put forward by either group of belligerents as the result of fighting up to date to a study of the existing conditions in the Near East, which he characterises as being of "extraordinary complexity and of the very deepest interest." He thinks that Greece will ultimately accept the policy of M. Venizelos, and intervene in the struggle, while of Bulgaria and Roumania he writes:—

If Roumania could "redeem" her kinsmen in Transylvania, and if Bulgaria could be sure that she should be allowed control over certain portions of Macedonia, both might consider the advisability of joining the Entente Powers. Roumania is, of course, in intimate relations with Italy, and the entrance of Rome into the quarrel has without doubt exercised a considerable influence in Bucharest. But if both Roumania and Bulgaria could get what they want, and yet remain neutral, it might serve their interests still better. At all events, by insisting on their neutrality they can press their demands on Russia, France, and Great Britain from a position of great advantage.

He arrives at the conclusion that we cannot be sure whether we are to receive assistance from the Balkan States, and that it is best to proceed on the assumption that it may possibly be denied us. In the opinion of this writer, the attack upon the Dardanelles was an act of war necessary to the success of the whole campaign of the Allied countries.

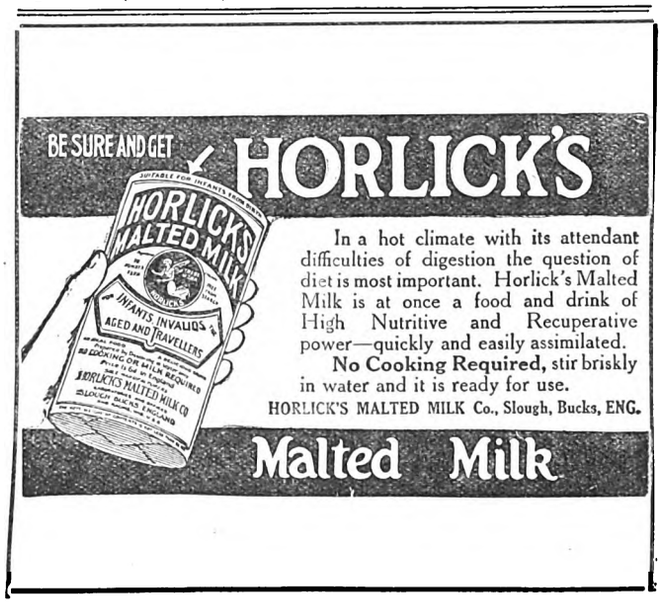
Articles to Note.

"A Journey from Bassorah to Baghdad," by J. Niven, in *Chambers' Journal* (July).

"Some Serbian Impressions," by John W. N. Sullivan, in the *New Witness* (July 1).

"Brighter Days in Serbia," by Captain E. N. Bennett, in the *Westminster Gazette* (July 2).

"A Dying Empire. The Real Conditions in Turkey," by Carlo Scarfoglio, from *La Stampa* (Turin), in *Foreign Opinion* (June 30).



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NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS. July 1.

Dardanelles Casualties.

Mr. JOYNSON-HICKS asked the Prime Minister if he would state what was the total number of casualties divided into killed, wounded, and missing in the Dardanelles campaign.

Mr. ASQUITH: The casualties sustained by the naval and military forces in the Dardanelles up to May 31 are as follows:—

OFFICERS.	
Killed	496
Wounded	1,134
Missing	92
Total	1,722
MEN.	
Killed	6,927
Wounded	23,542
Missing	6,445
Total	36,914

The total casualties sustained are 38,636.

Mr. JOYNSON-HICKS asked whether the right hon. gentleman was now prepared to make a statement as to the reasons for starting the campaign in the Dardanelles in the way it was started and as to the progress of such campaign.

Mr. ASQUITH: I cannot in the public interests at present make a statement.

Persian Gulf Medals. July 5.

Sir CLEMENT KINLOCH-COOKE asked the First Lord of the Admiralty whether he could make some definite announcement as to the date when the long-promised Persian Gulf medal, earned in 1912, would be awarded?

Dr. MACNAMARA: It is hoped to begin the distribution of the medals very shortly.

Colonel YATE: Will it be extended to the members of the Royal Indian Marine Service?

Dr. MACNAMARA: I must ask for notice of that.

A Dardanelles Rumour.

Mr. G. G. GREENWOOD asked the Under-Secretary for War whether he could give the House any information regarding the reports which had appeared in the Press of a British reverse at the Dardanelles.

Mr. TENNANT: No report has reached the War Office, and therefore I think the House may hope that the information is wholly incorrect.

Dardanelles Wounded. July 7.

Mr. TENNANT, in reply to Mr. JOYNSON-HICKS, said the first arrival at Alexandria of men wounded at the Dardanelles took place on the morning of April 29. He could not give the numbers that arrived during the first fortnight, but he could assure the House that the arrangements made for the reception of the wounded at Alexandria had been adequate in all respects.

Mr. JOYNSON-HICKS asked whether the right hon. gentleman made that statement on his own responsibility.

Mr. TENNANT: I make that statement on my responsibility.

Mr. PRINGLE: Can the right hon. gentleman say the same thing regarding the arrangements for the transport of the wounded to Alexandria?

Mr. TENNANT: No, sir, I cannot, and I have stated so in the House.

Mr. TENNANT informed Mr. JOYNSON-HICKS, in reply to a further question, that seven army and three naval hospital ships were now employed between the Dardanelles, Alexandria, and the United Kingdom The first voyages of four of these were in January and February, of four more in April and May, and of the remainder in June. There were also three ships employed on what was called the ferry service. This has been in operation since May.

Hospital Accommodation at Alexandria. July 8.

Sir Arthur Markham asked the Under-Secretary for War whether the Secretary for War refused to give his consent to private persons sending out to Egypt private hospitals at their own expense; and whether, as a consequence, when the wounded from the Dardanelles arrived at Alexandria they were sent to the German Hospital to be nursed by German nurses?

Mr. Tennant: The private hospitals were not and are not required in Egypt. As I stated yesterday, the arrangements for the reception of wounded in Alexandria were adequate in all respects. The General Officer Commanding in Egypt exercised a wise judgment in making use of German hospitals. In fact, it would have been criticised adversely if he had failed to make use of all suitable accommodation which was at his disposal.

THE MONTENEGRINS AT SCUTARI.

Sir J. Roper Parkington, Consul-General for Montenegro, has received the following official telegram from Cettinje:—

Montenegro, for the purpose of assuring the freedom of navigation on the River Boyana and to put an end to frontier raids, was at last compelled to occupy certain strategic positions in Albania. This movement was carried out with tact and discretion, so that the Albanian populace in the districts under our control at once recognised the beneficial effects. The inhabitants of Scutari, weary and disheartened by the state of anarchy which reigned in the town, naturally desired to put an end to an intolerable position into which they had been led by Austrian intrigues; the leading citizens begged the commander of the Montenegrin troops, stationed to the north of Scutari, to enter the town and endeavour to establish law and order. This petition was presented personally by the Mayor and President of the Administrative Council, and also by a deputation of Catholics. The Montenegrin General was satisfied that the request was made without any distinction of religion, and the Montenegrin troops accordingly marched into the town, where they were cordially welcomed by the entire population. Indeed, the reception was most enthusiastic, and the latest report states that complete order and tranquillity is once more restored to Scutari.

ROLL OF HONOUR.

British Subjects from Turkey in H.M.'s Forces.

ASHE, Lance-Corp. R., R.E.
ATKINSON, Bombardier G. M., 266th Battery, 85th Brigade, R.F.A. Colchester.
ATKINSON, Gunner T., "A" Co. Royal Field Artillery.
BAKER, Lieut. A. Warden, 7th Royal Scots Fusiliers.
BARRON, Sergeant J. B., First Canadian Contingent (formerly of the St. George's Boys' School, Jerusalem).
BINNS, Rifleman Edward, 8th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
BINNS, Bombardier Harold H. (49,567), Battery Office, 34th Reserve Battery, R.F.A., 6b Reserve Brigade, Piershill Barracks, Edinburgh.
BINNS, Lieut. C. E., R.M. (Interpreter to Mediterranean Forces).
BOLTON, Alfred, Naval Brigade.
BOND, Private H. C., 7th (Reserve) City of London Regt.
BOND, Gladwyn J. T., Inns of Court O.T.C.
BOND, Trooper S. (1779), Royal Horse Guards.
BOND, Corporal R., Royal Field Artillery, Durlston House, Park Road, Swanage.
BORRELL, Rifleman Alfred, 8th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
BOWMAN, Private Henry J., R.A.M.C., Duke of York's Barracks, Chelsea.
BROOKS, Corporal G., Royal Field Artillery, Swanage.
CASTELL, Rifleman Henry, 8th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
CAUCHI, Act. Corporal Henry (6113), 19th Service Battalion, C Company, Royal Fusiliers, Epsom, Surrey.
CLIFTON, Capt. Ernest H., Durham Light Infantry.
COLES, Dr. D. A., R.A.M.C. (formerly of the English Hospital, Haifa).
COLLEY, Trooper Isaac E., Royal Horse Guards.
CRAWFORD, Private James, 7th (Reserve) City of London Regiment.
CUMBERBATCH, Lieut. A. Noël, 9th East Yorkshire Regiment, Fulford Barracks, York.
CUMBERBATCH, 2nd Lieut. H. D., 9th Batt. the Buffs.
CUMBERBATCH, Lieut. and Adjutant R. C., 15th Batt. Rifle Brigade.
CUMING, Bombardier A. C., 262nd Battery R.F.A., 84th Brigade, Colchester.
DAVIDSON, Bombardier C. T., 266th Battery, 85th Brigade, R.F.A., Colchester.
ELLIOTT, Eric C., 2nd Lieut., Essex Regiment, 11th Batt.
EPPSTEIN, Lieut. W. R., Durham Light Infantry.
FAULKNER, Lieut. M., Admiralty House, Malta
FROMANT, Private F., Grenadier Guards.
GALLIA, Rifleman M., 7th (S) Batt. Rifle Brigade.
GOODACRE, Miss C., Red Cross, Shoreham.
GOUT, Lieut. Charles L. 4th (R) King's Own Yorkshire L.I., Drill Hall, Bank Street, Wakefield.
GOUT, Rifleman Evelyn, 8th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
GOUT, Rifleman Richard, 8th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
HADKINSON, Rifleman Vivian, 8th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
HIGGS, Private J., 6th Dragoon Guards.
HOLTON, Corporal Alfred, Royal Naval Division, Divisional Engineers.
HOLTON, Trooper John, B. Squadron, Essex Yeomanry.
HOYLAND, 2nd Lieut., H.A.D. (Interpreter to the Mediterranean Forces).
IRELAND, Private D. J. (3346), 15th County of London Regiment.
JACKSON, Rifleman Edward, 8th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
KERR, Miss E., Army Nursing Corps, France.
KEYSER. Lieut. A.G., 8th Batt. King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry.
KEYSER, 2nd Lieut. R. N., 10th Batt. East Lancashire Regiment.
KEYSER, 2nd Lieut. Henry, 2/10th Batt. Middlesex Regiment.
KEYSER, 2nd Lieut. J. C., 2/9th Batt. (D.C.O.) Middlesex Regiment.
LA FONTAINE, Rifleman Fred., 8th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
LA FONTAINE, Lance-Corporal Hugh, 7th (Res.) City of London Regiment.
LA FONTAINE, Sub-Lieut. J. S., Royal Naval Division, Crystal Palace, S.E.
LANDER, 2nd Lieut. Arthur.
LORIMER, Private D., Army Service Corps, Aldershot.
MACKINNON, Private Eric, 9th Royal Scots Highlanders.
MACKINNON, Dr. J. M., Captain E.A.M.S., British East Africa.
MACKINNON, Patrick, Sapper, Divisional Engineers, 1st Canadian Contingent.
MACKRAY, E. D., Dardanelles Expeditionary Force.
MICHEU, Bombardier C. G., Royal Field Artillery.
MOORE, Miss K. M., Royal Red Cross, Serbia.
MORRISON, J., O.T.C., Inns of Court.
MORTON, Private Stanley, 2nd Sportsman's Battalion.
MOSS, 2nd Lieut., Public Schools Battalion.
MUMFORD, Pat, Army Service Corps, Richmond Park, Surrey.
MUMFORD, Driver P. F., A.S.C., Osterly Park.
MUNRO, 2nd Lieut. J. G., 4th Scottish Rifles, Fort Matilda, Greenock.
NOWILL, Private Sidney, 7th (Res.) City of London Regiment.
PARKER, Trooper G., Royal Horse Guards.
PATERSON, Lieut. Alexander, R.A.M.C., 3rd Batt. Black Watch, Tain, N.B.
PEACOCK, Sapper Frank, R.E.
PENGELLEY, Sapper Walter, R.E.
RAMSAY, Corporal F. R. F., 14th Service Batt. Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.
REES, Trooper R. (1709), Squadron D (in Egypt), Herts Yeomanry, c.o. G.P.O., Southampton.
ROBINSON, Lance-Corporal J. E., Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment (formerly of the C.M.S. College, Jerusalem).
RICK, Rifleman Cecil, 8th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
ROUTH, 2nd Lieut. C., 3rd/8th (D.C.O.) Middlesex Regiment.
SACKVILLE-WEST, 2nd Lieut. Hon. B., R.N.V.R.
SEAGER, Lieut. John Owen, B. Co., Public Schools Batt., 16th Middlesex Regiment, Woldingham.
SHAW, 2nd Lieut. T., R.E.
STOCK, Lieut. H. W., Royal Marines. (Serving abroad.)
SUNDERLAND, Interpreter (at the front).
THOMPSON, Lieut. Harold H., R.N.V.R.
THOMPSON, Commander W. A., R.N.V.R., H.M.S. "Egmont."
THWAITES, Dr. H., R.A.M.C., Wareham.
TRENTER, Trooper T., Household Cavalry.
VAN LENNEP, Private E., 2nd Sportsman's Battalion.
VAN MILLINGEN, Private R. G. C., 3rd Batt. London Scottish.
VEDOVA, Rifleman Eghbert, 8th Service Batt Rifle Brigade.
VEDOVA, Rifleman Lionel, 8th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
VERE, Lieut.-Commander Harry, R.N.
WARREN, Act.-Corporal R. M., 7th (S.) Batt. Rifle Brigade, Guadeloupe Barracks, Bordon Camp, Hants.
WHEATLEY, Miss, Sister Q.A.I.M.N.S.R., No. 1 Casualty Clearing Station, British Expeditionary Force.
WHEELER, Captain P. F. C. d'Erf, 1st Dorset Regiment.
WHITTALL, Captain G., 1st Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry.
WHITTALL, 2nd Lieut. Arthur, 7th (Res.) City of London Regiment.
WHITTALL, Lieut. Hugh, Royal Marines. (Serving abroad.)
WHITTALL, Private Kenneth, 10th Batt. Royal Fusiliers, Colchester.
WHITTALL, Private Roland, 10th Batt. Royal Fusiliers, Colchester.
WHITTALL, Rifleman Walter, 8th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

The British Cotton Growing Association, at their annual meeting at Manchester on Tuesday, reported that the total amount of cotton grown under their management during the twelve months was nearly 100,000 bales, and was worth £1,200,000. An anxious time was before them, as the association's Government grant expired in March, and if it were not renewed the association would have to stop all philanthropic work for the encouragement of cotton growing in all parts of the Empire.

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It would be most unfortunate if, at this critical moment in the history of our country, the grant-in-aid received by the B.C.G.A. from the Government should be allowed to lapse. The Association has done good work, and it is largely owing to its insistence in the matter that the Government grant to the Sudan was rendered possible. The war has, of course, put a temporary stop to the comprehensive scheme of irrigating the Gezireh, but that does not affect the good work done by the Association. Nor were its activities confined to the Sudan. In all our African colonies, from Uganda to Nigeria, and from Rhodesia to the Sudan, the association has given a great impetus to the cultivation of cotton, and it is highly desirable that it should continue to do so. After all, the war is merely a temporary dislocation, and when it is over those national forces now engaged in fighting for our very existence will be employed to exploit our wonderful resources and to maintain, improve, and aggrandise our industries, chief among them being the cotton industry. When that day, the day of peace, dawns, we shall still need, and perhaps in a higher degree than heretofore, the expert aid of sound working associations like the B.C.G.A. That is why we must do our best to maintain them, even if it should appear, in present circumstances, as though we were spending money carelessly. Looking ahead, we cannot but be convinced that the money will be well spent.

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In last week's issue of THE NEAR EAST I referred to a statement made by an Alexandrian correspondent to the effect that the local trading community was delighted with Sir Henry McMahon's assurance that in Egypt "no special privileges will be bestowed on British trade." I queried whether the British trader was as delighted as his Levantine neighbour, and I see no reason why I should be less sceptical to-day than I was a week ago. On another page we reproduce a paragraph from an article sent to his paper by the Cairo correspondent of the *Railway News*, in which two cases are cited of Government preference for foreign goods as against British-made articles. In both cases—and I imagine they are not isolated—the Egyptian State Railways seem to have been the delinquents. This is regrettable, and will be condemned by the British trader. It is strange that, though we recognize the right of other nations to kill our trade in their colonies by the imposition of high protective tariffs, we fear their objections to the introduction by us of a preferential tariff—let us say, for instance, in Egypt. The sooner we get over these unnecessary qualms the better for British trade.

Crop reports from the Near East are exceedingly favourable. In Serbia the plum trees have grown fruit in spite of the war; in Bulgaria, barley, wheat, and maize are progressing favourably (last year's stocks of the latter are still more than abundant), and both roses and cocoons have resulted in excellent crops, whatever their intrinsic value may be; in Roumania, maize and wheat are ripening in the most satisfactory way. All this is important, as it affects the maintenance and upkeep of an army in the field. So all-important is the question of crop harvests that it is inconceivable how States like Bulgaria and Roumania can become belligerents unless they can rely on important stocks of such commodities as grain, etc.

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The Times correspondent in the Balkan Peninsula, writing from Sofia on Saturday, throws some curious sidelights on life at Constantinople. The coal pinch seems to be acute. Thus, three trains from Kuleli Burgas, laden with stones for the fortification of Hadem Keni, were recently unable to start owing to lack of fuel. The supply of coal has almost completely ceased (for which our thanks go to our great ally Russia), but it would appear that efforts have been made to obtain supplies from the collieries at Kestambul. I understand that the quality of this coal is very inferior, so that, even if some supplies are obtained, they are not likely to be of great use. Incidentally it may be pointed out that, if the above report is accurate, it shows that a great change for the worse has come over Stamboul during the past month. For, it will be remembered, one of the Englishmen who left Constantinople in the middle of June denied the reports of a shortage of coal at the time.

In spite of the lack of coal—or, perhaps, rather on account of it—fires seem to be more frequent in Constantinople than usual, and this fact, says the correspondent alluded to above, is the cause of extreme disquietude among the people, already depressed and exasperated by many privations. "Upwards of 2,500 houses were destroyed in last week's great fire, and almost every night new fires break out, causing fresh destruction. The police have profited from these calamities to arrest large numbers of foreigners on charges of incendiarism." Fires have always been frequent in Constantinople, as insurance companies know, and one of the first improvements to be introduced in the city by the civilising Power that enters it, is an up-to-date fire brigade service. That the British system is the best is too well-known throughout the Near East to be emphasised in these columns.

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The letter published in last week's issue of THE NEAR EAST by Mr. Sefi is one more condemnation of red-tapeism at its worst. Why merchants receiving goods from Turkey in part or entire payment of moneys owing to them, said goods having been shipped prior to the outbreak of the war, should have been deprived of them passes my understanding. If it could have been demonstrated that the moneys received from the sale of the merchandise would have gone to enrich the exchequers of our enemies it stands to reason that the goods had to be condemned, but, as there was no such possibility, and as British traders were merely being paid in kind for outstanding cash payments due to them, the attitude of our Government is, to say the least, erratic. The matter deserves a question in the House, so as to raise it above the unimaginative officials of our civil administration. [ERRATA.—Owing to a sub-editorial misunderstanding, Mr. Sefi was made to say in his letter last week that he was the "senior of a business firm." It should have read "a veteran in the business."]

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From our Vice-Consul in Sofia comes another plea for the creation of a British bank in the Bulgarian capital. Last year our Vice-Consul in Rustchuk urged the establishment of a similar institution, and, week after week, in these columns I have advocated the same thing, based on letters which reach me from correspondents on the spot. As it happens, I have before me a copy of THE NEAR EAST of June 19, in which our Special Correspondent in the Balkans, writing from Belgrade, said: "The creation of an Anglo-Serbian commercial bank, acting as a link between the credit and cash systems, would be the best way to acquire a footing in this market, and would ensure our trade. Well administered and thoroughly competent, it would be a paying concern, and Serbian capital would participate."

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What is true yesterday will be true again to-morrow, when the war is over. If only, and at little or no cost, immediate preparatory steps were taken to interest our great exporters and some of our leading financiers in the formation of an Anglo-Balkan bank, we would be in a good position when the time comes to improve our commercial relations with the Near East at the expense of our trade rivals. Then, also, we will find our enemies in a state of financial coma, which is one added reason why we should be on the spot "going strong" before the Germans recuperate. That the Fatherland is already hard hit, and that her credit is already ruined, are facts that need not be insisted on. In this connection, an interesting article appeared in Wednesday's *Financial Times* under the heading of "Germany's Ruined Trade," in the course of which the writer refers to an audience granted by the Kaiser to a deputation of bank managers, who bluntly told the War Lord that, "assuming the Allies to be defeated, no indemnity payable by them could adequately compensate Germany for the sacrifices she has been called upon to make since the end of last July, while, in the event of a defeat of the Prussian Armies, the Fatherland will not regain its economic independence for half a century." The outlook is anything but a brilliant one for the Teutons, and it behoves us to take immediate advantage of the new situation and to consolidate our commercial interests in the Balkans by establishing an Anglo-Balkan bank on lines similar to those advocated in these columns.

COMMENTATOR.

NOTICE.

CYPRUS MAIL SERVICE.

WITH reference to Notification No. 11,566, published in the *Cyprus Gazette* No. 1,168 of the 21st May, 1915, it is hereby notified for general information that from the 23rd June, 1915, and until further notice, the Mail Steamer will leave Alexandria on Wednesdays instead of Tuesdays and follow the usual itinerary one day late, arriving at the first port of call in Cyprus on Fridays.

C. W. ORR,
Chief Secretary to Government.

21st June, 1915.

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Smyrna and the War.

Commercial and Financial Stagnation.

Owing to the war, news from Asiatic Turkey through British channels is scarce, and, therefore, the following extracts from the report by Mr. George Horton, the U.S. Consul-General at Smyrna, will be read with interest :—

Commercially speaking, the year 1914 was one of the most disastrous in the history of Smyrna. It opened with promising prospects in all branches of activity, especially in agriculture, which forms the basis of the wealth of these districts. Crops were generally abundant, and the estimates for cereals were 20 per cent. higher than for the preceding year. After the re-establishment of peace for the Balkan States, a hopeful horizon had opened for the promotion of new industries and the establishment of new factories. Mining developed with great activity, discoveries of new mines were made, and additional concessions were obtained. Shipping had resumed its normal state, the tonnage of vessels entering the port of Smyrna for the months of January and February being 462,313, as against 291,776 for the same period in 1913. In a word, all indications pointed to a year of prosperity, when conditions were disturbed by a succession of events, ending with Turkey's participation in the European war.

Greek Exodus.

The exodus of the Greeks and their supplanting by non-industrial classes caused heavy losses to the innumerable creditors of the emigrants and immediately brought uncertainty on the market, compelling the banks to show great reserve in the extension of credits. An American sewing-machine firm was especially injured by this exodus of the Greeks, as the chief consumers of sewing machines in this region are Greeks. Large quantities of crops which had been sown by these people were allowed to rot in the fields.

Import trade began to decline, partly owing to general war risk, but more especially on account of the requisitioning of all kinds of goods by the military authorities. Stocks of nearly every nature have been depleted in this district in this manner, and naturally importers have not wished to take the risk of bringing in further goods to meet the same fate. Even orders previously given were cancelled.

The mines in general have shut down either because of lack of workmen or by order of the authorities, the majority of the mines being owned by subjects of belligerent States, notably British.

The Port.

As the port of Smyrna was closed without previous notice, the following steamers were bottled up, together with their cargoes, and have been unable to get away : Assiout, City of Khios, Billiter, British ; New York, American ; King Constantine, Greek ; Deucalion and Achilles, Dutch ; Aegina, German ; Constantine, Bulgarian. It is expected that as soon as the war is over and the port is open, with confidence re-established, there will be a great reawakening of business and especially of importations, as stocks in all lines are being exhausted and the country is being practically denuded of every imported article.

The commercial situation was brought to a state of chaos by the general mobilisation of the Turkish Army and the declaration of war. The port of Smyrna was closed, but the commerce of this region was not even yet entirely suspended. It made desperate efforts to find an outlet at Vourla, a small port about six or seven hours distant from Smyrna over a very bad road. Goods are transported there mainly on camel back, although such horses and carts as have not been requisitioned by the military authorities are also engaged in this service. The goods whose value allows them to stand the extra expense of transportation from Smyrna to Vourla are mainly tobacco and opium, although some figs and raisins have also been sent.

Industries.

Industrial activity for this district during the year 1914 was practically in a state of paralysis. The principal industries are fig packing and carpet weaving. A considerable quantity of figs was packed and shipped despite the great difficulty encountered in obtaining cash. Carpet making, however, which furnished employment to thousands of hands, has been almost entirely suspended on account of lack of wool and money and difficulty in obtaining labour, which has been taken for military service. The wool collected for the carpets has been largely requisitioned.

Generally speaking, the returns of the foreign trade of 1914 are related to the first six months of the year. There are no statistics available of the amount of imports or exports in value, but a statement obtained from the local Custom house of the duties collected is very eloquent in demonstrating the state of the Smyrna trade during the past year. This statement shows that the decrease of imports commenced in June. In November and December, 1914, they were practically nil.

In February, 1915, an increase over the few months preceding was apparent, this being due to shipments of sugar, coffee, soda, etc., the only articles imported since the outbreak of hostilities.

As to the exports, the greatest fall is apparent in the month of November. An improvement during the months following reduced the difference between each month and that of the preceding year's corresponding time to only 50 per cent. or thereabouts.

An idea of the decline of the trade of this city may be obtained from the statistics of the Quay Co., showing the following result : Imports, 7,111,585 quintals in 1913 and 5,794,326 in 1914 ; exports, 7,097,637 quintals in 1913 and 5,340,281 in 1914 ; transit, 779,243 in 1913 and 771,708 in 1914.

The only articles exported were figs, raisins, opium, tobacco, and valonea. Those imported were, as stated above, articles of first necessity, sugar, coffee, soda, rice, oranges, salted fish, in contraband.

Trade with America.

Trade of this district with the United States has suffered, as well as that with other countries, from the war, but it can be said in a general way that, comparatively, the American loss has been smaller than that of other countries, at least in so far as exports from this place are concerned. No statistics of the imports are available, but from an investigation made in the market it has been learned that very small quantities of goods were imported during the year under review, for the causes stated. The imports of shoes are estimated at £1,600, as against £3,600 in the preceding year, while there has been practically no importation of furniture. The imports of petroleum have been considerably less than the previous year. Stocks at present are : American, 56,000 tins ; Roumanian, 410,000 ; Russian, 81,000. Prices have risen 25 per cent. higher than last year, and would continue to rise still higher had not the authorities put a stop to it by fixing the selling price of the different qualities and threatening to seize all the oil if the importing companies and merchants did not carry out the order.

The exports to the United States during last year amounted to £1,095,973, as against £1,147,465 in 1913.

The articles in which a gain in value over the preceding year is apparent are emery stone, licorice root, and especially opium. The increase in opium is accounted for by the prevailing higher prices on account of speculation and the larger shipments made to the United States, in view of the impossibility of shipping to other consuming countries with which Turkey is at war. A decrease is especially marked in the item of tobacco.

The great interior of this region is practically virgin territory, untouched except by the network of agencies of the American oil, tobacco, agricultural machinery, and licorice houses and sewing-machine representatives. With better transportation facilities this region should offer an enormous market for all kinds of American manufactured goods, a market which should steadily increase as the territory is developed under newer and better conditions.

Milling Industry.

Of the thirteen flour mills in Smyrna, with a producing capacity of 4,000 sacks a day, only five remained in operation, the others having closed mainly on account of shortage of money and coal. The output of the two cotton-spinning mills in this city was reduced to only half their average of 9,500 meters. Of the three spinning mills in the woollen industry, employing in normal times about 350 workmen, only one remained open, and that was working at irregular intervals. Even the factory for making the army cloth was doing very little work on account of lack of wool, coal, and money, although there was a great demand for its output.

Coal has been running very short. Ordinarily imported from England, the stock on hand was practically all requisitioned by the military authorities. Some coal of inferior quality was brought here from the Heraclea mines, near Constantinople, but there was practically no stock on hand and transportation was extremely difficult. It was a question as to how much longer the railroads of the district would be able to run or the gas company continue working.

Crop Returns.

Generally speaking, the crop returns of last year were satisfactory, but they afforded little or no relief to the producer, as, on account of the prohibition of exports, most of the products remained unsold and were requisitioned by the army. In 1914 the production of barley was 115,000 tons, as against 100,000 in 1913. The cotton crop was very small, not exceeding 15,000 to 16,000 bales of 440 lbs. each, as against 35,000 to 36,000 the preceding year. Exportation was prohibited and quantities were requisitioned by the military authorities. The wheat crop was very good, amounting to 80,500 tons, as against 53,000 in 1913. The olive-oil yield of last year was below the average, the total production not exceeding 560,000 quintals of 124 lbs., or about half the production of 1913. Prices range more than 10 per cent. higher than last year. The fig crop amounted to 80,000 camel loads of about 4 cwt. each, as compared with 92,000 camel loads the preceding year. The present stock on hand is estimated at 500 quintals. After the closing of the port, shipments were made through Vourla.

The raisin crop is estimated at from 700,000 to 750,000 quintals of 124 lbs., which is about 300,000 quintals short of last year's production. The stock on hand is estimated at 200,000 cwt.

The tobacco crop is estimated at 17,000,000 lbs., or only a little more than one-half that of last year. This shortage is principally due to the lack of skilled tobacco cultivators, and is a result of the expulsion of Greeks. Lack of means of transportation and an economic crisis, both resulting from the war, caused the crop of 1914 to remain unsold in the hands of the producers. As there is no regular market for the merchandise no prices are quoted. It is probable, however, that holders of tobacco would be glad to dispose of their merchandise at very low prices.

Opium.

The crop year for opium started last June with glowing prospects, good prices, and strong demand. The outbreak of the war caused a great decrease in the demand in August, owing to the heavy loss in exchange and other difficulties in the way of financing and moving the crop. The danger at sea, with the great increase in marine-insurance rates, was an additional factor in curtailing trade. Arrivals from the interior were greatly diminished, but a stock accumulated in Smyrna which caused considerable anxiety to the holders.

As soon as shipping facilities improved, during September and October, large shipments were made on consignment to Europe and America. The arrival of large quantities on foreign markets at once brought down the price. This had an effect on the Smyrna market, and has deterred merchants from making further consignments.

The crop of 1914 is said to be about 6,200 cases, of which about 1,000 still remain in the interior. The arrivals at Smyrna were 2,440 cases ; present stock, 900 cases. Arrivals at Constantinople, 2,080 cases ; present stock, 500 cases. Arrivals at Salonika, 650 cases ; present stock, 500 cases.

The prospects for the 1915 crop are good, but there is considerable anxiety as to the possibility of harvesting it with most of the male population away from the farms. The area planted is smaller than usual.

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Sudan Gum Exports.

Protecting the Forests of Kordofan.

The *Monthly Report* (April) of the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Sudan Government says:—

1,097,935 kilos of gum, valued at £32,748, were exported via Port Sudan and 14,034 kilos of gum, valued at £351, were exported via Halfa during April, 1915.

The following table shows the value and quantity of gum exported during the period January to April, 1915:—

Country.	Jan. to March. £	April. £	Total up to April 30, 1915. £
Australia	783	–	783
Egypt	2,713	5,520	8,233
Erithrea	29	—	29
France	7,818	4,171	11,989
Great Britain	11,732	22,171	33,903
Greece	211	—	211
Holland	278	—	278
Italy	6,988	—	6,988
New Zealand	71	—	71
Spain	1,080	—	1,080
U.S.A.	8,122	1,237	9,359
Total value	39,825	33,099	72,924
Total quantity, kilos	1,397,539	1,111,969	2,509,508

The following table shows the quantity of gum carried on the Kosti-El-Obeid Railway from January to March, 1914 and 1915:—

Period.	Quantity Tons.
January, 1914	747
„ 1915	424
February, 1914	1,198
1915	716
March, 1914	2,198
„ 1915	1,639
Total, 1914	4,143
„ 1915	2,779

A correspondent writes:—

Nearly 2,000 years B.C. the Egyptians traded in gum. They used it in the fabrication of their colours for painting and the effectiveness of their mixtures can still be recognized in the brilliancy of some of the mural decorations in the Tombs of the Kings and other show-places in the Land of the Pharaohs. It is difficult to say when gum first became an article of commerce in the Sudan, where it grows in abundance and forms one of the principal sources of revenue under the designation of "royalties" enjoyed by the Government. From the time of its establishment in 1899-1900, the Administration has done everything that lay within its power to foster and protect the gum industry, efforts which, on the whole, have been crowned with much success. Thanks to this spirit of official enterprise, the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan ranks with the French colony of Senegal as one of the great gum-producing countries of the world.

The Great Gum Forests.

The Central Economic Board has been engaged for many years in organizing a system for the protection of the gum trade from ruthless exploitation. The problem that presented itself was no easy one to solve, and it assumed a somewhat acute form in respect to the forests of Kordofan. The completion of the railway to El Obeid, affording ready access to the forests, together with the high prices realized by the gums during a succession of years, led to a great and damaging increase in the collection of the substance, seriously affecting the forests which were, and still are, insufficiently guarded against injury. It must be conceded that the precautions which were taken by the authorities—more especially in the direction of maintaining the forests against reckless destruction—have proved beneficial if not wholly adequate. Similar efforts to protect the industry in the Upper Nile Province have been rather less successful. Investigations proceeding in the Bahr-el-Ghazal, particularly with respect to the suspected existence of the valuable "gum benzoin," promise encouragement.

The latest advices from the Sudan—that is to say, from the Province of Kordofan, the centre of the gum industry—are encouraging as to the quantity of the season's supply; the commodity appears to have been coming into the El Obeid "suk" in unusually large consignments, but the prevailing prices are low. It seems almost as if there might be a recurrence of the glut which was met with in 1912, when there occurred an over-production, and large sums of money became necessary to finance the export. This had amounted to 19,615 tons (the largest ever known), representing a value of £E603,511. Then, in 1913, there ensued a reaction, resulting from the existence of unconsumed stocks on the European market; the exports from the Sudan declined to 15,129 tons of a value of £E371,528, a falling off of no less than £E231,983. How great can be the influence of the market price upon the prosperity of this industry is seen from the fact that while in 1911 only 14,357 tons were exported and realised a value of £E435,622 (or, say, at a rate of £E30 per ton), in 1913 the larger total of 15,129 tons brought in no more than £E371,528. The next best results achieved seem to have been in 1902, when 9,900 tons of the produce realised £E268,878, or an average price of £E27 per ton.

The Gum Market.

In view of the many strict regulations which have been instituted regarding trading with the enemy a considerable reduction in the foreign gum exports must be looked for this season. Germany has always been a heavy purchaser of Sudan gum, although in varying quantities. For instance, in 1912 she took 3,711 tons from the Sudan direct and another 4,261 tons from Egypt; but inasmuch as all the gum exported from Egypt is gum originally collected from the Sudan, the share of the foreign importing countries in this quantity exported from Egypt should rightly be added to the shares of each in the direct exports from the Sudan. Upon this basis Germany took 7,972 tons out of the total of 19,615 for the year 1912 and but 2,983 tons in 1913. For 1914 the amount exported to Germany will necessarily prove very small, while for 1915 it will be negligible. Thus the Sudan gum trade might have felt the effects of the war more deeply than any other industry of the country but for the law of compensation which has again asserted itself.

Fortunately, the United States and Great Britain are still heavy importers of the product, while of late years Italy and France have become substantial and regular customers. Even Spain has "nibbled," and to some extent has offered a desirable market. All these countries are expected to absorb without any effort whatever output the Sudan offers this season. But at prices anything lower than 80—85 p.t. the kantar at El Obeid it is difficult to induce the native picker to work. It is not improbable, indeed, that a goodly portion of this season's harvest may be wasted, since there will be few hands found willing to garner it. The amount thus lost has been estimated at 30,000 kantars.

COTTON EXPORTS.

The Board of Trade announces that the exportation of cotton yarn and thread has been prohibited to all foreign ports in Europe and on the Mediterranean and Black Seas, other than those of France, Russia (except Baltic ports), Spain, and Portugal, by Order of Council. Applications for licences to export these articles to any prohibited destination should be addressed in the usual way to the War Trade Department.

Mr. Runciman, the President of the Board of Trade, has appointed a Committee to consider and advise upon applications for the grant of licences to export cotton yarn and thread, and also raw cotton and cotton waste.

The latest Egyptian Savings Bank figures show that during March 692 new accounts were opened, while eighty-seven were closed down. New deposits totalled £26,706, against £20,911 withdrawn. From the beginning of the year to the end of March, 1,346 new accounts were opened, the total amount of fresh deposits being £E44,894. On the other hand, a sum of £E60,978 was withdrawn during the period, so that the net result was to reduce the total deposits by £E16,084.

ADVICE TO EXPORTERS.

The following extracts are from an article on "Trade Advice" written by the U.S. Consul-General at Athens. Though the American trader is directly addressed, the advice applies likewise to the British exporter:—

"It has been noticed that almost invariably American (British) manufacturers prefer to answer inquiries direct, rather than to appoint a responsible and exclusive agent. The result is that very little encouragement is given to anyone to push the sale of American goods, and the few orders transmitted are, we might say, spontaneous. This forms a marked contrast to German and Austrian methods. The opinion of the American Chamber of Commerce is that manufacturers should find, either directly through the United States Consular service, or through this association, an honest and energetic agent, and after satisfactory references are received appoint him as the sole agent, stipulating conditions, length of time, and territory covered. This agent should be supplied with all necessary data, advertising matter, prices, and samples.

"If these samples are too expensive they could be given on a consignment basis. To sell a foreign article by catalogue is a hard proposition in which very few, if any, buyers would be interested.

"Another serious obstacle in the way of the development of sales in Greece is the exceedingly hard terms of payment demanded by manufacturers. Though other European countries exporting to Greece continue to accord credits, even under present abnormal conditions, up to three and occasionally six months, the American Chamber of Commerce would not take the responsibility of advising such liberal terms as a general rule. On the other hand, to require that buyers in Greece, accustomed to the aforesaid payment facilities, should advance the value of their orders and then wait for perhaps three months or more until they get their goods is tantamount to refusing to sell.

"It would appear that the differences between the conditions imposed by American sellers and those to which buyers in Greece have been accustomed are considerable, and it is the aim of the American Chamber of Commerce to suggest the means whereby such differences may be removed. If a signed order is received from a buyer known to the manufacturer's agent as one who is in the habit of meeting his obligations, and the manufacturer sends the goods against shipping documents through a bank of Greece, no loss can occur, as a rule, for the buyer will not get the goods ordered before paying for them. When the information concerning a buyer is unsatisfactory an advance should accompany the order. This will bind the buyer and will, in case of non-acceptance, cover the return freight. In the event of goods not being paid for the agent should be empowered, besides taking other legal measures, to resell the goods to another party. American trade holds the monopoly on some articles and these the buyers will be obliged to take on any condition, but for those articles that can be procured elsewhere the preference will be given to those manufacturers who supply good, uniform quality at reasonable prices, who attend to proper execution of orders, who can offer the promptest and most economical transportation, and who can be relied upon to protect the interests of the buyer."

DELICIOUS COFFEE.
RED WHITE & BLUE
For Breakfast & after Dinner.
Wholesale, of Hanson's, London, England.

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Trade Notes.

Egypt.

H.M. Consul at Cairo reports that tenders are invited by the Egyptian Ministry of Education, for the supply and delivery of clothing for the pupils of the Bulac Elementary Training College for Women Teachers, viz.: 2,570 metres of flanelette, 2,660 metres of printed calico, 2,120 metres of coloured zephyr, 1,520 metres of veil muslin, 700 dozens of white press buttons, and 660 pairs of girls' shoes. Samples may be inspected, and specifications and forms of tender obtained, at the Central Stores, Ministry of Education, Darb el Gamamiz, Cairo. Sealed tenders, accompanied by a deposit of 2 per cent., or a bank guarantee of 10 per cent., of the value of the offer, will be received at the Ministry of Education, Sharia el Turka el Gharbi, Cairo, up to noon on July 31. A copy of the *cahier des charges* may be inspected by United Kingdom manufacturers of the above-mentioned goods, on application to the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

The following information is from the report by H.M. Vice-Consul at Alexandria, on the trade of that district in 1914, which will shortly be issued: "Before the war, goods of agricultural unity, and more particularly coal engines, which the fellaheen prefer to oil engines, were imported from Germany an Austria-Hungary. For these engines cotton stalks are being largely used as fuel owing to the present high price of coal. It is possible that British manufacturers might do more in this trade, but it must not be forgotten that at the present time the whole of the Egyptian community is refraining from making purchases that can possibly be avoided."

The *Journal Officiel* for June 7 contains certain revised Tariff Valuations (No. 1) for use in assessing duties on cotton manufactures imported into Egypt, with effect from June 4, 1915, to October 3, 1915, or until denunciation.

The same issue of the *Journal Officiel* contains a Ministerial Decision, dated June 1, 1915, authorising the exportation of wheat from Egypt without limit or restriction. Record, however, is to be kept of the quantities of wheat exported, with a view to the prevention of any ultimate shortage in the country.

EGYPTIAN STATE RAILWAYS.

In connection with our review last week of the statistical information published by the British Chamber of Commerce in Egypt anent Egypt's imports from foreign countries, the Cairo correspondent of the *Railway Gazette* points out that of technical commodities Egypt received rails to the value of £E19,980 from Germany, iron and steel bars and angles to the value of £E18,271, and wrought iron and steel pipes to the value of £E52,271. The writer says these figures relate largely or entirely to the Egyptian State Railways, and show how largely that system has in the past been given over to the use of foreign, and particularly German, material. An interesting case in the same connection has recently come before the Courts in Egypt. In the contract placed by it for the supply of carbon paper, the administration of the Egyptian State Railways specified a German brand. The contractor had been obtaining the article through neutrals, and is now being prosecuted for trading with the enemy for so doing. Shortly before the outbreak of war, also, the State Railways took the contract for clothing their staff away from a British firm and placed it with a local Austrian one. In addition, the administration is now calling for tenders for the supply of American coal, apparently, so far as can be gathered, to the absolute exclusion of the English and Scotch article.

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

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MANUFACTURERS OF
"LALIMLI" WOOL WEAR
Flannels, Serges, Blankets, Tweeds, Broadcloths, Coatings, Hosiery, Rugs, Puttees, Uniforms, &c., &c. . . . .
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The ELGIN MILLS Co. Ltd.
CAWNPORE, INDIA.
Spinners, Weavers, Bleachers, Dyers, and makers of every description of Cotton Goods such as TENTS, DURRIES (Cotton Carpets), and other Floor Coverings, Dusters, Towels, Bed & Table Linen, &c., &c.
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THE LARGEST CONCERN OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD.

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Tanners and Curriers, Leather Goods Manufacturers.
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DHARIWAL, PUNJAB, INDIA.
Sole Manufacturers of the Famous . .
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Long Life Wool Wear
Costume and Suiting Materials, Blankets, Rugs, Lohis, Hosiery, Puttees, Uniforms, Liveries, &c., &c.
CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

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CYPRUS TRADE.

(From a Correspondent.)

Cyprus, June 22.

The return of imports and exports for the quarter ended March 31, 1915, shows a considerable falling off, which is attributed to the War. The imports are £112,918 and specie £3,468, as against £145,442 and £15,304 for the corresponding period in 1914: decrease £44,360. Exports £114,123 and specie £5,329, as against £155,288 and £28,349; decrease £64,185.

It is needless to say that the island suffers in various ways from the commercial crisis, which threatens to be of long duration.

ANGLO-BULGARIAN TRADE.

The following information is from the report by H.M. Vice-Consul at Sofia (Mr. L. H. Hurst) on the trade of Bulgaria in 1914, which will shortly be issued :—

The value of the imports into Bulgaria for the first four months of 1914 exceeded those for the same period in 1912 by £1,376,000, an increase of 39 per cent. The largest increases are observable in the figures for Germany and Austria-Hungary. Imports from the United Kingdom did not keep pace with this general improvement, the figures up to the end of April, 1914, exceeding those for 1912 by the relatively small amount of £65,400. As usual, the principal imports from the United Kingdom have been textiles, coal, metals, machinery and chemicals.

Speaking generally, Bulgarian merchants prefer British goods to any others. They often state, however, that the German and Austro-Hungarian firms know the market better, and offer more acceptable conditions. This is especially the case as regards credit. Buyers expect from three to six or even nine months' credit, according to the class of article and the size of the order. The Bulgarian is generally honest, and it is but seldom that a firm fails to meet its obligations.

Catalogues intended for Bulgaria should give prices in lew (francs) and weights and measures in the metric system. German is the language most generally understood in commercial circles.

The imperative necessity of making no error in the customs declaration, and the advisability of sending a sample previously to the Customs Department of the Ministry of Finance, should there be any doubt about the legal description of the goods or the duty to which they are liable, have been pointed out in previous reports.

The desirability of founding a British bank in Sofia still continues.

As a consequence of what precedes, and for several other reasons (such as the unfavourable rate of exchange now prevailing and the inability of the local banks to effect transfers to London), the present time cannot be considered as very favourable for extending British commerce with Bulgaria. It is to be hoped, however, that such British firms as already have relations with Bulgaria will at least maintain them through this period, and that British commerce generally will now prepare the ground against the arrival of a more normal time by making its wares, prices and conditions known as widely as possible; when access to Bulgaria again becomes easier, there should be a great opportunity for British trade.

Mr. John Edward Humphery has been elected a director of the Royal Exchange Assurance Corporation.

Near East Markets.

SPECIAL REPORTS.

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

Belgrade. June 19.

According to information from the Ministry of Agriculture, the plum crops in the whole country are good and plentiful, and as last year's crops were not exported, it is presumed that permission for exportation will now be given.

Sofia. June 27.

This year's barley harvest in New and Southern Bulgaria is practically terminated. Wheat harvesting is shortly to begin. According to the official information, prospects are excellent.

The rose flower crop has been a good one, the timely rains in the Karlova and Kazanlik valleys having done much to favour the blooms. Quantity and quality are excellent. Owing, however, to the impossibility to export the attar, prices have fallen ridiculously low—10 to 20 centimes per oke. The result is that many growers have begun to tear up their roses in the famous "Valley of Roses."

During the month of May 14,581 muscals of attar were exported, valued at 174,972 fr.

In his recent tour in western Bulgaria, the Minister of Agriculture discovered that the old maize stocks are still so important, that half will rot unless got rid of. He has consequently urged on the Cabinet the necessity for lifting the embargo on maize exports.

The cocoon crop is abundant, but owing to difficulties of export, prices are very low. Steps are being taken by the Agricultural Bank to help the farmers by advancing money on their crops and by finding an outlet for their produce.

Cabling from Sofia on June 29 *The Times* correspondent in the Balkan Peninsula said :—

"The five weeks' period of harvest operations in this part of Europe is a time of truce to internal as well as external politics. The peasants are busy in the fields and the politicians generally take their annual holiday. Even in the present exceptional circumstances no marked departure from the usual programme need be anticipated in Bulgaria, especially until the crop, the product of the year's industry, has been gathered in.

"Both Bulgaria and Roumania have greatly increased the area sown owing to the war. The harvest in Bulgaria promises exceptional abundance, and in view of the high price of cereals, the laborious peasant anticipates a substantial reward for his exertions. The spring rainfall, sufficient in almost all parts of the country, was in some districts excessive, and the winter wheat is threatened with mildew, but with this exception the crops are in excellent condition, and promise a yield greatly superior to that of last year, both in quantity and in quality.

"In Roumania the prospects are equally satisfactory. The yield of wheat, barley, and oats will be probably double that of last year. Maize hitherto has been somewhat backward, but is now improving. The vineyards are in excellent condition.

"Harvest work began in Southern Bulgaria about the middle of the month, and is now general throughout the country. Wheat and barley are being reaped in the lowlands of Roumania. In both countries all the crops except maize will practically have been gathered by the third week of July."

PRODUCE REPORT.

London, July 8.

Currants.

The s.s. Salermo and s.s. Princesse Clementine brought about 4,000 tons. The Zante fruit is very g ood and supplies an urgent need, but some parcels of other qualities show a little want of condition. Business during the week has been moderate owing to the slow discharge of the steamers, and to the fact that buyers were waiting to examine their forward purchases before operating further. The stocks of currants in London on June 30 were 1,961 tons, against 4,521 of last year. In Liverpool the market has been somewhat quiet during this past week, but with the arrival of the s.s. Avon a better demand is now being created.

Sultanas.

A large business was transacted during the later part of last week, partly on Government buying and the consequent speculative rise, but this week there has been only a moderate business at full price. The stocks of Sultanas in London on June 30 were 3,004 tons, against 3,179 tons last year. In the Liverpool market, owing to the very small stocks in first hands, holders are very firm.

Onions.

The market for Egyptian, Canary, and Lisbon is utterly demoralised, and forced sales are being made at ruinous figures. Early Valencias are arriving freely, but the quality of most samples is unattractive, and last week's low quotations are barely maintained.

Seeds.

Linseed is rather firmer. London-Calcutta, spot, also afloat, and June-July, is quoted 55s. 3d.; July-Aug., 55s. 6d.; and Aug.-Sept., 55s. 9d. Rapeseed is inactive. Pure Guzerat, June-July, 56s. 6d. is asked, and brown Cawnpore ditto, 49s. 3d. Cotton-seed has been steady this past week, London-Egyptian spot being sold at £9 per ton.

Oils.

Linseed oil has been in better demand and prices have advanced, but the tone is quiet at the close. On the spot, pipes, £27; barrels, £27 15s. to £28; June, £27 5s.; July-Aug., £28. Rape oil: Japan has further improved in value, but brown and refined remain unaltered. Ordinary brown, on the spot, naked, £36 to £37; English refined, barrels, £38 to £40; Japan, in cases, c.i.f., afloat, May till Aug. shipments, £29 10s. Cotton oil is firmer. Crude, on the spot, pipes, £29 5s.; refined, on the spot, pale, pipes, £31 5s.; sweet, barrels, £36 to £37.

Locust Beans.

There is a good demand for this produce, but it is rather scarce, and prices remain at £8 per ton for whole and £8 10s. for kibbled.

Gums.

The market is quiet. Arabic, Turkey sorts, are quoted 40s. to 50s.; East Indian, common to fine, 32s. 6d. to 37s. 6d.; myrrh, good to fine, 96s. to 100s.; sandarac, 15s. to 24s.; tragacanth, first, 530s. to 580s.; low to good sorts, 90s. to 118s.

COTTON MARKET.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Liverpool. July 8.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report :—

Egyptian Spot.—The demand has been limited this week, doubtless partly owing to the holidays in some spinning districts. The business reported is consequently small. Quotations show a decline of 5 points. Sales are estimated at 2,000 bales, against 3,100 last week.

Manchester.

There was no special feature in the market this week, but business remains very quiet, the standing demand being chiefly for lots for immediate delivery, based on the present prices of cotton.

DATES.

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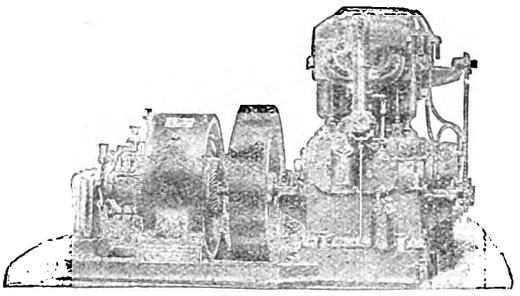

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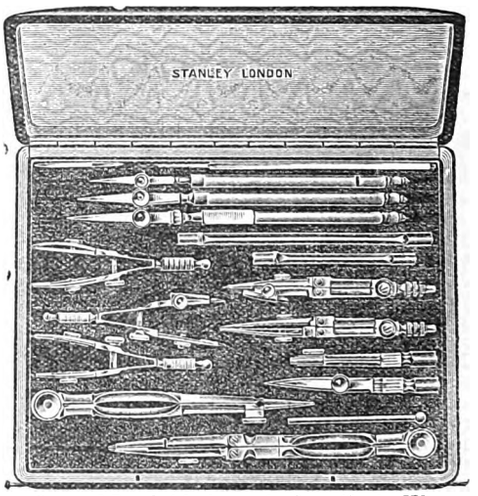

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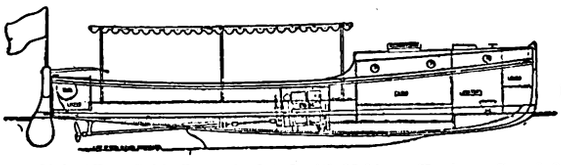

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Engineering Notes.

Electric Lift Control.

Electric power is largely utilized for a variety of purposes in most modern towns in the East, but there seems to be a prejudice against its use for lift service. This may, perhaps, be attributed to some breakdowns, or other accidents, which happened through faulty and badly designed apparatus, with the result that local proprietors, as well as local engineers and architects, were discouraged. Nevertheless, the newest systems of electric lift control provide for everything that is required for the satisfactory service of the lift, and especially for its safety in operation. There are four systems of control now generally in use. 1. The automatic push-button system. 2. The semi-automatic push-button system. 3. The car-switch control. 4. The hand-rope control.

Automatic Push-Button Control.

By this method the lift is operated automatically by the momentary pressure of one of a series of buttons marked to correspond with the floor to which it is desired to travel. These pushes may be placed wherever required. The pressure of one of the pushes closes the control circuit, which, in turn, energises a small electro-magnetic relay and starts the lift, allowing the push to be released without opening the circuit. If the car of a six-floor lift, for instance, is at the top and the third floor push is operated, the car must travel down, while if the same push is pressed while the car is at the bottom the car must travel up. The determination of direction of travel, therefore, is accomplished by suitable "direction" switches of fire-proof construction which are located in the lift shaft. They are operated by a spiral cam attached to the car, which constitutes a special feature of the system, inasmuch as in the case of lifts running at 120 ft. per minute accurate floor levels are always attained, while the adjustment is permanently correct, irrespective of rope stretching. This factor is particularly important in the selection of a lift for hotel, hospital, factory, or warehouse use. Safety in operation is assured by a device which makes it impossible for any lift operating on this system to be set in motion until all the doors or gates are closed. Further, the possibility of simultaneous calls is provided against, as should two or more pushes be pressed at the same moment the car will travel to the furthest point of call in the direction of the previous journey, no damage to the gear resulting. No attendant is required; and a lock is attached to each gate or door frame, which is opened by a cam attached to the car when the latter is opposite the floor. This unlocks the door or gate, allowing it to be opened, interrupting the control circuit, so that any movement of the lift is impossible. Closing the door allows control of the lift to be regained, while, immediately the lift is in motion the door is mechanically locked.

Car Switch and Semi-Automatic Push Button Control.

The difference between this and the previously described control system is that it is not freely automatic, in so far as the direction and limit of travel is controlled by the operator. The lift is actuated from the car itself, either by means of a hand-switch fitted with a detachable handle or key, or by means of "up," "down," or "stop" pushes. In either case control circuits are actuated, energizing electro-magnetic switches fixed on or near the lift gear, which automatically start, stop, or reverse the direction of the lift. The controller proper consists of two electro-magnetic switches—a reversing, or direction, switch and a master switch. The former, by a movement of a hand-switch in the lift car, determines the direction of rotation of the motor, and the latter starts and stops the motor. The provision of a device renders it absolutely impossible for the operator to derange the motor.

Handrope Control.

This is the oldest type of electric lift control in use, and an enormous number of lifts are operated by this method, which has the advantage of simplicity and low initial cost, although it is non-automatic. In this system the car is set in motion by the pulling up or down of a suitable hand-rope passing up the lift shaft and down through the cage. The rope, when pulled, operates the controller switch, selecting the direction of rotation of the motor, while a further movement in the same direction closes the main switch circuit, thus starting the motor. A pull on the rope in the opposite manner reverses the cycle of events and causes the motor to stop by the opening of the master switch.

British Made Lifts.

The above described systems of electric lift control are British, and the designs, material, and workmanship of the various apparatuses are also British, a fact which will be of interest to those having the installation of lifts under consideration.

Isherwood Ship Constructions.

It is a remarkable fact that of the vessels torpedoed by German submarines since the outbreak of the war three were built on the Isherwood system—the Belridge, the Gulflight, and the Maricopa. In each of these instances the vessels remained afloat. The Belridge was towed to Thameshaven and then to the Tyne, where she was repaired. The Gulflight was towed to the Scillies, and is being repaired, and the Maricopa was towed to the Tyne, where she also is being repaired. That these three vessels, all of the same special system of construction, should have escaped total destruction is very remarkable, and what makes the case more interesting is that the San Wilfrido, another ship of the same Isherwood construction, struck a series of mines outside Cuxhaven the day before war was declared, and after striking the first and second mines she still remained afloat. It was when she struck a third mine that her doom was sealed. Another instance is the sinking of the Empress of Ireland in St. Lawrence River last year. The vessel which collided with and sunk her was the Storstad, which was constructed on the Isherwood system, and emerged from the collision with comparatively small damage. In the subsequent action brought against her by the Canadian Pacific Railway, the owners of the Empress of Ireland, Mr. Justice Dunlop, in giving judgment, said: "I would mention that the Storstad is built longitudinally, or on the Isherwood system, and is consequently very strong." Unfortunate as these accidents were, they have been a unique series of tests of a new system of ship construction of which the public knew little or nothing. The system, briefly described, is a complete reversal of the fundamental principles which have governed the building of ships since time immemorial, and its advantages include a considerable increase in structural strength. The first ship built on this system was launched in 1908, and the fleet to date, excluding war ships and including ships in course of construction, totals 350 vessels, with an aggregate gross tonnage of about 1,670,000 tons, involving a capital expenditure exceeding £25,000,000. Prior to the outbreak of the war Germany had built four cruisers on the system, including the notorious Breslau.

The German-Baghdad Railway.

A report from Baghdad, says the *Birmingham Daily Post*, states that the German or so-called "Baghdad Railway," which has for its object the linking of Constantinople with Baghdad, by way of Mosul and Aleppo, is not likely to change traffic conditions in any way, as the working expenses of such a line will scarcely enable it to compete, so far as the southern section of the line is concerned, with cheaper, if slower, water-borne transportation of goods. The railway is completed and working from Constantinople to Bourgourluh in the north and from Baghdad to Samara in the south, but further construction has practically ceased, and it seems clear (remarks the American Consul) that no resumption of the work can be undertaken before 1916 at the earliest. The only manufactured articles which leave Baghdad in any considerable quantities are Persian carpets and opium. The introduction of aniline dyes of German manufacture has, however, seriously jeopardised the carpet industry, and, while enhancing the value of antique rugs, has robbed the modern article of artistic and lasting value.

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THE NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY, "BALKAN" (SOFIA).

The nineteenth annual meeting of shareholders was held at Sofia on April 29, 1915, the chairman presiding.

The Chairman said: I am pleased to inform you that notwithstanding the effects of the war on international trade relations and the incalculable material losses caused thereby, the financial situation of our company has not only been strengthened by increased reserves, but, by reason of the neutrality of Bulgaria, we have been able to preserve our foreign interests and to acquire new ones, the results of which will be felt in next year's balance-sheet. In those States where our greatest interests lie we have at our disposal sufficient funds to enable us to meet our liabilities without transferring funds from one country to another, or suffering losses by reason of the agio.

I.—Fire.

Collected premiums amount to 18,616,189.96 frs., against 18,930,067.36 frs. in 1913. 3,795,338.51 frs. have been used for reinsurance purposes, so that there remain to our credit 14,820,851.45 frs., against 15,511,281.78 frs. in 1913. The slight decrease of receipts is due to the stagnation of the world's trade.

Paid losses amount to 10,127,398.17 frs., or 68.70 per cent. of the premiums, and commissions to 4,423,976.86 frs., or 29.80 per cent. of the premiums. The remaining unsettled losses amount to 2,730,277.57 frs., against 2,275,121.78 frs. during 1913., included in the reserve fund. The collected premiums on account of 1915 placed in reserve amount to 8,436,755.35 frs., or 57 per cent. of the premiums.

II.—Life.

During 1914 3,078 applications for life insurance were received, representing a capital of 12,098,281 frs., of which 2,776 have been approved and granted insurance policies on the capital of 10,727,117 frs., while 238 applications of 895,000 frs. are left over till 1915. After deducting the payment of insurance policies, of unpaid premiums, the decrease of insurance capital, etc., the portfolio on December 31, 1914, amounted to 15,919 insurance policies with an insured capital of 53,939,536 frs., against 45,672,999 frs. on the same date of 1913. The collected premiums amount to 2,061,736.57 frs., and paid losses plus temporary insurances to 615,361.06 frs. Reserves transferred for next year amount to 11,535,177.57 frs., against 10,201,128.09 frs. in 1913, so that the company's reserves in the life branch, as compared with those of last year, have been increased by 1,270,826.38 frs.

III.—Accident.

The collected premiums amount to 1,627,239.82 frs., against 1,525,788.77 frs. during 1913, and the paid losses to 1,387,506.25 frs. The premiums transferred to next year amount to 637,083.35 frs., against 596,172.68 frs. for 1913, and the unsettled losses to 276,897 frs.

IV.—Popular.

The collected premiums amount to 77,590.65 frs., and the reserve transferred to next year to 370,675.97 frs.

V.—Transport.

The collected premiums amount to 1,251,333.76 frs., of which 318,873.45 frs. are for reinsurance, so that 932,790.31 frs. remain to the company's credit. The paid losses amount to 670,772.26 frs., but the transferred reserve of premiums collected for next year and for the payment of the unsettled losses amount to 609,270.99, or 65.37 per cent. of the premiums, against 56.66 per cent. during 1913.

Our dividend from premiums during 1914 amounts to 23,631,090.76 frs., against 23,146,477.28 frs. in 1913. The net profit of 690,440.15 frs. is to be apportioned as follows:—

10 per cent. to reserve fund	69044.02
Dividend of 32 frs. on 3,750 founders' shares	120000.—
Dividend of 16,250 ordinary shares at 27 frs. each	390000.—
Apportionment according to the bye-laws	88637.37
Carry forward	22758.79

The capital of the company after the above distribution amounts to 27,500,629.02 frs., as follows:—

1. Original capital	2000000.—
2. Reserve and emergency fund	996016.28
3. Reserve premiums from different sources	21585933.17
4. Reserve from unsettled losses	2851096.37
5. Transferred interests and profits for 1915	67583.20
	27500629.02

The growth of our operations and the constant increase of reserves and guarantees are clear from the following figures for the last five years:—

Year	Collected premiums.	Transferred prem. and losses.	Reserve.	Dividend % Founders' Shares.	Dividend % Ordinary Shares.
1910	14932799·18	14163629·10	786473·38	22	18
1911	15590396·46	16057127·31	854850·56	26	20
1912	21276117·07	20752583·70	872687·61	26	20
1913	23146474·28	22788065·23	967312·39	29	22
1914	23631090·76	27737029·57	1063599·48	32	27

GERMANY'S RUINED CREDIT.

In order that neutrals, among whom THE NEAR EAST largely circulates, should know exactly into what a disastrous state German finances have been driven, we reproduce the following article, which appeared on Wednesday in the *Financial Times*. Incidentally it may be recalled that the Berlin banks which concluded the Bulgarian 1914 Loan never fulfilled their engagements, nor are they ever likely to do so.

"There has filtered through to London a brief account of the Kaiser's recent speech in Berlin, wherein he stated that the war would be over in October. The circumstances under which that delivery was made require to be explained in order to get an accurate perspective of the situation in which the German Emperor found himself, for the events leading up to the latest Imperial prophecy regarding the termination of the war are known to very few.

"Economists will scarcely need to be told that, at bottom, German's financial position has been completely undermined by the war, and the situation becomes worse week by week as fresh paper money is created. For months past the great financial interests in Berlin have viewed the situation with increasing alarm, but were afraid to approach the august presence of the War Lord individually. Eventually, representatives of the leading banks and other kindred institutions decided to approach the Kaiser collectively and submit their views. An interview having been arranged, the deputation summoned up their courage and stated bluntly that, assuming the Allies to be defeated, no indemnity payable by them could adequately compensate Germany for the sacrifices she has been called upon to make since the end of last July, while, in the event of a defeat of the Prussian armies, the Fatherland will not regain its economic independence for half a century. These and other similar statements were listened to with polite attention by the Emperor, and the financiers withdrew. The official reply to the deputation is to be found in the speech already referred to, which was designed to restore the confidence of the leaders of German commerce and finance, not only as to the improbability of another winter campaign, which is greatly dreaded, but also as to an early and decisive victory for the Fatherland. Unfortunately for the Kaiser, this plan has miscarried, his optimism regarding the war being distrusted among thinking men throughout Germany, while the financial members of the business community are gravely alarmed at the many unmistakable signs of an impending disaster to German credit all over the world.

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COMPANY REPORTS.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN OILFIELDS.

The report for 1914 states that the production for the year was 101,911 tons, which figure has proved liable to some deduction on account of a slight percentage of water found in the oil. Two large wells, Nos. 10 and 13, in the Gemsah field, stopped flowing in September and December respectively, owing to water breaking in and overcoming the oil. Efforts have since been made to recover the production, which have been only partially successful. On the Hurghada territory oil was struck in large quantities in Well No. 1, at 1,670 ft., in October, but the well became plugged with sand in a few days. The well was reopened in March this year, but after giving in all about 4,000 tons, the well ceased producing. Steps are being taken to endeavour to recover the production. All efforts to obtain oil in paying quantities in the Zeitieh Field having failed, the territory has been abandoned. The amount expended on this field by this company, including equipment, has amounted to about £20,000 in cash and £214,000 in B shares, which were issued in payment for the concessions and the work which had been done thereon by this company's predecessors. At the present time expenses largely exceed the value of the production, but every effort is being made to increase the output from the concessions already held. The profit and loss account for the period from the beginning of the company to December 31 last shows a loss of £82,909.

UNION FONCIERE D'EGYPTE.

The following is the report of the directors for the financial year 1914-15 :—The year under review had hardly commenced when Europe was plunged into a state of war. The outbreak of war had its immediate effect on the economic condition of this country, which, after seven years of financial stringency and difficulties of every description, was immediately still more adversely affected. The consequences of the war were particularly felt by Egyptian cultivators, as the value of cotton, their staple product, fell to almost one-half of the prices we have been accustomed to see in past years. This was, moreover, the case during the months of October, November, and December, when the cultivator is obliged to sell his cotton to meet his engagements. According to statistics published by the Ministry of Finance, the value of cotton and cotton seed received in Alexandria during the period September 1, 1914, to March 26, 1915, is estimated at £E15,626.014, a falling-off of no less than £E15,877.631, as compared with last season's figures of £E31,503.645 for the same period. The average price obtained for cotton grown on the company's estates was P.T.262,2 the cantar, compared with P.T.411 and P.T.410,5 for the two preceeding seasons. These figures will give an idea of the effect the European war has had on the revenue of the country in general, and in particular on the affairs of your company.

Rural Estates.

Sales.—In consequence of this situation we have not only been unable to make any important sales during the year, whereas our annual sales have in the past always exceeded 400 feddans, but it has even been impossible to complete the sale of the 126 feddans mentioned in our last report owing to the inability of purchasers to meet the registration fees. The total of sales still unregistered amount to date to about 150 feddans. The only transaction registered was for feddans 14-23-04 of our El Alf Estate, in exchange for land at Téda. We have made over to the Government, free of charge, feddans 1-09-23 at Santa for the enlarging and deepening of the public drain, of which work we immediately felt the good effects.

Purchases.—Our properties have been increased on the other hand by feddans 79-05-07, of which feddans 39-18-16 were acquired by expropriation of defaulting purchasers, feddans 10 by amicable repurchase, feddans 21-16-00 in exchange for other land, and feddans 7-18-15 purchase of small parcels of land enclosed by our own property which interfered with our schemes of improvement. The following table shows our land position during the year's working :—

Area on March 31, 1914	Fed. 9,647 Kir. 05 Sahmes 18
Land exchanged and disposed of during 1914-15	Fed. 16 Kir. 09 Sahmes 03
Balance	Fed. 9,630 Kir. 20 Sahmes 15
Expropriations, purchases and repurchases to March 31, 1915.....	Fed. 79 Kir. 05 Sahmes 07
Net area on March 31, 1915.....	Feb. 9,710 Kir. 01 Sahmes 22

Development and Cultivation Operations.—The crop of the company and of its tenants amounted to 4.428,6 cantars, as compared with 3.056,95 for the preceding year. This shows that in spite of exterior causes from which not only ourselves but the whole world is suffering, the properties of the company have progressed normally, as the result of our scheme of improvement, which has been strictly followed. The prohibition of rice cultivation last summer had a very prejudicial effect on the working of the company, for, besides the land improving virtues of this crop, sales of rice in normal years have considerably increased our revenue.

Cattle.—Several cases of cattle plague have occurred amongst our working cattle, and in spite of all precautions we have lost twenty-four animals from this disease. We hope in the future, as a result of steps that we have been advised to take, losses of this kind will be eliminated.

Balance Sheet.

Rural Estates.—This item represents the total area remaining in the company's possession multiplied by the cost price per feddan. We must, however, point out that the present value of our estates is lower than the cost price. The abnormal situation in this country, to which the fall in real estate values is due, renders it impossible to proceed, at the present moment, with a useful evaluation. Your Board, however, will, as soon as the general situation of the country becomes normal, submit to you the steps they propose taking in this connection in the interests of the company.

Development of Estates.—In this account are included all liquid assets existing in connection with our estates, such as rent due, cattle, stores and supplies, furniture, etc., with the single exception of pumping machinery, which is placed in another account, and is subject to the same allowance for depreciation as in the case of cattle and stores.

Cession of Vendor's Right, Land Bank.—This account, as a result of the redemption of capital which has taken place during the year, now stands at £E23,732.485, as compared with £E25.559.183 last year.

Debtors for Land Sales.—The total amount under this heading is now £E79,947.445, of which £E23,732.485 is included in the cession of vendor's right, Land Bank account. On the other hand, the amount of the land sales annuities discounted by the Land Bank for which we remain joint guarantors with the debtors to the bank has been reduced from the original figure of £E77,960, to £E52,068.183, as against £E59,006.170 last year.

Annuities in Arrears.—We commenced the twelve months under review with £E7,936.127 annuities in arrears. During the course of the year we have recovered £E3,798.125, thus reducing this account to £E4,138.002.

Annuities for 1914.—The state of this account reflects the agricultural and financial difficulties under which Egypt is labouring at the present time. Out of a total due to us of £E19,992.013 we have encashed £E6,348.706, leaving outstanding £E13,643.307. A part of this latter sum will be encashed when the autumn crops come in.

Banks and Bankers.—Under this heading are included the debit balances of the different credits granted us by our bankers.

Provision for Unpaid Rents.—We have thought it advisable to strengthen this account by £E4,000 in view of the low price obtained by our tenants for their cotton and the uncertainty as regards the future.

Provision Account for Irrecoverable Interest on Annuities in Arrears.—We have drawn on this account for the sum of £E982.329 for writing off irrecoverable arrears. On the other hand we have transferred a similar sum from profit and loss account to the credit of this provision account, thus maintaining it at the same figure of £E2,000.

Profit and Loss Account.

In addition to our usual allowances for depreciation in the case of cattle, pumping engines, stores and supplies, etc., we have deemed it advisable to allocate the following amounts. 1.—£E6,002.009 for rent, which, as a result of the present situation, it will not be possible to recover; (2) £E714.338 debit balance of legal expenses account; (3) £E3,000, as we have already stated, in strengthening "Unpaid Rent Provision Account"; (4) £E982.329 to maintain at its former amount the provision account for irrecoverable interest on annuities in arrears. Your Board have also thought it advisable, in view of the present circumstances, to modify the system of splitting up and charging off expenditure. The sum of £E4,630, representing certain expenses in connection with cultivation and £E1,228, for interest, have been debited to profit and loss account instead of to rural estates account. As a result of the important sums thus charged to profit and loss account for extraordinary depreciation with a view to clearing the present situation, the year's working closes with a loss of £E14,614.065. After deducting £E4,830.427 borught forward from last year there remains a net loss of £E9,783.638 to be carried forward.

As we are not able, as a consequence of the present state of affairs, to proceed with the sale of improved land, which is the essential object of the company, we have concentrated our efforts on the work of improvement, in order that, when the general economic situation allows, we may proceed with our sales under the most satisfactory conditions. By so doing we are maintaining and increasing, from an agricultural point of view, the value of our estates, and we may state that the results of our efforts have been most satisfactory; this has been confirmed by a counter-valuation made at the

NATIONAL BANK OF GREECE.

ESTABLISHED IN 1841.

CAPITAL - Dr. 20,000,000. RESERVES - Dr. 13,500,000.

Head Office: ATHENS.

BRANCHES.

Aegion, Agrinion, Almyros, Amalias, Amphissa, Arta, Atalante, Calamata, Calavryta, Céphalonia, Chalkis, Corfu, Corinth, Cythère, Dimitzana, Gythium, Ithaque, Janina, Karditza, Kyparissia, Lamia, Larissa, Lévadia, Mégalopoli, Messina, Missolonghi, Naupacta, Nauplia, Patras, Paxos, Piræus, Poros, Pylos, Pyrgos, St. Maure, Salonika, Santorin, Sparta, Syra, Thèbes, Trikkala, Tripoli, Volo, Zante,

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instance of our principal creditor, the Land Bank of Egypt.

Board of Directors.

The following directors retire in accordance with the articles of association, and being eligible offer themselves for re-election: Messrs. Périclès Zarifi, Edouard Bourre and Guy C. Foster. Your managing director, Mr. Leopold Jullien, as well as another director, Mr. Georges Yver de la Bruchollerie, have been serving with the colours since the outbreak of war, and the Board take this opportunity of expressing their heartfelt wishes of good luck and a speedy return.

We also ask you to re-elect Mr. S. Pappo, sub-manager of the Land Bank of Egypt, as auditor to the company at the same honorarium as previously, Lstg. 80.

Resolutions Passed at the General Meeting.

(1) The directors' report and the report of the auditor having been submitted, the meeting adopted the balance-sheet and profit and loss account as set forth in the report, and decided to carry forward to the next year the debit balance of the latter account.

(2) Messrs. Périclès Zarifi, Edouard Bourre, and Guy C. Foster were re-elected to the board.

(2) The directors' fees were fixed at Lstg. 3 for each attendance.

(4) Mr. S. Pappo, sub-manager of the Land Bank of Egypt, was re-elected as auditor for the year 1915-16 at an honorarium of Lstg. 80.

No further business being brought forward, the meeting concluded at 4.30 p.m.

BALANCE-SHEET AS AT MARCH 31, 1915.

LIABILITIES.

		£E.
Capital (100,000 shares of £ sterling 5 each)		487,500.000
Statutory reserve		4,054.697
Unmatured profits on land sales		12,409.988
Provision for arrears of rents		4,000.000
" " irrecoverable interest		2,000.000
Bank and bankers		67,502.767
Land Bank Mortgage		161,605.792
Land Bank of Egypt:—		
Mortgage annuity	£E9,516,898	
Annuities account	7,201,013	
		16,717.911
Annuities encashed in advance		133.531
Deposits on land sales		1,587.316
Sundry creditors		4,033.352
Unclaimed dividends		50.748
		761,596.102
Sundry depositors (statutory guarantee)		12,187.500
		773,783.602

ASSETS.

		£E.
Rural estates		605,240.040
Development of estates (rural assets)		26,294.215
Plant and machinery		4,279.952
Cash		155.278
The National Bank of Egypt:—		
Cotton account	£E7,392.701	
Provisions for coupons	" 47,395	
		7,440.096
Cession of vendor's right, Land Bank		23,732.485
Land Bank, reduction of mortgage account		3,178.543
Shares on deposit with us		487.500
Furniture		310.740
Sundry stores for estates		22.386
Debtors for land sales		56,214.960
NOTE.—Part of this amount has been pledged as guarantee for advance in current account.		
Sundry debtors		3,564.896
Annuities in arrears:—		
Previous years	£E4,138.002	
Current year	" 13,643.307	
		17,781.309
Debtors for interest on land sales		1,673.361
Debtors for interest on annuities (in arrears)		1,436.703
PROFIT AND LOSS		
Loss for year 1914-1915	£E14,614.065	
Less balance carried forward from last year	" 4,830.427	
		9,783.638
		761,596.102
Statutory guarantee		12,187.500
		773,783.602

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 31, 1915.

EXPENSES.

		£E.
Working and general expenses		15,673.436
Interest		12,280.082
Loss on irrecoverable rents		6,002.009
Provisions and Amounts Written Off.		
Provision for arrears of rent	£E3,000.000	
Provision for irrecoverable interest	982.329	
Live stock, plant and furniture on estates	615.471	
Machinery	466.601	
Furniture of head office	34.530	
Legal expenses	714.338	
Compounding of French Stamp Duty	109,011	
Sundries	401,271	
		6,323.551
		40,279.078
Less Balance carried forward from last year		4,830.427
		£E35,448.651

RECEIPTS.

Rents and receipts		18,297.427
Interest on land sales		5,724.702
Matured profits on land sales		1,202.884
Allowance for the management of alien estates		440,000
PROFIT AND LOSS.		
Loss during year 1914-1915	£E14,614.065	
Less balance carried forward from last year	4,830.427	
		9,783.838
		£E35,448.651

NEW COMPANY.

Shatt-el-Arab and Karun Flotilla Company, Limited.

Under the above title a private company was registered at Somerset House on June 24, with a capital of £50,000 in £10 shares. The objects are stated to be: to carry on the business of owners, charterers and builders of steamships, barges, tugs, lighters and other craft, carriers of passengers, mails, troops, munitions of war, livestock, meat, corn and other produce, treasure and merchandise between ports and places and along rivers or waterways in and about the Persian Gulf or areas adjacent thereto, or elsewhere; to acquire any postal subsidies, and to adopt an agreement between the Strick Line, Limited, Strick, Scott and Company, Limited, and this company. Registered office, Winchester House, Old Broad St., E.C.

COMPANY RESULTS, &c.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN OILFIELDS.—Gemsah production for week, 284 tons (last week 46 tons). Hurgada production for week, 274 tons (last week 222 tons).

Annual meeting of shareholders at 2.30 p.m. on July 15 at Winchester House, E.C.

ANGLO-PERSIAN OIL COMPANY.—The directors have declared a dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on the preference shares for the half-year ended March 31 last, payable 31st inst.

PIRÆUS-ATHENS-PELOPONNESUS RAILWAY FOUR PER CENT. BONDS.—The Bank of Athens will pay Coupon No. 7 on presentation on and after 14th inst., at 22, Fenchurch Street, E.C.

The coupons and drawn bonds (3 per cent.) due July 15, will be paid on and after that date, and must be left three clear days for examination.

NATIONAL BANK OF ROUMANIA.

BALANCE-SHEET, JUNE 30/12, 1915.

ASSETS.

Metallic reserve	Gold (specie)	162,577,411	
	On deposit	25,220,000	
	Gold (bars)	165,000	
	Foreign bills payable in gold	71,036,292	258,998,703
Silver and other coins			637,626
Roumanian and foreign bills			223,432,838
Advances against Government securities		27,763,800	
On current account		49,806,500	49,442,498
Unused balance		28,127,802	21,678,698
Loan of 15 millions to the State			11,273,958
Loan to Government on 4 per cent. Treasury Bonds (1914)			182,638,495
Bank's capital invested in Government stock			11,537,860
Reserve invested in Government stock			16,476,677
Reserve, depreciation of buildings, furniture and printing machinery			3,965,281
Premises			6,733,709
Furniture and printing machinery			1,107,106
General expenses			1,387,846
Government and other securities deposited			130,538,391
Four per Cent. Gold Treasury Bonds as security for loan to State			200,000,000
Securities held against advances or temporarily lodged			162,238,983
Current accounts			21,501,880
Security accounts			22,270,440
Sundry accounts			30,527,992
Total Lei			1,334,710,283

LIABILITIES.

Capital	12,000,000
Reserve	39,714,199
Reserve, depreciation of buildings, furniture and printing machinery	5,768,306
Notes in circulation	615,293,790
Profit and loss account	7,014,543
Current accounts and drafts at sight	63,712,606
Securities, etc., held on account of customers	492,777,374
Sundry accounts	68,429,465
Total Lei	1,334,710,283

Bank Rate, 6 per cent.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE	Mean Price. July 27.	Min. Price. Mar. 20.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	—	92
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907	82	—	—
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909	80	—	66
City of Alexandria 5%, 1909	99	—	90½xd
City of Constantinople 4% Bnds	96	—	—
Egypt. Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan	93½	87⅛	87½
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	85	88⅜
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	88	78	78½
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82½	73¼	78⅜
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	80½	75	75⅜
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	52	56½xd
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	52	56½xd
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	45	49½xd
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	40	44
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	52	55
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	—	51½xd
Do. 4 % Rails. Loan, 1902	77	—	68xd
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	94	—	93
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	—	76
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82⅜	—	—
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	91	—	80
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £60p.	92	—	85
Servian 4 % Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855	103	97	—
Do. 4 %, 1891	94½	—	86
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	—	74½
Do. 4 % Loan, 1902	82½	—	—
Do. 4 % Unified	79	—	54
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	65½	—	49⅛
Do. 4 %, 1909	69	—	47⅛
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	—	3½
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	—	6½xd
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.	80	—	73
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red.	83	—	76
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	—	9⅞
Bank of Abyssinia	¼	—	—
Bank of Athens	£2	—	1⅜
Bank of Roumania	8½	—	—
Eastern Bank	5	—	85/9
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅜	—	6⅛
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	—	—
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅞	—	72/6
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	—	4½
National Bank of Egypt	13⅜	—	12
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½% C.P.	8	—	6½
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8½	—	no m.6⅜
Do. do. 5 % Debs., Red.	98	—	95
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I.	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88½	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17⅜	—	13
Do. do. 6 % Cum. Pref.	22	—	15
Do. do. 4 % 1st Deb.	87	—	57½xd
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb.	101	—	69xd
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	90	—	—
Do. do. 3 % Bonds	61	—	—
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	—	⅜
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	—	95
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	¼	—	—
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	—	2⅛
Do. Do. Def.	¼	—	—
Béhéra Co.	8¼	—	7⅜
Do. Pref.	4⅜	—	3½xd
Daira Sanieh	2/2	—	2/6
Do. Def.	⅞	—	20/-
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mi. Db. Rd.	—	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	9/-	—	6/9xd
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tst.	98	—	90
Do and Foreign Trust	5/-	—	5/32
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	—	1⅛
" " Founders	¼	—	—
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—	—
Do. 5 % Debs. Red.	—	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	9⅜	—	7½
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	—	87½xd
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	—	1/6
Sidi Salem Co.	⅛	—	¼
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	—	⅝
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	—	-/10½
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12¼	—	11
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt	97	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	—	—
Egyptian Hotels	1½	—	—
Do. 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—	—
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1 1/16	—	1⅛xd
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	99½	—	99
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	⅛	—	14/3
Do. 5 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	96	—	98
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅝	—	10/-
Do. do. Prefs.	3⅜	—	3xd
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt.	90	—	85
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (fr. 500)	£179½	—	£—
Upper Egypt Hotels	2½	—	—

OIL.	Price on July 30.	June 23.
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	8/-	8/-
Anglo-Persian	22/1½	20,6
Cyprus Oil Trust	2/3	2/3
European Oilfields	4/9	3/6
Roumanian	20/-	15/-

PARIS BOURSE.

	Jan. 4.	June 30.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane	—	449
Canal de Suez	4050	4150
Credit Foncier Egyptien	639	585
Turkish Unified 4%	61.50	—
Egyptian Unified 4%	87.75	87.50
Serbian, 1895	—	62.75

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 219.—Vol. IX. FRIDAY, JULY 16, 1915.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Roumanian affairs are much to the fore at the present moment. The misgivings which are compelling the Conservative and Conservative Democratic parties to organize demonstrations in favour of immediate participation in the war have hitherto not been shared by public opinion in the countries of the Triple Entente. It was felt that there could be no doubt about Roumania's attitude, that she had voluntarily committed herself to the Allied Powers by accepting a loan from the British Government, and that in due course she would take the field as soon as the psychological moment presented itself. No doubt the Allies would have preferred her to take the field at the time when her co-operation would have been of the greatest value to Russia. But they would be willing to make every allowance for the Roumanian Government's hesitation, and would not be likely to press for Roumania's support, if her military advisers counselled delay.

A different complexion is put upon Roumania's indecision by the outspoken utterances of the parliamentary Opposition, and by the significant proposals made only last week by the Germanic Powers. On July 7 the Austro-Hungarian Minister in Bucharest offered the Roumanian Government certain concessions in the event of Roumania maintaining her neutrality and allowing Germany facilities for supplying Turkey with munitions of war. Roumania was promised the Bukovina with the River Sereth as a northern boundary; the Roumanians in Transylvania would be admitted into the public service, Brasso (Kronstadt) would be granted a University, and the Roumanian churches would receive greater liberty of administration. In the event of Roumania taking the field on the side of the Germanic Powers, the ceded territory would be extended to Czernowitz, and the line of the Pruth in the north and to the Iron Gates, including Mehadia, in the west; Transylvania would receive complete autonomy, and the Austro-German armies would occupy Bessarabia and hand it over to Roumania. The fulfilment of these conditions was "guaranteed" by Germany.

The full significance of these proposals we discuss elsewhere in this issue. That the Roumanian Government will ultimately reject the Austro-German offer cannot be doubted for a moment, because its acceptance would be an act of treachery to the national aspirations of the Roumanians who are resolved to win their brethren in Transylvania for the kingdom of Roumania. But it is eloquent of the state of mind of the Bratiano Cabinet that it should see nothing incongruous in listening to the Austro-German overtures and availing itself of the period given it for the return of an answer. M. Bratiano has also failed to appreciate the effect that his action is likely to have on the Governments of the Allied Powers. That a responsible statesman in Europe should at this stage be so impervious to the lesson of Belgium and the whole conduct of the war by the two Germanic States as to regard a vague promise given on Germany's "guarantee" as worthy of even a moment's consideration would have been past belief, if the phenomenon had not been supplied by the Roumanian Cabinet. The circumstance does not make it easy for Roumania under her present Government to take up the position in the Balkans which destiny would seem to have marked out for her.

As the weeks pass and Roumania continues in the throes of indecision the agitation of the Conservative and Conservative Democratic parties assumes a totally different aspect. So long as there appeared to be good reason for delay on Roumania's part in participating in the war, any attempt to divide the country into hostile camps in the face of grave issues was to be deprecated. But now it would almost seem as if the Opposition were acting on fuller knowledge than that available to the outside world. Its agitation was, perhaps, prompted by well-founded fears lest, in the absence of emphatic protests, the Roumanian Government should continue to play into the hands of the Germanic Powers until it was too late for the alternative course. From the situation in Roumania to-day it is clear that the Government's action has already had regrettable results. Allegations of bribery are being freely bandied about, and they do not concern only subordinate officials. German money has been sent freely into the country. It is argued that it must have had some definite destination, and the purpose for which it would be spent is known. Those who have set great store on the future of a Greater Roumania are dismayed to find the country exposing itself to such humiliating charges.

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It will be difficult to acquit the Bratiano Cabinet of responsibility for an unsatisfactory state of affairs. If it were confident of the correctness of its attitude, and of the infallibility of its diplomacy, its first duty would be to the country. The Premier might easily have taken the Opposition leaders into his confidence and obviated even the semblance of divided public opinion. His failure to adopt such a course detracts from his claim to statesmanship, however correct his policy may ultimately prove. It may be that he is acting entirely in Roumania's interests, that delay in declaring war is justified on military grounds, which are known to the Premier, but which cannot be made public. Nevertheless, the subordination of the nation's interests to a desire to establish a reputation for shrewdness can never redound to the Premier's credit. There would be little tendency outside the country to cavil at Roumania's hesitation if her attitude were understood at home. But it is the uneasiness of her own people, and the charges now levelled at the Government and public men, that cause other nations to wonder whether Roumania is really embarked on a settled policy or is merely drifting with no other aim than the personal interests of her rulers.

Bulgaria's attitude remains on the whole less equivocal than that of Roumania. She stands to gain more from a victory of the Germanic Powers; her Government is admittedly Russophobe, and has already used this fact to obtain a loan from those Powers. But Germany and Austria-Hungary will have to finish the war before they can give Bulgaria what she wants; whereas the Triple Entente has it in its power to make Serbia, Greece, and Roumania yield up at once the territory claimed by the Bulgarians. On this ground the Sofia Government is ready to lend itself to negotiations with the Allied Powers. Whether it does so whole-heartedly is another matter. The situation in the Near East, however, is undergoing a gradual change, which is not lost upon the neutral States. So far the Dardanelles expedition and Italy's participation in the war have failed to exercise the effect that might have been expected of them. But the collapse of Turkey's defence will be fatal to German influence in the Balkans. The time for building a bridge over which to retreat from an untenable position has, therefore, arrived for Bulgaria, and, fortunately for the Allies, it coincides with certain diplomatic changes at Sofia. The change in the situation is connected with these bridge-building efforts.

Trials and indictments have figured so prominently in Bulgaria during the last two years, without appearing to lead to any result, that it is not necessary to attach much importance as yet to the threatened prosecution of M. Gennadieff, formerly Minister for Foreign Affairs. M. Gennadieff is head of one of the sections of the old Stambulovist party, and with Dr. Radoslavoff, the Premier, is responsible for the Russophobe tendencies of the present régime, and for the advice tendered by King Ferdinand that Bulgaria should definitely throw in her lot with the Germanic Powers. As a result of the court-martial on the men accused of complicity in the bomb outrage at Sofia Casino on February 13, the Court ordered the prosecution of M. Gennadieff on the ground of his intimacy with one of the criminals, to whom he is said to have paid ten thousand francs. The incident has naturally caused a sensation in Bulgaria; but, apart from the possibility of M. Gennadieff establishing his innocence, the fact that he is technically outside the Government may leave the political situation unaffected.

If certain reports are to be believed, Germany and Austria-Hungary are more concerned for Turkey's fate than the time allowance of a month given to Roumania for an answer to their proposals would indicate. The Turks' shortage of munitions is admitted, and the Roumanian Government is said to have been approached with a view to securing free passage for further supplies from Germany. It is evident that large consignments of munitions have reached Turkey through Roumania and Bulgaria. Even now attempts are being made persistently to smuggle fresh quantities through these countries. The Roumanian Government reports the occasional discovery of illicit consignments, but the Allied Powers have no means of knowing whether these discoveries represent all the efforts made by the Germanic Powers to send supplies to their Turkish ally. Roumania's refusal, however, to allow munitions to pass through her territory openly has undoubtedly embarrassed the Central States and Turkey, and we are possibly on the eve of notable developments at the Dardanelles as a result of the Turks' shortage of ammunition.

The Allied forces in Gallipoli Peninsula have placed further successes to their credit during the past week. They have followed up the Turkish attacks, carried out with such disastrous results at the orders of Enver Pasha, by a counter-offensive which appears to have achieved marked success. Our gains, however, have still to be measured in yards. But the losses inflicted on the enemy have been none the less heavy because they are suffered over a restricted area. It is clearly to the Allies' advantage to press home their present superiority while the enemy is experiencing a shortage of ammunition, and we may hope that no similar shortage has been felt on our side. The presence of Enver Pasha in the Peninsula is only one of many indications that the Turks are realizing that only a supreme effort can now save them. We should like to think that our own task was rendered the easier, but it is clear that, even apart from the Turks' fighting instincts, the military situation will provoke a specially sustained effort on the part of Germany's allies at this juncture.

The Greek Chamber is due to assemble next week on July 20. As was anticipated in these columns, M. Gounaris, the Premier, has remained in office, pursuing a Micawber-like policy both in domestic and foreign affairs. At home, owing to the state of the King's health, there has been little chance of anything "turning up" to disturb his position. German gold has been playing an active part in Greece as it has in Roumania, and similar charges are made of the acceptance of bribes by public men. These domestic details have little interest for foreigners, who merely regret to see Greek public life falling back into the ruts from which M. Venizelos' statesmanlike administration had succeeded in extricating it. In the sphere of foreign affairs Greece's most notable concern has been the fate of Greeks in Ottoman territory. While the Greek population in Asia Minor has been spared the worst excesses to which the Armenians have been exposed, it has been passing through some terrible experiences. Thousands, it is stated, have been evicted from their homes along the coast, and have been deported under distressing conditions to purely Turkish districts. Their fate could not have been worse if Greece and Turkey had been at war. It would have been appreciably ameliorated if Greece's participation in the war had led to an earlier collapse of Turkey's resistance. The Turks make no secret of their intentions, if they are victorious in this struggle, of meting out drastic measures upon the Greeks within their borders. But as the condition on which their threats are based is not likely to be fulfilled, their intended victims will take heart, looking to the Allied Powers to bring them relief.

Yet a second attempt within a few months has been made on the life of Sultan Hussein of Egypt. While he was on his way to attend service at a mosque at Alexandria a bomb thrown from a window fell at the feet of the horses attached to his carriage. The bomb failed to explode, but investigation proved that it was of an extremely powerful character. Sultan Hussein showed the greatest *sang froid*. He continued on his way to the mosque, performed his devotions, and went his customary drive in the afternoon. His assailant, unfortunately, made good his escape. From the Cairo correspondent of *The Times* we learn that the Sultan's second fortunate escape has provoked many Egyptian Moslems to utter *Allah haris es Sultan* ("God protects the Sultan"), and he adds that the dastardly attempt "may have a happy effect on the Egyptian

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mind, which is already superstitiously inclined, by causing it to cast a supernatural glamour around the Sultan."

A raid on the Aden hinterland by a Turkish force is an incident which calls for further elucidation before we can be in a position to gauge its precise significance. According to the official statement, the Aden Camel Troop was despatched on a reconnoitring expedition in consequence of rumours that a Turkish force from the Yemen had crossed the frontier. The troop reported the presence of the Turks with field guns and a large number of Arabs, and, falling back on Lahej, it was reinforced by the advanced guard of the Aden Movable Column. On July 4 the enemy attacked Lahej several thousand strong with twenty guns. Our forces maintained their position until night, but by this time part of the town was in flames, the enemy was beginning to outflank them, and reinforcements were delayed by water difficulties and heavy going. Accordingly the small detachment at Lahej fell back, at first to Bir Nasr, where the remainder of the Movable Column joined it, and then the whole force withdrew to Aden. Here within the fortified area any attack by the Turks, if they are rash enough to attempt one, can be awaited with entire confidence.

The military significance of the raid is small. A Turkish expedition was intended to co-operate last autumn with the Imam against the Idrisi, the Asir chief, who has been in rebellion for some years. It is possible that this force, without achieving its original object, has been deflected towards Aden for the purpose of Constantinople and Berlin war bulletins. The presence of Arab tribesmen with this force will mean that the Turks were strong enough to command respect in the districts through which they passed, but need not imply the pacification of the whole of the Yemen. Politically, the raid is of some importance. There are a number of protected tribes on the frontier and in the Aden hinterland with whom we have entered into treaty obligations. The Sultan of Lahej is a British feudatory and a loyal chieftain. The Amiri and Houshabi are productive and settled tribes, through whose territory run the principal trade routes to Aden, and we have often felt obliged to give them protection in the past. Their fate and the fate of other loyal tribes at the hands of the invading Turks may well be far from pleasant, and we cannot contemplate complacently a policy of inactivity, however masterful, behind the defences of Aden.

Probably the most effective way of dealing with the problem presented by the Turkish raid is to accept the implied challenge and to encourage Arabia to take its own fortunes in both its hands. We may be able to cope more directly with the marauding force, but to deter the Turks from further activities in these regions it may prove necessary to assist the Arab tribes to remove for all time the few emblems of Turkey's half-hearted authority in the Yemen. In the Idrisi and the Emir of Nejd we should probably find the best material for a new order in Arabia. They have suffered no less than the Aden hinterland from the effects of Turkish misrule, and have been doing their best for some time to cope with the evil. The assistance that we could offer them might be small, but the encouragement that they would derive from it would probably be sufficient for the end in view.

Although there is no reason to doubt that shortage of munitions has been responsible for the withdrawal of the Russians from Galicia, it is noticeable that the reports of the fighting capacity of the Austrians are much more favourable than they were at an earlier stage in the war. The probable explanation is that at the beginning of the war the larger portion of the troops employed were of various nationalities, belonging to outlying parts of the Empire, which were more or less disaffected and, consequently, the more ready to desert or surrender. Not only will the Austro-Hungarian commanders have had better material to draw upon recently, but the stiffening of their armies with German troops will have exercised a considerable effect. In this connection it may be mentioned that while there is a great feeling in England of bitterness against Germany for the outrageous manner in which she has conducted the war, there is an entire absence of this animosity as regards either Austria or Hungary. In fact, there is hardly a Briton who does not regret that circumstances have brought his country into antagonism with these two nations.

STAMBOUL.

Have you ever been to old Stamboul?
It isn't a bit like London town!
Though the mists are there of a morning cool
As you hear an anchor let softly down;
Those are not spires on the Seven Hills
That tryst with the sky would seem to keep,
And it is a voice, not a bell, that thrills:
"Come forth, for prayer is better than sleep!"

If ever you go to old Stamboul
Mark well the pathway by which you came,
For there isn't a street laid out by rule,
And hardly one you can call by name;
And it isn't easy to ask your way
To the pilgrim centre that first allures,
Though the throng that passes has much to say
In every tongue in the world but yours!

You will cross the bridge of the Golden Horn,
Or come by train by the old sea wall;
Or, happier still, on some magic morn
You will come by boat—which is best of all;
And thus, perchance, while afar from land,
Will come a vision to bless your eyes
As out of the blue, at the dawn's command,
A mirage city is seen to rise.

That mirage city becomes more real—
You have seen it oft in a dream before—
How its domes and tapering shafts appeal!
What a glamour of sunshine floods it o'er!
Though one partakes of the varied feast,
As a guest he comes, as a guest remains;
Where it once was West it is now the East,
And mystery clings to the latticed panes.

On the road that leads to the old bazaar,
Where Araby's treasure the world may buy,
What living pictures, what tints there are
To catch the fancy and hold the eye!
The Mecca pilgrims that gravely pass,
Having lived, 'twould seem, since the world began,
Will they tell us the riddle of life? Alas!
Asia veils her thoughts, as her face, from man.

One feels the freedom from worldly strain
By the fountained court, in the mosque's cool shade;
For why should man, with a soul to train,
Mind if a kingdom be lost or made?
If he must work for his daily bread
He does it here in a quiet way,
And one might venture that dreams instead
Make up the sum of an Eastern day.

Let us go together to old Stamboul,
Which isn't a bit like London town,
Though the mists are there of a morning cool
As your boat casts gently its anchor down;
Those are not spires on the Seven Hills
That tryst with the sky would seem to keep,
And it is a voice, not a bell, that thrills:
"Come forth, for prayer is better than sleep!"

Constantinople, 1912. MARY MASON POYNTER.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, June 28.

Honours for Egyptians and Anglo-Egyptians.

His Highness the Sultan made this week his first appointments under the new system of grades and decorations instituted in April last to take the place of the old Turkish grades and orders that, under the previous régime, were in the gift of the sovereign of the country. The Grand Cordon of the Order of Mohammed Ali, the highest decoration, has been bestowed on the Sultan's son, Prince Kemal-ed-Din; his brother, Prince Ahmed Fuad; and his cousin, Prince Omar Toussoun. The Grand Cordon of the Order of the Nile has been conferred on all the Ministers, the Advisers, the Sirdar, the Sheikh El-Azhar, the Coptic Patriarch, and on Boghos Pasha Nubar; the Under-Secretaries of State have received the decoration of Grand Officer of the same order. As regards the grades, a further special distinction—that of Riasset—has been created for bestowal solely on Presidents of the Council of Ministers, and Hussein Rushdi Pasha, the present Premier, has been raised to this grade. The "Imtiaz," which is a new institution under the Sultanate, has been conferred on the other Ministers and on Ahmed Mazloum Pasha and Saad Pasha Zaghlul, the President, and elected Vice-President of the Legislative Assembly; whilst the Egyptian Under-Secretaries, the Procureur-General, and the Governors and first-class Mudirs have been created Pashas, whether they possessed that grade under the old régime or not. Various notables have also had the grades of Bey and Pasha conferred on them. Further nominations are expected shortly, and curiosity is expressed as to the persons on whom the Order of Agriculture and of "El Kemal"—the one reserved for women—will be conferred.

For some time the general public—as well as those most directly concerned—has been somewhat puzzled as to how those holding grades and distinctions granted under the old régime would stand under the new order of things. As mentioned, most of those now honoured already possessed the grades just bestowed on them; but there are also a great many notables and officials who have not had their titles confirmed. No official pronouncement has as yet been made in this connection, but it is understood that the holders of old grades will continue to enjoy the privileges that those grades conferred on them, with this distinction, however, that holders of grades bestowed by the Sultan will always take precedence of those who possess similar titles granted under the old régime.

A Cathedral for Cairo.

The Bishop in Jerusalem's excellent letter to the British Press in Egypt setting forth the case in favour of the erection of a cathedral in Cairo will, it is to be hoped, receive the world-wide publicity that it merits. On more than one occasion I have referred in these letters to the unsatisfactory position of the Anglican community in Egypt, and especially Cairo, as compared with that of adherents to all the sister Churches; and I have dwelt on the dilapidated condition of All Saints' Church and the inadequacy of the accommodation which it affords to congregations to-day. When the question of constructing a new church in Cairo was raised before it was always accompanied by a plea for the creation of an Anglican Bishopric in Egypt. The endowment of a see in this country, which comes within the diocese of the Bishop in Jerusalem, is a matter that has always created controversial discussion, and its close association with the question of the erection of a new church in Cairo has undoubtedly militated in the past against any appeal for funds evoking unanimous support. Dr. MacInnes, however, does not connect his appeal with any question of a bishopric, but bases it on grounds that must enlist the sympathy of all those who have the interests of the Anglican Church and of the British Empire at heart.

He points out that Egypt is now a British Protectorate, and that its capital is not only the biggest city in Africa, but also the sixth largest city in the British Empire. All other Churches have a cathedral in this country. Why should the Anglican Church—the Church of the British Empire—not have a representative building to enable it to take its proper place beside its sister Churches, and to act as "a sign and symbol of our Christian faith to the people of Egypt," who set so much store by a man's outward profession of his faith? The Bishop is modest in his proposals. The building is not to be unduly large, as a mere monument, nor so ornate as to be too costly. It is to be such that it will provide sufficient accommodation for present requirements and allow for possible enlargement in the near future. Internal decoration is to be left to private generosity, and where possible the stones and timber of the old edifice are to be used in the erection of the new. A minimum sum of £50,000 will have to be raised for this project, which has the support of the Archbishop of Canterbury, and the hearty approval of Sir Henry McMahon and of Mr. Olney Arnold, the American Agent in Cairo. The local committee will issue an appeal in the autumn, but it has authorised Bishop MacInnes to bring the question now before the public and to make it known that gifts or promises of help will be gratefully received. Already considerable subscriptions for a period of years have been received, and it is hoped that Anglicans at home and abroad and American Episcopalians will give their support, and that friends of men from the colonies who "have died here for King and Empire will be glad to take a part in our task as a memorial of them and of their magnificent achievement in Gallipoli."

Early Closing in Egypt.

Following on the prohibition of the sale of absinthe and the control of that of alcoholic liquors, the military authorities have now forbidden the sale of the latter between the hours of 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. in the Governorates of Cairo, Alexandria, the Canal, and Suez, and elsewhere within a radius of five miles of any military station, and have at the same time ordered all cafés, restaurants, theatres, and similar establishments to close at 10 p.m. Exceptions with regard to closing are being made in favour of approved establishments, which will, however, not be allowed to sell alcoholic liquors after 10 p.m. Although there had been rumours that this step was in contemplation, the promulgation of the proclamation came as a shock. There has been no little criticism of this placing of the community in "leading strings," especially at a time like the present, when the hot weather is on us, and the pre-midnight period is the time when everyone has been accustomed to remain out of doors. It has been asked why the authorities have waited until the present juncture to introduce this measure, the necessity for which was very much greater—in the eyes of the general public—some three months ago, when all the Colonial troops were here. No doubt the military powers that be have very good reasons for taking this step to-day, and so long as exemptions are made wisely and forbearingly, we, as loyal subjects, must acquiesce therein, since the measure is presumably for a wise purpose. It is, however, amusing to note that this forcible early closing, combined with the half-lighting of the streets—due to motives of economy—has firmly convinced the natives that there are Zeppelins in Syria, and that the latest proclamation is a precautionary measure cloaked in diplomatic language!

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NEWS FROM TURKEY.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Athens, June 28.

The Reign of Terror.

The reign of terror in Constantinople seems to be on the increase, and little mercy is shown to those who have the misfortune to fall into the clutches of the police. Life in the city is anything but pleasant just now, and removal from town to country residences is impossible this summer, as no boats are running to the Princes' Islands, very few steamers are plying on the Bosphorus, and no Christians are allowed to reside beyond Therapia. Local train services are very irregular, there is great nervousness about crossing even to Kadikeui for fear of submarines, and the boats are plentifully supplied with lifebelts.

To add to the misery of the people, one of those conflagrations which occur from time to time in Constantinople took place on the 16th, and hundreds of houses, mostly timber, have been destroyed, the exact number being so far unknown. The newspapers give absolutely no details of the fire, which burnt for twelve hours. The district destroyed is that called Chikour Bostan, lying between the Italian Hospital and Tophaneh. In addition to the wounded and refugees, shelter has now to be found for hundreds of burnt-out families.

As it is, accommodation cannot be found for the wounded, who continue to arrive in large numbers from the Dardanelles, and the mortality is very great amongst them owing to infection and insufficient attention. Many hospitals are full of German wounded.

The Sultan's Health.

The health of the Sultan seems to be causing some anxiety to the rulers of Turkey, as his death might produce a radical change. Enver is no friend of Yussuf Izzedin, but whether the new Sultan would possess the power to adopt a policy inimical to the Germans is somewhat problematical.

There seems to be a continuous arrival of German officers; but on the other hand there has been a general exodus of the Italians, who have been allowed to leave. Many have remained at Dedeagatch, others have gone to Salonika or Italy, and some have come to Athens. Provisions and many necessaries are becoming dearer, especially petroleum, candles, butter, soap, etc. An Englishman writes that he had to pay 73 piastres for a tin of petroleum, but was glad to get it as he had been two days without any. A coal-laden ship occasionally manages to run the gauntlet of the Russian warships. The Breslau went into the Black Sea one night to escort three colliers into the Bosphorus, but her searchlight was seen by the Russian torpedo boats, and as a result she got badly damaged in the stern and had many killed and wounded.

In Constantinople Harbour.

The Germans have erected a wireless station at Zilifdar, and it is said that they are trying to obstruct the passage of the Dardanelles, to prevent the British submarines getting through.

Constantinople harbour presents a very unusual appearance, being practically clear of shipping. Every ship not required has been taken into the Golden Horn, and chains have been placed across the passage ways under the bridges. The inglorious Goeben is loath to leave her snug berth in pretty Stenia Bay, which she has occupied for the past six months.

The British subjects who were sent to the Dardanelles last month were mostly Maltese, and included only two Englishmen, Messrs. Harty and Hoare. By way of showing their gratitude to the Rev. Mr. Wigram for having accompanied them, nearly all these young men, both British and French, attended the service at the Memorial Church the first Sunday after their return.

The latest elimination of things European is the removal of the French names of the streets, for which names in Turkish characters are being substituted.

Very little news comes through from Smyrna, and all seems quiet there, but the misery amongst the poorer classes is said to be intense.

The *Turquie* has been suspended, no doubt with the object of increasing the circulation of the *Hilal*, the French paper published by the proprietors of the *Tanine*. The object of this paper is obviously to disseminate news from German sources, to ventilate Turkey's virtues and her grievances, and to vilify the British. The editor of the *Hilal* and his confrères clearly acquire their inspiration of hate under the influence of Teutonic finance, but the Hymn of Hate is really being sung by the majority of the Turkish race in a key which is somewhat jarring to the "kultured" ear of the Huns!

British Subjects and the Turks.

The expulsion of Mr. Cyril Cumberbatch from Constantinople is the latest vindictive act of the Turkish authorities. On the outbreak of war with Turkey Mr. Consul Waugh and Mr. C. Cumberbatch were appointed by the British Government to remain in Constantinople, attached to the American Embassy, in charge of the archives. Mr. Consul Waugh was expelled in January, and the Turkish Government, by way of retaliation for the expulsion of their representative from London, last week gave Mr. Cumberbatch forty-eight hours to leave Constantinople. Mr. Scudamore is now the only member of the service remaining in the capital.

The authorities have also exiled to some unknown part in Asia Minor Mr. Tully, the local manager of the Gresham Life Insurance Company, and Mr. James Macgill. The British and French subjects at Beyrout, as well as those who had been concentrated at Aleppo, have been transferred to Urfa; and there appears to have been some truth in the rumour respecting the Smyrna residents, as it is now reported that forty British and forty French subjects have been exiled from Smyrna, but, thanks to the clemency of the Vali, the place selected for their exile, it is said, is only a short distance from Smyrna. It is rumoured, however, that they have been allowed to return to Smyrna. It is not improbable—in fact, it is daily expected—that some of the English in Constantinople will sooner or later be sent away.

The crews of the British submarines who are prisoners of war have been sent to Afion Karahissar.

The British Seamen's Hospital.

The British Seamen's Hospital in Constantinople is in danger of falling into the hands of the Turks, owing to the British Government's refusal to provide the necessary funds for its upkeep. The income of the hospital is derived from a tax on British ships visiting Constantinople, and, in fact, the present fine building was built out of surplus funds.

Since the outbreak of the war with Turkey the hospital's income has almost ceased, and as the fees obtained from private patients are insufficient to cover the expenditure, the British Treasury, under whom the hospital is placed, was appealed to for the necessary funds to enable the institute to pay its way. This appeal does not appear to have been favourably received to its full extent by the Treasury, and instructions were sent to Dr. McClean to close the hospital and proceed with his staff to Athens for orders. The result of such a course would be disastrous, as the Turks would take possession not only of the hospital, but also of the Consul's residence, the Sailors' Home, and the prison, and incalculable damage would be done. The position has probably not been appreciated by the Foreign Office, or such a "penny-wise-pound-foolish" course could hardly be adopted. To run the risk of seeing thousands of pounds' damage done to valuable property for the sake of a few hundreds is inconceivable, and it is to be hoped that the representations which have been made to the British Government will result in a satisfactory solution of the difficulty. In the meantime some of the members of the British colony in Constantinople have offered to provide funds to keep the hospital going rather than see it fall into the hands of the Huns and the Turks. The hospital is under the protection of the American Red Cross, and it is thanks to them that it has not been interfered with by the Turkish authorities.

Effects of the War.

Constantinople is still in possession of sufficient coal for present requirements and small supplies continue to arrive. Although the steamboat and train services are very considerably reduced, yet there still appears to be enough coal for the gasworks, electrical stations, flour-mills, and for industrial purposes, and, of course, for the fleet. The electric tramway service is maintained and the telephone service is working satisfactorily.

Considerable destruction has been done to the parks of the British and French Embassies at Therapia, handsome trees having been cut down to make a clearance for gun emplacements.

The mail service between England and Greece has always been unsatisfactory, but since Italy joined in the war the service has become considerably worse. The last London paper received here is that of June 21—over a fortnight ago.

A Postscript.

Since the above was written the Rev. Mr. McNoughton, the head of the American College at Bahdjedjik (Ismid), has arrived in Athens after having been expelled from Turkey. As a matter of fact, Mr. McNoughton was exiled to Angora in May, where he remained six weeks, until the American Ambassador obtained permission for him to leave Turkey.

On arriving in Constantinople last week Mr. McNoughton was taken to the Central Police Station at Stamboul, where he was detained one night, and he there found Mr. Alfred Sellar also under detention. Mr. Sellar is accused of supplying benzine to the British submarines in the Marmora, but as there is no ground for the accusation, it was expected that he would soon be released.

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SERBIAN LETTERS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Nish, June 26.

Effects of the Russian Set-back.

To satisfy the demands of Roumania and the Balkan States, in order to promote accord and secure combined action favourable to the Entente, is no easy matter. Austria and Germany do not remain passive, and their temporary success over the Russian Army lends weight to their attempted negotiations with the small neutral States. With the Russian advance held up and the subsequent retreat, and with the Bulgarians discontented and formulating claims on Serbia that are unacceptable to the Serbians, it is somewhat difficult for this country, exposed on the north and on the south, to make any move other than completing all needful preparations for entering into action when the moment is propitious, or when forced to do so.

Austrian Peace Proposals.

It is in these circumstances that Austria-Hungary has twice found ways and means of suggesting to Serbia the conclusion of a separate treaty. How this has been done, on what conditions, or with what ulterior object, I cannot say; but one hears of an offer having been made of Bosnia and Herzegovina and of other dazzling proposals.

With Western European States the folly of any such attempts would be transparent. But in these Eastern countries, with which Austria-Hungary has been closely connected and which she knows intimately, attempts that would be absurd in Western Europe may sometimes be regarded as falling within the region of possibilities.

The *Samouprava*, the Serbian semi-official organ, has published an article confirming in the main the above statements, and throwing some light on the manner in which the Serbian Government views such matters. The following is an extract:—

It must be observed that Austria-Hungary twice considered it needful to secure a separate treaty with Serbia, and several times desired to do the same thing with Russia. Although Germany has never pursued that course of action, it is clearly perceptible by the speeches of several German politicians and through the writings of the German Press that peace would be welcome to Germany. In these public utterances it is made clear that Germany is ready to evacuate Belgium and France on the condition of securing for Germany freedom on the seas and an assurance of its colonies, but what is remarkable in these speeches is that there is never any mention made of Austria-Hungary.

All these circumstances are regarded with interest in Serbia. Our hopes and our wishes are centred in Russia, and in spite of her present inability to advance Russia will be able to fill up the gaps in the ranks of her army, while Germany will not be able to do so.

It must be admitted that a depressing effect has been created on Serbian minds by the successful Germanic advance against the Russian forces. The Serbians expected great and immediate results from the invading Russian Army; and just as their expectations were unwarrantably pitched too high, now is their depression unjustifiably great.

A Labour View.

The organ of the Labour Party, the *Radnitchke Novine*, says to-day that, after eleven months of war, we are in the same spot from which we started.

The results of this first period are not at all commensurate with the losses. Many of us thought that this universal war would be ended in a short time, and that a durable peace would quickly follow; but despite the great loss of life and the immense expenditure of wealth no advance has been made; indeed, Lemberg having fallen, the Balkan peoples have good grounds for fearing the Germanic confederation.

We, therefore, appeal to the Government to convoke a special Parliament for the purpose of proposing the formation of a Balkan alliance which would not have for its object an offensive, like the Germanic confederation, and should not follow the colonial policy of the Quadruple Alliance, but should be an alliance only for the defence of its economic interests.

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Military Pessimists.

In conversation with a Serbian officer of high position I was told that the military opinion here is that the Germanic forces will soon capture Warsaw, and that from a military point of view the Russian Army will be considered as beaten; that the Germanic forces will then entrench themselves against the Russians, and detach a large force to operate against the French and British forces, to invade Serbia, and join hands with Bulgaria to assist the Turks, and that the Italians against strong and fortified positions would be unable to make headway, and that consequently the Italian Army would not influence the situation.

This reasoning and the previous high expectations and present low depression show the nervous Serbian temper. Success intoxicates and makes them capable of wonderfully gallant deeds, but in the case of misfortune the tendency is to take an extremely gloomy view of things.

The remarks of the Belgrade *Politika* concerning Italy, the previous Germanic intentions, and the present position of the Germanic group, are much more to the point; and it is hardly to be conceived that after the immensely heavy losses sustained by the Germanic group, making gaps which they can with difficulty fill up, they will be able to detach from their forces attacking the Russians a sufficient number to make headway against the French and British forces and successfully to invade Serbia.

The *Politika*, in sober words, states that from reliable quarters it is informed that in the months of March and April there were on the Bosnian frontier 300,000 Austro-Hungarian soldiers, as the Austrians expected a Serbian offensive; but that when Italy entered into action the greater part of these troops were sent to the Italian frontier, so that now there are not more than 50,000 remaining to oppose any possible Serbian action.

Russia and Roumania.

On the subject of Balkan compensations the *Novosti*, published at Nish, prints a communication from a foreign correspondent, which shows that while seeking to satisfy Roumanian demands, Russia is endeavouring to respect Serbian susceptibilities and desires. "The Russian Government," says the *Novosti*, "is prepared to give Czernovitz to Roumania on condition that the Banat is given to Serbia."

Nish, July 3.

Austrian Cajolery—

The unlikelihood of being able to lure Serbia into the conclusion of a separate peace does not hinder the Austrians from cajoling the Serbian public. The Belgrade *Politika* produces a letter taken from the Munich *Post* written by its Vienna correspondent, which it is presumed is not intended as a joke. Possibly the ten months' experience gained in this war has changed the Austrian mind and turned Austrians' bitter feelings into love, or at any rate, caused them to pretend to forget the sentiments they formerly entertained towards Serbia. This remarkable letter runs thus:—

Until now we have had only sympathy for Serbia, and that was warm and honest sympathy; only we could not tolerate the Palace circles. The Triple Entente sacrificed poor Serbia at the time when they were sure of Italy's action. At first they promised Serbia North Albania, Dalmatia, Bosnia, Herzegovina, Croatia, and now, for the love of Italy, all these promises are thrown to the winds. Should Serbia desire a better future there is no alternative for her but to stretch out her hand to Austria and to reconcile herself with Austria.

So much for Austrian plausibility.

—And German Intrigues.

Serbia seems to be as unfortunate in regard to her friends, or one of them, as she is unhappy with her former adversary and would-be friend of to-day. With regard to her ally Greece, all is not such smooth sailing as might be desired.

The semi-official organ *Samouprava* takes us behind the scenes and shows us the German finger pointing to the goings-on in Greece. It says:—

The Serbo-Greek friendship, which until now has shown good results in the interests of both States, begins to be menaced by a threatening if not an unexpected danger.

In Athens and in Salonika some newspapers begin to complain, stating that Serbia's friendship is not advantageous to Greece,

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and that on account of the nation's future a friendly understanding with Bulgaria is desirable.

The *Samouprava* proceeds to point out that it requires no keenness to observe that behind this deplorable movement the finger of those States may be found whose interests it is to set the Balkan States one against the other. One cannot forgive Austria-Hungary for always having endeavoured to sow the seeds of discontent between the Balkan States. The misunderstanding and disagreement between Serbia and Bulgaria in 1885 was the diplomatic work of Austria-Hungary, and so was also the second Balkan war. Germany's finger is seen in the resignation of M. Venizelos, and after this event the friendship between Greece and Serbia began to be troubled; but, in spite of all, the Greeks at the last election asserted their confidence in M. Venizelos:—

One may be astonished at Germany's attempt to disturb friendly relations between Greece and Serbia, which serve as a guarantee for a brighter future of both countries. It is incomprehensible to seek to draw Greece towards Bulgaria, to whom the Greek people are averse, and which will lead to a collision with our allies. . . . Without doubt this movement in Greece proceeds from Germany, and to prevent the success of this German policy it is necessary that both Greece and Serbia should manifest jointly an agreement from which both countries could only hope to obtain the best results.

Serbia and Albania.

In Albania Serbian civil institutions are being introduced into those places occupied by Serbian troops, and the roads from the Serbian frontier leading to Durazzo are being put into good order.

Nishava Floods.

Yesterday, at Nish, the river Nishava rose three metres higher than usual, but this morning fell suddenly, nearly to its normal state. The heavy and continuous fall of rain had a more disastrous effect at Pirot and that neighbourhood where the Nishava overflowed. The bazaar quarter at Pirot is quite under water, and in other parts of the town the water entered the church and flooded the Post street. The water has commenced to subside. Fifty houses have fallen, but there is no loss of life.

A few days ago 40 aeroplanes passed through Nish, forwarded by way of Salonika to Roumania.

The Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of War have resolved that prisoners of war may be used for field work in the villages of Serbia, and compensation be paid them.

On the railway line Uskub-Salonika a restaurant car has been attached to the fast trains running in both directions.

BULGARIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Sofia, June 29.

The Political Situation.

There is no change in the political situation of the country. Up to the time of writing the Quadruple Entente has not replied to the Bulgarian Note of the 15th inst., asking for explanations regarding some of the proposals put forward by them on May 29; but a cordiality and intimacy in the relations of this country's Government and those of the Entente Powers is noticeable. The Bulgarian military authorities are exercising great vigilance in regard to the transport of goods for Turkey, and are detaining everything that is regarded as contraband of war. Last Saturday eight railways trucks laden with hydroplanes, which had come from Germany by way of the Danube as far as Lom and had been there loaded on to the trucks for transport to Turkey, were stopped at Harmanly by order of the Prime Minister, Dr. Radoslavoff, and were confiscated by the Bulgarian military authorities.

Public attention during the past week has been largely occupied with the trial of the seven individuals, under the leadership of Vikenti Pop Anastoff, who committed the bomb outrage at the Casino last February, made an attempt on the lawyer, M. Dobrinovitch, and plotted against the life of the King. From the course of the proceedings it is not yet quite clear whether all the malefactors have been caught, or to what extent the prisoners now on their trial are culpable. All the journals are full of details of the trial and pictures of the prisoners and the witnesses.

M. Steg in Bulgaria.

Some days ago, M. Steg, formerly French Consul at Salonika, and author of the Reval reforms, which aimed at securing autonomy to Macedonia, arrived here. He had interviews with all the leading politicians here, and it is presumed that he was entrusted with a special mission of some kind. He also met many of the Macedonian leaders with whom he was in touch during his consulship at Salonika. Last night he left again for Paris.

British Warship at Dedeagatch.

On the 26th inst. a British cruiser called at Dedeagatch and took on board the King's messenger, Mr. Sykes, and the British Consul at Dedeagatch, whom she conveyed to the headquarters of the Allied Fleet. She returned not very long afterwards, and after landing the officials sailed once more.

The Allied Fleet has searched several Greek steamers in the neighbourhood of Dedeagatch, and is reported to have made several hauls of contraband goods destined for Turkey. The fleet is showing great activity in this respect.

Patriotic Societies' Activities.

Last Saturday the Dobruja Society handed in at the Foreign Ministry a memorial on the subject of the concessions that Roumania ought to make to Bulgaria.

On Sunday the National Committee here held a meeting at which the question of what the future boundaries of Bulgaria ought to be was discussed.

Russia's Black Sea Fleet.

On the evening of the 27th inst., a Russian squadron of 23 vessels was seen from Varna. They were also sighted off Emine Burun, and towards which one division was making, while the other was heading in the direction of Kustendil. Off Emine Burun they fell in with two Turkish vessels coming from Kustendil and sailing along the coast. These they stopped, and, finding they were carrying war materials, took their crews off them and then sunk them. Shortly after they fell in with two more Turkish boats, which, being found also to have munitions of war on board, were treated in the same manner.

Opening of Sofia Jockey Club.

Recently, under the auspices of the Ministry for War and the presidency of General Janeff, a society was founded for the purpose of promoting horse-breeding and encouraging racing in the country. It was styled the Jockey Club; and last Sunday, in the presence of a large crowd, the formal opening of the club took place at the race course. The ceremony was attended by the Crown Prince Boris, Prince Cyril, and the Royal Princesses, the Royal suite, Dr. Radoslavoff, the Prime Minister, General Fitcheff, the War Minister, Dr. Dintcheff, the Minister of Agriculture, and other Cabinet Ministers, generals, many deputies and leading citizens. General Fitcheff performed the opening ceremony, by cutting a cord and declaring the club opened, and there were then races by officers of the army, and a distribution of prizes to the winners.

"Try a chota peg o' Perfection.
"Notice how mellow and silky it is?—not a touch of 'bite' or harshness. That's the effect of maturing in sherry casks. Makes it a little darker in colour, too.
"You'll order a case of Perfection?
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ROUMANIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, June 20.*

Negotiations with Russia.

M. Bratiano had promised a reply to the Russian proposals by the 14th inst. This he subsequently postponed, as he wished to have the assistance of all the Cabinet in preparing his answer, and M. Costinescu, Minister of Finance, was absent. A Council of Ministers was therefore called for last Friday, when the terms to be proposed to Russia were decided upon, and a copy of the communication was handed to the Russian Minister. But no information regarding the terms has been allowed to leak out, and the public is as much in the dark as ever regarding the likelihood of Roumania making a move.

Two articles published in foreign journals are causing some comment here. One, in the *Idea Nazionale* (Rome), states that Roumania, after acting as though she intended to follow Italy's lead, has taken up an ambiguous position which may lead to a surprise that would be as disagreeable to the Entente as it would be to the Roumanians across the border. On the other hand, Bulgaria, which has many times declared its wish to remain neutral, now appears (says the article) disposed to join the forces of Right against Might, and is deterred chiefly by the attitude of certain Balkan countries. "No more illusions," the article concludes. "Let us leave these two countries to determine their action in their own particular interests!"

The second article is in the *Journal de Genève*, and in it the writer, M. Georges Lorand, recalls the imposing manifestations he witnessed in Bucharest not long ago, and the remark made to him by M. Filipescu: "You can tell Italy and France that Roumania will not be late at the rendezvous." To-day all is changed. At Bucharest there is procrastination, and excuses are put forward to prevent the Entente from noticing the offers made to Roumania by emissaries of Hungary; whereas Bulgaria, if formally assured of that part of Macedonia which she desires, would march on Constantinople.

The writers of these articles ought not to forget that when M. Lorand was in Bucharest Russia was advancing southwards in what seemed to be an irresistible manner, which she is no longer doing; and that for Roumania to advance alone into Transylvania to-day might spell disaster. Her forces and supplies are not inexhaustible, and those who formerly condemned M. Bratiano's policy of moderation are to-day inclined to consider it at least a wise one.

More Attempted German Smuggling.

Yet another attempt on the part of the Germans to smuggle ammunition through Roumania has been detected by the authorities, whose smartness and zeal afford the best proof of the baselessness of the rumours regarding ammunition being allowed to pass. On this occasion eight trucks supposed to contain only material for reinforced concrete work were found actually to contain shells. Trucks, goods, and ammunition have all been confiscated.

"Undesirable Aliens."

Reports have been published that the Ministry of the Interior intended to remove forcibly all Jews from villages on the borders of Moldavia to the interior. This is incorrect. The Ministry of the Interior issued an order that all *foreigners* and *foreign Jews* in the localities referred to and engaged in the business of grain brokers or otherwise, and likely to "perform acts detrimental to the country," should "remove themselves" from those districts. This order is directed against a host of undesirables engaged in the grain business, who have flooded the country of late, and is intended to prevent the smuggling of grain across the frontiers. The peaceful and hardworking Jews on the frontier have nothing to fear.

Two Fiascos.

The public meetings called for last Sunday rather "fizzled out." That announced for the morning, which was known to be of Socialist origin, was suppressed, a collision taking place with the police in an outlying district of the town, some stone-throwing being indulged in, and a few arrests being made. The "anti-war demonstration," arranged for the afternoon by supporters of M. Marghiloman and M. Carp, was a dead failure. At three o'clock, the hour for which it was announced, about forty people, mostly boys, had assembled, and an hour later, when perhaps a score more had gathered, a few flat speeches were delivered, and then the grandoise meeting came to a tame conclusion.

* Delayed in transmission.

Bucharest, June 27.

The Negotiations with Russia.

A meeting of the Cabinet took place on Wednesday, when both the internal and external affairs of the country were discussed. With regard to the former, M. Bratiano declared that all demonstrations on the part of the Opposition would be out of place at the present moment, and that he intended to discourage them by all means. The situation to-day, he said, called for the suppression of all gatherings that might embarrass the Government. In this connection there was a discussion whether the great meeting called by the leaders of the Opposition for this afternoon should be allowed to take place, and though nothing has been done to prevent its being held, the Prefect of Police has issued a notice that no processions are to be allowed, and that persons attending any meeting must disperse quietly as soon as it is over.

As regards foreign policy, the President announced that two days earlier he had received a communication from Petrograd, to the effect that M. Sasonoff was inclined to accept Roumania's conditions regarding the Banat, also as to the Pruth as a frontier line up to a certain point; but that in regard both to diplomatic negotiations and to military arrangements treaty was necessary, which could not be concluded for at least two months. On this account partial dispersal of the troops under arms would be proceeded with, and longer military leave could be granted.

The above is the account of the meeting given by the *Dimeanatza*, and generally credited. As supporting the belief that movement, at any rate on the part of the present Government, is unlikely during the next two months, a tale now going the rounds may be quoted. This is to the effect that M. Jacques Negruzzi, recently elected Secretary to the Roumanian Academy, being received in audience by King Ferdinand a few days ago, asked if he could safely go abroad for the benefit of his health, to which the King replied: "You can go with an easy mind for at least eight weeks."

On Friday the *Dimeanatza* stated that it was possible to affirm that negotiations had made progress, that agreement had been reached between this country and Russia as to the Bukovina frontier and Marmoresch, and that the only point remaining for discussion concerned certain portions of the Banat. The journal adds that great secrecy is being observed as to the negotiations.

It is worth while pointing out that hitherto the question of military arrangements had not been mentioned, but it was naturally imagined that no military move on the part of this country would be made without a preconcerted plan by the Russian and Roumanian General Staffs.

An Austro-German Canard.

A few days ago M. Maiorescu, the former head of the Conservative Party, went abroad for the sake of his health. Now a strange rumour is current that the real object of his journey is nothing less than a diplomatic mission to the Austro-Hungarian Government with the object of putting forward—with M. Bratiano's full consent—proposals for this country siding with the Teutonic Powers, either openly, by attacking Russia, or covertly, on "friendly neutral" lines. M. Maiorescu is said to have been authorized to negotiate on the basis that Roumania shall receive the Bukovina and occupy Bessarabia in return for her active help, or shall be rewarded with the Bukovina only for friendly neutrality. It is also stated that he was entrusted with this mission only after King Ferdinand had received from Berlin indications of what Roumania might hope for as a reward of her action. There can be little doubt whence

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this rumour emanates, and it is worth noticing merely as showing to what depths the Austro-German agents are prepared to sink, or to make others sink if possible, in order to bolster up their own tottering power.

Food Problems.

The Government has purchased 30,000 tons of maize for distribution amongst the families of the men called up for military service, many of them being in want; and the grain is being despatched as quickly as is possible in view of the congested state of the railways.

The authorities have had under consideration the question of bread supply in the event of war. The Minister of the Interior has arranged with the millers of this city and its neighbourhood for the purchase of 30,000 tons of wheat flour of a particular quality, and similar measures are being taken in most other towns.

War Material from France.

Forty aeroplanes ordered in France some time ago for the Roumanian Army have just arrived at Bucharest, having been shipped to Salonika, and been brought on thence by train, by way of Nish. Part of a large number of armoured motor-cars, also ordered in France, have already arrived in Salonika, and the balance of the number are on their way. The want of flying machines was at one time given as one of the reasons for Roumania's delay in mobilizing.

ROUMANIA AND GERMAN "SMUGGLERS."

With regard to the renewed efforts which are being put forward by Germany to induce Roumania to permit the passage of arms to Turkey, the Roumanian Government, Reuter's Agency is informed, continues successfully and energetically to prevent all arms from Germany and Austria intended for Turkey or elsewhere from passing through Roumanian territory.

HOSPITABLE ROUMANIA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, June 20.

Some time ago a certain Anastase Lascaridis, of Constantza, who owned a vessel named the Chios, loaded the steamer in Bulgarian ports for Constantza and Constantinople. After discharging the former part of the cargo, he calmly announced to the shippers for Constantinople that unless extra rates were paid their goods would be unloaded at Constantza. Some of these goods belonging to Italian merchants, the Italian Consul intervened, and this so angered the Greek that he attacked the Consul in the street.

Thereupon the Roumanian authorities promptly took up the case, which came before the Courts a few days ago, when Lascaridis was condemned to pay a fine of 700 frs. immediately, or to go to prison for a fortnight. Following this, the Prefect of Constantza reported on the case to the higher authorities at Bucharest, with the result that Lascaridis was ordered to be deported, and the following day he was escorted across the Russian frontier, having elected to be sent into Russia.

Lascaridis is a fair type of a large class existing in Roumanian ports, the hospitable laws of this country permitting practically anybody to settle here provided that his passport is in order. He is a Greek by birth, but an Ottoman subject, and he came to Roumania in January. His record for commercial smartness would, it is said, be hard to beat, even in the Orient. His vessel, the Chios, he lately sold to the Russian Government for 700,000 roubles. It is to be wished that Roumania's regulations as to the examination of the antecedents of would-be immigrants were more strict. This country is a haven of refuge for all comers, as Great Britain is in the West, and it is a well known fact that in Roumania no one need ever starve or lack means of living.

The following item, dated June 30, from Government Cottage, Troödos appears in the *Cyprus Gazette*:—

Lady Clauson, as the representative in Cyprus of the Red Cross Society and Order of St. John, appeals for the following additional comforts for distribution among the sick and wounded soldiers of the Convalescent Camp which has been established on Troödos:—

Games of any kind, playing cards, cricketing requisites, footballs, newspapers, books, writing paper, envelopes, indelible pencils, slippers, razors, combs, cigarettes, tobacco, pipes, sweets, etc., etc.

BRITISH REFUGEES IN ATHENS.

The attention of ex-British residents of Constantinople at present in Athens is drawn to the fact that "The Near East" is on sale every week at M. Th. Vafiades' Bookstore, where subscriptions are also received.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Cyprus, July 2.

Arrival of Dardanelles Wounded.

The first convalescent wounded from the Dardanelles arrived last week on an armed British India liner now engaged on transport duty. The weather was very hot, and the men must have found the journey up to Mount Troodos a somewhat fatiguing one, but the cooler conditions when once on the top will no doubt have compensated them for the discomforts en route. The first batch were landed on Friday, June 25, the rest following on the three succeeding days. They were entrained at Famagusta in the cool of the morning, and were welcomed by the few English residents, who provided them with lemonade, cigarettes, and tobacco, and gave them a cheery send-off. The men had little or no kit, and on being asked what they specially wanted the reply was generally "handkerchiefs." These were accordingly obtained and provided. To meet a few English people must in itself have been pleasant to these weary warriors and have seemed like a touch of home.

A run of an hour and a-half brought them to Nicosia, where again they were received by their fellow-countrymen, who daily come down to the station and provide the travellers with breakfast and a variety of necessaries. Thus provisioned and heartened, they started off on another two hours' railway run, to be followed by some eighteen miles' stiff climbing performed in motor ambulances, which awaited them at Evrykhou, the railhead of the newly completed extension. The arrangements for their reception and medical attendance on Troodos, which are under the direction of Captain G. A. Williamson, will, without doubt, be fully adequate. The change of temperature at that altitude may perhaps try them a little at first, and additional clothing will presumably be issued to them. Some 200 convalescents are now here, to be followed by further numbers, up to, possibly, 1,000. Among the present arrivals is Lord Howard de Walden. Several of the men look much pulled down by actual wounds and sickness, and all are suffering more or less from the shock and strain of battle as conducted under modern conditions of warfare.

The Forged £1 Notes.

Forgeries of the new £1 bank notes have lately taken place, and the police have been actively engaged in tracing the culprits. The notes were found to emanate from Limassol, where a good haul of these forgeries has been made. Some half-dozen persons are under arrest, and the authorities are now believed to be in possession of the main details. The actual printing appears to have been done in Egypt. All notes of this issue are now being called in.

(From a Correspondent.)

Cyprus, July 2.

When the convalescents who arrived by rail from Famagusta reached Nicosia on the way to Mount Troodos they found a welcome surprise which was greatly appreciated. Refreshments and cigarettes were provided for all. This was due to the energy of Miss Olive Holmes, daughter of the President of the District Court of Nicosia, who made the very successful arrangements. A committee of ladies has now been formed in order that the same hospitality may be afforded to other convalescents who will arrive during the summer season. The convalescent Camp is under medical charge of Surgeon-Major G. A. Williamson, who thoroughly knows the island. He was for some years District Medical Officer at Larnaca, where he earned a high reputation.

The Cyprus garrison of the Malta Regiment now quartered at Polemidia have applied for permission to be moved to the depôt at Limassol. No doubt this would be preferable both for men and officers, as sea bathing and other attractions would be more easily available. The Polemidia Camp is three miles from Limassol, and although it stands about 250 ft. above sea-level, the heat in summer is intense in wooden huts and tents.

Few civilians have so far arrived from Egypt. It was expected that there would be a large influx of visitors.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

SERBIA AND THE MACEDONIAN BULGARS

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—Having been much occupied in other ways, I have only noticed rather late in the day a letter of Mr. P. M. Mattheeff in your issue of July 2, calling attention to a statement of Mr. Janitsch regarding my own views on the question of the language and ethnography of the Macedonian Slavs. He quotes Mr. Janitsch as having attributed to me a denial of the view that the Macedonian Slavs are Bulgars.

Allow me, therefore, to say that such an opinion has never been expressed by me either publicly or privately. That there is a Serbian element in the Uskub district may be freely admitted. The traditions and historic monuments of the upper part of the Vardar Valley are pre-eminently Serb. Even the ruins of Marko Kraljevich's Castle at Prilip and the legends that still cling to them must count for something.

But when it comes to the language spoken by the great mass of the Slav population of Central and Southern Macedonia, the fact that it stands linguistically nearer that of the present inhabitants of Bulgaria than that of Serbia is patent to anyone who has travelled through the country. To take a single crucial instance, according to my observations, the use of the article at the end of the word, as in Roumanian and the Scandinavian languages, is universal. And this particularity, shared by the Slavs of the Bulgarian kingdom, may itself be of deep-rooted historic import if, as seems possible, it is to be connected with the great absorption by the Bulgars of Rouman elements. Judging by names like Sabin, some even of their earliest princes were of Latin speech. Their later Empire was frankly "Bulgaro-Vlachian."

It is hardly necessary to recall the fact that the Bulgars owe their name to a conquering horde of Finno-Ugrian race—akin, that is, to the Magyars—who first gave unity to the amorphous "Slovene" mass. But the extraneous ingredient was so quickly assimilated that by the ninth century even the Bulgarian rulers bore Slav names. Already in the tenth century—in the great days of Tsar Samuel—the centre of gravity of the Bulgar State lay on the Macedonian side. His capitals were Prespa and Ochrida, and even the Byzantine conqueror, Basil, "the Bulgarian-slayer," allowed that city to remain the centre of an autonomous Bulgarian Church. Macedonia again formed an important province of the revived Bulgarian Empire of Asên and Peter.

The ephemeral conquests of the Serbian Tsar Dushan could not radically alter these conditions. To the Greek, as, later, to the Turk, the Slav population of Macedonia has remained "Bulgar." The townsfolk and villagers—as I could myself ascertain in the course of long explorations through the length and breadth of Macedonia, carried out *sine ira et studio* before the opening of that dark passage in modern history which has been for its people one long martyrdom—called themselves Bulgars, and their political aspirations were directed towards their brothers east of the Turkish borders.

They have, indeed, been continuously "Bulgars" both to themselves and their neighbours for at least a millennium, and the theory advanced that this national sense has been artificially created in recent years by Bulgarian schoolmasters or Exarchist priests is too grotesque to need refutation. However much it may have been quickened by influences due to Bulgarian emancipation beyond the frontiers, its roots lie far deeper.

At the same time the Serbian view is in itself not difficult to understand. It is easy to point out that, though in its main "shibboleths" the Slav dialect of a large part of Macedonia conforms to Bulgarian usage, there are some features that may be construed as showing a nearer affinity with forms in use in the Serbian area. This is the more intelligible when it is remembered that the Serbian element in many southern and eastern districts is superposed on an earlier Bulgaro-Slovene stratum. So, too, certain customs, such as the Macedonian "slava," find their nearest parallels on Serbian rather than Bulgarian soil.

From this it is but a step to the political calculation that it would only need a generation of Serbian schooling to correct the grammar of the Macedonian "Bulgars" and convert them into good Serbs. The victories of Kumanovo and Monastir, though won against the Turks, after all only reopened paths which Tsar Dushan had followed after his crushing overthrow of the Greeks and Bulgars with their Tatar allies, at Kustendil. Meanwhile, the compromise that might have been possible between the rival Slav claimants for Macedonia has been put off indefinitely by the results of the last Balkan War.

The Bulgarians should recognise that the present is no time for the assertion of historic or ethnographic claims on the Macedonian side, however well founded. If they are wise they will understand that the pushing of extreme Serbian claims on that side has been the natural consequence of the exclusion of the Serbs and their nearest kinsmen from their legitimate field of expansion to the north-west. To-day an integral part of the policy of ourselves and our Allies is the realisation of this Greater Serbian programme by the liberation of the Slav peoples between the Adriatic and the Drave, and the eventual formation of a Jugo-Slav State that shall include the Croats and Slovenes of the North-West as well as the Serbs proper.

It would be by loyally aiding in this larger work of Slav liberation that Bulgaria would earn her best title to a liberal revision of the Peace of Bucharest. At the same time Serbian statesmen should be the first to realize that the attempt to Serbianize the Bulgar population of Macedonia, if persisted in, will, in certain by no means impossible contingencies, supply a dangerous precedent for an Italian and Italianizing domination in North Dalmatia and Eastern Istria.

It is clear that in present circumstances the Allies cannot deprive Serbia, who has fought so gallantly for the common cause, of any territory which is by treaty right hers. But should Bulgaria assist them in making possible the foundation of a Jugo-Slav State on a national basis it is as certain as anything can be in human affairs that they would demand as a condition precedent a just compromise on the Macedonian side.—I am, etc.,

ARTHUR EVANS.

Youlbury, Berks, near Oxford, July 12, 1915.

THE FUTURE OF CYPRUS.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—"Briton's" letter on the question of Cyprus in reply to mine was of some interest to me, although the identity of the writer was concealed. He does not seem to have studied the history of the Cypriot question much. Is he not aware that in 1878, by the discreditable Treaty of Berlin, which left the Sick Man of Europe in the possession of most of his forfeited property, Great Britain acquired Cyprus by a process which in legal parlance might be described as "blackmail"—that is to say, for thirty-five years she wrung taxes out of the Cypriots to pay tribute to Turkey? Otherwise the Cypriots, like the Cretans, would have secured autonomy and subsequent union with Greece. When we found that "Codlin, not Short," was our friend (I mean Russia, not Turkey), a point that Mr. Gladstone found out forty years ago, we "annexed" Cyprus, and refused to pay the blackmail any more; we had no regard in this for the wishes of the Cypriots, the vast majority of whom have always desired to be united to Greece.

As an Imperialist myself I disagree strongly with "Briton's" inference that the inhabitants of our Empire would not be sorry to see the last of us—if I understand him aright; the wonderful response of our Empire in this war disproves this assertion. When I suggested the cession of Cyprus on the grounds of nationality and economy, strictly in return for concessions offered to Bulgaria in Macedonia, I held that Cyprus was on a different footing, and its loss would not be of very great consequence to us. I do not suggest that Cyprus would profit by the change, but if the majority in Cyprus (the Mussulmans will be welcomed elsewhere under the British flag) prefer union with Greece, let them have it subject to the immediate intervention of Greece beside Bulgaria and Serbia. We are likely to acquire in this war most of the German possessions in Africa and Oceania, as well, perhaps, as Mesopotamia. Are we to hazard all this because we refuse to make a concession to legitimate claims of nationality? (For the intervention of the Balkan nations is bound to shorten the war.) When "Briton" disputes my statement that "famines in Cyprus are frequent," he has evidently never been there or spoken with people who have. He might as well assert that malaria is unknown on the Gold Coast.

We shall need all our money for developing our trade and new colonies and in repairing the damages of the war. It is not worth while for us to waste our money in making the island of Aphrodite habitable for the British colonist, and in depriving Hellas of a legitimate field of expansion. The Ionian Islands are as fertile as Cyprus, but we have never had cause to regret Mr. Gladstone's action in handing them over to Greece in 1863. There is even more cause now to be generous to Greece for the reasons which I have enumerated.

Mr. Houston is an able authority on Cyprus, but I held that this was not the time to discuss the question, and this shall be my last word on the subject.—I am, etc.,

KENNETH LEDWARD, F.R.G.S.

July 7, 1915.

FOR INSURANCES OF ALL KINDS.
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THE LATE MR. C. D. COBHAM.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—Two literary men, at one time engaged on the same studies in a remote quarter of the world, have lately passed away with little more than a death advertisement in the newspapers. I trust that both these scholars will be appropriately recorded hereafter by some one who knew them personally.

Claud Delaval Cobham, C.M.G., and the Rev. John Hackett, D.D., were friends and contemporaries in Cyprus during the latter quarter of the nineteenth century, and they produced between them almost the only books of any value on the history of the island in the English language. The "History of the Cypriot Church" is in itself a monument.

I have not seen any biographical notice of Dr. Hackett, and only an inadequate and unsympathetic account of Mr. Cobham in *The Times* of June 4, 1915, under the grotesque title, "The Pasha of Larnaca"—a very invidious designation.

Mr. Cobham died in April, Dr. Hackett about six weeks later.

Mr. Cobham was District Commissioner of Larnaca for about thirty years, during which time he contributed much towards the scientific study of Cyprus, and was famous for his hospitality to students from the Universities and the School of Athens visiting the island. When the Cyprus Exploration Society was started in 1887, he contributed financially towards several special works, and employed a German photographer named Richter as overseer; this is perhaps the foundation of *The Times* correspondent's statement that he was a "pro-German"—another invidious assertion.

Mr. Cobham was a remarkable man to find in such a solitary position as Cyprus. Evidently attracted by the historical associations of the island, he accepted a Government appointment, with its drudgery and red-tape, as so many have done, as a means towards an end. His excellent qualifications and easy command of all the native languages rendered his duties light, and allowed him to devote much time to literature. He influenced perceptibly the public interest in Cyprus, and his disappearance caused a loss which will probably never be replaced. *The Times* correspondent admits that he was revered by the natives, and he was certainly rewarded with as much popularity as such officials ever receive in such circumstances.

Instead of figuring as a buffoon "Pasha of Larnaca," he was always conscious of his position as the local representative of the High Commissioner appointed to represent his Majesty, and as such he was ably qualified to perform his duties.

Mr. Cobham's house in Larnaca was not "Venetian," as described in *The Times*. It was built by Mr. Treadway, an English merchant of the eighteenth century, and it is very regrettable that it has now lapsed into native ownership, instead of being bought for some public purpose, for which it was singularly suitable.—I am, etc.,

Cyprus, July 1, 1915. G. J., F.S.A.

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

Nobody can have been greatly surprised by the news of the fighting in the Lahej district. At least, the only possible cause for surprise lies in the fact that the Turks have been able to persuade any Arabs at all to fight on their side; but in view of the character of the tribes on the border of the Aden protectorate that is not very astonishing after all. For they are a lawless, turbulent lot, and while the British have occasionally had to give them a little lesson in manners, the Turks as a rule have been too weak to risk attempting anything of the kind. The result has been that while the Arabs immediately next to our frontier have had some idea—though a slight one—of behaving themselves, those a little farther off, who are yet not far enough off to be reached effectively by the not-too-long Arm of Law and Order of the Turk, have been accustomed to go their own sweet way. Consequently they have been always ready to loot and plunder, and there can be no doubt that it was the prospect of exercising their taste for such things that led them to lend their support—for what it was worth—to the Turks, whom in the ordinary way they heartily dislike and despise.

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It is obvious that our Aden force found themselves up against a fairly tough proposition, and the "water difficulties and heavy going" which, as the official note states, delayed the advance of part of the Movable Column, were distinct misfortunes for us; while the desertion of the Arab transport followers, though not surprising in the circumstances, made matters worse. But the harm done does not appear to have been serious. Aden is not likely to catch even a distant glimpse of the Turkish forces. And if Lahej has suffered, as it is to be feared it must have done, it is pretty safe to say that the damage done will all be paid for in full when the Turk foots the bill that he has incurred by his folly in listening to the Teuton charmer. I am sorry for the Sultan of Lahej and his subjects, but any losses they have suffered are sure to be made good to them ere long; and the little diversion is likely to cost the Turk and his Arab "allies" very much more than it can be worth to either of them.

Whether it be true or not, that is a good story which has been going the rounds this week about the Pathan infantry who, captured by the Huns in Flanders and sent to Constantinople in the hope that they would prove untrue to their salt and fight against the King-Emperor, succeeded in making good their escape and finding their way afoot to Kabul, whence they will rejoin their regiment. Some people, who are far better fitted to judge than I can pretend to be, regard it as a piece of pure invention; but General Sir O'Moore Creagh, late Commander-in-Chief in India, appears to accept it as correct—or, at least, as quite credible. The heroes of the story belong, I understand, to the 40th Pathans, known—unofficially—as "The Forty Thieves," and said to be capable of anything—except disloyalty. The tramp, though a long one, would certainly have no terrors at all for them. Is not the Indian pilgrim—and the Indian pedlar, too, for that matter—accustomed to long journeys on foot? And though they may have had some difficulty now and then in eluding Turkish officials, I personally should be prepared to back a Pathan against a Turk in the matter of wits any day. So I see no good reason to doubt the truth of the story; and I am glad to think that another attempt of the Germans to stir up trouble amongst our Moslem fellow-subjects has come to grief.

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Both Bulgaria and Roumania are steadily increasing their supply of ammunition and materials of war at the expense of the Germanic Powers. A short time ago the former made a useful haul of hydroplanes, which had been consigned by Germany to her Turkish friends; and these, I trust, will at no very distant date be found useful on the Ægean or the Black Sea, if not on the Sea of Marmora. Roumania, too, thanks to the alertness of her Customs officers, appears to be acquiring a fair supply of shells and other products of German industry. Some of these things, being fit for use only by Huns, are not likely to be employed by the Roumans, but others should prove useful—especially those railway wagons of ingenious construction, which must be very welcome to the Roumanian railways, notoriously short of rolling-stock.

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But the very frequency of these hauls has given rise to suspicions, which I trust are quite unfounded, on the part of a correspondent. This gentleman writes:—"At least once a week we are informed of the brilliant detection by the Roumanian authorities of German attempts to smuggle arms and ammmunition through to Turkey. This is very satisfactory reading—as far as it goes. But the German smugglers appear to be so unfortunate in their attempts that one may be pardoned for wondering whether, after all, those cases that are detected by the Roumanian Sherlock Holmes are not a mere blind. The quantities of goods seized do not seem to be very large, and Turkey still appears to be getting a good deal of ammunition from one source or another! Are *all* the attempts at smuggling foiled?" I am afraid I cannot answer that question. But until Roumania shows quite clearly that she is *not* playing the game I prefer to think that she is—and will! Her attitude is certainly a puzzling one just now, and not one calculated to inspire much enthusiasm or admiration. But, on the other hand, it must be remembered that her position is not entirely enviable. And the very fact that Germany seems inclined to try bullying methods upon her over this question of letting ammunition through to Turkey is in itself an encouraging sign—for the Entente.

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When the above paragraph was written I had not seen the statement issued through Reuter's Agency—and presumably on behalf of the Roumanian Government—to the effect that Roumania "continues successfully and energetically to prevent all arms from Germany and Austria intended for Turkey or elsewhere from passing through Roumanian territory." But this, I take it, will dispose of my correspondent's doubts as effectually as it has of mine.

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A consular officer now in this country tells a truly delightful story of a telephone conversation between Belgrade and Nish at the time when the Serbian capital was being bombarded by the Austrians. The gentleman at the Belgrade end of the wire was an agitated Vice-Consul who had been left in charge, so to say, of the affairs of one of the Great Powers; at the other end was M. Grouitch, who when he left this country to taken up the position of Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs in Serbia took with him the good wishes of all who had ever met him. Said the Vice-Consul, greatly excited: "Oh, it is Hell here. Shells are bursting all round us every minute, and the sound is terrible, terrible!" In a flash came back the reply: "Stop speaking!" "What's that? What do you say?" asked the agitated one. "Stop speaking, please." "But why?" "I want to hear the shells bursting."

CORSAIR.

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1915.	1915.		1333.	5675.
July	July		Ramadan	Ab.
16	3	Friday	4	5
17	4	Saturday	5	6
18	5	Sunday	6	7
19	6	Monday	7	8
20	7	Tuesday	8	9
21	8	Wednesday	9	10
22	9	Thursday	10	11

Last Saturday, being Shaaban 27, according to the Moslem calendar, was the birthday of the Shah of Persia, who was born at Tabriz in 1898. By command of the King, the Hon. Sir Arthur Walsh, Master of Ceremonies, called on H.E. the Persian Minister, and conveyed the congratulations and good wishes of His Majesty.

Tuesday, being July 7 according to the Julian calendar, is the birthday of the Diadoch of Greece, H.R.H. Prince George, who was born at Tatoi in 1890.

The following semi-official statement has been issued in Sofia :—The rumour emanating from Nish, and which is at present going the round of the European Press, to the effect that the health of King Ferdinand of Bulgaria is seriously impaired, is a malevolent invention. King Ferdinand continues to enjoy perfect health, and is unceasing in his solicitude for affairs of State.

By command of the King, the Hon. Sir Arthur H. J. Walsh, Master of the Ceremonies, called upon M. Boshkovitch, the Serbian Minister, at the Legation, 195, Queen's Gate, on Monday, on the occasion of the birthday of the King of Serbia. M. Boshkovitch immediately telegraphed the Royal greetings to his Sovereign.

In the Russian Church in Welbeck Street at noon a Te Deum was sung in celebration of the name-day and birthday of the King of Serbia. The Very Rev. Eugene Smirnoff, the Priest to the Russian Embassy, assisted by the Deacon, officiated. There was a large congregation, the members of the Diplomatic Corps being in full uniform. During the afternoon the Serbian Minister received at the Legation the members of the Serbian colony in London.

Queen Alexandra, accompanied by the Princess Royal and Princess Maud, was present at the matinée given at the Queen's Theatre last Friday to provide comforts for the wounded sailors and soldiers in the Dardanelles.

Lord Kitchener had an audience of the King last Saturday at Buckingham Palace.

Captain Matila Costiesco-Ghyka, Secretary to the Roumanian Legation, left London on Tuesday for the Continent, on leave.

Under date of the 12th inst., Reuter's Sofia correspondent reports:—Sir Henry Bax-Ironside, the British Minister, who is proceeding to England on leave of absence, and Lady Bax-Ironside left here to-day in a special train which was placed at their disposal. M. Dobrovitch and General Savoff, representing the King and Queen, M. Radoslavoff, the Premier, former Ministers, and various other notabilities saw them off at the station.

The Bulgarian Minister and the Hellenic Minister were amongst the callers at the Foreign Office on Tuesday.

The Rome correspondent of the *Morning Post* states that Dr. M. Gavrilovitch, the first Serbian Minister ever appointed to the Holy See, will shortly present his credentials to the Pope. "This," adds the correspondent, "is considered a further diminution of Austrian influence in the Balkans. Up to the last Austria steadily fought the Serbian Concordat, but at the critical moment the British Mission to the Holy See supported our Ally, and Austria was defeated." From 1911 to 1914 Dr. Gavrilovitch was Serbian Minister at Cettinje.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* announces that Lady Wingate is leaving Egypt this week for England.

The Right Hon. Sir Louis Mallet, G.C.M.G., late British Ambassador at Constantinople, presided at a lecture given at the Queen's Small Hall on Wednesday by M. T. E. Steen (a Norwegian banker), who gave his impressions of official tours among the prisoners' camps in Germany, France, and England.

Miss Violet Asquith is suffering from an attack of typhoid fever, which, it is thought, she contracted in Egypt. Her marriage to Mr. Bonham-Carter, which was to take place on the 27th inst., has been postponed, and it is impossible at present to fix a new date. Happily the attack of typhoid is a very mild one, and there is every prospect of complications being avoided.

Our Bucharest Correspondent informs us that Captain Marinkovitch, Extra Military Attaché to the Serbian Legation, has been awarded the Order of the Star of Karageorge for gallantry on the battlefield. Captain Marinkovitch (he adds) has been at Bucharest for two months, after having had a leg amputated in Serbia, as the result of wounds received in the battle of Krupanji.

General Bernard Pasha, Financial Secretary to the Government of the Sudan, left Egypt on June 29 for this country, where he is spending his leave.

Mr. R. E. More, Governor of Khartoum Province, and Mrs. More left Khartoum on June 20. Mr. More will be away from the Sudan for a short period on sick leave. During his absence Mr. Macmichael will be Acting Governor.

The Rev. E. C. Houlston, B.D., of St. Leonard's Parish Church, Dunfermline, has been granted twelve months' leave of absence to enable him to accept an appointment as chaplain with the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force in Egypt.

Mr. Hugh La Fontaine, who is now serving with the 7th (Reserves) City of London Regiment, has been promoted sergeant, and Mr. Sidney Nowill, who is also serving with the same regiment, has been promoted corporal.

Mr. G. H. V. Hooper, of Busreh, was among the passengers who left England by the P. and O. liner Maloja on the 10th inst.

Mr. G. L. Houston is spending a few weeks at Troödos, and intends to return to Kyrenia for the winter.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place after the war, between Captain Clyde McGilp, of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force, and Jeanne, younger daughter of Chevalier C. Aquilina, of Alexandria.

Last Saturday, at La Rochelle, France, the marriage took place of Mr. Godfrey Thomas Havard, H.M. Consul at Teheran, with Mademoiselle Marcelle Michelin, third daughter of Madame Michelin, of La Rochelle. Mr. Havard has been Vice-Consul at Teheran since February, 1912.

Under date of June 27, our Bucharest Correspondent writes :—

Mr. H. P. Bagge, Vice-Consul at Nicolaieff, has passed through this city en route for Sofia.

Captain Cobban, attached to the Russian General Staff, has passed through Bucharest on his way to the Dardanelles.

Captain Pichon, the French Military Attaché, has left for Petrograd on a special mission.

Much regret will be caused by the announcement, made by *The Times* special correspondent at Kragujevatz, that Mrs. Dearmer, wife of the Rev. Dr. Percy Dearmer, vicar of St. Mary's, Primrose Hill, attached to the Stobart Hospital Mission in Serbia, died of enteric on Sunday after a fortnight's illness. This is the second death from the same cause in the same mission.

Mrs. Dearmer, who was born in 1872, was married to Dr. Dearmer in 1892. She was a writer of considerable merit, and, much interested in the stage, was largely instrumental in founding the Children's Theatre, at which her successful play "The Cockyolly Bird" was produced.

Major Nathaniel Page, late of the Weymouth Division, Royal Marines, whose death at the age of eighty-two is reported from Totnes, was present at the Battle of Balaclava, the fall of Sebastopol, and many other engagements of the Crimean War. He held the medal with two clasps.

Captain C. F. Balleine, of the 8th Battalion Rifle Brigade, who was killed in action in Flanders on the 2nd inst., had, in 1907, seen something of excavating work in Egypt. That year he assisted Dr. MacIver in his work in Upper Egypt.

Captain H. F. Elgee, South Wales Borderers, who is reported killed in action while serving with the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, had been employed with the Egyptian Army since 1908. In 1912 he took part in the operations against the Beir and Anuak tribes in the South-Eastern Sudan, and was awarded the medal and clasp for his services.

Captain Adrian Aubrey Charles Taylor, Royal Dublin Fusiliers, who was killed in action recently, obtained his commission in 1897, and reached the rank of captain in 1902. At the time of the outbreak of war he was serving with the Egyptian Police, having been appointed to this force on his retirement from the Dublins in 1913. He rejoined his old regiment as soon as war was declared. Captain Taylor had seen considerable service—he was engaged at Aden in operations in the interior in 1903, and was mentioned in despatches, and received the Queen's medal with six clasps and the King's medal with two clasps for his services during the South African War, 1899-1902, where he was severely wounded while serving with the Mounted Infantry.

Lieutenant Hugh Hulton Rupert Crookham, 1st Battalion Cambridgeshire Regiment, who is reported as severely wounded, is a son of the Rev. W. T. R. Crookham, who is a chaplain with the Forces in Egypt.

A correspondent informs us that Mr. Walter Whittall and Mr. C. Rice are among those who have been wounded in the Dardanelles. Both received wounds in the left shoulder and are being invalided home. The same correspondent informs us of the death on the field of honour of Mr. Lionel Bedoda.

Dr. V. H. Rutherford has left England to inspect the Wounded Allies Relief Committee's hospitals in Serbia and Montenegro. The committee has lately received from its Serbian hospital stationed at Kragujevatz news that, the typhoid epidemic being practically at an end, the strictest preventative measures are now in force against any possible outbreak of cholera.

Mr. R. E. W. Chafy, formerly British Vice-Consul at Port Said, has arrived in London from Milan.

Mr. A. B. Geary, British Vice-Consul at Alexandria, has returned to that city from Port Said.

Our Bucharest Correspondent informs us that M. Jean Gradishteanu has been elected President of the Macedonian Roumanian Society in that city.

Under date of July 8, Reuter's Paris correspondent reports: General Gouraud arrived here this morning. On the voyage

from the Dardanelles the surgeons on board the liner found it urgently necessary to amputate his right arm. His right thigh and left leg are broken, but there are no complications arising from sores. An X-ray examination will be made of the right hip, as it is feared that the fracture is a compound one. His general condition is very satisfactory.

Lady Newnes appeals most urgently for books and gramophones for our sick and wounded in the hospitals in Egypt. She is advised that ten thousand books—novels, books of adventure, travel, etc.—would be most welcome, and she has already made arrangements for their dispatch and distribution. Books and gramophones should be addressed to Lady Newnes, care of The Stores Department, British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John, 83, Pall Mall, and cheques should be made payable to Lady Newnes, 1, The Boltons, London, S.W.

The Serbian Relief Fund are organizing a Serbian Flag Day in London, and the date has been fixed for Wednesday, September 22. The majority of the metropolitan mayors have consented to co-operate.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, etc.

El Kaimakam C. M. Drew Bey, M.B., Medical Corps, is struck off the strength of the Egyptian Army.

It is reported that Colonel Otto von Lossow, Chief of the General Staff of the First Bavarian Reserve Corps, has been appointed Military Attaché to the German Embassy at Constantinople in place of Colonel von Leipzig. The new Attaché was a teacher at the Constantinople Military Academy from 1911 to 1913.

OBITUARY.

M. J. LAHOVARY.

Our Bucharest Correspondent writes under date of June 28 :—

Yesterday morning there died at his residence here, from heart disease, M. Jon Lahovary, who had only been elected a few days earlier to the position of President of the Conservative Party, in place of M. Marghiloman, deposed much against his will, as has been previously reported.

Roumania loses in Jon Lahovary one more of the rapidly dwindling group of the patriots of the old school. Born in 1848, he studied in Paris, where he secured the degree of Doctor of Law, and, returning to Bucharest, he practised his profession of lawyer.

In 1871 he commenced his political career, being elected a Deputy on the Conservative side. From 1892 to 1895 M. Lahovary represented his country at Paris as Minister Plenipotentiary. In 1899, when M. Gh. Cantacuzino formed his Conservative Cabinet, he conferred the portfolio of Minister of Foreign Affairs on M. Lahovary. In 1904, on the reforming of the Cabinet, he took over the Ministry of Domains and Agriculture, and it was in this position, in 1906, that he so ably organised the Jubilee Exhibition at Bucharest. In 1910, when M. Carp was called on to form a Conservative Government, he once more took up the portfolio of Domains and Agriculture, which he held until the fusion of the Conservative and Democratic-Conservative parties during the stirring times previous to the Peace of Bucharest, when he retired.

His loss is a heavy one to his party, as the great difficulty presents itself of finding a suitable person to occupy the position of leader of the Conservative party.

His burial takes place to-morrow, when the King will be represented by Prince Carol.

THE EXARCH JOSEPH.

(From a Correspondent.)

The death of the Exarch Joseph, to which reference was made in these columns last week, robs Bulgaria of one of her most prominent celebrities. His rise to greatness was rapid, and was largely due to the interest of his fellow inhabitants in the town of his birth, who, recognising his talents, petitioned the municipality to bear the expense of sending him to Paris to complete his education. The first important step towards the position he held at the time of his death was taken in 1872, when he was appointed Seretary-General of the Exarchate. He took Holy Orders in the same year, and proof of his exceptional abilities is to be found in the fact that he was appointed to the Bishopric of Vidin after being only two years in the Church. He was consecrated Archbishop in 1876. Further advancement followed a year later, when on the forced resignation of Exarch Anthymos the Archbishop Joseph was elected in his stead. In the troublous times that followed the Exarch laboured untiringly in the interests of his Church. Periods of violent animosity against the Bulgarian Church in Turkey followed in quick succession, and it was due solely to the Exarch's influence that a movement advocating submission to the Church of Rome, in order to secure for Bulgaria the support of a Western Power, was prevented from maturing. Notwithstanding his efforts, however, which were at times at least partially successful, the Bulgarian Church abroad remains in much the same position to-day as when the Exarch was first appointed. He succeeded in establishing two bishoprics in Turkey, it is true, but that was all that could be accomplished in the face of the continued opposition of the Porte. The late Exarch left Constantinople for Sofia as recently as 1913, having consistently refused to abandon his work in Turkey before, although he was several times previously asked to return to Bulgaria.

THE LATE AHMED FARIS.

(From a Correspondent.)

The notice in The Near East of the death of the widow of Ahmed Faris awakens in me a host of memories of a past generation so full of zeal and pride in that modern civilization then held before the Turks as a model of all that is noblest in human nature, which Germany of half a century later has so disgraced.

Ahmed Faris, whose real name was Faris Elshedyak, a Maronite of Lebanon, was a man with a grievance against his generation. A brother of his had been immured by his Bishop in Mount Lebanon for his too liberal opinions, and his cruel death so embittered Faris that he forsook Christianity and never tired of scorning its priesthood. One of his well-known sayings about them is to be found on the front page of his book, "El-Faryak," to the effect that the labour of two bulls yoked for threshing is more useful and profitable to the community than two bishops' teaching.

I cannot understand how his widow could have been writing a book on the "Soul of Islamism," considering that her late husband was never a convinced Mohammedan, or a Mohammedan at all, except in name; it was as a protest against the Maronite cruelty that he took the Islamic name of Ahmed, when he went to Constantinople and thought of founding there the weekly and first Arabic journal in the country, *El-Jawayib*, which was well edited and had a prosperous run for many years, being the only one in that language to give the Eastern world news of the capital and of European doings. The Sultan Abdul-Aziz, uncle of the present Sultan, thought well of him, and I was told that for years he, being the sole editor of his paper, used to dictate every word of it himself (various European newspapers being spread before him) to half-a-dozen scribes, simultaneously. I knew his cousins well in Beyrout, and have met his son when he came to live amongst us here. As a child of ten, I even remember seeing his wife we have just lost, a quaint, slim figure in crinoline and ringlets.

He was, undoubtedly, of considerable power in the use of the Arabic language, but I do not know if and when he contributed to the new rendering of the Bible into Arabic, and I know only of one book written by him when young—"El-Faryak."

A. S.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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

BIRTH.

Armstrong.—On July 8, at Alexandria, Egypt, the wife of T. E. S. Armstrong, Customs, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

Baker—Taylor.—On the 8th inst., by special license, before leaving for the Front, Captain Arthur Warden Baker, only son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Baker, of Constantinople, to Jessie, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Taylor, of Barnes Place, near Tonbridge.

Byam—Stiven.—On July 10, 1915, at the Garrison Church, Abbassia, Cairo, Major William Byam, R.A.M.C. (attached Egyptian Army), only son of the late Major-General W. Byam, C.B. (late the York and Lancaster Regiment), and Mrs. W. Byam, Sidmouth, to Doris Mabert, second daughter of the late E. W. F. Stiven, M.D., and Mrs. Stiven, of the Manor Lodge, Harrow-on-the-Hill.

Vassallo—Wood.—On June 22, at the Archiepiscopal Palace, Malta, by his Grace the Archbishop of Malta, Charles Vassallo, K.O.M.M., to Laura C. Wood, daughter of the late Cecil Godfrey Wood, H.B.M.'s Consul-General, and Mrs. Wood.

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FRIDAY, JULY 16, 1915.

ROUMANIA'S INDECISION.

It is a matter for regret to those who have pinned their faith on Roumania's hegemony of the Balkans to find her at a critical period in her history the prey of Oriental vacillation and indecision. A country that does not know its own mind can hardly claim to be qualified to assume the leadership of its neighbours. For many years the Roumanians considered that their destiny lay not in the Balkans, but in Europe proper. They preferred to aspire to the position of a hanger-on of one or other of the two groups of Great Powers to carving out an independent future for themselves in south-eastern Europe. With the formation of the Balkan League, and in the face of the events that followed its dissolution, the scales fell from the eyes of the Roumanian people. The potentialities of the Balkans as a political entity were recognized, and the importance attaching to the hegemony of a Balkan federation was appreciated. It was no longer regarded as a slight to be included in the term "Balkan States." Roumania dropped naturally into the position of a leader among those States, and her claims to the title were acknowledged by the Peace of Bucharest. That peace, it is true, implied the extinction for the time being of a Balkan federation in its widest application, and at the moment the rulers of Roumania were more concerned with satisfying certain territorial ambitions of the country than with evolving any far-sighted policy for the consolidation of Balkan interests. But the principle of community of interests in the Balkans had been established, albeit imperfectly, and to Roumania attached the responsibility of furthering that principle in the future. The position called for the display of no small measure of statesmanship, but confidence was felt in the ultimate ability of Roumania to perform all that was expected of her. Unfortunately for the country, the first test of its statesmanship has come too soon. At the outbreak of war between the Germanic Powers and the Triple Entente only one sound course was open to the Balkan States—to proclaim their solidarity and to determine upon the course that they intended to pursue as a single political entity. The implication of Serbia in the conflict no doubt complicated the situation, but it was for the Balkan States to decide how far the well-being of the Peninsula was concerned with Serbia's quarrel and its possible issues, or whether the other countries, while holding together, could still keep aloof from the war.

For such action on the part of the Balkan States it was necessary that Roumania should at once take the lead in bringing about an understanding between the several countries. But far from being in a position to take such a step, the Roumanian Government was actually unable to make up its own mind in regard to the war. It resolved not to commit itself at the bidding of King Carol to the Germanic cause, and proclaimed the country's neutrality. Then, veering round to the side of the Allies, it allowed its Ministers accredited to their Governments to announce that Roumania had taken her decision, and would in due course range herself on their side on the field of battle. On the strength of these assurances the Roumanian Government received financial help from the British and French Governments, and the fullest sympathy was felt with its desire to complete its military preparations before entering into the war. The first suspicion of any indecision on the part of the Roumanian Government was aroused by the action of an important section of the Roumanian people. A movement was started to urge early participation in the war upon the Cabinet. It was clear that if the Government had decided upon a course of action demonstrably in the interests of Roumania, it would have taken the Opposition leaders into its confidence in order to allow the country to present a united front at such a critical time. The fact that the Bratiano Cabinet failed to adopt such a course lent colour to the belief that it was still uncertain regarding its attitude towards the war. For a time it was able to silence popular clamour by pleading that its military preparations were not complete; it also allowed it to be understood that its action would be determined by that of Italy. But the army is now as ready as it will ever be, and Italy has been at war with Austria-Hungary for many weeks. A further plea has been raised that negotiations are in progress with the Allied Powers, and that until the points at issue are settled Roumania must defer military action. The contention in itself holds good. It must also be admitted that the withdrawal of the Russians in Galicia introduces a factor in the military situation which may necessitate a readjustment of the plan of campaign. But neither of these considerations could affect a decision dictated by the interests of the country, and there ought to be no room for any doubt in the minds of Roumanians themselves regarding the course of action which the country is about to pursue.

In Roumania, however, very strong doubt prevails on this subject. The Government shrinks from taking its own countrymen into its confidence, and it has now to submit to the humiliation of having it known that its indecision has exposed it to overtures from the Germanic Powers. On July 7 the Austro-Hungarian Minister at Bucharest made definite proposals to the Roumanian Government. If Roumania remained neutral, and allowed Germany to supply Turkey with munitions of war, she would receive certain concessions as compensation; if she ranges herself on the side of the Germanic Powers she is promised yet further concessions. It is difficult to regard such an offer at this juncture as other than a deliberate insult to Roumania. M. Bratiano's Government is placed by the Germans on a level with the members of the Turkish Committee of Union and Progress. Eleven months after the outbreak of the war Roumania's neutrality or active support is merely a matter of bribes. She is not credited by the Germanic Powers with any national policy based on national interests. For certain services she will receive so much; for greater services she is to have a little more. The conception of a country fired with a national ideal and incapable of being restrained until that ideal be realized, does not enter into the German mind. M. Bratiano and his colleagues, thanks to the policy they have adopted all this time, are to the Germans as merely so many Turkish puppets to be bribed or cajoled into sacrificing themselves for German interests. That the Roumanian Government should have listened to these proposals, and tacitly accepted a time-limit within which to give its reply, must needs be a cause of bitterness to many Roumanians. The circumstances, we fear, will be quoted as confirmation of the strong hold that Germany has obtained in certain quarters in Roumania by means of a lavish expenditure. The Austro-German promises, which the Roumanian Government is now considering, rest for their fulfilment on the word of Germany. When similar offers on the same guarantee were made to the King of Italy, the reply came instantly, that the time had gone by when such a guarantee could be regarded as adequate. The Roumanian Government would seem to be of a different mind. It allows itself to appear flattered by the overtures of the Germanic Powers; it has as little thought for the national aspirations as it has for the interests of the Balkans as a whole. The Austro-German proposals predicate the annihilation of Serbia, as well as the non-realization of the ideal of every true Roumanian, the incorporation of Transylvania in the kingdom of Roumania. But instead of rejecting these proposals as soon as they were uttered, the Roumanian Government takes its time to consider them. Thus does the spirit of indecision prepare pitfalls for itself, and lack of statesmanship is exposed to the charge of lack of patriotism.

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THE STATE OF SYRIA.

(From Our Correspondent Lately at Haifa.)

Alexandria, July 2.

The American cruiser Tennessee is the first ship to arrive from Syria since the cessation of the Italian steamship service on the Syrian coast, consequent upon Italy's entry into the war. Her arrival was, therefore, the occasion of great excitement amongst the very numerous Syrian refugees now at Alexandria, who are filled with natural anxiety regarding the safety of their families. I came down from Cairo especially to interview some of the newcomers from the isolated country, and suceeded in eliciting the following information regarding the general situation in Syria. Before proceeding, however, it would be only fitting to acknowledge, through the medium of The Near East, the valuable services that the Tennessee has rendered to Syria in general and the refugees in particular. Since the ill-fated participation of Turkey in the war, the vessel has conveyed large batches of destitute refugees from Syria nearly every week. It should be noted, however, that most of the refugees were foreigners and Jews. Still, the continual presence of an American warship in Syrian waters has greatly helped to tranquillise the panic-stricken inhabitants. Having been relieved by the Chester, the Tennessee is now leaving Mediterranean waters—probably for good—for the United States.

On the occasion of the Tennessee's last voyage from Syria the hotels of Alexandria, already overcrowded, were the recipients of over seven hundred fresh refugees, most of whom are well-to-do people. They are chiefly Italians and neutral subjects. Among the new arrivals are the staffs of the various Italian Consulates in Syria.

Abundance of Coal in Syria.

The most remarkable piece of news about Syria is the announcement of the existence of an abundance of coal in the Lebanon. This confirms the previous reports as to the discovery of coal in certain regions on the Mountain. Large quantities are being mined, and are being utilised for the maintenance of railway communications. The possibility of a stoppage of the railway service as a result of the disappearance of coal is therefore remote. A trustworthy informant stated that coal is being supplied to the Government at the low rate of 30 fr. per ton. However, one ton of Cardiff coal, he stated, was equal to 1½ tons of the newly discovered Lebanon coal.

This announcement serves to testify to the richness of Syria, and is a further proof that the country is capable of profitable development when the "clouds roll by."

Treatment of British Subjects.

The remainder of the British, French, and Russian male subjects previously resident in Syria are now at Urfa. I learn that the Turkish Government is contemplating sending the families of these deportees to Urfa also. The remaining British women and children are to be sent thither as well. I have not been able to obtain full confirmation of this report, but it was given to me by a respectable Syrian notable. I understand that Doctors Graham and Webster, of the American College at Beyrout, who are British, were not allowed to embark on the Tennessee, but they continued to discharge their functions as professors at the College up to the end of the College year. It is rumoured that they are also to be deported to the same destination now that the scholastic year has come to an end. Their hitherto unmolested presence at Beyrout is due to the representations of the American consular authorities, supported by their energetic Ambassador. Miss Nixon, who is attached to the American Consulate-General at Beyrout, is, of course, enjoying perfect freedom.

The Restrictions on Wheat.

The apprehension hitherto entertained of the scarcity of living necessities and the likelihood of an occurrence of famine should be dispelled. Wheat and barley are quite abundant in Syria, but foreign articles are necessarily scarce. It is interesting to note, however, that the Government does not allow the despatch of large quantities of wheat and cereals to the cities on the coast for fear lest, in the event of a foreign occupation, the enemy might utilize these materials. Considerable restrictions have also been imposed by the authorities on anybody attempting to store or export foodstuffs for personal profit. In fact, much credit is due to the Government for the just manner in which it has been distributing wheat amongst the poverty-stricken and destitute population. The authorities' energetic efforts towards public security should also be acknowledged.

The Lebanon.

Conceiving that his position has become untenable on account of the continued opposition he met with from the Administrative Council, the Mutessarif of the Lebanon has resigned. It will be remembered that most of the original members of the Council were forced to relinquish their posts, and were subsequently replaced by Moslem members nominated by the Government. Considerable friction has, therefore, continually existed in the administration, a state of things which disgusted the Mutessarif. As his successor—the present Mutessarif is an Armenian—it is rumoured that the Turkish Government has decided to appoint a Moslem governor.

Ever since the beginning of the war the Druses have declined to enlist in the military service of Turkey. It is stated that they offered their services on the condition that they should be stationed on the coast; but the Turks refused their offer, fearing lest as soon as an invasion took place the Druses would welcome the invaders. I also learn that the Hauran Druses have notified their co-religionists living in the Lebanon that they are welcome to the Hauran at all times, and that in case they are dissatisfied with their life on The Mountain, it would be advisable for them to proceed to Hauran, where there is an enormous store of provisions that would last for several years.

(From a Correspondent.)

Cairo, July 5.

The U.S. cruiser Tennessee arrived from Beyrout at Alexandria on June 28, with about 600 passengers on board, thus affording a chance to learn something about the present situation in Syria and the Lebanon. The majority of the passengers consisted of Italians and Greeks, and the remainder of Americans. All the Italian consuls in Syria, who had assembled at Beyrout and had been unable to leave owing to the absence of steamship communication, availed themselves of the opportunity offered them by the Tennessee. The departure of the Greek Consul-General at Beyrout, who is said to have had great difficulty in leaving, and who received some discourteous treatment at the hands of the Turkish authorities, is rather significant. The Bulgarian Consul-General at Beyrout was also a passenger. He is said to have received telegraphic orders from his Government to proceed to Dedeagatch, thence "probably" to Constantinople; but it would not be surprising to hear later of his having gone on to Sofia instead.

Egyptian Students Detained.

The Turkish authorities are reported to have forbidden the Egyptian students of the American College to leave by the Tennessee, but, with their customary kindness, the President and Faculty of the College have been providing for the needs of all students without means. The College has closed as usual at the end of the Academic year, but has moved its staff and the students who have been unable to return to their homes to their summer headquarters in Shweir, a beautifully situated village in the higher hills of the Lebanon. The interesting fact may here be mentioned that, in spite of the war, the College had almost a full complement of students, viz., 761, against about 900 in normal years. It is announced that in case of the continuation of the war till the autumn, the College will be open as usual and prepared to carry on work as in the past.

The U.S. warship Chester is due to leave Alexandria to-morrow for Beyrout, to relieve the Tennessee, and it is expected that the Des Moines, which is now at Beyrout, and which has relieved the North Carolina, will be coming to Alexandria as soon as the Chester arrives at Beyrout, in order to bring a further contingent of Italians.

Order Maintained.

As far as security and the maintenance of order go, the state of Syria and the Lebanon leaves nothing to be desired. Any attempt at disturbance is suppressed with exemplary severity. It is reported that on the occasion of the visit of an aeroplane of the Allies to drop copies of an Egyptian paper, a fanatic Metwali (Shiite) made an assault on two Christians, but the military authorities promptly had him arrested, and, after having been tried by court martial, he was condemned to death and executed.

The economic situation, however, is said to be rather alarming. Imported articles, when they can be had at all, are sold at famine prices, and even cereals and grain—which are grown in the country, and could not be lacking, as fairly large quantities used to be exported in normal times—are sometimes difficult to obtain. It seems that after the outbreak of the war the leading merchants in the interior declared to the authorities only 20 per cent. of the actual quantities they had hidden away in their stores; and the authorities, when later they discovered the deceit, absolutely prohibited exportation. In the meantime the railway communication between the interior and the coast towns has been interrupted, and some pitiful scenes are reported to have taken place at Beyrout when the flour mills and depots were besieged by famished people of the poorer class. It would seem that the authorities, in anticipation of an enemy landing, have made a point of leaving no surplus stock of foodstuffs in the coast towns.

I have it from a fairly trustworthy source that, owing to the use of crude coal from the Lebanon, the railway engines have been almost ruined by the considerable proportion of sulphur in that coal. The destruction of the

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petroleum depots near Beyrout and on the Lebanese coast by the warships of the Allies was calculated to aggravate the economic distress. On the other hand, the approaching harvest may be expected to alleviate the situation to a certain extent.

The Governor-General of the Lebanon is reported to have obtained from the Sublime Porte three months' leave of absence outside Syria; and it is now feared that, during his absence, the military authorities will feel tempted to carry out their long-cherished hope of subjecting the Lebanon to military service. This would afford the Turks an occasion for further extortion in the shape of the military exoneration tax. The impecunious authorities continue to exercise their ingenuity in multiplying the sources of revenue, and do not, of course, stop at any extortionate measure. The ruined population is said to be getting restive, and signs of revolt brewing among both the Moslems and Christians are said to have been apparent of late, causing no little alarm in military circles.

The number of Turkish troops in Syria is said to have greatly decreased, and it is estimated that there are not more than 1,800 troops in the Lebanon, stationed in various villages of strategic importance. The behaviour of these troops is reported to have been so far deserving of all praise. It seems that when they first came in the winter, the inhabitants treated them very hospitably, and even saved some of them from freezing; and gratitude has caused a certain cordiality between troops and the civilian population.

Exchange of Prisoners.

A delegate from Djemal Pasha arrived by the Tennessee to treat with the British authorities here for the exchange of the detained subjects of the Allies against an equal number of Turkish prisoners in Egypt. The number of British, French, and Russian subjects detained in Syria is about 500, and it seems that the treatment to which they are being subjected is far from enviable. Very poor food is served to them; and some are said to be suffering now from dysentery. A basis of agreement is believed to have been reached, and the final sanction of the Home authorities is awaited. In case the agreement should be ratified, the men of military age among the Allied subjects will have to undertake on their honour not to carry arms against the enemy, and, of course, the same condition will have to apply to the Turkish prisoners.

The Syrian Protestant College.

Djemal Pasha is said to be moving constantly between Damascus and the Lebanon. On the occasion of the Commencement Exercises of the American College, the President invited the Turkish General, and gave him a reception worthy of his rank; and this is said to have been responsible for the release of the three doctors of Canadian and English origin on the College staff.

It is said also that the Turkish authorities have required from the College the teaching of Turkish and the placing of this language on the same footing as the English language. The President wisely promised to consider the matter and to submit it to the Board of Trustees at New York. The College has also been required to exempt the non-Christian students from attendance at religious meetings. The number of medical students of the College who have accompanied the Turkish Army is said to be thirty-two. The majority have been sent to Gallipoli, Baghdad, and the Caucasus.

EXECUTION OF ARMENIANS.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Athens, June 27.

The sequel to the arrests of Armenians in Constantinople and elsewhere some time ago was the execution on June 15 of twenty of them, who had been condemned to death by the Court Martial. The official notification stated that these men were tried and found guilty of having held secret meetings, issuing publications abroad, and holding correspondence with the view of depriving the Ottoman Government of part of its territory by inciting foreigners against the Government, and of having attempted to create an independent Armenia.

Their names were :—Matheos Serkissian, Russian subject of the Caucaus and an influential member of the Hintchak Committee; Hamparsoun Krikor, of Rodosto; Agop Hazarian, of Torana; Minas Kechichian, of Kerassunde; Sempathi Haladjian, tailor, of Bitlis; Vahan Boyadjian, of Chimichkezek; Dr. Bedros Torosian, of Kharput; Armenak Hamparzoun, merchant; Abraham Stepan, shoemaker; Aram Atchikbachian, broker; Herant Kegavian, medical student; Karekin Bogossian, of Karahissar, labourer; Bogos Bogossian, jeweller; Agop Basmadjian, President of the Hintchak Committee at Kirk Kilisse; Thomas Thomassian, professor; Berounian Manoutian, shoemaker; Niguirditch Abranousian, member of the Hintchak Committee at Kharput; Kigame Vaykinian, of Van; Yervante Topouzian, professor at Baghtchedjik; Ohannes Yerkazarian, of Cesarea, and member of the Hintchak Committee; Karnik Boyadjian, coffee merchant.

Two members of the committee, named Sabahgulian and Vertade, were condemned to death by default.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

AN EASTERN MYSTIC.*

Although the poet Kabir was an Indian whose life work was accomplished in his own country, the volume of his poems, which has recently been published, calls for the attention of any paper dealing with the East—Near or Far—for two reasons. The first of these is that the development of his mind shows him to have attained a standard of thought by no means uncommon in the Near East to-day, and the second is to be found in the fact that both his parents were Moslems. Kabir himself in forsaking the path of orthodox Mohammedanism became a renegade when judged by the formal standard of the Mohammedan religion, and yet when we examine his mysticism we find much of the same belief, shorn of its formalities it is true, but pulsing with the worship of one Omnipresent Deity—the God of Love.

A somewhat remarkable feature of his "Life" is that he sought and made perfect the belief for which his soul craved without adopting the life of the professional ascetic. In the very able introduction which Miss Evelyn Underhill has contributed to Rabindranath Tagore's translation of the poet's works, she tells us that, "side by side with his interior life of adoration, its artistic expression in music and words—for he was a skilled musician as well as a poet—he lived the sane and diligent life of the Oriental craftsman." Valuable as Kabir's works would have been in any case, their value is enhanced by this fact. The profound belief to which he gives expression in his poems was matured amid the surroundings and temptations of every-day existence. Knowing this, we feel, as we read his work, that he went farther than most mystics in their search for truth. Having found what he sought, there was no void, save where error or belief or crime were sheltered. In all else he was face to face with the Supreme Being, the beloved of his poems—God.

> The Flute of the Infinite is played without ceasing, and its sound is love:
> When love renounces all limits, it reaches truth.
> How widely the fragrance spreads!
> It has no end, nothing stands in its way.
> The form of this melody is bright like a million suns: incomparably sounds the vina, the vina of the notes of truth."

We take the above quotation more or less at random to show the trend of the poet's mind, the keynote of his poetry and of his life. Through the poems run alternate notes of sorrow and of joy, as the mind swings to and fro between doubt and certainty, and the language is singularly expressive and beautiful. It is no easy task to translate a work of this description without robbing it of certain of its characteristic charms, but Mr. Tagore has accomplished his task admirably. It is a book which will appeal to all who have ever had any dealings with the unrecognised mystics who are to be found in all quarters of the East. Only to one in many millions is given the gift of expression such as was accorded to Kabir, but there are others scattered over the clean, broad deserts of the East, to whom, could it but reach them, the language of Kabir would seem as an echo to their own dreamings.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The War Lords, by A. G. Gardiner; *The Seaforth Highlanders*, by F. W. Walker. (Both in "The Wayfarers' Library." Dent: 1s. net each volume.)

The Near Eastern Problem and the Pan-German Peril. By Vladimir Yovanovitch. (Watts and Co. 6d. net.)

Linguistic Areas in Europe; Their Boundaries and Political Significance. By Leon Dominian. (Reprinted from the Bulletin of the American Geographical Society.)

Quarterly Statement of the Palestine Exploration Fund. (July, 1915.) Published at the office of the Fund, 2, Hindle Street, Manchester Square. (2s. net.)

Forty-eighth Annual Report of the Syrian Protestant College. (Beyrout.)

DARDANELLES WOUNDED—INQUIRIES.

The following notice is issued by the Secretary of the War Office :—

Large numbers of telegrams are being despatched to the Mediterranean inquiring as to the condition of officers wounded in the Dardanelles and requesting a reply by cable. The public are warned that if they wish for replies by telegram they must prepay the charges.

* "One Hundred Poems of Kabir." Translated by Rabindranath Tagore, assisted by Evelyn Underhill. (Macmillan and Co., Limited. 4s. 6d. net.)

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Prisoners of War in Serbia.

An article by Helen Douglas Irvine which appears in the *Outlook* (July 3), gives some interesting details concerning the sixty thousand prisoners captured by Serbia in December. According to this writer the majority are Slav, and their sympathies are strongly on the side of the Serb. Many of them come from Croatia and Slavonia, but although their sympathies lie with their captors now, Miss Irvine anticipates difficulties in the future:—

Yet the Serbs will have difficulties when they come to govern their new provinces. In the first place, those men of Croatia and Slavonia who are not descendants of Serbian emigrants belong not to the Eastern but to the Western Catholic Church, and they are devout and much influenced by their priests. They do not desire continued union with Hungary, but there is a party in Croatia who wish to make of the two provinces a separate independent State. In the second place, there are in Bosnia a considerable number of Mussulmans.

In her description of the treatment accorded to prisoners in Serbia, Miss Irvine shows how utterly erroneous are the ideas of cruelty and callousness once associated with the Serb.

The Serbs treat their Slav prisoners as fellow-countrymen; they are sympathetic with the Roumanians; their feeling for the German Austrians is generally one of tolerant contempt; but they hate the Magyars. . . .

Many of the prisoners have almost complete freedom, for the threefold reason that men cannot be spared to guard them, that many of them do not desire to escape, and that no Serb would help them to escape. The women and the prisoners are doing as much of the work of the country as continues in spite of the war.

It is admitted that prisoners have suffered great discomforts—many have died; but, having regard to the sufferings endured by the whole country, it would seem that they have, on the whole, fared well.

The Balkan Situation.

Mr. A. Wyatt Tilby, writing in the *United Empire* (July), adds another article to the long list of those already written in an attempt to explain Balkan neutrality. He thinks that the States are by no means labouring under misapprehension as to their ultimate fate should Germany be victorious in the struggle, but that fear of being entirely crushed by the Central Empires if they join issue with the Entente, coupled with internal jealousies and a wholly inadequate knowledge of the value of sea power are the causes which combine to prevent their intervention. Also, and especially in the case of Roumania, Mr. Wyatt points out that her national ambition would by no means be satisfied if the Germanic powers are crushed.

If Germany wins Roumania will get nothing, not even gratitude for non-intervention, since her neutrality has taken on an unfriendly cast at times; if the Entente wins, Serbia is assured of a strip of land which will give her both shores of the Danube and place Belgrade (which lies on the south bank close to the junction of the Theiss with the Danube) some distance from the frontier. This must spoil Roumania's plan of a natural frontier formed by the Rivers Theiss and Danube.

The writer seems to consider it likely that, although the greater advantages are to be gathered by intervention, Roumania may still be found hesitating when the Hungarian harvest has been gathered, and the hour when her co-operation would be really valuable, past. Bulgaria, also, by asking too much, runs the risk of losing all; while already Greece, by allowing Italy to forestal her intervention has greatly prejudiced her position as a bargainer. Mr. Wyatt's opinion of the situation may be gathered from the concluding paragraph of his article, which we quote below:—

The rival claims of the three States—the Triple Attente, as they have been humorously nicknamed—are not inspiring of respect or admiration, and a complete account of the bargaining and bartering of the past year would probably disabuse those innocent souls who anticipate, if not a new heaven, at least a moderately new earth, from this war.

Bulgaria and Roumania.

Le Journal des Balkans, Bucharest, in an article quoted by *Foreign Opinion* (July 7) points out that the intervention of Italy "aims at a beaten and punished Germany, not only as a lesson to the world, but for the future independence and tranquillity of every single country." After commenting upon the growing importance of Roumania and Bulgaria, the writer continues:—

It is high time that it was pointed out that Roumania and Bulgaria will have to face some very cruel and bitter deceptions if they do not mean to go in for active participation until the end of the war. The Governments in Bucharest and in Sofia are obliged by the force of events to understand and to help each other, otherwise they will simply become paralysed by a mutual distrust in each other, greatly to the benefit of their common enemies.

The article concludes by emphasising the fact that there is not a moment to lose before Bulgaria and Roumania unite to realise their national ideals and to reaffirm the strength and the deliverance of the Balkan States.

The Strong Man of Greece.

The *Review of Reviews* (July) publishes an interesting character sketch of M. Venizelos. "In the present tangle of Balkan politics there is one name that stands out far above all others," says the writer in reference to this statesman, and the greater part of his article is devoted to biographical details of M. Venizelos' remarkable career. We quote from the writer's remarks concerning the recent deadlock between Throne and Parliament, which follow a brief sketch of the statesman's personal characteristics.

He has naturally made himself many enemies, though not so many as might be expected, chief amongst which is the Royal family, who, in spite of the fact that they owe their present firmly established position entirely to him, have never fully forgiven him for driving Prince George out of Crete. There is no doubt that this personal ill-will has much to do with the attitude Greece has taken up in the present crisis.

The writer is rather at a loss to understand why M. Venizelos, secure in the support of Parliament, should have deferred to the wishes of the King in the crisis, but he adds that "we may be sure . . . he was working in the best interests of the State." The Review considers it certain that ultimately Greece will be found fighting on the side of the Allies.

Plucky Serbia.

In an article "Brighter Days in Serbia," published in the *Westminster Gazette* (July 2), Captain E. N. Bennett writes: "After some five weeks' absence I have returned to find the whole face of the country changed. The snow has disappeared from all but the highest mountains; everywhere are sunshine and verdure: the birds, butterflies, and lizards have come by their own once more. Everywhere the maize fields, corn fields, and orchards are in excellent trim, for in the absence of the men with the colours the womenfolk and children have ploughed and sown."

He reports that "the typhus enemy's" power is broken:—

Such fresh cases as do develop are now few and far between; the rate of mortality has fallen to a very low figure: the virulence of the disease has almost burnt itself out. When one calls to mind the condition of Serbia less than two months ago, the change is almost beyond belief. On April 2 the official figures for one camp in the north were as follows: 50 per cent. dead, 43 per cent. sick, 7 per cent. sound. The railways were abandoned because people dreaded the infected carriages. Salonika was full of Serbian families who had fled, not from the Austrians, but from the typhus. To-day gloom and sadness have made way for fresh hope and a more cheerful outlook. The resilience of these Serbian Slavs is remarkable. The whole country reminds one of battlefields where the action of rain, wind, and sunshine, and the growth of new grass have obliterated nearly every trace of a terrible conflict. In Serbia the dead have buried their dead, and the living are full of fresh vigour and resolution. One of the most terrible aspects of the frenzy of destruction and slaughter which has seized on the civilised world is the awful cheapness of human life. Events of tragic import succeed each other so rapidly, and so vital is the struggle for national existence, that one has less time to brood over personal and individual losses. The talk in Serbian towns and villages is once more not of defence only, but of defiance and forward movements.

Articles to Note.

"The Balkan States and the Federal Principle." By A. Schopoff, and "More Quatrains of Omar Khayyam," by John Pollen, C.I.E., in the *Asiatic Review* (July).

"The Dardanelles and Diplomacy," in *T.P.'s Journal of Great Deeds* (July 10).

"The Attitude of Roumania," by Dr. E. J. Dillon, in the *County Gentleman* (July 10).

"The Landing on Gallipoli," by Colonel F. N. Maude, C.B., in the *Standard* (July 9).

"A Great Churchman," in the *Nation* (July 10).

"The Fighting Forces of the Balkan States," by H. Charles Wood (Illustrated), in the *Field* (July 10).

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DIRECTORY

showing the present addresses of English residents in Turkey, who have left the country in consequence of the war, or have been prevented from returning there. Readers from Turkey whose names are not given below will oblige by forwarding to the Managing Editor their present addresses for inclusion (free of charge) in the Directory, which is intended to be of assistance in bringing friends together. Changes in addresses should be notified as early as possible. The "Near East" accepts no responsibility for the correctness of the addresses given.

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(Continued on page 308.)

COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

The War Loan, the greatest loan in the history of the world, has been a wonderful success. Beside the enormous figures, so eloquent of the wealth of the Empire, as opposed to Germany's growing penury, words fail to express the gigantic nature of the Exchequer's operations. The figures so far given are, of course, not final, as neither has the conversion of old stock taken place yet, nor can subscriptions through the Post Office be accurately gauged before the end of the year. It is, therefore, highly probable that the total to be subscribed will pass the £800,000,000 estimate.

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Speaking of subscriptions through the Post Office reminds me that our Cairo Correspondent ventilates a grievance which seems to me to be justified. Though the British colony in Egypt is given a legitimate opportunity of investing, through the banks, in the War Loan, the minimum stock to be thus acquired is £100, as in the United Kingdom. Times are hard in Egypt, as everyone is aware, and, consequently, only a very small percentage of the British colony is able to do its little bit. The suggestion is: Could not the Egyptian Post Office—or, at least, the post offices at Cairo, Alexandria, Port Said, and Suez—be empowered to accept smaller subscriptions on the same conditions as at home? Methinks this would not only gratify Anglo-Egyptians, but would also be a source of revenue to the Exchequer. It is to be hoped, therefore, that the matter will be brought before the competent authorities. It is still a long time until December, and quite an appreciable amount might in this way be obtained from the land of Egypt. Similarly, the scheme could be extended to the Sudan, Malta, Gibraltar, and Cyprus—supposing that it has not already been done, which I doubt, as the *Cyprus Gazette*, for instance, makes no mention of these post office facilities in its reproduction of the War Loan prospectus.

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On March 19 THE NEAR EAST published from its Cairo Correspondent a forecast of the final figures of the Egyptian finances for the year 1914-1915. Shortly afterwards the Financial Adviser drafted his Note containing a rough estimate of revenue. To-day we publish the actual figures, and, though in the matter of expenditure Lord Cecil's figures were nearer the mark than those of our correspondent, in both revenue and deficit our estimate was the more accurate of the two, as the following comparison will show:—

REVENUE.

NEAR EAST estimate	15,250,000
Official estimate	16,800,000
Actual figures	15,389,124

EXPENDITURE.

	£E.
NEAR EAST estimate	16,500,000
Official estimate	16,800,000
Actual figures	16,857,7 3

DEFICIT.

NEAR EAST estimate	1,500,000
Official estimate	1,700,000
Actual figures	1,468,559

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The accounts of the Sudan, showing a surplus, however small, are most welcome reading. That the balance-sheet for the year would show a deficit this year was almost taken for granted, and the surprise, therefore, will be the greater. There has been a general curtailment and retrenchment, and in view of this, Bernard Pasha can place to reserve a sum of over £E12,000. Royalties have decreased (in the absence of further particulars I should think gum and ivory are both responsible for this decrease), but the effect is hardly likely to be lasting. There are dark days ahead for the Sudan, as well as for the rest of the Empire, and it is for this reason that our Cairo Correspondent warns us not to be too sanguine. However, those responsible for looking after the Sudan Exchequer are to be heartily congratulated on the results achieved in wartime, and it is to be hoped that their next balance-sheet will again confound those who are inclined to be pessimistic when on the subject of the country's future.

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In connection with my recent plea for Government intervention in the case of the British Hospital at Constantinople, which is in danger of being requisitioned by the Turkish authorities, I have received word from the hon. treasurer of the British Refugees from Turkey Fund, stating that in a letter from Constantinople a strong appeal has been made urging him to support a request forwarded to the Foreign Office, asking the latter to continue their help to the hospital. For the last seven months the American Red Cross have been in possession of the building, paying all expenses, and are unable to continue for lack of funds. It would be a pity if at the present moment the Turks took possession of the building. Not only would they spoil most of the fittings, but would probably remove the greater part of the instruments, and if the shipping community knew of the possibility of losing the building, which is really theirs—it was built mainly by a voluntary tax on ships passing up and down the Bosphorus—they would take steps to pay the £300-£400 needed until we force the Dardanelles. Or it may be in the interest of the British Red Cross to consider this. There could be no finer headquarters for them than the Seamen's Hospital in Constantinople. I appeal, therefore, to the shipping world, to the British Red Cross, and to the Foreign Office, to whose notice the letter referred to above has been brought, immediately to come to the support of the hospital.

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The Greek mercantile marine in Mediterranean waters has been very active of late—so active, as a matter of fact, that it has been deserving of some attention on the part of the Allies' Fleet. Seven Greek boats which were arrested on suspicion of carrying contraband of war and were taken to Mudros have, it is true, been released, but those seized in Gibraltar are apparently still in detention. It is unfortunate that there should be Greek shipowners so grasping in their greed that they should descend to ordinary gun or ammunition running against the direct interests of their country. It is high time that the Greek Government should take every possible step to prevent Greek subjects from attempting, or being suspected of attempting, to smuggle contraband of war into Turkey. We can hardly believe that, with her great ambitions, Greece is in a position to be at loggerheads with the Allies. She has everything to gain from an attitude of benevolent neutrality towards us, and everything to lose from an adventurous policy adverse to the interests of the Entente Powers.

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Mr. Wing's question in the House anent the re-arrangement of the Consular Service after the war must not be shelved. It is vital to our trade interests abroad that business men should, in many cases, be appointed to consular posts. In the words of Mr. Wing, the Government should recognise the large numbers of "eligible and capable men engaged as commercial travellers whose technical skill in the arts of salesmanship fit them especially for positions of consul, commercial attachés, and other positions in our embassies in countries where British manufactures need special representation." From Lord R. Cecil's reply it would appear that suggestions made by a Royal Commission are engaging the attention of the Government. I fear that even these, doubtless harmless, suggestions will be watered down, with the result that reforms will consist in the introduction of some minor modifications, in all probability conducive to a greater display of fervent red tape, so dear to the heart of many of our consular officers. What is wanted of the Consular Service is its thorough overhauling, and not only the consideration by the Government of a few suggestions.

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Then, again, there is the Levant Service, which, I have no hesitation in asserting, is the best branch of our whole service. What is going to happen to it when the war is over? Will its sphere be extended as was originally suggested in these columns so as to embrace the whole of the Near East and the shores of the Black Sea and Southern Russia, or will its effectiveness be curtailed by the loss of some of the posts now held? Or, again, will it be merged into the general service? I hope not, because its members are experts on questions of little avail in, let us say, Patagonia. More could be said on this subject, as well as on the subject of incompetent ministerial appointments, but I prefer to leave it unsaid—at present.

***

The successful series of public lectures on the Empire by Dr. H. B. Gray, the official lecturer, will be continued at the Imperial Institute throughout July. The lectures, which are now illustrated by lantern slides, are followed in each case by a visit to the Exhibition Galleries of the Imperial Institute, which afford a unique object lesson in the Empire's commercial capacities. The resources of the colonies and India are exhaustively represented by specimens, and there are explanatory statements respecting the more important products of each country. Next Wednesday, at 3 o'clock punctually, there will be a lecture on Egypt and the Sudan. Admission is free by ticket, to be obtained at the Central Stand in the Exhibition Galleries, Imperial Institute, South Kensington, S.W.

***

The Senior Official Receiver and Liquidator of the Bank of Egypt, Limited, notifies that he is about to make a fourth return to the shareholders of £1 per share, making, with previous payments, a total return of £7 per share. The fourth return will be paid on July 20, and the warrants will be issued a few days previously to all shareholders whose shares are now fully paid.

COMMENTATOR.

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Egyptian Finances.

Accounts for the Financial Year.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, June 28.

The Egyptian Government published in this afternoon's *Official Journal* the final figures for its financial year ending March 31, 1915. It may be interesting if I set side by side the original estimates framed in March, 1914, the revised estimates as shown in the Financial Adviser's Note, dated March 24, 1915, and the actual amounts of revenue realised and expenditure incurred. The following table gives these figures :—

I.

—	Original Estimate.	Revised Estimate.	Final Figures.
Revenue	£E17,588,000	£E15,088,000	£E15,389,124
Expenditure	18,162,000	16,800,000	16,857,783
Deficit	574,000	1,700,000	1,468,559

It may be mentioned that in the original estimate the revenue was set at £E115,898 less, and the expenditure at £E502,039 more, than the amounts figuring in the final accounts for 1913.

From Table I. it can be seen that the effect of eight months of war conditions has been to cause a drop in revenue of £E2,314,774, although the actual result is some £E300,000 better than what was anticipated by the Financial Adviser in March last, and that, owing to economies, stoppage of new works, and postponement of repairs and renewal of material, it has been possible to reduce the expenditure by £E1,304,217 on the original estimates, and by £E802,178 as compared with the ordinary and extraordinary expenditure of 1913.

The drop in revenue is reflected in practically every service, and the appended table indicates clearly how the war has affected the different sources of revenue and completely spoilt what promised, in July last, to be an excellent financial year.

Table II. shows that the actual loss in revenue during the first eight months of the war was on the far side of two and a-half millions. It would have been a good deal more if the tobacco duties had not been raised in January, 1914, but it is not clear what effect the doubling of the railway fares and telegraph rates has had on the receipts of the administrations concerned.

On these figures the outlook is not very rosy, but, as a matter of fact, the prospects are far more promising than would appear. In the first place, the greatest loss in revenue occurred in the months when the first shock of war conditions was felt. The revenue dropped £E261,857 in August, £E347,399 in September, and £E837,113 in October. Of the above-mentioned drop of £E2,654,463, no less than £E2,400,051 took place in the five months ending December 31, 1914. With the turn of the year, a marked improvement made itself noticed in practically every branch, and although no head has actually returned to normal, yet, as the analyses of the monthly figures in The Near East will attest, the drop in revenue of the divers earning accounts has been becoming steadily less.

It is to be noted that in the Budget for the current year the revenue is estimated at £E14,756,000, or £E633,124 less than that actually realised during the year just closed, whilst the expenditure is set down at £E15,900,000, or £E957,783 less than that of 1914-15. The Budget was, admittedly, not framed in an optimistic spirit, and there is reason to believe that it was expected that the low figure fixed for the revenue would be exceeded. Conditions have changed very much for the better, even during the past three months; they certainly are vastly improved compared with what they were last autumn, when the uncertainty of the cotton position and the insecurity of the high seas materially affected the trade of the country and the financial position of its inhabitants. Moreover, there is undoubtedly plenty of money in the country. There may, it is true, have been no tourist season, but, on the other hand, we have had thousands of soldiers who have spent and are spending far more money than all the tourists in a bumper season would spend. And, what is more important from a Treasury point of view, instead of, as in a normal winter, going into the pockets of a restricted number of persons and of commercial concerns that spend their profits outside Egypt, this money has been distributed on a very large scale, and has served to improve the condition of many thousands of purely Egyptian inhabitants. And, finally, the agricultural conditions are most hopeful. Water will, it appears, be plentiful; despite the efforts of the locusts, the winter cereal crops are a great success, and there are good prospects of the cotton—the boll-worm is receiving drastic attention—and summer cereal crops. All things considered, therefore—the improving appearance of the land tax, Customs, railways, telegraphs, post office, and port returns assist one materially in arriving at this opinion—the prospects are far from being as unfavourable as they would appear. Egypt's worst time is undoubtedly over, and, without laying oneself open to the accusation of being over-sanguine, one can, I think, say that there is every reason to expect that the final results of 1915-16 will be much better than the Budget and the closing figures of 1914-15 would lead one at first sight to anticipate.

The Egyptian Government is certainly fortunate in having succeeded in balancing its accounts with a much smaller deficit than was estimated in March last. That deficit—£E1,468,659—has been debited to the General Reserve, which, standing at £E5,103,549 on April 1, 1914, was thus reduced to £E3,634,890 on April 1, 1915. As it is estimated that the securities in which this Reserve is invested have depreciated, owing to the war, by £E800,000, the amount available in this fund is only £E2,834,890. The Budget for 1915-16 provided for £E1,144,000 out of this to meet the deficit, but, as already mentioned, there is reason to believe that but a small amount will need in the end to be written off on March 31, 1916.

II.

—	* Position on July 31, 1914.	* Position on March 31, 1915.	Decrease for 8 months.
	£E	£E	£E
Land and Direct Taxes	— 70,093	— 263,758	— 193,365
Customs	+ 68,752	— 772,258	— 841,010
Tobacco Dues	+ 79,351	+ 22,549	— 56,802
Port Dues	+ 13,924	— 126,112	— 139,036
Legal Fees	— 15,073	— 362,311	— 347,238
Railways	+ 35,776	— 687,815	— 723,591
Telegraphs	— 1,184	— 7,341	— 6,157
Post Office	+ 19,742	— 47,073	— 66,815
Rent of Land	— 17,978	— 14,008	+ 3,970
Domains	+ 71,222	— 51,040	— 122,262
Military Exemption	+ 3,362	— 32,177	— 35,539
Investment of Funds	+ 4,007	— 40,443	— 44,450
Sale of Land	+ 42,265	— 4,074	— 46,339
Extraordinary Receipts	+110,864	+ 79,609	— 31,255
Sundry Heads	— 5,248	— 8,522	— 4,274
	+339,689	— 2,314,774	— 2,654,463

* Position in favour of financial year 1914-15, as compared with that at the same dates a year before.

DIRECTORY—*continued from page 306.*

Silley, Mrs. Alfred C., Miss Alice, and Miss Beryl, Dedeagatch, Bulgaria.
Silley, Mr. and Mrs. C. C., 70, Kingsdown Avenue, Ealing, W.
Silley, Mr. and Mrs. Walter and family, care of Imperial Ottoman Bank, Limassol, Cyprus.
Simmons, Albert, 84, Worple Road, Wimbledon, S.W.
Simmons, George H., c/o Imperial Ottoman Bank, Larnaca, Cyprus.
Skrimshire, C. R., Sand Haven, Weston-super-Mare.
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Smith, F. W., "Heathcote," Bexley, Kent.
Smith-Lyte, Mr. and Mrs. William, 30, Westbourne Terrace, Hyde Park, W. Tele., Paddington 7191.
Sofiano, Mrs. Alexander, and sons, Rue Nikis, No. 11, Athens.
Sprowson, Mr. and Mrs. William, and family, The Ferns, Harrow-on-the-Hill.
Stelianidi, Mr. and Mrs. L. N., and family, Hôtel Métropole, Athens.
Strong, Miss K. M., Thorpe Hall, Peterborough.
Streater, Mr. and Mrs. Frank, British Consulate, Dedeagatch, Bulgaria.
Stock, Mrs. H. W., and family, 13, Norland Sq., Holland Park, W. Tel.: Park 3770.
Summers, Misses L. and M., Old Phaleron, Greece.
Swan, Mr. and Mrs. T. Angus, 12, Ramshill Road, Scarborough.
Swan, Mrs. Charles, 43, Lythoe Road, Finchley Road, N.W.
Sykes, Mrs. W. Norman, and family, 24, Osborne Road, Birkby, Huddersfield.
Thewlis, Frank, 88, Randolph Crescent, Maida Vale.
Thomas, Mrs. L. I., and family, "Glack," Braconing Avenue, Boscombe, Bournemouth.
Thompson, William A., Glenmore, Avenue Road, Falmouth.
Thompson, Mrs Harold, Glenmore, Avenue Road, Falmouth.
Thomson, Mrs., 124, King Henry's Road, South Hampstead, N.W.
Thomson, Miss Gladys, 124, King Henry's Road, South Hampstead, N.W.
Thomson, J. Crabtree, Cairo.
Tristram, Mr. and Mrs. U. B., and family, 84, Worple Road, Wimbledon, S.W.
Tubini, Mrs. T., 84, Worple Road, Wimbledon.
Tucker, Thomas C., and family, 18, Odos Kebaya, New Phaleron, Greece.
Tucker, Thomas J. V. Ferid, c/o A. H. Brace, Esq., 46, Goldshill Road, Handsworth.
Vidovich, Nicholas, and daughter, Hotel Centrale, Rue du Stade, No. 22, Athens.
Watt, Mr. and Mrs. A. B., Grand Hotel, Larnaca, Cyprus.
Weakly, E., C.M.G., Norfolk Hotel, Kensington, W.
Weale, W., Foreign Office, S.W.
Weale, Miss Mary, 10, Upton Road, Slough.
Weale, Miss Norah, Lydgate House, Hunstanton.
Werndel, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. G., Grand Hotel Bulgarie, Sofia.
Wheatley, Miss N., "Falklands," Birkdale.
Whitehouse, Rev. Canon F. C., and family, 6, St. Andrew's Square, Surbiton.
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Whittall, W. H. J., 1, Princes Square, Bayswater, W.
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Woods, Harold, Continental Hotel, Cairo.

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Sudan Finances in 1914.

Effects of the War.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, June 27.

Those who are responsible for the financial administration of the Sudan certainly deserve to be warmly congratulated on the balance-sheet that they have just presented to the public for the year ending December 31, 1914. From the Budget for the current year, which was reviewed in The Near East of March 19, and wherein the revenue was estimated at £E1,501,000, or £E143,000 less than that of the preceding year, it was apparent that the war was having its effect on the Sudan, which was already suffering from a period of deficient rains and low floods, and it was feared that very great difficulty would be experienced in balancing the accounts for 1914, if indeed it were possible to balance them without a deficit. What made the situation all the more delicate was that the Sudan has no reserve fund in the strict sense, and that Egypt had stopped the financial assistance which she had given for fourteen years in the form of an annual subsidy.

But, as usual, Bernard Pasha and his assistants have achieved the apparently impossible. They have not only balanced their accounts without a deficit, but actually have managed to transfer a surplus to what is known as the reserve fund account. When, after the stoppage of the annual subvention of £E163,000 and the payment in substitution to the Sudan by Egypt of £E85,000 for Customs dues levied on goods destined to the Sudan, the Financial Secretary continued to show a gross surplus of £E40,142, as against one of only £E100,937 under the old conditions, it was considered that he had done uncommonly well, but for a surplus of even £E12,203 to have been produced under existing conditions is still more remarkable.

The principal increases in revenue heads are:—Railways, £E29,420; posts and telegraphs, £E5,669; Customs, £E3,027; animal tax, £E10,736; but decreases are registered in land tax, £E32,139; royalties, £E19,164; tribute, £E5,912; rent of Government properties, £E10,783; and steamers, £E4,245.

The position of the Sudan, however, is one that will require the most careful manipulation. By the end of 1914 the whole of the special credits advanced by Egypt for capital expenditure had been spent, whilst the unexpended balance of the reserve account, including the surplus of £E12,203, has been pledged for expenditure during the current year. The expenditure for 1915, which has been kept at its lowest point consistent with the maintenance of efficiency and with attention to economic needs, has been framed on the assumption that the revenue will only be £E1,501,000. This is £E42,549 below the actual results of 1914. The margin is uncommonly small, but could not, for the reasons stated, be made larger. Under the circumstances, since the Sudan has no subsidiary means of obtaining financial assistance, unless climatic conditions and the international situation undergo some unexpected amelioration, there is every prospect that the current year will not be closed without a deficit. The showing of a surplus on the 1914 accounts has come quite as a surprise, but we must not allow the successful labours of the Sudan financial authorities in 1914 to lead us to expect, as a matter of course, a repetition of this achievement in 1915. There is a limit to all things and to all efforts, and there are abundant indications that the Sudan has to-day reached the margin beneath which it will be dangerous to curtail expenditure. Unless conditions improve very much, therefore, we must be prepared for the possibility of a deficit at the end of 1915. The able manner in which the financial affairs of the Sudan have been handled in the past encourage one to hope that the crisis will be surmounted with minimum hardship to the country, and should cause all concerned to rest assured that the very best will be done to meet the difficulties of the situation, and that, if a deficit has to be shown as a result of the year's working, it will be solely because circumstances rendered it unavoidable.

	1912. £E.		1913. £E.		1914. £E.
Receipts	1,440,635	.....	1,568,352	.....	1,543,549
Expenditure	1,421,334	.....	1,533,063	.....	1,531,346
Surplus	19,301	.....	35,289	.....	12,203

The above table shows how the results of 1914 compare with those of the preceding two years. It will be noticed that the figures for 1912 and 1913 differ slightly from those published as the closing totals. In explanation it should be mentioned that in 1914 a readjustment in the form of accounts took place, the provincial services, which were originally included in the central accounts, being separated therefrom and given their own budget. Moreover, as a subvention of £E163,000 was received from Egypt in 1912, and in 1913 and 1914 this was replaced by the crediting to the Sudan by Egypt of £E85,000 Customs dues on goods destined to the Sudan, an additional deduction of £E78,000 has been made in the final figures for 1912.

The revenue for 1914, although £E100,451 less than the estimate for the year, is only £E24,803 less than the net figure of 1913, but at the same time £E102,914 more than that of 1912. The surplus also compares favourably with that of 1912, before the bad climatic conditions set in.

This result would not have been attained, however, unless great economy and caution had been exercised in the expenditure. In a country like the Sudan, where so much depends on administrative efficiency and care has to be taken not unduly to restrict expenditure in directions which have such an influence on the future welfare of the community, and so of the State, it is exceedingly difficult, after having only just managed to satisfy all legitimate claims, to find means for curtailing expenditure to meet a sudden emergency, such as set in during the last five months of 1914. It speaks volumes for the ability of the Sudan financial authorities and for the loyalty and efficiency of the officials in the service that it has been possible to effect a reduction of over £E100,000

POSTAGE TO TURKEY.

A reciprocal arrangement has been made with the Turkish Government with regard to the postal facilities of prisoners of war. Correspondence posted by or intended for prisoners of war will be regularly exchanged between the United Kingdom and Turkey (free of all postal charges) through the intermediary of the Swiss Post Office, which has placed its services at the disposal of the respective Governments for this purpose. All correspondence for British prisoners of war in Turkey should be addressed to the Central Post Office, Constantinople, care of General Post Office, London. Letters and parcels (which must not exceed 11 lbs. in weight) only may be sent, and letters, but not parcels, may be insured. Money cannot be sent through the Post Office.

Mr. R. A. Willis, writing to the *Times*, says:—"With reference to Sir Ian Hamilton's appeal for comforts for the troops under his command, may I draw attention to the unsatisfactory arrangements for delivery of letters and parcels at the Dardanelles? Not only do many of the packages go astray altogether, but those that arrive take many weeks to reach their destination. The charges for postage also are excessively high.

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Trade Notes.

Cyprus.

The following articles have been declared absolute contraband :—Toluol, and mixtures of toluol, whether derived from coal-tar, petroleum, or any other source; lathes and other machines or machine-tools capable of being employed in the manufacture of munitions of war; and maps and plans of any place within the territory of any belligerent, or within the area of military operations, on a scale of four miles to one inch or on any larger scale, and reproductions on any scale by photography or otherwise of such maps or plans. Linseed oil has been declared "conditional contraband."

Egypt.

Tenders are invited by the Controller, Cairo Tanzim Department, for the supply of 100 tons of natural asphalt required till the end of the financial year 1915-1916. Date, July 20.

Tenders are invited by the Ministry of Finance, Cairo, for the supply of articles of stationery required for the Government Departments during the year 1915-16. Date, July 22.

The British Chamber of Commerce of Egypt, Alexandria, reports that an agent in that city, who has hitherto represented a German firm, desires to secure the representation of a United Kingdom manufacturer of shoemakers' thread. A sample of the article required may be inspected by United Kingdom manufacturers at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C. United Kingdom manufacturers of shoemakers' thread may obtain the name and address of the inquirer on application to the Commercial Intelligence Branch, as above, but they should address any further communications regarding the inquiry to the British Chamber of Commerce of Egypt, 6, Rue de l'Ancienne Bourse, Alexandria.

The Vacuum Oil Company, Cairo, were the successful tenderers recently to the War Office, Cairo, for the supply of petroleum at the Tura.

A manufacturers' representative, with several years' experience of the Egyptian market, who is shortly revisiting Egypt, desires to represent United Kingdom manufacturers of fancy leather goods, stationery, fancy jewellery, electro-plated goods, cutlery, tobacco pipes, etc. Communications in this connection should be addressed to the Statistical and Information Department, London Chamber of Commerce, 97, Cannon Street, E.C.

Morocco.

H.M. Vice-Consul at Laraiche reports that a Spanish firm in that town wishes to get into touch with United Kingdom firms desirous of buying unwashed wool (laine en suint), of which the firm has about 40,000 kilogs. to sell. Correspondence with this firm should, preferably, be in Spanish or French. United Kingdom wool importers should apply, in the first instance, to the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C., for the name and address of the inquirer. Further communications regarding the inquiry should be addressed to the British Vice-Consulate, Laraiche.

Tunis.

According to the June issue of the *Bulletin Mensuel de l'Office du Gouvernement Tunisien* the total value of the foreign trade of Tunis during 1914 amounted to 239,110,975 fr., a decrease of 83,807,308 fr. as compared with the previous year. The value of the imports was 132,487,834 fr., a decrease of 11,766,844 fr. as compared with 1913. Decreases were most marked in live cattle, colonial produce, metal goods, and

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textiles. On the other hand there was an increase of 16,753,518 fr. in the imports of cereals. The value of the exports in 1914 was 106,623,141 fr. This was a decrease of 72,040,464 fr. as compared with the previous year, and was partly attributable to the poor harvest, the value of the grain exports being over 25,000,000 fr. less than in 1913. There was also a decrease of 16,797,288 fr. in the value of the exports of phosphates, whilst lead and zinc also showed considerable decreases. The failure of the crops and the effect on commercial transactions of prohibitions on export seriously affected the trade of Tunis in 1914.

TRADE OPENINGS.

The *Chamber of Commerce Journal* (July, 1915) publishes the following trade openings. Where addresses are given, replies to the announcements should be mailed direct; where a box number only is given, replies should be addressed to that number, c/o the *Journal*, Oxford Court, London, W.C.

Well-established commission agent in Piræus wishes to represent British works or export firms for galvanised and black sheets, tin plates, ships and boiler plates, wire for nails, dry goods, Bradford and Belfast goods, woollen yarns, cloths, handkershiefs, felt and straw hats, teas, biscuits, caramels, all sorts of textile goods, etc. Address, No. 155, Agency Department.

Commission agent and merchant, established in 1898, desires to represent British firms in the following lines:—Cloth, cotton and woollen yarns, combed wool, boot leather, imitation astrakhan, and other English specialities. Special department for collection of debts and information of all kinds. Address, S. B. Nachmias, Roustchouk, Bulgaria.

Old-established commission agents in Alexandria desire agencies of British manufacturers and exporters, especially in hosiery, but also in any manufactured goods suitable for the Egyptian market. Address, Ben-Amozek Frères, Alexandria, Egypt.

A British company, established in 1908, as merchants and commission agents, having head office in Alexandria and branch office in Cairo, and agents in the principal towns of the Mediterraneam, with English directors and manager and trading throughout Egypt and in the Levant, is open to take up the sole agencies of first class home firms for any article (machinery excepted) which does not clash with existing business; also insurance of all kinds, except accident and life. References will be given to important British firms now represented by the company. Address, The Commercial and Agency Company of Egypt, Ltd., P.O. Box No. 691, Alexandria, Egypt.

Firms in Cairo desire to represent British manufacturers and exporters of all kinds of goods suitable for the Egyptian market, particularly of hats, boots and shoes, collars, shirts, stockings, flannels, neckties, etc. Address, Messrs. Cladakis Frères, 76, Bein-El-Harat, Cairo, Egypt.

Agent desires to represent for Cyprus manufacturers and exporters of textiles (woollen, cotton, silk and mixed goods, yarns, etc.), leather and splits, bedsteads, glass, iron goods, earthenware, hosiery, stationery, lace, hats, ribbons, colonial goods, etc. Address, Cyprien Ph. David, Nicosia, Cyprus.

First-class Serbian wholesale firm (Belgrade) desires to represent a large English manufacturer of cotton yarn. Address, No. 303, Agency Department.

Important Serbian firm (Belgrade) desires to represent a first-class English insurance company. Address, No. 304, Agency Department.

Important Serbian firm (Belgrade) desires to represent a first-class English shipping company. Address, No. 305, Agency Department.

British subjects from Turkey now resident in England will be pleased to learn that under special licence from the Board of Trade the Imperial Ottoman Tobacco Regie, of 158, Wardour Street and 83, Piccadilly, W., have just received a first consignment of cigarettes, including some "Deuxième qualité," a well-known and favourite brand in the Levant.

Near East Markets.

HARVEST OUTLOOK.

Reports received in Italy from Constantinople (says the *Daily Graphic* Rome correspondent) state that the Turkish harvest this year is a record one, particularly in Asia Minor. The crops in the vilayets of Adana, Erzerum, Sivas, Angora, Smyrna, and Broussa are specially excellent. The Minister of Agriculture is taking steps to provide the peasants with reaping, binding, and other harvest machines.

Equally favourable reports come from Bulgaria, where the harvest is double that of last year. In three weeks' time all the crops, with the exception of maize, will be harvested. Till this is done there is no danger of Bulgaria undertaking any warlike operations.

German agents have already made immense purchases of cereals in Bulgaria, Turkey, and Roumania, evidently in view of a winter campaign.

SUDAN COTTON.

The Tokar correspondent of the *Sudan Times* writes that since the cotton market was closed there have been only small quantities of cotton arriving for sale. This is being bought up by Suakin merchants at 20 P.T. per kantar, unginned. The total quantity of cotton sold in the Tokar market during the season just closed amounted to 204,000 kantars.

COTTON MARKET.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Liverpool, July 15.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows:—Egyptian Spot.—There has been only a quiet demand this week, which has resulted in moderate sales. Prices have had a declining tendency, and quotations are reduced 20 points for all descriptions, except for fine Sakellarides, which is reduced 25 points, and extra fine 30 points. Sales are estimated at 2,300 bales, against 2,000 bales last week.

Manchester Market.—Trade has fallen off slightly from last week. Egyptian yarn has been more or less neglected.

PRODUCE REPORT.

London, July 15.

Currants.

The market generally has been quiet this past week, as might have been expected, after the large forward purchases made out of the incoming steamers. Grocery fruit is mostly a little cheaper, with the exception of Zante. Smalls are in good demand. Provincials are quoted 27s. to 28s., Amalias 28s. to 29s., Patras 31s. to 33s., Gulf 31s. to 32s., Vostizza 36s. to 40s., Island 30s. to 31s., smalls 28s. to 35s.

In Liverpool, owing to the demand from the country falling away, trade has been quiet, and few sales are reported. The cargo of the s.s. Avon, about 650 tons, was on the market. It consisted mostly of Zante and Calamata fruit, but, with holders anxious for sales ex quay, prices declined somewhat. Quotations were:—Calamata 26s. to 27s., Zante 27s. 6d. to 29s.

Sultanas.

No arrivals have taken place, and the market has been mostly small, fine fruit being the most in demand.

In Liverpool the market is again firmer, and later sales, at 58s. to 63s., show an advance of 2s. to 3s. per cwt.

Dates.

There is a moderate business in old and new crop at recent rates.

Onions.

Egyptian still meet with a slow sale at last week's ruinous rates. Valencias, if sound, sell at a very slight advance.

Seeds.

Linseed has been quiet and values nominally unchanged. London-Calcutta spot and afloat 54s., July-August 54s. 3d., August-September 54s. 6d. Rapeseed is very dull and inactive. Guzera pure basis, June-July quoted 56s. 6d., and brown Cawnpore 49s. 3d. Cottonseed ruled firm, but is closing quiet; London-Egyptian spot cleared at £9, July £9 10s. value per ton.

Oils.

Linseed Oil.—The market is quiet, and prices show a marked decline. On the spot, pipes £26 5s., barrels £27; July-August, £27 5s.; September-December, £28. Rape Oil.—Japan continue to advance, but there is no change to note in brown or refined. Ordinary brown, on the spot, naked, £36 to £37; English refined, barrels, £38 to £40. Japan, in cases, c.i.f. afloat, May to August, £30 7s. 6d. Cotton Oil.—Crude is easier, but refined is unchanged. Crude, on the spot, pipes £29, refined, on the spot, pale, pipes £31 5s.; sweet, barrels, £36 to £37.

Oilcakes.

Cotton Cakes.—During the past week an active demand has occurred for arrived parcels of Egyptian, and with practically no further offers coming to hand for old crop positions, values have an upward tendency, holders at present asking £6 10s. ex ship and £6 12s. 6d. ex quay, while English makes offer in limited quantity at £6 12s. 6d. to £6 15s. per ton.

Linseed Cakes.—There are further signs of improvement in the trade, and more disposition generally on the part of country dealers to increase their stock, in view of a probable hardening in prices on account of increased difficulty in freights. Best London-made offer sparingly, and are, if anything, the turn dearer at £10 5s. to £10 10s. per ton. Fine quality Greek in bags make £10 10s.

Locust Beans.

This article continues very scarce and dear at £8 for whole and £8 5s. for kibbled.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

An American commerce report states that the trade in wild beeswax is constantly increasing in most of the African colonies, especially Gambia, Gold Coast, Nigeria, Angola, Sudan, Uganda, British East Africa, German East Africa, and Mozambique. A few years ago the exports of wax from these countries were almost insignificant, but now (according to Mr. E. Michel, the author of an article on this subject which appears in the *Bulletin Agricole du Congo Belge*) they amount to thousands of tons. Wax occupies the third place in the export trade of Angola, which ships 600 or 700 tons of wax every year, while Mozambique exports about 100 tons, and Portuguese Guinea 50 tons. In 1911 German East Africa sold abroad over 800,000 lbs., of the value of £40,000. The wild wax, when well purified, is comparable to European wax.

At Bow Street Police Court on July 3, Anastatius Vorres, formerly Greek Consul at Johannesburg, was again brought before Sir John Dickinson for extradition on the charge of committing fraud as a public official within the jurisdiction of the Greek Government. When arrested the accused declared that the matter had been settled in his favour. Detective-sergeant Goodwillie now stated that the depositions were expected to arrive from Athens next week. Mr. Herbert Smith, who defended, said that the accused was recently in Athens, and before leaving he called upon the Minister for Foreign Affairs to present his respects. He left without the least attempt at concealment. It was possible that the Greek Government would consent to withdraw the extradition proceedings in order that the accused might return voluntarily. The Magistrate, in granting a further remand, advised Mr. Smith to consult the Greek authorities with a view to their making representations to the British Foreign Office.

The Sudan Gold Fields Company, Limited, have subscribed £10,000 to the War Loans.

Messrs. Low and Bonar, of Dundee, are subscribers to the War Loan for a sum of £25,000.

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Bulgaria's Commercial Progress.

The Bulgarian Minister in the United States contributes an article to the U.S. Consular Reports on the commercial progress made by Bulgaria within recent years. The following are extracts :—

At the time Bulgaria was launched as a principality its resources, both in men conversant with the administration of a State and its material assets, were very limited. Agriculture, the principal occupation of the people, was carried on in the most primitive way; commerce was mostly local or internal. No banking establishments, no savings banks, no industrial enterprises, hardly any railways, no harbours—nothing which really makes for the prosperity of a country existed.

Up to 1888 there were in the whole of Bulgaria, with an area of 36,765 square miles, only three railway lines in operation, covering 236 miles in all. Now the railway mileage is 1,486, while lines in process of construction or which have been already surveyed and are to be built will cover 1,048 miles, making in all 2,534 miles of railways.

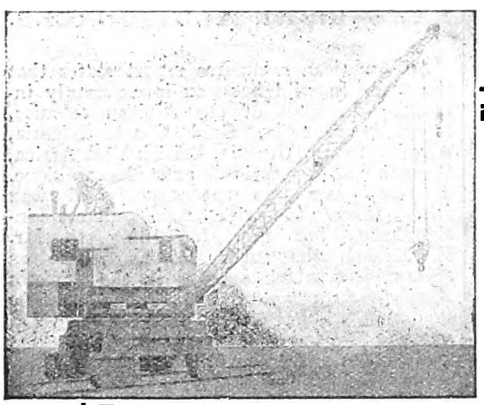
The two chief Bulgarian ports on the Black Sea are Varna and Burgas, and both of them thirty-five years ago were open roadsteads, unsafe and unfit for shipping; now they are well-built harbours provided with all the necessary accommodations for loading and unloading vessels. The improvement of the two ports has had for a consequence the increase of their imports and exports, as, for example, Burgas, which in 1903 had imports and exports of 50,000 tons; in 1911 they had risen to 389,256 tons. For the same years Varna's imports and exports were 217,000 and 467,000 tons respectively.

In regard to industrial development, Bulgaria, which at the time of its political emancipation had only about ten industrial establishments, now has 371. Among these are five sugar factories, several cloth factories, chemical, textile, paper, metallic factories, etc. The mining industry has steadily developed, as is shown by the fact that from 1892 to 1911, 2,221 permits for mine prospecting had been granted by the Government. Coal mines have been discovered and are being worked, one of them calculated to contain 30,000,000 tons of coal, and which during the first eleven months of 1914 yielded an output of 346,226 tons of coal. In order to encourage local industry the National Assembly enacted a law five years ago granting general and special privileges to various enterprises, such as canned meats, lumber manufactures, metallic industries, electric installations, etc. According to this law all the machinery, building, and raw materials necessary for the enterprise are exempt from duty. A free grant of land upon which to erect the factory and its appurtenances and a rebate on the railways for transportation are allowed. Special privileges include the exemption from patent or professional tax, from building or property tax, shares are not subject to stamp duty, free use of State quarries or domains for building purposes, etc. All State, district, and county departments are obliged to supply themselves with the products they may respectively need of these industrial establishments, even if they are 5 per cent. dearer than foreign products.

Agriculture, which is the chief occupation of the people of Bulgaria, and thirty-five years ago was carried on in a very primitive manner, has also received a great impetus. The whole area of the country is estimated to be 24,000,000 acres, of which 9,000,000 are arable fields. The old wooden ploughs, that could just scratch the surface of the ground, have been replaced by modern implements; the tedious and slow process by manual labour of reaping, threshing, and winnowing have been superseded by the more expeditious and efficient machines. The following statistics of the rapid increase of agricultural implements in one of the districts of Bulgaria show how ready the Bulgarian farmer is to adopt new methods of land cultivation. In 1911 there were in this district 2,431 fore-wheel ploughs, in 1914 there were 5,899; in 1911, reaping machines, 60; in 1914, 226; in 1911, winnowing machines, 5,999; in 1914, 8,443; in 1911, threshing machines, 158; in 1914, 649. I need not dwell upon the cultivation of tobacco, the production of silk or cocoons (1,476 tons in 1911), apiculture, or raising of bees. The latter especially has greatly advanced, as is shown by the fact that the 149 dividing hives existing in 1893 increased to 25,963 in 1910.

Commerce.

The same steady and wonderful development and advance is noticeable in the commerce of Bulgaria. In 1887 the foreign commerce of Bulgaria showed imports of almost 65,000,000 lewas and exports of almost 50,000,000 lewas. In 1911 imports stood at almost 200,000,000 lewas, and exports at almost 185,000,000 lewas. According to most recent statistics to hand for last year (1914), the imports from January 1 to the end of April were valued at 104,230,065 lewas, and exports at 75,872,400 lewas. This shows a marked increase over imports and exports during the same period in 1913, and it is calculated that had the year 1914 been a normal one the commerce of Bulgaria would have doubled.



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Trade Opportunities.

What are American* trade opportunities in Bulgaria? Basing the conclusions upon the progress hitherto made by Bulgaria and upon information supplied by people of wide and varied commercial and financial experience, I do not hesitate to draw the attention of American business men to Bulgaria as a promising and remunerative field for American commercial and financial activities in the future. It is a small country, with an area of 43,629 square miles (including the recently acquired territory), and a population of over 5,000,000, but it is a growing country, animated by the desire to develop its resources and expand its activities in the direction of steady, diligent, and peaceful progress. In the development of various industries, mining operations, and railway extension a great deal more could be done if the necessary capital were forthcoming. Bulgaria does not boast of great capitalists, and in order to draw foreign capital its Government is always ready to grant concessions for various enterprises on just and reasonable terms. Recently, in granting a concession for a railway line to the Ægean Sea and the construction of harbours there, it guaranteed 10 per cent. profit on the capital. Agricultural implements, machinery of various kinds, wood and its by-products, boots and shoes, and many other kinds of goods can find in Bulgaria a good market. To ascertain precisely what is needed and in what proportion must be a matter of special study and investigation on the spot.

Banking.

I think it is generally conceded that the development of commerce follows the establishment of banks, which are to facilitate financial transactions and act as pioneers in opening up new fields for the investment of capital. The absence of an American bank in Bulgaria and of direct banking connections between the two countries is a great drawback to the expansion of Americano-Bulgarian commerce. An American bank in Bulgaria will certainly obviate many of the difficulties which hamper commerce between the United States and Bulgaria, and will prove a profitable, as well as a useful, institution in many other ways.

Shipping.

Considering the great distance that separates Bulgaria from the United States, it is essential for the regular and progressive development of commercial relations between the two countries to have easy and rapid communications. To further this end it is of prime importance to establish a regular steamer service between the Bulgarian port of Dedeagatch, on the Ægean Sea, and New York, and occasional services might be maintained even to the two Bulgarian ports, Burgas and Varna, on the Black Sea.

In the last place, I would recommend that in the beginning, at any rate, a fair and reasonable amount of credit should be given to solid and well-tried Bulgarian commercial firms against proper guarantees. It is this custom or method of giving discreetly credit to merchants who do not possess large capital at their command, but are good enough and honest enough to stand by their obligations, that has helped German and other firms to get hold of the Bulgarian market. The policy of "cash down" may be sound and safe, but you have to adapt your methods to the customs and conditions of the people you are dealing with.

WAR ON GERMAN TRADE.

In connection with the campaign undertaken by the Board of Trade, on the advice of the Advisory Committee on Commercial Intelligence, to assist British manufacturers and merchants to secure trade formerly in the hands of Germans or Austro-Hungarian firms, the Board continues to receive a very large number of inquiries for the names of sellers or buyers of articles.

Special arrangements have been made in the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade for dealing with these inquiries, and lists are prepared and circulated of articles which inquirers desire (a) to purchase, and (b) to sell. List 29 is now ready.

* Though the article is primarily intended for American consumption the advice proffered applies equally to British trade.—ED. *N.E.*

Engineering Notes.

American Proposals for the Water Supply of Athens.

In spite of the wearisome exchange of "strong" and "final" Notes between Washington and Berlin, the war storm in Europe has had a very beneficial effect on American economics. Never has there been such "hustle" in American industry and commerce, and the activity of the American commercial traveller has been rewarded with excellent results, while the agents and representatives of contractors and engineering firms have been studying the prospectuses and plans of railways, waterworks, harbours, tramways, etc., which are to be constructed in several parts of the Near East. The waterworks of Athens, which but for the withdrawal of M. Venizelos from the Government would now have been in progress, have also attracted the attention of American engineering firms, and General Wilson, representing an enterprising firm of contractors of New York, has recently visited Athens for the purpose of studying the plans, etc., which the Greek Government possesses for the supply of Athens and Piræus with water taken from Lake Stymphalia and the river Mellas. His impression is that his company could undertake and complete the works in three years, instead of five, which is the time limit in the prospectus. He communicated the details to his company, and was informed that a party of engineers, with the vice-president, will soon proceed to Athens to carry out local surveys for their guidance and for the formation of the company's proposals. It was stated that General Wilson said that the firm of Pierpont Morgan has an interest in his company, which has up to now carried out works to the value of 150 million dollars.

A Substitute for Brass.

With the increasing demand for munitions of war and the consequent urgent need of certain metals a situation has been created that few, if any, of the living scientists and engineers expected to see. Brass is mostly needed, but brass is a compound metal containing two-thirds copper to one-third zinc, and as zinc is now scarce and consequently very dear, a substitute of this alloy would be greatly appreciated by the manufacturers of munitions of war. The substitute, apparently, is found in the aluminium bronzes, which are now much cheaper to manufacture than the brasses, and in certain respects are superior to the latter. Moreover, whereas brass requires percentages of zinc varying between 30 and 40, the aluminium bronzes require only from 7 to 10 per cent. aluminium to produce properties of the same general character. The founding of these alloys, however, presents difficulties different from those associated with the casting of brasses, difficulties which centre round the tenacious film of alumina which is formed on the surface of the molten alloy, and which have to be overcome before satisfactory castings can be produced. On this point Professor Carpenter, of the Royal School of Mines, in his paper on "The Production of Castings to Withstand High Pressures," published some time ago in the "Proceedings" of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, gives some very valuable advice. "The aluminium bronzes," he says, "should be poured as quietly as possible, and every care should be taken to prevent the metal from being agitated after it has entered the mould. With care and a little practice castings can be made with regularity that are absolutely free from dross, if the following precautions are adopted:—(1) The metal should be poured very slowly; (2) the gate should be so arranged that the metal enters the mould at the lowest possible point. Any form of gate will do, but it is decidedly advantageous to provide a sort of well at the bottom, and use rather a narrow opening; and (3) in the case of greensand moulds, wet sand must be guarded against, particularly in the lower parts of the mould where the metal rests on the sand. If a rather close sand is used it is far safer to dry the surface of the lower part of the mould. Under these conditions the metal enters the mould quietly; and the final result is a casting with a thin and approximately uniform skin of alumina containing perfectly clean metal inside." By the use of this excellent substitute for brass the use of zinc for the production of alloys should, under present circumstances, be restricted to those in which the metal is absolutely necessary.

History of Aluminium.

It seems odd that the "expensive metal" aluminium which until recently was used in the manufacture of jewelry should now be used as a substitute for the "common" old zinc! It was as far back as 1809 that Sir Humphry Davy predicted that in the future a metal would be extracted from the common substance alum. To this metal he gave the name aluminium. However, though its birth was predicted by an Englishman, a German, Dr. Wöhler, first discovered a method of obtaining free aluminium. That was in 1827; in 1854 a French chemist, De Ville, produced the metal from its chloride at a cost of 1s. per ounce; whilst in 1887 Heroult, in Europe, and Hall, in America, took out patents for the electrolytic production of aluminium, and from that date may be reckoned the commercial life of the aluminium industry. The electrolytic production of aluminium at a low cost necessitates a plentiful supply of water power, and consequently one finds but few aluminium plants in England. Two or three years ago the annual output of aluminium was recorded as follows:—Aluminium Company of America, 12,000 tons; Aluminium Industrie Gesellschaft, Neuhausen, 5,000 tons; Soc. Electro-Metallurgique Française, 6,000 tons; British Aluminium Company, 4,500 tons; eight other companies producing 6,200 tons; making a gross total of 34,700 tons. The industry has rapidly increased, in recent years, in the East, particularly so in India—Madras and Bombay. The local working of aluminium was first started in the Madras School of Arts in 1898. Since then a considerable business has developed, and in 1903 it was taken over from the Madras School of Arts by an Indian company.

Trans-Grecian Railway to India.

I learn (says the London correspondent of the *Dundee Advertiser*) that the railway line which is to connect Greece with the rest of Europe is now nearly complete, and will be opened to traffic next month. It will then be possible to travel from Paris to the Piræus in something less than sixty hours, and a saving of about thirty hours each way will be effected in the Indian mail service. The new railway, which was opened as far as Larissa in 1908, will also provide a better and quicker route from England to Egypt and India. It has already enabled travellers to visit such sites as Tanagra, celebrated for its figurines, Thebes and Livadia, and the battlefield of Chæronea. This portion of the line has also provided a new route to Delphi, hitherto accessible by sea alone, and has brought Chalkis and the lovely island of Euboca, with the remains of classic Eretria, within a few hours of Athens. The railway company has done its best to emphasize the classical aspects of this route by adopting a double nomenclature for its stations. Side by side with the modern names are the ancient appellations, with their reminiscences of Aristophanes and the tragedians, the historic Pass of Thermopylæ, the Catalan Castle of Lamia, and so on.

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RAILWAYS IN ASIATIC TURKEY.

The participation of foreign capital in Turkish railway construction (says *Engineering*) will appear from the following table, and it should be remarked also that non-German capital is interested in the German undertakings :—

German Capital.

Anatolian Railway (1,032 km.).—Share capital, 135,000,000 fr. in 1913, reduced to 133,861,000 fr.; debentures, 215,365,138 fr.

Baghdad Railway (1,053 km.).—Share capital, 15,000,000 fr.; debentures, State aid, obtained in 4 per cent. debentures of the Baghdad Railway loan, third series (exclusive of destroyed portion), a total of 279,276,630 fr. The debentures of the third series, 118,896,000 fr., still remain in the company's portfolio.

English Capital.

Smyrna-Aidin Railway Company (610 km.).—Share capital, £1,800,000; debentures, £3,360,000.

French Capital.

Smyrna-Kassaba Railway, with extension, including Soma Panderma line (436 km.).—Share capital, 13,000,000 fr. and 250,000 fr. founders' shares; debentures, 70,000,000 fr.

Société Damas Hama and branches (1,226 km.).—Share capital, 15,000,000 fr.

Société de Chemin de fer de Palestine.—Share capital, 4,000,000 fr.; debentures, 10,000,000 fr.

Belgian Capital.

Mudania-Brussa Railway.—Share capital, 500,000 fr. and 500,000 fr. founders' shares; debentures, 5,000,000 fr.

The railways in Asiatic Turkey have materially advanced the industrial conditions of the country, at the same time as the increasing yield of agriculture has helped to swell the receipts of the railways. The Anatolian Railway of late years has not only not had occasion to avail itself of the guarantee per kilometre of the Government, but the Government received from the railway a sum of 546,061 fr. for the year 1913.

Taking as a whole the railways for which the Government had to provide a kilometre guarantee, it will be found that the guarantee to be paid decreases year by year. It was :—

£T.		For the year.
238,041	.....	1913-14
341,387	.....	1912-13
404,317	.....	1911-12
528,917	.....	1910-11
748,910	.....	1909-10

The above sums for the years before 1913-14 comprise also the guarantee on the European-Salonika-Constantinople line, with respectively £T129,628, £T141,983, £T158,323, and £T209,389. The building of new lines, which during the first years may have to work unprofitably, will probably at times again swell this guarantee.

EGYPTIAN RAILWAY NEWS.

The Cairo correspondent of *Railway News*, writing on June 19, says that railway earnings are at a very low ebb all over Egypt, and seem likely to remain so. There is still a heavy military traffic going on, of which the State Railways are reaping nearly all the benefit. The wounded men from the Dardanelles, and Turkish prisoners from the same place, being distributed throughout the country, also assist railway revenue.

The Egyptian State Railways are in the market for their annual coal requirements, and tenders will be received up to July 22. They require 360,000 tons of Welsh or American coal, and it is freely stated in Cairo that a very large portion of the order will, once again, go to America. North Country or Scotch coal, so largely in use on British railways, will apparently not be considered here.

Public works generally are at a standstill, but some little work is being done on the new State Railway station at Alexandria, while it has also been resumed on the improvements to the Helouan line. The State Railways are advertising the usual summer reduction in the rate for the transport of quarry stone; but in the absence of public and irrigation work and house building, there is little or no stone traffic. As showing how the war has affected goods traffic generally, it may be mentioned that the earnings from this source of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways during the year 1914-15 are stated to have been about £E75,000, as against £E103,000 during the previous year, a decrease of over 25 per cent. On the other hand, this company has, owing to careful management and judicious nursing, probably been comparatively less affected by the conditions consequent upon the war than any of the other three systems in the country, the State Railways, the Basse Egypte Railway, and the Fayoum Light Railway. At the recently held general meeting of the Cairo Electric Railway and Heliopolis Oasis Company it was announced that the net profits for last year were 485,306 frs., but the dividend is passed.

Following up the resumption of week-end tickets between Cairo and Alexandria and Cairo and Port Said, the State Railways have now reintroduced the same facility, at reduced rates, between Cairo, Tanta, and Damietta, the latter the Mediterranean port at the mouth of the right arm of the Nile.

The *Cyprus Gazette* announces that the bank notes issued on March 2 have ceased to be current and legal tender after June 30, 1915.

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EVERARD STOKES,
Manager for Egypt and the Sudan.
Telegraphic Address, "FOXHOUND," Cairo.

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FOREIGN COMPANIES IN TURKEY.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Athens, July 3.

The Turkish *Official Gazette* publishes a list of foreign companies operating in Turkey who have not complied with the provisions of the new Companies Law. The notice states that these companies, not having accepted the law, are temporarily prohibited from transacting new business in Turkey, but no restriction will be placed on the accomplishment of transactions and contracts entered into anterior to the date of the official notification. The list is as follows, no orthographic corrections having been introduced :—

Alleanza Agrippina of Cologne, Assureurs Maritimes Français, Anatoly d'Athenes, Atlas, Austro-Americana Steamship Co., Achaia Steamship Co., Alleanza de Gênes, Alliance Insurance Co., Avzania, Anglo-Syrian Trading Co.

La Bâloise à Bale, British Dominions, British and Foreign Marine Insurance Co., Berolina at Berlin, the British Re-Insurance Co., Banque Franco-Turque, Banque Française.

Campania Société Anonyme d'Assurance; Colombo Société Anonyme d'Assurances, Comité des Assureurs, Compagnie d'Assurances Generales Maritimes, La Célérité; Compagnie Viennoise, Caisse Paternelle; Confiance.

Deutsche Ruk und Mitt, Dresden, Compagnie Generale Dusseldorf of Dusseldorf.

El Dia, Essex of London, Eastern Telegraph Co., Limited.

La Foncière de Pesth, Fortuna, Foscolo Mango Co., Limited, La Federale of Zurich, Francfortoise of Frankfurt.

Generala de Bucarest, "Gauthoid," Germania of Berlin, General Life Insurance Co., George Chisnell and Sons Co., Limited, Gebr Turting, Société Anonyme Grin of Mannheim.

L'Industrielle, International Consortium of Dusseldorf, International Insurance Co.

Liverpool and Globe Insurance Co., London and Lancashire, La Securité Generale, L'Equité, La Liberale, Leslie and Godwin, Limited, Liguria de Gênes, Lloyd Allemand of Berlin, Lloyd's, Lloyd Sabendo, London Salvage Association, London and Provincial Marine and General Insurance Co., La Mondiale, La Perseverante, La Sicurita, Le Monde, S. Laprevot and Co., La Fontaine Brothers, Limited.

Maritime, Mutual Life of New York, La Mutuelle de France et des Colonies, Mutuelle Parisienne.

Norwich Union Life Insurance, National General, National Union, La Nationale, Nationale d'Athenes, North British and Mercantile, Norwich Union, New York.

Ocean Marine Insurance, Oceanos, Oriental Skin Co., Ornstein and Koppel.

Property Insurance, La Patrie, Premiere Compagnie Autrichienne d'Assurances Contre l'Incendie of Vienne, Pro Familia, Paladium.

Royal Exchange, Reliance Marine Insurance, Rhenania, Russia Transport and Insurance, Royal.

State, La Sauvegarde, Scottish Indemnity Co., Société Suisse d'Assurances Contre les Accidents of Winterthur, Sea Insurance Co., Société Generale Français d'Assurances Mutuelles, Société Mutuelle de Lyon, Le Stuttgart, Société Français des Corps Gras et Graisses Alimentaires, Société Russe d'Exportation, Société Anonyme des Chaux et Ciments, Société Commerciale et Industrielle du Naphte Caspien de la Mer Noire, Société Anonyme pour l'Exportation du Napthe; Sun.

Thames and Mersey Marine Insurance Co., Transatlantique of Berlin.

Union Assurance Society, Union Continentale at Taxim, Union Continentale pour l'Assurance des Valeurs, Union Ottomane.

Vacuum Oil Co.

Yacht Club of France, Yorkshire Insurance Co.

The shipping agencies are, of course, entirely closed down, and nearly all the insurance offices are simply attending to inquiries in connection with unexpired policies, claims, etc.

The British insurance agents are rather perturbed just now in connection with claims arising out of the recent conflagration, as under the Royal proclamation they are debarred from making any payment in Turkey. Probably the majority of the claimants are Turks, who would have no difficulty in getting a favourable judgment in the Turkish courts, and the execution of such judgments might have very serious consequences for the agents. If the funds collected by an agent since the outbreak of the war are sufficient to meet the company's liabilities, and this the authorities can ascertain from the agents' books, it will probably be a very difficult matter to refuse to pay the claims. Such refusal might involve the confiscation of the agent's own private property.

EGYPTIAN HOTELS.

In the House of Lords, on July 9, a considered judgment was given by Earl Loreburn and Lords Parker of Waddington, Sumner, and Parmoor in an appeal by Mr. James Mitchell, surveyor of taxes, against an order of the Court of Appeal in favour of the respondents in this House, the Egyptian Hotels, Limited.

The company was registered in England, and carried on business from England in Egypt, where it owned certain hotels. In 1908 resolutions were passed that the company's affairs in Egypt should be managed exclusively by a local board of management. They were to retain the profits in Egypt and remit to England what might be necessary to pay dividends to shareholders here and for expenses incurred by the London board. The London board were to keep accounts, recommend dividends, and control the capital.

The Court of Appeal, reversing the decision of Mr. Justice Horridge, held that the powers still exercised by the London board were only powers to deal with profits after they were made, and did not refer to the trade of the company; that no part of the trade was carried on in the United Kingdom; and that the company was not assessable to income-tax since 1908 except in respect of profits remitted to this country, the liability as to which there was no dispute.

From that decision the Crown appealed.

Earl Loreburn said he felt great difficulty in this case, and if any point of law had been involved he should have desired a re-argument. But the law had already been laid down in two cases by this House, and the only question was whether or not the case came within the principle. For himself, he agreed with Lord Parmoor, whose judgment he had had the advantage of reading, that it did, and that the appeal of the Crown should be allowed. He added : "It is a question of fact, and I think it is very near the line."

Lord Parker and Lord Sumner both gave judgment expressing the contrary opinion, and were for affirming the Court of Appeal.

Earl Loreburn : The House is equally divided in opinion, and I ought to say that the rule in such a case is that the appeal stands dismissed, and that no costs are allowed to either side.

Accordingly the decision against the Crown stood, no order as to costs.

The *Morning Post*, on Wednesday, published the following comment from a legal correspondent :—"The decision is of the greatest importance to hundreds of companies operating outside the United Kingdom. But very few, if any, of these companies will be able to claim the benefit of the decision, and, unless they alter their constitution, they will continue to be assessable on the whole of their profits. The reason why the Egyptian Hotels Company succeeded in having their assessment reduced was that their articles of association had been specially altered so as to leave the control and direction of the business solely with the local directors. Hence Lord Parker was able to say that 'in the absence of any act done or directed by any person resident here in participation or furtherance of the business operations in Egypt,' the trade was carried on wholly outside the United Kingdom. When the case was argued in the first instance before Mr. Justice Horridge the then Attorney-General observed that the articles of the company were ingeniously contrived, though legitimately, for the purpose. Accordingly, having regard to the fact that the Law Lords were equally divided, companies which desire to avail themselves of this decision will have to alter their articles so as to follow as closely as possible the regulations of the Egyptian Hotels Company, and in particular the London directors must be careful not to control or direct the business operations of the directors resident abroad."

COMPANY MEETINGS.

"FLOWER" MOTOR SHIP CO.

The second annual general meeting of the members of the "Flower" Motor Ship Company, Ltd., was held on Tuesday, June 29, 1915, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, London, E.C., under the presidency of Sir Marcus Samuel, Bart, the chairman of the company.

The Chairman said, inter alia : Gentlemen, it is disappointing to your directors that they are unable to submit to you any trading account, the company having derived its income during the past year from interest on capital.

The motive for the founding of this company having been to encourage the building of internal combustion engines in the United Kingdom, it is something to record and even to be proud of, that we have succeeded in enlisting the interest of two of the most prominent and enterprising of our shipbuilding firms, namely : Messrs. Swan, Hunter and Wigham Richardson, Ltd., and Messrs. Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth and Co., Ltd., who are known, not only for their enterprise, but for their fair dealing, and both have been proved in this venture, as I shall show to you. The motor vessel Arum had already been delivered to us when I last addressed you, and she had made, up to that time, satisfactory demonstration of the practicability of the design of her engine. She proceeded from London (where she then was) to Newport, and thence to the Persian Gulf. Her engines worked quite satisfactorily up to her arrival in Port Said, but subsequently many adjustments had to be made. She loaded in the Persian Gulf, where she unfortunately grounded, and thence returned to discharge her cargo in London.

After her repairs the Arum proceeded from London to Newcastle-on-Tyne, loaded a full cargo of coal for Port Said, and thence she went to Alexandria and loaded a cargo of cotton seed and onions to Hull, where she has now discharged. Constant troubles were developed with the engines.

The motor ship Arabis only commenced working on February 1. Owing to the orders of the Admiralty, she was not able to run a trial trip, and as a compromise, we arranged that she should do a trip from Newcastle-on-Tyne to Port Said, loading at Alexandria a cargo of cotton seed and onions, and this voyage she duly fulfilled. Defects also developed in the engines of the Arabis, and I am glad to say that Messrs. Swan, Hunter and Wigham Richardson, Ltd., meeting us in a broad and liberal fashion, have agreed to accept the running of these two vessels as for their account, taking over all the risks and paying to the "Flower" Company four per cent. per annum on instalments which we have paid them. They will run the boats, if necessary, for a certain period, when we shall have the option of taking them over, if (as they are confident) they make them thoroughly satisfactory. I need scarcely say that, not only do I hope they may, but from the running of the boats in the latter part of their voyages (after temporary repairs had been made at Gibraltar and Malta), there seems a good possibility of their confidence being justified.

Many very valuable lessons have been learned from the experience that we have had with these ships. In the first place, it is conclusively demonstrated that the waste heat from the engines can be profitably utilised in helping to raise steam on the donkey boilers. In the second place, the consumption of oil in the main engines has surpassed the most sanguine anticipations of economy under that head. I am convinced that the two-cycle engine will be developed from this beginning to a thoroughly practical and useful unit. The two boats carried very large quantities of onions from Egypt, and onions are perishable, but both vessels turned out their freight in splendid condition, notwithstanding the somewhat protracted voyages which they made, thus proving that for perishable cargoes these ships, having no boilers which can heat perishable goods, are a great advantage over steamers.

The Abelia, the vessel which we contracted for with Messrs. Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth and Co., Ltd., for delivery in 1914, is not yet completed, and when she is, she will not be allowed by the Admiralty to make a trial run in accordance with the terms of the

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contract. I am happy to say that here, too, the builders have met us most fairly, and have agreed that the first voyage shall be considered a trial trip, and shall be run entirely at the builders' risks, they paying five per cent. on the money which we have only just paid them in anticipation of getting the ship delivered to us. The engines of this ship, built by the Wallsend Slipway and Engineering Company, Ltd., have run a satisfactory trial at moorings, and, we hope, will demonstrate their entire efficiency in working.

As you can well understand, your directors have had great difficulty in employing your funds profitably, because we never knew when the ships would be delivered, and we had to keep our money ready in a liquid form. Under the circumstances, you will appreciate that we are doing well in being able to pay you a dividend of four per cent. for the period ended December 31, 1914, more especially seeing that £75,000 of the capital of the company was not called up until March, 1914. The dividend will be payable on July 7.

It is due to the directors and managers to again call your attention to the fact that no fees of any kind have been debited to the accounts.

NORTH CAUCASIAN OILFIELDS.

Mr. Francis Allen presided on Wednesday at the meeting of the North Caucasian Oilfields, and in moving the adoption of the report explained that the output of oil for the year, at over 22,000,000 poods, had fallen short of the estimate of 25,000,000 poods, for reasons mainly connected with the war; a large portion of their staff had been mobilized. The average price realized, at 35.04 kopecks per pood, was, as he had warned them at the last meeting, a little less than that for the previous year, but it was a very remunerative price, and one which he thought could be counted upon for the current year. As, so far, they had produced more oil than for the corresponding period of last year, while the average price still kept up, the outlook could be described as extremely satisfactory. Indeed, they were in a position to announce that an interim dividend of 1s. per share would be distributed on October 1 next. They had £200,000 on this side, or sufficient for the dividend about to be distributed, and for the interim dividend in October, with a margin to carry the company on until they paid another dividend at about the corresponding time next year. In Russia they had about 2,000,000 roubles in the bank at Petrograd, to which 260,000 roubles were being added each month. Accordingly, when they met a year hence they should have, at the normal rate of exchange, if it had been restored by then, something like half a million sterling in Russia. For the purposes of the payment of the dividend next year they would have to draw upon that sum, and no one could forecast what the rate would be then, but with the opening of the Dardanelles it would undoubtedly come down. The report was adopted.

COMPANY NOTES.

Anchor Line.

The report of the Anchor Line (Henderson Brothers), Limited, states that the various services of the company have been well maintained, considering the exceptional circumstances which have prevailed. The Indian passenger business has been seriously dislocated owing to the outbreak of war. The cargo business to the East has been rather better than usual, whilst homeward rates of freight, at a low level previous to August last, have considerably advanced since that date. The Atlantic passenger trade in both the Glasgow and Mediterranean services shows a decrease from last year's business. Since the outbreak of war the numbers carried have been small, except westbound during August. Freight earnings on both Atlantic services show an advance on last year's totals, especially on eastbound business. A large number of the company's steamers have been requisitioned for Government work, and several vessels are still thus employed. To maintain satisfactorily both the Indian and Atlantic services it has been necessary to charter tonnage, for which the company has had to pay high rates. The profits for the year amounted to £307,272, to which is added £86,962 brought forward, making £394,235. Out of this sum there has been written off for depreciation £125,866, placed to reserve account £100,000, and there has been paid debenture interest £19,121 and dividend on preference shares £16,334, leaving a balance of £132,913. The directors recommend payment of a dividend on ordinary shares at the rate of 10 per cent. and a bonus of 5 per cent., both free of tax, which will absorb £37,500, leaving £95,413 to be carried forward.

Suez Canal Company.

The Suez Canal Company has issued a denial of the report emanating from an Italian source that navigation through the canal has been reopened after a momentary interruption due to the sinking of a ship, which necessitated considerable work. The company declares that navigation through the canal has never been interrupted, as is shown by the publication of the daily receipts.

Roumanian Companies.

According to the *Curierul Financiar* (Bucharest) of May 23, the Bureau of Statistics of the Roumanian Ministry of Commerce and Industry has published statistics of the joint stock companies operating in Roumania at the end of 1913, from which the following particulars are taken:—

Since the creation of the National Bank of Roumania in 1880 there have been 197 banks formed; most of them have been established since 1900. Their subscribed capital at the end of 1913 amounted to an aggregate of 240,042,460 fr., of which 215,803,825 fr. was paid up. At the end of the 1912 working year the total funds of these banks amounted to 2,273,005,585 fr.

At the end of 1913 the industrial companies numbered 168 with a total capital of 435,967,951 fr.

There were 53 commercial companies operating in Roumania at the end of 1913 with a total paid-up capital of 40,561,992 fr. Bucharest was the headquarters of 36 of these companies with a total paid-up capital of 35,996,145 fr.

Two assurance companies were established in 1892 and five others in the following year. Their total subscribed capital amounts to 14,350,000 fr., of which 13,038,255 fr. was paid up at the end of 1913. The premium fund amounted to 80,650,217 fr., and the reserve funds to 27,576,200 fr.

Up to the end of 1913 the number of foreign companies which had obtained permission to operate in Roumania was 44; their capital amounted to 251,938,055 fr., only a portion of which was employed in Roumania. The larger number of these companies are interested in the petroleum industry, the remainder being engaged in various industries such as mining, forestry, electricity, etc.

COMPANY RESULTS, &c.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN OILFIELDS.—Gemsah production for week, 231 tons (last week 284 tons). Hurgada production for week, 240 tons (last week 274 tons).

BANK OF EGYPT.—On July 20 a fourth return of £1 per share will be made, making a total return of £7 per share.

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.—Total receipts for the ten days ended June 20 amounted to £E3,689, as against £E5,468 for the corresponding period of last year.

PRIVILEGED COMPANY TO PROTECT PRODUCTION AND TRADE IN CURRANTS.—The numbers are announced of bonds of the 5 per cent. sterling loan drawn for redemption at par on 1st prox., payable in London by Messrs. Emile Erlanger and Co., 8, Crosby Square, E.C.; also at the offices of the Bank of Athens and its branches.

SUEZ CANAL.—Traffic receipts for the 11th and 12th inst. amounted to 700,000 fr., against 590,000 fr. for the corresponding days last year.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE	Mean Price. July 27.	Min. Price. Mar. 20.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	—	89½xd
Do. 4½% do. Bonds, 1907..	82	—	—
Do. 4½% do. Bonds, 1909..	80	—	66
City of Alexandria 5%, 1909	99	—	90½
City of Constantinople 4% Bnds	96	—	—
Egypt. Gov. 3% Guar. Loan	93½	87⅛	87⅛
Egyptian 4% Unified Debt	98	85	88⅛
Do. Pref. Rd. 5%, 1890	88	78	78½
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82½	73½	78⅜
Do. 4½% State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	80⅜	75	75⅜
Greek 5%, 1881	57	52	57
Do. 5%, 1884	56	52	56⅜
Do. 4% Monopoly, 1887	49	45	49
Do. 4% Rentes, 1889	45	40	43½
Do. 5%, 1890	56	52	55
Do. 5% Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	—	51½
Do. 4% Rails. Loan, 1902	77	—	68½
Do. 5% Nat. Ln., 1907	94	—	92xd
Do. 5% Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	—	76
Montenegro 5% Loan	82½	—	—
Persian 5% Loan (1911)	91	—	80
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913, Ss., £60p.	92	—	85
Servian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—xd
Turkish Guar. 4% Loan, 1855..	103	97	—
Do. 4%, 1891	94½	—	83
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	—	74½
Do. 4% Loan, 1902	82⅜	—	—
Do. 4% Unified	79	—	54
Do. 4% Loan, 1908	65⅛	—	49⅛
Do. 4%, 1909	69	—	47⅛
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)..	4½	—	3
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7⅜	—	6⅜
Do. 3½% Bonds Red.	80	—	73
Do. 3½% Guar. Bonds Red...	83	—	76
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	—	9⅜
Bank of Abyssinia	½	—	—
Bank of Athens	£2	—	1⅜
Bank of Roumania	8½	—	—
Eastern Bank	5	—	85/-
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅜	—	6 3/32
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	—	—
Ionian Bank, Limited	37⅜	—	72/6
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	—	4½
National Bank of Egypt	13⅜	—	11⅜
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½% C.P.	8	—	no m. 6½
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8½	—	6⅜
Do. do. 5% Debs., Red.	98	—	95
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½% Debs., Ser. I.	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88½	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17⅜	—	13
Do. do. 6% Cum. Pref.	22	—	15
Do. do. 4% 1st Deb. ..	87	—	57⅜
Do. do. 5% 2nd Deb...	101	—	69
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	90	—	—
Do. do. 3% Bonds..	61	—	—
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares) ..	1 1/16	—	⅜
Do. 5% 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	—	95
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt....	¼	—	—
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	—	2
Do. Do. Def.	¼	—	—
Béhéra Co.	8¼	—	7⅜
Do. Pref.	4⅜	—	3½xd
Daira Sanieh	2/2	—	2/6
Do. Def.	⅞	—	20/-
Egyptian Agr. 5% 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	9/-	—	6/-
Do. Gov. 4% Irr. Tst.	98	—	90
Do and Foreign Trust ..	5/-	—	5/32
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	—	1
" " Founders	¼	—	—
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—	—
Do 5% Debs. Red.	—	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	9⅜	—	7⅜
Do. 4½% 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	—	87½xd
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	—	¼
Sidi Salem Co.	⅛	—	¼
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	—	⅜
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	—	-/10½
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	—	10⅞
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt..	97	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	—	—
Egyptian Hotels	1½	—	—
Do. 4½% 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—	—
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅜	—	1½xd
Do. do. 5% Debs. Red.	99⅜	—	99
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	1/16	—	13/9
Do. 5% 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	96	—	98
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	—	10/-
Do. do. Prefs.	3⅜	—	3xd
Do. do. 4½% 1st Mt. ..	90	—	85
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (fr. 500)	£179½	—	£—
Upper Egypt Hotels	2½	—	—

OIL.	Price on July 30.	July 14.
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	⅜	8/-
Anglo-Persian	22/1½	20/6
Cyprus Oil Trust	2/3	2/3
European Oilfields	4/9	3/6
Roumanian	20/-	14/9

PARIS BOURSE.

	Jan. 4.	June 30.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane ..	—	449
Canal de Suez	4050	4150
Credit Foncier Egyptien	639	585
Turkish Unified 4%	61.50	—
Egyptian Unified 4%	87.75	87.50
Serbian, 1895	—	62.75

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 220.—Vol. IX. FRIDAY, JULY 23, 1915.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The opening of the Greek Chamber has been adjourned by Royal decree to August 16. There would seem to be little doubt in Greece itself that the Government, in thus proroguing Parliament, has acted *ultra vires*, but the state of King Constantine's health is put forward as sufficient justification for violating the Constitution. Outside Greece the incident will only receive attention as an indication of the Government's determined attitude of hostility to M. Venizelos. On behalf of his party, which represents a working majority of the Chamber, M. Venizelos undertook that, if Parliament were summoned within the constitutional limit of time, he would agree to an adjournment in order that the necessary time for the re-establishment of the King's health should be given before the Cabinet resigned. M. Gounaris ignored this offer, and preferred to take advantage of King Constantine's illness. Whether the adjournment is a preliminary to the dissolution of the Chamber with a view to seeing whether fresh elections, possibly under more judicious control, would give more favourable results to the present Government, remains to be seen. M. Venizelos does not consider a dissolution probable, as he refuses to believe that the Government would go so far in flouting the wishes of the people.

It is apparent from the resignation of M. Zographos, the Foreign Minister, that M. Gounaris has not been able to carry his whole Cabinet with him in his present policy. No reasons are assigned for the resignation, but as M. Zographos was known to be sympathetic to M. Venizelos, it may be inferred that he refused to be a party to the Government's high-handed action. In this domestic quarrel the higher interests of Greece are in danger of being overlooked. It may suit the Government's purpose to maintain that it stands for the integrity of Greece, which would be jeopardised by the return to power of M. Venizelos, who was prepared to surrender territory to Bulgaria, but the contention will no longer deceive anyone. Since M. Venizelos recommended King Constantine to come to terms with Bulgaria in order that Greece might take possession of a large extent of territory in Asia Minor, much water has flowed down the Dardanelles. In resuming office the ex-Premier would in no way be pledged to the course he recommended six months ago, but his presence at the head of the Government would be a guarantee that Greece's policy would be dictated solely by the interests of the country, and not in any partisan spirit.

Before long M. Gounaris may find that, while his attention has been wholly engrossed in an attempt to outmanœuvre his political opponent, circumstances have stolen a march upon him. Although M. Venizelos is not necessarily committed to war on the side of the Quadruple Entente, M. Gounaris has used the allegation to such an extent that he has virtually bound himself to a policy of no-war-under-any-conditions. In the meantime, however, the Greek population in Asia Minor is suffering terrible hardships at the hands of the Turco-German authorities, and their wrongs are crying out for redress. In keeping with the system under which the Germans require the Turks to carry on the war, it would seem to have been decided that the whole Greek population of the coast line of Asia Minor has to be removed into the interior. The manner in which such an order is likely to be carried out by the Turks and Germans can be imagined, as well as the sufferings of the Greeks, when a town of twenty-five thousand inhabitants has to be evacuated. Moreover, the fact that the military exigencies of the measure are apt to be lost sight of in the eagerness of the Turkish civil population to possess themselves of their Greek neighbours' property adds to the bitterness of the victims. How, then, does M. Gounaris propose to deal with the problem? Diplomatic remonstrances are not likely to avail much at this juncture. They were tried before the European war broke out, when the policy of expatriating Greeks was started on a comparatively small scale, and proved a failure, in spite of the apparent goodwill of Talaat Bey. If war with Turkey becomes inevitable, how will Greece appreciate the prospect of waging it under the Gounaris Government, with the Commander-in-Chief still incapacitated by illness?

The Greeks have not been slow to point the moral of the Turkish persecution of their fellow-countrymen in Asia Minor. Germany's action in allowing her ally to exterminate the Greeks, it is remarked in the Press, prove her true feeling towards Greece, and it is asked: How can Greece count on the support of the Central Powers? She can certainly not count on any such

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support, for the reason that she is of little or no use to them. Germany derives a moral advantage from the maintenance of Greek neutrality, and the Emperor has a convenient medium in Queen Sophie for issuing his threats to neutrals. But with Greek aspirations and Greece's interests Germany has no sympathy; still less are they worth the bones of a single German soldier. The lavish distribution of German money in Greece has contrived to hide this elementary fact from some Greek politicians; but the sufferings of their fellow-countrymen in Asia Minor, whose potential value to Greece has hitherto been rated lower than that of two thousand square kilometres of territory in Macedonia, has had the effect of removing the scales from their eyes.

The issue in Bulgaria of a Ministerial order definitely suspending railway communication with Turkey may prove a more important step than would appear at first sight. Negotiations between the Bulgarian and Turkish Governments on the subject of the Dedeagatch railway have been in progress for a long time. The line in question forms a portion of the European trunk line to Constantinople. After crossing Bulgaria it enters Turkey and, following the course of the Maritza, runs to Adrianople and eventually re-enters Bulgaria where the Maritza forms the boundary between the two countries. The line to Constantinople leaves this railway at a point some twenty-five miles south of Adrianople. There is, therefore, plenty of opportunity for the Porte's authority over the section of the railway in Turkish territory to clash with Bulgarian interests. The exigencies of the war have multiplied the occasions for misunderstandings. From the Bulgarian point of view the Turks have acted in an unnecessarily high-handed manner in commandeering rolling stock and delaying the transit of Bulgarian goods, often to the detriment of the goods themselves. The Turkish officials are no doubt able to plead military necessity, but whether deliberate or unavoidable their action has proved a very serious matter to the Bulgarians.

The position of the Dedeagatch railway, as the Bulgarians recognized at the time of the Treaty of Bucharest, is a hopeless one, and would probably entail friction if angels instead of Turks administered Turkey. In the hope of making sure of Bulgarian neutrality for the duration of the war Germany has been urging the Turkish Government to meet Bulgarian wishes in regard to the railway. Unfortunately, the transfer of the line to Bulgaria entails the surrender of territory as well, and, if all difficulties are to be avoided, concerns the future status of part or the whole of the town of Adrianople, through which the railway runs. This sacrifice has proved too much for the Turks, in spite of lengthy negotiations, during which the German Government has done its best to make the Turks give way, while the German Press has assured its readers at regular intervals that there was no doubt that an amicable agreement would be reached by the two parties. If German reports are to be believed, the Turks were prepared to meet Bulgaria on every point, except the surrender of the suburb of Adrianople in which the railway station is situated. But as the retention of this area in Turkish hands would mean that Bulgarian control of the line would be broken, the Bulgarian Government has refused to give way.

It remains to be seen whether the suspension of railway communication with Turkey represents Bulgaria's trump card for bringing the negotiations to a successful conclusion, or whether it stands by itself as the first move on Bulgaria's part as the result of the collapse of the negotiations. The distinction is important. Turkey's offence has been interference with Bulgarian traffic on the line, and in particular the commandeering of Bulgarian railway trucks for her own purposes. By suspending all traffic across the frontier, Bulgaria avoids losing any more of her rolling stock, and at the same time isolates Turkey. If the action is not the prelude to a declaration of war on Bulgaria's part, it might well be a *casus belli* for Turkey, if she were able to indulge in the luxury of adding to the number of her enemies. Mr. Asquith, in asking the House of Commons on Tuesday for a supplementary vote of £150,000,000, hinted at the possibility of some of the money being required for the assistance of countries that were not yet reckoned among our Allies. It is at least fair ground for speculation whether Bulgaria intends to be the first to qualify for a share of that vote.

British confidence in Russia's ability to turn ultimately to her own advantage the fiercest assaults of the Austro-German forces is not likely to be abated by the long retreat that her armies are now required to execute. The effect of this retreat on the attitude of the Balkan States is, however, a question that forces itself upon us. It would occasion little surprise to find that Russia's difficulties had created considerable uneasiness in quarters which before were all eager for war. But this is not the case in Roumania. The "Interventionists," who must now represent a large majority of the people, have been able to view the military situation in its right perspective. Meetings continue to be held in favour of an immediate declaration of war. The risks are not ignored, but the issues at stake are realized. M. Take Jonescu has recently declared that a victory of the Entente Powers without the participation of Roumania might save Roumania material loss at the moment, but it would not save her future. If Italy had not intervened, Italy would be dead. Separation from their brothers in Hungary must no longer continue. Either they must unite and defeat Austria, or they would become vassals of Hungary.

Another Roumanian speaker touched on an equally important aspect of the situation when he reminded his countrymen that they were in danger of evading a war of salvation only to indulge in fratricidal strife and civil war. It would not be difficult to imagine what would happen in Roumania if the country were one day brought up against the stubborn fact of a Hungary at peace with the Quadruple Entente, and confirmed, under new and suitable conditions, in her possession of Transylvania. A third spokesman of the Interventionists drew attention to a point which has repeatedly been insisted upon in these columns. He accused the Government of allowing the faint-hearted among the population to be intimidated, and of handing the country over to be the prey of meddlers and intriguers. If war rarely fails to weld a nation together, the Balkans have certainly been an object-lesson of the disintegrating influence of the neutrality which Mr. Roosevelt has characterized as a timid and selfish neutrality between right and wrong.

Credit must be given to the Roumanian Government for the frankness with which it now divulges the course of the negotiations with Russia. Readers of our Bucharest Correspondent's letters can hardly fail to be struck with the remarkable way in which each step of the negotiations is apparently recorded at once in the Bucharest Press. It would seem as if the Government, having realized the mistake it made in not taking the Opposition into its confidence at the very beginning of the European war, was now anxious to make every amend in its power. While there is no need to doubt the general accuracy of these disclosures, we shall perhaps do well to remember that the Government is not likely to divulge more than suits its purpose. It would be strange if Roumania, with the experience of a year's war before her, had not learned the advantage of allowing enemies or potential enemies to know only what it is desirable they should know.

The political situation in Bulgaria is still obscure. Fortunately, the German Press has left no room for doubt that the German Government sets great store on the elimination of M. Gennadieff from Bulgarian politics. Whether its anxiety on the subject is due to righteous indignation over M. Gennadieff's alleged dealings with bomb-throwers or is in some way connected with the activities of the Gennadieff party is not stated.

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A majority of the members of the party in the Sobranje have called upon their supporters to help them in preserving unity and avoiding a split at the present moment, when Bulgaria has need of all her sons. The warning is salutary in the face of the example set by Roumania and Greece at the same time. M. Gennadieff and his party have abandoned the Russophobe tendencies they were formerly credited with, and are now warm supporters of the Quadruple Entente. M. Radoslavoff has to rely upon them for a majority in the Sobranje, and the Austro-German agents in Bulgaria seem to have made up their minds that M. Gennadieff exercises an undesirable influence over the Prime Minister's foreign policy.

Although there has been no announcement of further operations at the Dardanelles, we need not suppose that the week has passed in complete idleness there. Our present advantage over the enemy—his shortage of ammunition and increasing concern for his heavy casualties—is too valuable to be weakened by any relaxation of our efforts. But pressure on the Turkish line can be exercised effectively without giving rise to *communiqués*, and we may be content with the reflection that reinforcements will not have been sent out to the Dardanelles for no purpose. Reports of an attempt on the part of the Porte to feel its way towards a separate peace are now finding confirmation in various quarters. Turkish delegates are said to have been sent to Switzerland with a view to initiating *pourparlers* with the Quadruple Entente. There is nothing improbable in this move on the part of the Turkish Government. At the same time, it does not imply that the Turks will necessarily abandon the struggle in the near future. They are past-masters in the art of turning negotiations of this nature to their own advantage. The best arguments the Allied Powers can use will be still to hit as hard and as unintermittently as they can in Gallipoli Peninsula.

The situation in the eastern theatre of the war necessarily engrosses public attention. Of the capacity of the Austro-German forces to strike hard we have had abundant evidence, but the degree to which these terrific efforts can be sustained depends on a variety of circumstances. At the present moment they are attempting a double thrust north of Warsaw and against Lublin. The whole Russian salient resting on Warsaw is thereby threatened, and its danger may be measured by the fact that the enemy is within five or ten miles of the Lublin-Kholm railway, which runs from the Polish capital to South Russia. But even if the whole salient had to be abandoned, Germany would still be as far off as ever from disposing of the Russians, provided their line remains unbroken. The next few days will decide whether the retreat must be continued on even a bigger scale than hitherto, or whether the Austro-German forces have now pressed back the Russian spring as far as their strength enables them, and are to find that with the first relaxation of their pressure the spring starts back to recover its former position.

Private advices received from Persia as we go to press report that the Government of that country continues to observe a correct attitude in regard to the war. German agents are still actively engaged in intrigues of the kind to which the world is now quite accustomed, but in the opinion of competent judges on the spot there is no prospect of Persia being inveigled or bullied into taking any part in the hostilities. Moreover, the work of depriving the German agents of the power to do further harm appears to be going forward steadily.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, July 5.

Egypt and Munitions

Outwardly things are very quiet here, but there are indications that the somnolent aspect that always comes over the country during the summer season will not be so evident this year. Some administrations will, of course, adhere to their habit of estivation, amongst them the Ministry of Education, which has just concluded its examinations and will close its schools until the early autumn. (Its staff has been allowed to take foreign leave, and it is expected that a good proportion of the masters will avail themselves of the opportunity and join the new Army.) But others of the administrations will have their time fully occupied during the next two or three months by questions of first-rate importance. Thus the Ministry of Finance will, amongst other vital matters, have to take up the question of the moving of the next cotton crop, and will have to study ways and means of assuring an adequate increase in the revenues. The Ministry of Agriculture, which has elaborated very extensive measures for the cotton-pest campaign, will be called upon for very energetic action almost immediately, as the cotton and boll worms have already commenced their attacks; in addition, it will have to study and follow up the cereal crops with a view to ascertaining how best the country can use its productive powers. Moreover, although Egypt has no European industries proper, there is evidence that she will have to take her part in the manufacture of munitions of war of one kind or another. Already she is supplying the Dardanelles Expeditionary Force with some of its hand-grenades, and, considering the number of model workshops in the country, there is no reason why the quantity should not be greatly increased. Indeed, from what I hear, there is every intention of making Egypt fulfil in this respect her duty to the Empire whose protection she now enjoys. Thus, with the attention required by all these matters, together with the provisioning of the Dardanelles Expeditionary Force, the tending of the wounded, and the settlement of the hundred and one new questions that the war conditions are daily calling into being, the summer of 1915 will certainly not be a slack season, but will stand out prominently as one of great all-round activity.

The New British Loan.

Much interest has been evinced out here in the new British Loan, full details of which were published through the Residency. It has, however, been a great disappointment to many to find, on enquiry at the Post Offices, that nothing was known as to facilities to be offered to small subscribers. Out here, there are not many Britishers who can to-day afford to commit themselves to the payment of £100, which is the minimum subscription that can be put through the local banks, and it is much to be regretted that arrangements have not been made to extend to the Anglo-Egyptian community the same facilities as are offered at home to the small subscribers, thus enabling its members to show their patriotism. There are also many Egyptians who would like to subscribe in a small way, and whose assistance would be welcome from the moral point of view, and it is to be hoped that the attention of the authorities will be drawn to this omission before it is too late.

The Progress of Education.

A law has just been promulgated, fixing the payment of an annual fee of £E15 by every student admitted to the Sultanieh Training College. This may be regarded as a distinct sign of the times. Time was when education in this country carried with it no obligation

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to pay fees, when, in fact, pupils were fed and generally supported by the State. That was in the days when the masses did not realise the benefits of education and could only be persuaded to send their children to school if that did not entail any expense on their part, and if, in addition, they were relieved of some of the cost of the maintenance of their offspring. Considerable progress has been made since then—as is evidenced by the fact that 1,074 candidates sat for the secondary certificate in 1914, as against 447 in 1905—and the number of students desiring admission to the various schools has increased to such an extent that the system of gratuitous education has been abolished and gradually replaced by one under which fees of varying amounts are exacted.

But, while the benefits of education became more appreciated those of higher and technical education took longer to dawn on the general public. In turn, however, the higher schools, such as the Polytechnic, and those of Law and Medicine, all attracted students, with the result that, if only to keep down the demands for admission, the system of fees had to be introduced. Unfortunately, the training colleges did not follow suit, which was a great pity, as the State was very much in need of Egyptian masters of every grade. When, in 1903, the payment of fees was laid down as a condition of admission to the various professional colleges, it was stipulated that students entering the Khedivial (as it was then known) Training College should be exempted if they undertook to devote themselves to a teaching career for seven years after their graduation. Even that did not attract candidates—in 1905 the college had scarcely any students—and monthly subventions had in addition to be offered. The reason for this was that a professional career held out very meagre prospects. The progress of education in other branches has since enabled the position of Government teachers to be vastly improved, and a good future now lies before all who decide to follow a teaching career. The effect of this is to be seen in the number of students entered at the college—232 as against 69 in 1909—and in the fact that, although as a measure of economy the monthly subventions were suppressed last September, this did not affect the number of candidates for admission, 137 presenting themselves for the 72 vacancies in the college. This prompted the Ministry of Education to decide on introducing the system of fees referred to; and, setting aside the financial advantage to the State, one cannot help thinking that it has taken a very wise step; for now that the flow of candidates has been assured by the good prospects offered of employment by the State, it is the duty of the latter to see that it recruits its teaching staff from the best elements of society, and to take steps to raise the prestige of that staff by putting it on a level with the graduates from the other professional colleges. This the new law has done, and the innovation seems to have given general satisfaction.

CAIRO, July 12.

The Attempt on the Sultan's Life.

For the second time since his accession last December, and almost three months to the day since the first occasion—April 8—an attempt was made on the life of Sultan Hussein on Friday last as he was driving Ras-el-Tin Palace to perform the customary weekly prayer at the Sidi Abdel Rahman Ben Hermez Mosque. The Sultan's carriage was proceeding down the Ras-el-Tin Street, and had got to within a hundred yards or so of the mosque when, suddenly, from the first floor of a three-storeyed house there was hurled at it a bomb, which hitting, some say, one of the horses, others, the pole, fell to the ground without exploding. His Highness continued his way to the mosque, performed his devotions there, and returned to the Palace, where after lunch he received the congratulations of his family, the Ministers, Sir Henry McMahon, Sir Ronald Graham, and many others. The Sultan subsequently went for his usual afternoon drive, during the whole of which he was acclaimed by the crowd. Both immediately after the attempt and during the rest of the day his Highness displayed the most remarkable fortitude and coolness.

Immediately after the attempt the police seized the bomb and raided the house from which it had been thrown. But no one was to be found on the premises; the would-be assassin had managed to escape. Numerous arrests were made, mostly of people at or near the scene of action, and an inquiry was at once opened by the Procureur-General. From the information now available it would appear that the attempt had been carefully prepared. The criminal, whose full description is in the hands of the police, and who is understood to be a young Egyptian of about twenty-five years of age, came down to Alexandria on four occasions, the first being on June 20, and the last on the eve of his attempt. He evidently studied the topography of the neighbourhood of Ras-el-Tin, and, finding that the house from which he committed his crime was well suited for the purpose, he, on his penultimate visit to Alexandria, signed a contract for two months with the proprietor, to whom he paid the full rent in advance. The house was unfurnished, and in response to the landlord's inquiry, Mahmoud Hilmy, which was the name he assumed, stated that his furniture would come down later on with his family. Further to disarm suspicion—if any, indeed, existed at the time—he had the inside of the house whitewashed. Evidence has been forthcoming that the assassin effected his escape by way of the roof, which, as it happened, had some steps which facilitated access to the adjoining roof—another feature that no doubt prompted the choice of this building. He appears to have climbed over a couple of houses and then come to earth, for four native women who were visiting a house further down the street testified that they met on the staircase a young Egyptian whose description corresponded with that given of Mahmoud Hilmy by the landlord, and who greeted them so politely that they thought he was a relative of their friends.

The inquiry is proceeding apace, and the authorities are confident that they will very soon be able to produce the culprit. Various arrests have been made—those persons taken into custody immediately after the attempt have been released on bail—mostly of students, suspicion lying, for obvious reasons, on the students of the Law School who were expelled some little while back. A notorious extremist, named Ismail Hilmy, has also been arrested in Cairo, as he could not satisfactorily account for his movements on the night preceding the attempt and the day thereof. From the evident care with which the whole coup was planned, and from the fact that a new weapon—a bomb—was used this time, the authorities seem disposed to think that this is no individual and isolated act, and that others are implicated therein; but it is, of course, impossible to say anything definite either way at the present juncture, although, from what I can gather, there has for some time been reason to fear that some attempt on the Sultan's life would be made in Alexandria.

That the Sultan had had a narrow escape from being blown to pieces was shown when the bomb was tested in the laboratory. It proved to contain a most deadly explosive, and his Highness owed his life solely to the fact that the fuse was not well set before the projectile was thrown, and so became extinguished during its progress through the air.

Deep sympathy, accompanied by intense indignation at the odious form of the attempt, is expressed in all Egyptian—and, of course, European—circles with the Sultan, whose complete devotion to his country and his subjects is freely attested to, and who, it is agreed, deserves better of his people than to be harassed in this manner. His courageous bearing in these trying circumstances is but what one might expect from a man of his temperament, and it has aroused the profound admiration of all classes. On the occasion of the first attempt I explained the attitude which certain elements had assumed towards the new régime; but, hostile as they might be to it, they would scorn to countenance the adoption of extreme measures as a means to obtain a return to the *status quo ante*, and the result has been once again to draw the Sultan nearer to his people and to the very elements who previously looked upon him with disfavour. The attempt on the Sultan's life is by no means symptomatic of the feeling of the Egyptians towards him—the spontaneous outburst of relief when

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the news of his escape was published proves that—but it is solely the act either of a misguided *exalté*, who believes he has a holy mission to perform, or of unfortunate victims to influences from without the country.

Female Enemy Subjects.

This week the G.O.C. issued a notification to the effect that German and Austrian female subjects must not change their registered address or move outside the town or village in which they are registered unless they first obtain the permission of the police. That this action should be taken in regard to female enemy subjects may appear strange, but to those acquainted with the circumstances the necessity for some such step has been apparent for some time. The enemy women still domiciled in this country, especially the Germans, have throughout been every whit as dangerous and as active in the interests of their *Vaterland* as their men-folk now interned at Malta and elsewhere. In fact, there is every reason to believe that some of them, who in normal times proved most capable managers of the businesses of their husbands and male relatives, have during the latter's enforced absence carried on an insidious anti-Entente propaganda, and conveyed information in a manner that no man could ever have contrived. So patent and notorious has been the danger that action has repeatedly been called for. The authorities will now be better able to control this dangerous element, but so bitter and so active are these women that nothing short of internment would meet the situation. That step may come in the near future, or in its stead may come expulsion, which would be just as effective. It is to be hoped that the above notification may be regarded as an indication that the authorities are at last awaking to the fact that enemy women, owing to the peculiar temperament of the sex, are even more to be feared than enemy men, and that a good deal of the mischief done hitherto, both here and at home, and attributed to the latter, must in reality be laid at the door of the former.

Prisoners of War in Egypt and Syria.

The manager of the Imperial Ottoman Bank in Beyrout, who is a Swiss, has been paying a visit to this country. It is stated—though officially no confirmation can be obtained—that he has been entrusted by Djemal Pasha with the mission of arranging with the British military authorities for the exchange of some of the Allied subjects arrested in Syria with an equivalent number of Turkish prisoners interned at Meadi. One of the conditions is to be that those of the latter who are sent back to Syria are not to be called upon to fight during the duration of the war. It is to be hoped that the mission will prove successful—although it is doubtful whether any reliance can be placed on the fulfilment of the above-mentioned condition by the Turks—as, according to all accounts, the Allied prisoners in Syria are suffering great privations.

Apropos of the Turkish prisoners in Cairo, one of the officers succumbed to his wounds at the Red Crescent Hospital this week. He was accorded full military honours, the body being placed on a gun-carriage covered with the Ottoman flag, a religious service being held in the Saida Zenab Mosque, and an escort of Egyptian cavalry and infantry, with a band, being provided. Three volleys were fired over the grave after the interment. The action of the military authorities has made a most excellent impression on Egyptians of every shade and denomination.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

Subscribers to "THE NEAR EAST" who have left the Ottoman Dominions since the war will oblige by notifying the Manager of their new address as early as possible, so that the supply of the paper should not be unduly interrupted.

"THE NEAR EAST" has largely increased its circulation in the United Kingdom since the war, and the Management is convinced that there are many people still who would be glad to know of its existence. Specimen copies will be forwarded post free if the names and addresses of friends are sent to the Manager, at 16-17, Devonshire Square, E.C.

NEWS OF THE LEBANON.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

ALEXANDRIA, July 11.

The news of the resignation of the Mutessarif of Mt. Lebanon has been confirmed. As stated in the first reports, this resignation was due to the pressure brought to bear upon him by the Turkish military authorities. Ever since Turkey's declaration of war, the privileged Mountain has been invaded by Turkish troops, and most of its privileges were thus annulled. Most of the towns dominating the sea have been converted into military stations, where batteries were installed, trenches dug, and defensive preparations made. Aley, the well-known summer resort, has been turned into the Army Headquarters.

The members who now constitute the Administrative Council have been appointed by the Turkish Commander-in-Chief, with the result that the Council has to conform to military instructions. Naturally, such a step, which is utterly subversive of the prestige and dignity of the Governor-General, provoked resentment and disgust amongst the Lebanese, and I have been informed that on two previous occasions Ohannes Effendi had tendered his resignation, but that in view of Italy's neutrality and the fact that Italy is a signatory to the Lebanon protocol, the Turks did not deem it advisable to accept it. This barrier has now practically disappeared.

THE LEBANON HOSPITAL FOR MENTAL DISEASES.

In a circular letter issued on behalf of the Lebanon Hospital for Mental Diseases, the General Secretary, Miss A. M. Gooch, writes :—

"The Committee of the Lebanon Hosptial have postponed the usual annual report and meeting until the autumn, owing to the difficulty of getting necessary details from Beyrout earlier. The work at Asfuriyeh has gone on without interruption through these trying months of war conditions. Although one pavilion has been closed to reduce expenses there has been an average of 110 patients under care and treatment. The British doctor and matron have been allowed to remain in charge, and the hospital is flying the Red Cross flag by permission of the Turkish authorities, who have shown much kindness and consideration. Provisions are an exorbitant price in Syria, and difficult to get, but they have been obtained, and it is a matter for great thankfulness to God that in the midst of so much distress the hospital has been able to keep its doors open.

"In making up the income and expenditure account it is found that there is a deficit of about £400. This is largely brought about by the decrease in patients' payments, and the increasing cost of provisions, both of which are attributable to the war. The Committee appeal to your generous help to enable them to meet the largely increased demands on the funds of the institution."

To meet the need of making the hospital and its work more widely known and suported, a booklet has been prepared, of which copies may be obtained on application to the office of the institution, 35, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.

MILITARY TRAINING IN SERBIA.

Speaking at Reading on Tuesday, M. Miyatovitch, the former Serbian Minister at the Court of St. James, said that in Serbia every man passed through military training. Out of a population of four millions of men Serbia could put a fully-equipped army of four hundred thousand in the field. If Great Britain had followed that example they might have had six millions in the field.

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SUDAN NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Dr. Andrew Balfour's New Appointment.

On Thursday last, the 15th, Dr. Andrew Balfour, C.M.G.—now become Lieutenant-Colonel—left England for the Dardanelles, a member of a strong Sanitary Commission charged with the important task of providing against eventualities among the troops engaged in that part of the fighting area. So far, our brave fellows have only been troubled with malignant malaria; but there is the possibility that worse diseases may soon have to be met and overcome. No better choice could have been made than in the case of Colonel Balfour, who has already seen service as a civil surgeon in the South African War, 1900-1901. In connection with his work then, he obtained the medal with three clasps. It was, however, in connection with his splendid services at the Wellcome Laboratories at Khartoum that Dr. Balfour won the esteem and admiration of the scientific world; and he is now recognised as one of the foremost authorities on tropical diseases and sanitation. For twelve years he devoted himself to the direction of the Khartoum Laboratories, and it was during his régime that the institution achieved the success which has made it so famous. At the same time Dr. Balfour filled the position of Medical Officer of Health at Khartoum and Sanitary Adviser to the Sudan Medical Department. In 1913, to the great regret of the Sudan Government, Dr. Balfour retired from the directorship of the Wellcome Laboratories, and was appointed Director-in-Chief of the newly founded Wellcome Bureau of Scientific Research (in Henrietta Street, London). It is said by competent authorities that there has now been got together at this institution one of the most remarkable and valuable scientific collections in the world.

One of Dr. Balfour's most successful innovations in connection with scientific research work in the Sudan was the Floating Laboratory, suggested and designed by him. It is fitted with wire-screened living-rooms on the upper deck to protect the staff from mosquitoes and other insect pests. The barge upon which it is erected, and a steam launch to tow it from place to place, were provided by the Sudan Government. Members of the staff are now enabled to cruise upon the Blue and White Niles and their various tributaries, including the Bahr-el-Ghazal and Sobat Rivers, and thus penetrate the most deadly regions to obtain valuable information and to study and deal promptly on the spot with specimens and materials collected, and thus carry the war into the enemy's camp. Thanks to his skill and the thoroughness of his methods, Dr. Balfour was enabled to exterminate malaria-carrying mosquitoes at Khartoum, just as Surgeon-General Gorgas did at Panama, by means of a thoroughly organised system for searching out the breeding-places and destroying the larvæ. The sleeping sickness researches, conducted both in the Khartoum laboratories and in the field, have also proved of immense value in checking that dread disease.

Slavery Repression.

The post of Inspector, Repression of Slave Trade Department, of the Sudan Government, vacant since the lamented death of Captain the Hon. Maurice Patrick Macnaghten, which occurred last May, has been filled by the appointment of Captain D. S. B. Thomson, formerly Second Inspector at Roseires, in the Sennar Province. The appointment dates from January 1 last. The Repression of Slave Trade (known as Horrieh) remains an important branch of Government, under the administration of the Civil Secretary's Department. It formerly had a staff of a director and three inspectors; this year, however, the post of director was not filled, but a fourth inspector appointed. The remaining three officials are:—Mr. A. N. Wilkinson, who has been in the service of the Government since the early days of 1911, but who is now on leave upon medical grounds; Mr. F. Atterbury, who is stationed in Egypt; and Captain H. E. Dumbell, formerly Senior Inspector, under the governorship of Captain C. H. Townsend, at Kassala. Captain Dumbell is stationed at Khartoum. The Department maintains representatives at El Obeid, Suakin, Roseires, and Khartoum.

Three Government Inspectors—two from the Upper Nile Province, and one from that of Mongalla—have just been retransferred to the Army. They are Captain C. H. F. Cox, Second Inspector, stationed at Abwong, and Captain J. L. F. Tweedie, stationed at Khartoum, from the Upper Nile Province; and Captain C. W. Spinks, stationed at Amadi, from Mongalla. Both Captain Cox and Captain Spinks have been two years in the Government service, while Captain Tweedie joined at the end of 1909. Another officer who has rendered very valuable services to the Administration in connection with the Veterinary Department, and who also has been retransferred to the Army, is Captain F. Roche-Kelly, formerly stationed at Khartoum, but whose headquarters were at Wad Medani, in the Blue Nile Province. He has just completed two years' service.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Cyprus, July 10.

A Proclamation has been published under date of the 6th inst. prohibiting the exportation of all goods whatsoever to Bulgaria. The reason for this is not generally known, and is naturally being much discussed.

Fever Outbreak.

Some thirty to forty cases of typhoid fever are reported in Nicosia. These annual outbreaks reflect discredit upon the water supply, which may not inaptly be termed "a running sore." Water rights are a perennial fount of litigation, to which there seems to be no finality, and from which no satisfaction is ever gained, least of all by that great body of outsiders, the water consumers. There has lately been an important case before the Supreme Court, which it was hoped might eventuate in some practical result of public benefit. But the summer vacation has "intervened," and the case stands adjourned till November, by which time a hundred circumstances may easily arise to render it necessary to begin the proceedings *de novo*.

Our Wounded Soldiers.

Some 160 fresh convalescent soldiers arrived yesterday and proceeded to Mount Troodos, and fifty to sixty left to return to the front. In order to spare them the hot and tedious rail journey from Famagusta the last batch was landed at Karavostassi, a small port at the southern end of Morphou Bay, on the west of the island. There they were at once placed in motor ambulances, which quickly conveyed them out of the heat zone and, we hope, enabled them to accomplish the journey in comparative comfort. The port is exposed, and landing there will very much depend upon the state of wind and sea.

Lady Clauson, as representative of the Red Cross Society, has appealed for comforts for the convalescents, such as tobacco, cigarettes, razors, combs, slippers, stationery, books, newspapers, etc., and considerable quantities of these have been contributed by various residents. We understand that a sum of £400 has been placed by the Red Cross Society at the disposal of the authorities here for the benefit of the wounded warriors.

The Mails.

The mails from as well as to England are now being delivered in eight days, as before the war. This is a great boon, as news is more than ever eagerly looked for, and for many months past it has been a sore trial to receive letters and papers a fortnight old.

SEDITION IN EGYPT.

Reuter's Cairo correspondent telegraphs that the following proclamation was issued on July 18 by General Sir J. G. Maxwell:—

"Every person who has knowledge of the existence of any plot against the established order of the Government or who has knowledge of the identity of any person or persons concerned in such a plot or guilty of any offence directed against the established Government, is hereby required to communicate without delay to the nearest civil or military authority the information in his possession. Failure to comply with this order renders persons liable to be dealt with under martial law, as does harbouring the persons concerned or aiding them to escape justice."

FRANCO-ROUMANIAN FRIENDSHIP.

On the occasion of the National Fete (July 14) Mons. G. Diamandy, Deputy of Bucharest, President of the Franco-Roumanian Friendship Committee, who was chief of the Mission sent to Paris in January last by Mons. Bratiano, addressed the following telegram to the Franco-Roumanian Committee at Paris:

"On the occasion of your National Fete, I transmit the most sincere wishes for the glory of France and the victory of her arms. Have confidence! We have very clear feelings of our responsibility as well as of our patriotic and international duties. I can only ask you to believe in the good will and conscience of the Roumanian people. Long live great and noble France! In our hearts we are with you."

In response to this message, the Franco-Roumanian Committee sent the following telegram:

"We thank you very sincerely for the wishes you express for the success of our arms. We have full confidence that Roumania, as you say, is conscious of her destiny and her responsibilities. The Allies are fighting in the name of right, for liberty and justice. The Latins of the Orient cannot disinterest themselves from the sacred cause, closely bound up with the realisation of their national aims. That soon, in victorious Latinity, France may have the pleasure of saluting great Roumania."

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BULGARIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Sofia, July 6.

The Negotiations with the Entente.

The Entente Powers have not yet given a reply to the Note of the Bulgarian Government delivered on June 15 by Dr. Radoslavoff himself to their representatives here. Consequently the negotiations are at a standstill. Some politicians here ascribe this to the circumstance that the contents of the Bulgarian reply were telegraphed from Berlin to the Greek Minister at Rome one day before its delivery. This diplomatic scandal, it is said, has caused much annoyance to the Entente Powers, and the present deadlock is the result. Moreover, it is alleged that some war materials for Turkey are passing through this country, which creates great dissatisfaction.

British Minister's Departure.

The British Minister, Sir Henry Bax-Ironside, K.C.M.G., gave a farewell dinner last Saturday, at which there were present: The Prime Minister; the Chief of the King's Personal Cabinet, M. Dobrovitch; the Court Marshal, General Savoff; the Russian, French, Italian, Serbian, and Greek Ministers, and some of the leading Bulgarian statesmen. Sir Henry and Lady Bax-Ironside are leaving on Thursday, the 8th inst., and will travel to London by way of Nish and Salonika.

The Death of the Exarch.

Last Saturday, July 3, the death occurred here, at the age of seventy-five, of his Beatitude the Bulgarian Exarch, Joseph I., who since 1877 had been head of the Bulgarian National Church and leader of the destinies of the whole nation. His Beatitude had been suffering from weak heart and kidney complaint, but he was able to attend to business up to five days before his death, and his last hours were tranquil and free from pain. Surrounded by his nearest relatives and ecclesiastics, he dismissed his physicians, who had tried by all available means to strengthen the action of his heart, and asked to have the Holy Communion administered. On Saturday, at 1.30 p.m., in the presence of all the bishops and members of the Holy Synod, his Beatitude donned his sacerdotal garments, took the Communion, and said the prescribed prayers. Immediately afterwards all those present kissed his hand and received his last exhortations. He declared himself perfectly happy before the end, and after conversing calmly for some forty minutes, he breathed his last, quite peacefully, at half-past three.

His death has plunged the whole nation into deep mourning, and Sofia is draped in black. The Lying-in-State, at the Chapel of St. Synode, is being attended by great crowds of the public as well as by representatives of King Ferdinand and by the Cabinet Ministers. The funeral will take place on Thursday, and the body will be laid in a special tomb at the Cathedral Church of Sveta Nedelia.

A Great Patriot.

All the newspapers devote much space to the life and work of the Exarch. Dr. Gennadieff, the former Minister for Foreign Affairs, who was on terms of intimacy with his Beatitude, published yesterday in his journal, the *Volya*, a leading article upon his career, from which I extract the following passages:—

The instalment of his Beatitude at Constantinople was a political act, the ultimate object of which was the liberation of Macedonia. Joseph I. was pre-eminently of a political bent, and hesitated not a moment, but went to the Turkish capital; and there for thirty-six years he personified the unity of the Bulgarian nation.

His position was extremely delicate: as a Turkish State functionary he owed loyalty to the Porte; as representative of the Bulgarian nation it was his duty to stand for the national interests, to work in harmony with the Government at Sofia; and, furthermore, as representative of Orthodoxy he was called upon to maintain good relations with Russia, protectress of Orthodoxy in Turkey. In addition to all these requirements, he had to steer a course amidst the storms that raged in the early years of the Bulgarian State.

Placed by his position and his intellect outside parties and over them, he pursued his object untiringly. The foundation-stone of his policy was: "Be strong in Bulgaria, have a strong army and a bold diplomacy, and I will be strong in Constantinople." The strong man who, like him, understood the interests of Bulgaria, and, like him, was entirely devoted to the national cause, appeared in Sofia in the person of Stambuloff. Although they had sharp conflicts, the two worthy sons of Bulgaria understood one another, and co-operated in complete fashion. . . . Later, in 1908, the late Exarch stated to prominent politicians that in 1897, during the Greco-Turkish war, he felt the need of a mind to understand him and of a hand to support him. But, alas! Stambuloff was no more.

In 1903, during the great insurrection in Macedonia, the Exarch was summoned to Yildiz, and Tahsin Pasha, in the name of the Sultan, demanded that he should issue a circular to his flock, as the Greek patriarch had done, counselling them to be peaceful and obedient. Then Joseph I. was sublime. He said: "Tell His Majesty that I will not issue any circular. Whom shall I invite to be obedient? The priests whom your authorities are persecuting, the schoolmasters whom you have cast into dungeons, or the peaceful population who, exasperated by the injustice, the abuses, and the arrests for which your agents are responsible, have raised their heads?" The same evening an aide-de-camp of the Sultan brought to the Exarch a high Order and the expression of the Sultan's gratitude for this frankness.

This giant, self-exiled in Constantinople, as a guardian of the national interests, firm in the execution of his duty, felt for a transient moment supreme happiness. On November 17 and 18, 1912, the thunder of Bulgarian guns was felt in Constantinople. But it was only for a fleeting moment. Representing and personifying the generation that maintained the most formidable struggles without tasting the fruits of victory, he dies without seeing his work crowned by success. His spirit departs in the bright ray that heralds the liberty and union of the Bulgarian nation.

The Death of Colonel von Leipzig.

A distinguished traveller who arrived here yesterday from Constantinople relates that the German Military Attaché in that city, Colonel von Leipzig, whose death was officially announced as a case of suicide, was actually assassinated, in the following circumstances:—On June 28 he left Constantinople on his way to Sofia, to succeed the German Minister here, and it is stated that he was the bearer of some documents by which Turkey was voluntarily ceding to this country the territory up to the Enos-Midia line. Enver Pasha, it seems, had consented to this course, but Talaat Bey and others were strongly opposed to it, and they despatched an emissary to assassinate Colonel von Leipzig. When the train arrived at Uzun-Keupru station someone asked the Colonel to come to the buffet to hear a message. He consented, but hardly had he stepped from the train when two revolver shots rang out, and he fell instantly, shot through the chest.

HOSPITAL WORK IN MONTENEGRO.

A member of the Sanitary Commission recently sent to Montenegro by the Wounded Allies Relief Committee has lately written as follows to the committee concerning its two typhus units despatched at the request of the Montenegrin Government. "I left Cettinje at 6 a.m. for Niksitch, where . . . . I chose the buildings for our work, the schools for the hospital and the gymnasium for the staff. I arranged with the local authorities thoroughly to whitewash out both buildings and to put them both into repair. I asked for 20 Austrian prisoners to act as orderlies, and arranged for a camp disinfecting apparatus to be erected in the courtyard. There was no kitchen belonging to the schools, so one is being built. They also promised to provide six large wooden barrels, which are to be cut in half to be used as baths for the patients and washing tubs for the laundry. . . . From Niksitch I went by motor to Podgoritza, some 80 miles distant, and there I agreed to take over the schools, which are already a hospital, and will be handed over to us on our arrival. I also chose a house for the staff. . . . It is devoid of furniture, as also is the gymnasium at Niksitch . . . . so we shall have to make shift with packing cases. . . . The Montenegrin authorities will give us free of charge rations for every patient in hospital, and also one kilo of bread and half a kilo of meat per head of the personnel. . . . They will give us two interpreters for each hospital."

The writer then proceeds to give an account of an exciting escape from death. "The path was hardly 12 inches wide, and one wondered how the ponies found a foothold, especially as the wet clay was like glass. At these places a precipice ending in a broad, fast-flowing river was on one side of the path with nothing between you and it, while on your other side your leg brushed against a towering cliff. . . . At one of these places both I and my interpreter were very nearly killed by the fall of a gigantic rock, which, luckily, fell down between us."

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SERBIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Nish, July 10.

The Weather and the War.

There has been a sudden change in the weather. Constant rains and floods are followed by bright sunshine and dry, hot, tropical days, the temperature yesterday rising to a higher degree than it has been at for many years. If the Austrians and Germans intend to attempt to invade this country, as they lately again threatened to do, the weather will no longer be an impediment to them, but it is considered here that they cannot spare the forces from the other fields of battle to enable them to do so.

Austrian Activity.

However, on July 4 the Austrians showed signs of activity, making demonstrations in the neighbourhood of Shabatz, the point at which they entered Serbia at the time of the last invasion. The latest effort appears to have been little more than an attempt of the enemy to feel his way, or it may have been intended to show that his troops are prepared to meet any offensive movement on the part of Serbia.

The official account is that at about half-past ten o'clock on the night of July 4 the enemy attempted an attack against the fortress of Shabatz. The Austrians at first opened a violent cannonade against the fortress and the island Micharska Ada, and afterwards, under the protection of their firing, made an attempt to disembark troops, one body being directed to the island Micharska, and another towards the fortress. Prevented from carrying out their designs, the enemy kept up a brisk fire until early the next morning, to which the Serbian infantry replied feebly.

The State of Albania.

The Minister of the Interior, M. Luba Iovanovitch, returned a few days ago from a trip in the interior, and it is said that at a given point, which I am not at liberty to mention, he had a meeting with Essad Pasha, whose family is supposed to be residing in Serbia. Serbian troops do not appear to have entered Durazzo, but are stationed at a point from which the sea coast can be seen. On the whole, all appears now to be quiet in Albania.

In Montenegro the crops promise to be good. It is related that when the Montenegrin soldiers occupied Scutari, the commander of the troops on their entry at once sent a note to the Austro-Hungarian Consul demanding that he and his staff should leave the town.

The Consul protested, and answered that he would only leave if forced to do so, adding that he had no instructions from his Government. Thereupon the Commander sent a categorical order that the Consul, with his family and suite, should immediately leave Scutari, and that he would be conducted by the shortest way to the Austrian advanced posts. The Consul without opposition was then conducted by a Montenegrin guard to the frontier.

Relations with Bulgaria.

The Serbian papers daily publish articles attacking Bulgaria, so that it does not appear that an understanding with the Bulgarian Government is considered probable. In Sofia there has been a meeting of the Bulgarian National Committee, which placed on record the Bulgarian demands, and at which a resolution was passed declaring the Committee in accord with the answer the Bulgarian Government gave to the Quadruple Entente, and which the Committee regards as the true expression of Bulgarian feelings and national wishes.

Balkan Socialists and the War.

The Serbian *Odjek* states that, under the leadership of the Bulgarian Socialists, the Balkan United Socialists have issued a manifesto in favour of peace, in which they declare that the creation of a Balkan republican confederation is hindered in its realization on account of the present differences between the people of the Balkan States, and add that whilst English and French Socialists seek the definite conquest of the enemy, the Balkan Socialists demand peace.

Whilst the Socialists are thus seeking to demoralise untutored peasants, and the susceptible public are depressed by the unfavourable news from the Russian front and the slow progress of the Allies on the western battlefields the semi-official *Samouprava* endeavours to raise the tone of the public mind and publishes an article in which it says: "Germany in declaring war in 1914, before her adversaries were prepared for it, neglected to take certain things into consideration. Germany forgot, or did not consider the unshaken and iron energy of England, the energy and industrial capacity of France, the indisputable resources and the mighty resistance of Russia, important facts which all have an influence on the continuation of the war. We must remember the capability of England to furnish herself and her Allies with munitions, that in France the same efforts are made, and that even if Russia has fewer factories, she nevertheless employs many hands in the manufacture of ammunition and weapons."

Danube Navigation.

The administration of the Serbian Steamship Company, whose head office is now at Radujevatz, has given notice that in a few days traffic will be opened between Radujevatz and Kladevo and the intermediate stations, and that the steamers will also call at Turnu-Severin, in Roumania. The service will be for passengers and merchandise, and the steamers will run three times weekly.

A BIT OF TURKISH LORE.

A thief tried to get into Karakushy's house one night, and in getting over the wall was caught by a hook, which put out one of his eyes. The thief took the matter at once to the Kadi, or judge, and demanded the punishment of Karakushy for having the hook in the wall and for the injury it had inflicted on him. The Kadi considered the case long and profoundly, and finally decided that Karakushy was at fault for having the hook there and for the thief's misfortune; and that he must give an eye in return for the eye lost by the thief. Karakushy tried to defend himself by saying that the hook was in his own wall, placed there for holding his clothes line, and that the thief had no business to try to enter his premises by climbing the wall in the middle of the night. But the Kadi remained firm in his decision. "This man," said he, "lost his eye on your ground, and you are responsible for it: you must suffer the loss of one in return for his."

Two weeks were given Karakushy in which to prepare for the removal of his eye. He became very despondent, and pondered mournfully over his approaching misfortune. Suddenly, the day before his prospective ordeal, a happy thought came to him, and he hastened at once to communicate it to the Kadi. "I am a poor tailor and have a large family to support, and it is absolutely necessary that I should have two eyes with which to pursue my calling. But I have a neighbour, a hunter by profession, and I have noticed that when he uses his gun he always closes one eye. Now if you will take his eye in the place of mine you will be relieving me and at the same time doing him a favour as it will save him the trouble of closing his eye." "Just the thing!" exclaimed the Kadi. "This will help us out of the whole difficulty! You cannot afford to lose your eye and let your business suffer and your family starve. We will take this man's eye in place of yours, for he does not need it. It will serve the ends of justice quite as well."

(At the present time, when a peculiar decision is rendered in the courts of Constantinople, people are wont to shrug their shoulders and call it a "Karakushy decision.")

M. M. P.

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THE BALKANS, 1912: EUROPE TO-DAY.

A COMPARISON FROM A NURSE'S POINT OF VIEW.

By Katherine H. Wheatley.

In contrasting the Balkan campaign of 1912 with the present war, the differences of race in the nations engaged, between the countries forming the theatre of war, in the numbers of men in the field, in the weapons employed and in the organization of troops, are so great that it is far from easy to institute any comparison at all. In addition, the great issues at stake in the present war, and the enormous number and high fighting value of the combatants, the vast extent of the battlefields, and the power and importance of the neutral States should be borne in mind. The Balkan campaign was a war between several small, chiefly Christian, European States, all more or less in process of civilization, against an Eastern, Moslem Power. The campaign of 1914 is a war of giants, Britain, France, Russia, and Italy being determined to prevent the imposition of the yoke of Prussian militarism on Europe.

The extent of the Turkish frontier, though great, was as nothing compared with the length of the fighting lines of to-day, and the enormous number of well-trained men at present under arms is infinitely greater than that of all the combatants engaged in the Balkan War. Turkey's fighting force was composed mostly of her Regular Army, for though she called up her Redifs (Militia) very few of these troops were put into the field; and though a considerable force of Kurds was brought up from Syria and stationed at the Sidimir Barracks (which stand partly on the site of Florence Nightingale's hospital), they did not take any active part in the fighting. Their chief duty was to line the route at the Selamlik—the religious ceremony which the Sultan attends at the public mosque every Friday morning. Every man of fighting age was called upon to enlist or to pay his exemption fee, but often the matter ended there. This may be taken, I think, as a proof of the absence of the death-grip in the struggle for supremacy, though, of course, the reorganization and most of the actual Turkish Army existed only on paper.

The country over which the fighting took place was without proper roads and with few railways. To carry her troops and munitions Turkey had but one line of rail in Europe running from Stamboul, via Sofia and Belgrade, to Vienna. On the Asian side there were three lines of railway—the unfinished Haidar Pasha to Baghdad, the Panderma to Smyrna, and the branch line from Smyrna connecting Afium Karahissar and Konia. During the war these lines were periodically blocked for weeks at a time by the passage of troops from the interior; and as trains did not run at night much delay was caused in getting the men to the front. The troops were not fed by the State, but bought what food they could at halting places, and consequently arrived in a poor condition. There is a great difference between this and the way in which British troops are rationed and conveyed to the front by rail and motor-'bus. The transport was so badly organized that there was a great scarcity of food at the front, and no shelter was provided against the heavy rains. The men often fought without even sufficient bread. Most of them, when starting from Stamboul, were so overloaded with all kinds of unnecessary equipment that they were obliged to throw away rations and other things after a few miles on the march.

It was a very sad sight to see a regiment march through Pera on its way to the Chatalja Lines, and to realize that scarcely a man had a chance to survive the terrible conditions under which he was expected to fight. They marched slowly, to the accompaniment of plaintive native music, men of magnificent physique but much overburdened with equipment, and marching with difficulty in their new boots.

The weapons employed by the various armies were so varied in pattern and often so obsolete as to be of little use. In many cases the soldiers were ignorant of how to handle their rifles. There were, too, few long-range guns: had there been more perhaps the history of the fall of Adrianople had been different. The fighting was often, as at Kirk Kilisse, a hand-to-hand encounter, the men using their native knives and inflicting terrible wounds on each other.

This shortage of modern weapons and unskilled handling of what weapons they possessed existed in spite of the fact that the Turkish Army had been reorganized by Germany in 1909. These reforms existed chiefly on paper, and up to the present day have not been fully carried out. For instance, when Turkey commenced to mobilize on August 3, 1914, the Army Service Corps and transport were in the same confusion as of old. Every man called up was required to bring five days' rations. The Government promptly confiscated all the flour, the bakers were unable to obtain any and could not supply the needs of the recruits, so that, although the order existed on paper, the men actually had not even one day's provisions.

It was rumoured in the Balkan War that there were German officers in the Turkish ranks, but this was a mistake, and probably arose from the Turkish officers relapsing into the language in which they had received their military training. German was obligatory in all military schools throughout the Turkish Empire, and a great many of the officers had been sent to Germany to complete their education.

The contrast between the loss of life in the Balkan campaign and the present European War is very great. In the former the enormous loss of life, the extent of which will never be fully known, was due primarily to want of skilled medical assistance in the field, and, secondarily, to disease caused by the neglect of the most ordinary sanitary rules. Such diseases as cholera, dysentery, and typhoid accounted for the majority of deaths in the different armies, whereas to-day by far the larger number of men are put out of action by the very highly developed and scientific weapons of destruction employed in modern warfare, the sick rate being abnormally low.

In the former the lack of field hospitals and ambulances, the absence of efficient medical help, and often of medical aid of any kind, left numberless wounded men to die on the field who might otherwise have recovered. They died where they fell, unable to get away. I did not see any abdominal wounds brought in amongst the wounded, nor could I obtain records of any admitted to the other European hospitals. One Turkish officer assured me that as men wounded in the abdomen were sure to die, it was useless to bring them in. The men were not provided with first field dressings. There did not appear to be many Turkish surgeons on the field, and, for obvious reasons, those of any other nationality were not permitted within a certain distance of the battlefields. Indeed, the roads to the latter were quite bad enough, strewn as they were with the corpses of refugees and cattle, fallen from starvation, exhaustion, and cholera on their flight from Thrace and other parts to Stamboul.

The Turkish doctors gathered at the native hospitals in Stamboul and neighbourhood. Every school and likely building was used for the wounded, and wooden huts were run up in all existing hospital grounds. Turkey abounds in hospitals and incomplete buildings intended for hospitals, but the authorities are contented with the most wretched administration. I have been over hospitals fitted with every modern appliance—hospitals that surpassed our own in the magnificence of their equipment—but the expensive apparatus was lying idle and rusty from the want of knowledge of how to use it. But this is a Turkish characteristic, and applies to nearly everything in the country. Nothing is thoroughly carried out, interest soon flags, and fresh projects are started.

The wounded were attended by male so-called *infirmiers*, men brought in at random from the streets and paid at the rate of two liras (£1 16s.) per month. The amount of care they gave the patients depended almost entirely on the amount each individual could afford to pay. There were no trained nurses, no orderlies, and no stretcher bearers.

Apart from the European efforts to nurse the sick and wounded, there was one hospital that was an exception to the state of affairs described above. This was at the hospital and medical school at Haidar Pasha. There, in one building, some French nuns strove against an almost overwhelming task. One nun had 200 patients. In the other building there were three or four German nurses, the regular staff of the hospital. They had been there some ten or twelve years, and instead of training probationers had descended to the level of those they had come to teach. The rule of the harem permitted no Turkish woman to nurse any men other than her husband or sons. The joy of service is a thing still practically unknown to the women of the East, where it is generally considered derogatory to use the hands for work of any sort. When I left Constantinople this rule was in process of being relaxed, however. One or two of the most advanced doctors were lecturing to large classes of Turkish ladies in first aid and sick nursing. Little by little they hoped to overcome the barriers hedging the women in from taking their share in the care of the sick. But, as usual in the East, where everything is begun in the wrong way, these ladies, without any previous experience, either theoretical or practical, were at once invited to study the most advanced and skilled nursing, medical, and sanitary matters. Without knowing how to make a bed, to feed a patient, or even a baby, they learnt by books and lectures of the most complicated dry sterilizers and steam pressure gauges.

Thanks to the courtesy of the presiding doctor, I was admitted to these lectures, which were delivered in Turkish to some sixty ladies, all of whom seemed very interested, and all of whom passed the required examination and were presented with a very gorgeous diploma, amidst the acclamations of the Press. I wonder to what use their knowledge is being put now that their country is in bitter need of them!

Compare this with our trained nurses at home and at the front, and with our voluntary workers. I suppose that every woman in England and the colonies to-day is doing her share of work for the men engaged in the war! Compare, too, the organization of our field ambulances, our motor ambulance convoys, our hospital trains and ships, and our well-run hospitals. And, above all, consider the skilled medical help which is available to every man as soon as he can be reached on the battlefield.

(To be continued.)

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

SOME PORTRAITS FROM THE NEAR EAST.*

This volume, one of the latest additions to the excellent "Wayfarers' Library," contains a score of sketches and studies in the style that "Prophets, Priests, and Kings" and "Pillars of Society" have accustomed us to expect from Mr. Gardiner's practised pen. Of the twenty, only four are concerned with subjects that fall strictly within the purview of THE NEAR EAST: "Francis Joseph—and the Spirit of Serbia," "King Nicholas," "King Ferdinand—and the Tragedy of the Balkans," and "M. Venizelos." It is strange that in a gallery with such a title there should be no portrait of Enver Pasha. Perhaps Mr. Gardiner could not make up his mind to give the trouncing he so richly deserves to one who has done more than any other living man to hasten the break-up of Turkey. And Enver, one supposes, must still be regarded as filled with "a genuine Liberal enthusiasm." But while this omission is to be regretted, still more regrettable is the inclusion of the paper on King Ferdinand. It would have been injudicious to publish it at any time during the past six months: to have done so at the present juncture is a glaring indiscretion. One wonders what the Censor's views on the subject may be! And there, probably, it will be wiser to leave the subject.

Unfortunately, the three other papers mentioned, to which our criticisms must be confined, are by no means among the best in the book. They convey the impression that in writing them Mr. Gardiner was not always quite sure of his ground, and that he sometimes yielded to the temptation to try to force facts to fit in with his own theories. Certainly they serve to show his prejudices up in strong relief, and readers who do not share those prejudices will be likely to find them more than a little tiresome. Mr. Gardiner is usually more happy—from the reader's point of view—when he is praising than when he is blaming, or finding fault; and for this reason his appreciations of M. Venizelos and of King Nicholas make more agreeable reading than his study of the Emperor Francis Joseph. The latter is not unjust to the Emperor, and its praise of the Serbian spirit is certainly merited, but it would have been improved, we venture to think, had some of the prejudices referred to above been less in evidence.

The picture of M. Venizelos is excellent. That of King Nicholas is hardly less good, being done with the sympathy that we should expect to find evidence of in the portrait of such a good Democrat; though, to be sure, we are reminded that he once lapsed so far from grace as to run counter to the will of his people or—worse still, one supposes, in Mr. Gardiner's sight—of their parliamentary representatives. Prince Danilo, however, is hardly so conventional or "denationalised" as the unwary reader might be led to suppose by what is written of him here; and again, to write of "the young Princes Danilo and Mirko" at tennis is, though quite pretty, possibly misleading, in view of the fact that the former is forty-four and the latter thirty-six. Nor can we believe that King Nicholas ever made such a mistake as to say, however "indignantly": "No exports from Montenegro . . . how about my daughters? One is married to the King of Italy . . . and the fourth is Queen of Serbia." For, unfortunately, the wife of King Peter died in 1890, thirteen years before he was proclaimed King of Serbia; while the Princess Elena was not married till 1896, and did not, of course, become Queen of Italy till 1900. These are small points, but such things are apt to create the impression that a writer is more concerned about his phrases than about his facts. And, to be frank, that is the feeling with which one puts down the book after reading it.

A UNIT OF EMPIRE.†

It is considerably over a century and a quarter since the Seaforth Highlanders sprang into existence as a regiment owing to the efforts of Kenneth Mackenzie, Earl of Seaforth, who recruited it from members of his clan and estate. Since that day the regiment has had frequent opportunities of distinguishing itself—opportunities which it has never failed to grasp. In the book under review Mr. F. W. Walker has set out to place a record of the great deeds of the regiment before the public in convenient form. Published in the famous Wayfarers' Library by the house of Dent, the "Story of the Regiments" is a series which is predestined to success, and the volume which tells of the Seaforths may be said to be worthy of its subject.

The regiment has served in all quarters of the Empire, and it fell to one of its members to discover that Sebastopol had fallen. The author records this incident in simple sentences which lack nothing of dramatic effect:—

> The British attack on the Redan had not succeeded, . . . and we were obliged to retire with heavy losses. But the Russians were done. They slipped away, and a Highlander, noticing the stillness in the Redan works, scaled up on hands and knees. He peered over the parapet.
> The works were empty.
> Sebastopol had fallen.

At a later date the famous regiment was selected to form part of the Indian contingent which was ordered to Egypt at the time of Arabi's insurrection. It played a very important part at the Battle of Tel-el-Kebir, and to it fell the honour of completing the rebel rout when they drove the defeated foe before them to Zag-a-Zig.

The regiment was also engaged through the Sudan campaign, fighting at Atbara and again at the great triumph of Khartoum. The book contains many interesting intimate passages concerning these and other campaigns. In the Battle of Kerreri particularly the tide of the Seaforth Highlanders' glory ran high, and it was for services on this occasion that Sergeant-Major M'Kay, who has subsequently served the Sudan so faithfully and well, received his commission.

Such books as these are always good to read, especially so at the present time, when the traditions of British fighting men are being upheld, at one point or another of the gigantic line of combat, in each hour of the twenty-four. The man who is forced to remain at home while all his kin are in arms stands sorely in need of tonic in moments of depression. The most effective tonic is that which strings the nerves to a knowledge of what Britons have been on the battlefields of the past and of what they are to-day.

This little book tells us of the past; the Seaforths themselves are to-day preparing history for the future, and after reading Mr. Walker's book we are more than ever confident that no page can possibly be tarnished.

* "The War Lords." By A. G. Gardiner. Dent and Co. 1s. net.
† "The Seaforth Highlanders." By F. W. Walker. Dent and Co. 6s. net.

HELPING OUR ALLIES.

A report just issued by the Wounded Allies' Relief Committee (Sardinia House, Kingsway, W.C.) gives some interesting information concerning the good work done by the committee since its inauguration shortly after the outbreak of war. In addition to its labour of love for the Belgian refugees and Belgian and French soldiers, it has, our readers know, been very active on behalf of the suffering Serbs and Montenegrins. At a time when the Serbian Red Cross organisation was in such straits that even bandages were lacking, the committee immediately despatched £500 by telegraph. Later, the Serbian Government requested the committee to equip and send out a typhoid hospital, with the result that at the end of March doctors, nurses, a hundred beds and full equipment left for Kragujevatz, the headquarters of the Serbian Army. Owing to the disappearance of the epidemic, the unit is now adapted for the reception of the wounded. When the appalling conditions in Montenegro came to light, the committee despatched thither a Sanitary Commission to advise on the best means of help. The report of this commission voiced the urgent desire of the Montenegrin Government for two self-supporting units of one hundred beds each, to combat typhus in Podgoritza and Nikshich. These units, which, owing to the state of Montenegro, had to be accompanied by over £2,500 worth of stores and food, sailed on June 2. It will thus be seen that the committee's work, which was inaugurated with the approval and endorsement of the War Office and the Admiralty, and has the support of the official representatives of the Allied Powers, is both useful and patriotic, and is, moreover, constantly demanding expansion. The hon. treasurer is T. O. Roberts, Esq. (Manager), London County and Westminster Bank, 217, Strand, W.C., who will gratefully acknowledge all subscriptions sent to him.

THE ART OF IVAN MESTROVIC.

On Saturday Mr. Ernest Short delivered to the Home Counties Archæological Society an address on the Serbian sculptor Ivan Mestrovic and his work. The address was followed by a visit to the exhibition of Mestrovic's work at the Victoria and Albert Museum. Mr. Short said that the sculptures of Mestrovic embodied the agony of a nation. The greater part of Serbian folk-lore was concerned with the heroes of the battle of Kossovo, which in 1389 brought about the downfall of the first Serbian Empire. Mestrovic had translated them from folk-poetry into stone. He had based his art upon these epics. His conception of the Temple of Kossovo originated in the Serbian and Jugoslav national songs, which express the destiny, the desires, the hopes, the poetry of Slav mysticism and its ardent aspiration towards justice and human liberty. On the other hand, in respect of craftsmanship, Mestrovic was a cosmopolitan. From the "Fragments of the Temple of Kossovo" of Mestrovic could be learned how to bear suffering with fortitude and to view it with a deeper sympathy.

Part 48 of "The Times History of the War" gives a full account, illustrated with many photographs, of the Turkish Attack on Egypt. A large and very clear map is a particularly valuable feature of the number.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

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

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

THE FUTURE OF CYPRUS.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—Mr. George L. Houston, of Kyrenia, Cyprus, writing in your paper on the question of the union of Cyprus with Greece, says that before the outbreak of the war it was possible to admit that there was something to be said for this question, but now that position must be altogether abandoned.

It is hardly necessary to explain my own and my fellow-countrymen's astonishment at this idea. I think that it is obvious that before the Balkan War and before the European War some arguments might have been found against the idea of the fulfilment of our national aspirations, but since these wars the position is altogether changed, for the following reasons:—

1. After the Balkan War the Greek kingdom, with whom we are united by the ties of blood, of language, of common history, and common traditions, became much stronger and extended its sovereignty not far from our seas.

2. After the outbreak of the present war England proclaimed to the world that the only object of this war is to protect the rights of nationalities against Prussian militarism and other oppressions.

3. After the beginning of the Anglo-Turkish War the only link which existed between Turkey and Cyprus, viz., the Anglo-Turkish Convention of 1878, had been cut off; and consequently England is now free to do what she considers right as to the future fate of Cyprus. I am one of those who signed several memorials addressed to the Home Government with regard to the national aspirations of the people of Cyprus, and I was amongst the Cyprus Committee who visited London in the summer of 1912. The main argument given to us, officially and unofficially, with regard to the idea of our national emancipation was that England could not meet our wishes on account of its obligation and respect towards the Anglo-Turkish Convention of 1878. Fortunately for us—and I hope for England, too—that Convention does not now exist.

I cannot follow the curious ideas of Mr. Houston with regard to the Queen of Greece, and I must say that I did not expect to hear the hints put in his letter; but I think that Mr. Houston, as well as every Englishman, knows thoroughly well what are the ideas of our nation, and to whom our sympathies turn. Common ideals of liberty and freedom placed us from the first moment of the outbreak of the present war on the side of England and France, and there is no nation so sincerely wishing the triumph of France and England as our own nation.

If England wants the ports of Cyprus for the protection of its interests, it is also our own wish that the interests of England should be protected everywhere; and I am sure that all Greek ports are at the disposition of England for the protection of its interests. I do not express a personal opinion; for that is the opinion of the whole nation, and it is also the view of all political circles in Athens. Is it necessary to mention the support given now to the English fleet by the Greek ports and the Greek population everywhere?

England and Greece have common interests in the Mediterranean, common political ideals, common love for liberty and freedom. All these are strong factors to inspire the English and Greek Governments to seek a solution of the Cyprus Question in accordance with those principles for the domination of which England and Greece have suffered so many sacrifices.—I remain, etc.,

DR. NIC. KL. LANITIS,
Member of the Legislative Council, Member of the Central Board of Education, etc., etc.

Limassol, Cyprus,
July 10, 1915.

HELP MONTENEGRO!

THE SMALLEST AND POOREST OF OUR ALLIES.

THE MONTENEGRIN RED CROSS AND RELIEF FUND

Donations can be sent to her Grace the DUCHESS OF RUTLAND, 16, Arlington Street, S.W.; or to the Hon. Treasurer, LADY ROPER PARKINGTON, 58, Green Street, Park Lane, W.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Dardanelles Operations. July 19.

Mr. MACNAMARA (Secretary to the Admiralty), replying to Mr. Joynson-Hicks, said Admiral de Robeck's despatch dealing with the landing operations at the Dardanelles would be published shortly.

Mr. ASQUITH, replying to Mr. Joynson-Hicks, said: The total casualties sustained by both naval and military forces in the Dardanelles is as follows:—Killed—officers 541, men 7,543; wounded—officers 1,257, men 25,557; missing—officers 135, men 7,401; total—officers 1,933, men 40,501. The total casualties, therefore, amounted to 42,434.

Mr. JOYNSON HICKS: That is up to the end of June?

Mr. ASQUITH indicated assent.

Parcels for Dardanelles. July 20.

Mr. NEVILLE asked the Postmaster-General whether he was aware that dissatisfaction was being felt by our troops in the Dardanelles at the delay in forwarding parcels from the base; and whether he could take any steps to accelerate their delivery?

Mr. HERBERT SAMUEL replied: The arrangements for the transmission of the mails are made by the military authorities, and not by the Post Office; but I am calling for a report on the question and of the time occupied in the transmission of letters and parcels between this country and the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

FOR OUR WOUNDED SOLDIERS.

Readers of THE NEAR EAST who subscribed to the fund for purchasing bedsteads for use in No. 3 Casualty Clearing Station will read with pleasure the following extracts from a letter just received from Nurse Wheatley—whose address, it should be noted, is now: No. 3 General Hospital, British Expeditionary Force. Her letter is dated July 17, and she writes:—

The beds arrived quite safely and were put into use immediately on arrival. They have given the greatest satisfaction and pleasure, both to the patients and staff. Everyone is delighted with them. The patients find them very comfortable, and are very grateful for the kind thoughts of the givers.

It is difficult for anyone who has not actually seen a clearing station to realise what a difference a bed makes. But we know, and I can only tell you the gift has given ease and comfort to some of our men. I wish you could all see them. As to the staff, we find them so light, so easy, and taking up so little room that in all probability the idea will be represented to the proper authorities, and a certain number allowed to each clearing station.

The Commanding Officer wished me to thank you in his name, as well as in that of the patients.

I have also to acknowledge another parcel of books. We have quite a library now, thanks to THE NEAR EAST. The men are most amusing in their remarks about what they read, and so interested. . . . Gifts of books will be just as welcome to the men here.

C.M.S. WORK IN PERSIA.

The Mohammedans of Persia apparently are strangely inconsistent. For some months there was great opposition in Ispahan to the educational work of the Church Missionary Society. The missionaries were forbidden to open the new school premises (the Stuart Memorial College, as the school is now called), and yet when it was opened the Deputy Governor was present to give away the prizes. Parents and boys were threatened to such an extent that the number of boys attending the college dwindled from eighty to twenty, and then one day in May the chief Mohammedan mullah of the city addressed a crowded congregation in one of the chief mosques and declared that the English had come to stay, that they were doing a good work, and the people had better not interfere! During all the time of ugly rumours and a certain amount of uncertainty, the staff of the C.M.S. medical mission in Ispahan received numerous evidences of respect and kindness and assurances, even from the mullahs, that nothing would be allowed to happen to them, whatever should take place in the town.

SERBIA'S WORST FOE.

The following has been received by Reuter's Agency from a well-informed Serbian source:—

"The Serbians, who for some time past have been engaged in fighting a more insidious foe than the Austro-German Army, have succeeded in combating disease and to a considerable extent preventing its spread. The army, after a necessary period of rest and recuperation, is now in splendid condition physically and morally, and is well equipped with every necessity of war. It is now ready to take the offensive whenever this may be deemed necessary. Thanks to the valuable assistance received, the inconvenience occasioned by the activity of Austrian monitors on the Danube has been considerably reduced, the Serbian shells being now sufficiently powerful to pierce the armour of the enemy's ships. By this means the danger to the Serbian trenches along the Danube has been considerably lessened."

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1915. July	1915. July		1333. Ramadan	5675. Ab.
23	10	Friday	11	12
24	11	Saturday.....	12	13
25	12	Sunday	13	14
26	13	Monday	14	15
27	14	Tuesday	15	16
28	15	Wednesday	16	17
29	16	Thursday	17	18

Sunday is the birthday of H.M. the Queen of the Belgians.

Prince George and Princess Marie of Greece passed through Rome on Sunday on their way to Paris.

Lady Wingate passed through Cairo on the 12th inst. on her way to Port Said, where she embarked for England.

H.E. the Persian Minister and H.E. the Roumanian Minister were among the callers at the Foreign Office on Monday.

Lady Willcocks has arrived in England from Egypt. Sir William Willcocks is still in Bucharest.

The War Office announces that in view of the large number of Church of England Chaplains now serving with the troops under Field-Marshal Sir John French's command, and of the increases which are in course of being made to the British forces in France, the Secretary of State for War, with the concurrence of the Archbishop of Canterbury, has appointed the Bishop of Khartoum to represent the Chaplain-General at the front, and to be his deputy there for all purposes connected with the Church of England Chaplains and Church of England troops.

Bishop Gwynne's long service in the Sudan has brought him into intimate touch with soldiers, and his appointment as Chaplain-General at the front is a well-deserved recognition of the zeal and energy with which he conducted his work at Khartoum. It is perhaps not generally known that when he first left England for Africa it was with the intention to establish a mission in the Southern Sudan. He had no idea at that time of remaining in Khartoum, and it was only his strong sense of duty that eventually decided him to abandon his cherished project in order to remain to minister to the spiritual needs of the white men of the Sudanese capital. Personal inclination urged him to carry out his original plan and work among the heathen tribes, but duty insisted that "charity begins at home," and that men of his own race in Khartoum were sorely in need of spiritual guidance. We know that duty triumphed, and the young clergyman took up his residence in the city of which he is now first bishop. From the first it was evident that he possessed all the essentials necessary for the sort of work which he was called upon to perform. Earnest and hardworking as he was, he never permitted his religion to dominate his humanity, and the soldiers were quick to see that in their *padre* they had found a friend whose sympathies were always at their disposal. In appearance, indeed, Bishop Gwynne suggests the soldier rather than the priest. His popularity in the Sudan has never been questioned. The great triumph of his career occurred a few years ago, when Khartoum Cathedral was consecrated by the Bishop of London. During his long service in the Sudan he never lost sight of his original project, and mission stations have been formed in various parts of the country. His lordship has been for some months at the front, where his gifts of sympathy have been greatly appreciated by the soldiers. His appointment as Chaplain-General will meet with unqualified approval by all ranks.

The *London Gazette* contains the announcement that the King has been graciously pleased to make the following promotion in, and appointment to, the Royal Victorian Order: To be Knight Grand Cross—Admiral Hon. Sir Stanley Cecil James Colville, K.C.B., C.V.O.

The new K.C.V.O., it will be remembered, took part in the Egyptian campaign of 1882, the Nile expedition 1884-85, and the Dongola expedition 1896. In the last-named operations he was severely wounded, and for his services he received the C.B. and was promoted Captain. For his services in the Egyptian campaigns he was given the medal and bronze star; and he also holds the medal with clasp for his services in the Zulu war (1879).

Lieutenant-Colonel the Hon. C. G. Bruce, M.V.O., commanding the 1st Battalion 6th Gurkhas, who was severely wounded in both legs at the Dardanelles, is making good progress, and will shortly be sent home from Alexandria.

Viscount Errington, who is gazetted a lieutenant in the Grenadier Guards, is the son and heir of the Earl of Cromer. He married Lady Ruby Elliot, a daughter of the fourth Earl of Minto.

Mr. E. N. Corbyn, of the Sudan Finance Department, has arrived in England on leave.

Mrs. Warnock has arrived in England from Cairo on a short holiday.

We are glad to learn that Mr. Walter Whittall, who is in hospital at Bury St. Edmunds, suffering from wounds received in Flanders (not at the Dardanelles, as erroneously stated last week), is doing very well.

The latest list of casualties in the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force contains the name of Sub-Lieutenant James S. La Fontaine, R.N.V.R., Hawke Battalion, who is reported as having been wounded on June 16.

The name of Mr. Lionel Vedova, whose death at the front we announced last week, wrongly appeared as Bedoda.

The engagement is announced between Major C. W. Spinks, Royal Artillery, attached Egyptian Army, younger son of J. C. Spinks, of Victoria (B.C.), and Marguerite Stuart, younger daughter of R. H. Coleman, of Toronto, Ontario.

Judge Lionel Sandars, President of the Mixed Court of Appeal, Alexandria, has been granted three months' leave, which he will spend in England. He arrived in London on Saturday.

The Rev. A. Lee Warner, who has been attached to a hospital ship with the Dardanelles Force, was expected back in Khartoum on July 11.

Mr. R. F. Le Bailly, who was for twenty years resident in Smyrna, and whose name will be familiar to many of our readers, has been granted a commission as Lieutenant in the R.N.V.R., and is now recruiting officer for the Royal Naval Air Service.

Mr. F. G. Lowick, Secretary of the British Chamber of Commerce, left Alexandria on the 7th inst. for England, on very short notice, to join his Majesty's Forces.

Mr. and Mrs. John Ross, of Alexandria, and Miss Ross were among the passengers by the P. and O. s.s. Kaiser-i-Hind, and have arrived in London.

Among the other passengers who came to Marseilles, en route for England, by the P. and O. steamer Kaiser-i-Hind were Bishop and Mrs. MacInnes, the Hon. Mrs. Lindsay, Mrs. Little, Mr. McKillop, Mr. A. Alderson, Mrs. and the Misses Liddell, and Mr. Chinn.

Mr. Frank Romer has returned to London from the Dardanelles.

Mr. Rowland Snelling, Managing Editor of the *Egyptian Gazette*, has arrived in London from Egypt, and leaves again next week on a visit to Spain.

Mr. G. H. Ward, of the Egyptian Ministry of Education, who received a commission as a second lieutenant in the 7th Manchester Regiment, is reported missing from the Dardanelles.

Mr. C. W. Anderson, of the Scavenging Department of the Public Health, Cairo, who was gazetted second lieutenant in the 5th East Lancashire Regiment, is now in Alexandria suffering from shock. He had a miraculous escape from death, being blown up fifty yards into the air by a shell, but descended unhurt save for bruises.

Captain James G. L. Ranking, of the Indian Political Department, who was British Consul at Ahwaz and assistant to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, was, we regret to learn, killed in action on the 12th inst., while taking part in the operations at the head of the Gulf. Born in 1883, he was the elder surviving son of Lieutenant-Colonel George Ranking, I.M.S., and Mrs. Ranking. He joined the Army in 1903, was appointed to the Indian Service the following year, and promoted to captain's rank in January, 1912.

Lieut.-Colonel Godfrey E. Matthews (Pasha), Royal Marine Light Infantry, who has been wounded at the Dardanelles, has had a long and distinguished career. From January, 1897, to 1910 he was seconded for service in the Egyptian Army, took part in the Nile operations of 1897, and was mentioned in the Sirdar's despatch on the battle of Atbara, in which he served with a Sudanese battalion. He also took part in the battle of Khartoum and in the 1899 Nile Expedition, including the first advance against the Khalifa, receiving the Egyptian medal with four clasps. Subsequently he was decorated by the Khedive with the Order of the Medjidieh, Third Class, and received from the Sirdar the thanks of the Sudan Government for his action with regard to the Mek of the Shilluks in 1903. He was made a C.B. on the Coronation of King George, and when he left Khartoum in September, 1913, the following order of the day was published:—"On the departure of El Lewa Matthews Pasha, C.B., on relinquishing command of the Khartoum district, the Sirdar desires to express his appreciation of the valuable service rendered by this officer in the responsible and onerous appointment. By his untiring energy and devotion to duty Matthews Pasha has brought the troops under his command to a high state of efficiency."

The *Mokattam* reports that Dr. Omar Bey Nolan is among the British subjects detained by the Turkish authorities at Aleppo. Dr. Nolan was formerly employed in the Egyptian Ministry of the Interior, but resigned in order to enter the service of the Turkish Government, when he changed his nationality and became a convert to Islam.

According to a mesage received from Sofia by the *Frankfurter Zeitung*, a change in the representation of Turkey at Berlin is expected shortly. It is considered probable that the former Grand Vizier, Hakki Pasha, will be the future Turkish Ambassador.

It is announced that the Greek Foreign Minister, M. Zographos, has resigned, and that M. Gounaris, the Prime Minister, will, for the present, act as Foreign Minister also.

A dinner was given by Sir Henry MacMahon, the High Commissioner for Egypt, at the Residency, Alexandria, on the 8th inst., at which the following guests were present: Sir Mohamed Said Pasha, G.C.M.G., Sir Ismail Sirri Pasha, K.C.M.G., Ahmed Sarwat Pasha, Sir Alexander Baird, Sir Mark Sykes, M.P., Captain Borton Pasha and Mrs. Borton, Archdeacon and Mrs. Ward, Judge Grain, the Italian Consul-General, Mr. and Mrs. van Zeller, Colonel Chenevix-Trench, the Hon. Mervyn Herbert and Mr. Coote.

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A Reuter's message from Sofia, dated July 17, but delayed in transmission, states: Prince Hohenlohe-Langenburg, the German Ambassador Extraordinary, who is replacing Baron Wangenheim at the Sublime Porte, arrived in Sofia by special train to-day on his way to Constantinople. He was received this afternoon by the King in private audience.

A German wireless from Berlin, issued on Monday, says: Prince Hohenlohe, the temporary Ambassador at Constantinople, has arrived in Bucharest, where he resides in the Royal Castle as the guest of his brother-in-law, the King of Roumania. Immediately after his arrival he had a long conversation with the King.

The death has occurred at Plymouth of Mr. Thomas A. Rawlins, a Crimean veteran. He served with the naval brigade at the battle of Inkerman, and fought in the trenches during the siege and capture of Sebastopol. He held the Crimean and Turkish medals, also the Burmese and Chinese medals.

Mrs. Drower, better known to our readers as Miss E. S. Stevens, the well-known writer, who gave birth to a son a few weeks ago, is at present in Southampton. Her husband, who obtained a commission in the Army at the beginning of the war, is adjutant to a Hampshire battalion.

Lord Kitchener paid an official visit to one of the Indian hospitals at Brighton on Tuesday last. His lordship expressed himself as being very gratified at the treatment the Indian soldiers were receiving.

The *Egyptian Mail* of the 9th inst. says:—On Wednesday morning the general officer in command of the French base of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, in Alexandria, decorated Lieutenant Timm with the Cross of the Legion of Honour, for gallant behaviour in the Dardanelles. The ceremony, which took place at Victoria College, was witnessed by M. de Reffye, the French Consul, and a number of members of the French colony in Alexandria, as well as by some of the superior officers of the British Army. Lieutenant Timm, who was seriously wounded, has only just left hospital.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, etc.

Colonel Milivoyé Nicolaijevitch, of the General Staff of the Serbian Army, who has been appointed Military Attaché to the Serbian Legation in London, has arrived and entered upon his duties.

It is rumoured in native legal circles, says the *Egyptian Gazette*, that the transfer of Mr. Sheldon Amos from the Sultanieh School of Law to be Councillor at the Native Court of Appeal is only a prelude to his nomination as Vice-President of the Court, as soon as the present holder of this post leaves the service of the Egyptian Government.

Captain John J. M. Soutar, Army Veterinary Corps, has been taken on the strength of the Egyptian Army, with the rank of Bimbashi, and posted to the Sudan Government.

El Bimbashi H. T. C. Jones-Vaughan has been appointed Second Inspector, Mongalla Province.

The Rev. H. C. Robins, of Khartoum, has been granted leave as from July 8.

Mr. C. Constantinidi has been given an appointment (temporary for the period of the war) as acting paymaster in the Army Pay Department, and is at present fulfilling duties at the Royal Dockyard, Woolwich.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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

BIRTH.

LE BAILLY.—On July 18, the wife of Lieut. R. F. Le Bailly, R.N.V.R., Mem.Inst.C.E., of a son. 14, Cheyne Court, Chelsea, S.W.

ROLL OF HONOUR.

British Subjects from Turkey in H.M.'s Forces.

ASHE, Lance-Corp. R., R.E.
ATKINSON, Bombardier G. M., 266th Battery, 85th Brigade, R.F.A., Colchester.
ATKINSON, Gunner T., "A" Co., Royal Field Artillery.
BAKER, Lieut. A. Warden, 7th Royal Scots Fusiliers.
BARRON, Sergeant J. B., First Canadian Contingent (formerly of the St. George's Boys' School, Jerusalem).
BINNS, Rifleman Edward, 8th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
BINNS, Bombardier Harold H. (49,567), Battery Office, 34th Reserve Battery, R.F.A., 6b Reserve Brigade, Piershill Barracks, Edinburgh.
BINNS, Lieut. C. E., R.M. (Interpreter to Mediterranean Forces).
BOLTON, Alfred, Naval Brigade.
BOND, Private H. C., 7th (Reserve) City of London Regt.
BOND, Gladwyn J. T., Inns of Court O.T.C.
BOND, Trooper S. (1779), Royal Horse Guards.
BOND, Corporal R., Royal Field Artillery, Durlston House, Park Road, Swanage.
BORRELL, Rifleman Alfred, 8th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
BOWMAN, Private Henry J., R.A.M.C., Duke of York's Barracks, Chelsea.
BROOKS, Corporal G., Royal Field Artillery, Swanage.
CASTELL, Rifleman Henry, 8th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
CAUCHI, Act. Corporal Henry (6113), 19th Service Battalion, C. Company, Royal Fusiliers, Epsom, Surrey.
CLIFTON, Capt. Ernest H., Durham Light Infantry.
COLES, Dr. D. A., R.A.M.C. (formerly of the English Hospital. Haifa).
COLLEY, Trooper Isaac E., Royal Horse Guards.
CRAWFORD, Private James, 7th (Reserve) City of London Regiment.
CUMBERBATCH, Lieut. A. Noël, 9th East Yorkshire Regiment, Fulford Barracks, York.
CUMBERBATCH, 2nd Lieut. H. D., 9th Batt. the Buffs.
CUMBERBATCH, Lieut. and Adjutant R. C., 15th Batt. Rifle Brigade.
CUMING, Bombardier A. C., 262nd Battery, R.F.A., 84th Brigade, Colchester.
DAVIDSON, Bombardier C. T., 266th Battery, 85th Brigade, R.F.A., Colchester.
ELLIOTT, Eric C., 2nd Lieut., Essex Regiment, 11th Battalion.
EPPSTEIN, Lieut. W. R., Durham Light Infantry.
FAULKNER, Lieut. M., Admiralty House, Malta.
FROMANT, Private F., Grenadier Guards.
GALLIA, Rifleman M., 7th (S) Batt. Rifle Brigade.
GOODACRE, Miss C., Red Cross, Shoreham.
GOUT, Lieut. Charles L., 4th (R) King's Own Yorkshire L.I., Drill Hall, Bank Street, Wakefield.
GOUT, Rifleman Evelyn, 8th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
GOUT, Rifleman Richard, 8th Service Batt, Rifle Brigade.
HADKINSON, Rifleman Vivian, 8th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
HIGGS, Private J., 6th Dragoon Guards.
HOLTON, Corporal Alfred, Royal Naval Division, Divisional Engineers.
HOLTON, Trooper John, B. Squadron, Essex Yeomanry.
HOYLAND, 2nd Lieut., H.A.D. (Interpreter to the Mediterranean Forces).
IRELAND, Private D. J. (3346), 15th County of London Regiment.
JACKSON, Rifleman Edward, 8th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
KERR, Miss E., Army Nursing Corps, France.
KEYSER, Lieut. A. G., 8th Batt. King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry.
KEYSER, 2nd Lieut. R. N., 10th Batt. East Lancashire Regiment.
KEYSER, 2nd Lieut. Henry, 2/10th Batt. Middlesex Regiment.
KEYSER, 2nd Lieut. J. C., 2/9th Batt. (D.C.O.) Middlesex Regiment.
LA FONTAINE, Rifleman Fred., 8th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
LA FONTAINE, Sergeant Hugh, 7th (Res.) City of London Regiment.
LA FONTAINE, Sub-Lieut. J. S., R.N.V.R., Hawke Battalion.
LANDER, 2nd Lieut. Arthur.
LE BAILLY, Lieutenant R. F., R.N.V.R., Recruiting Officer for Royal Naval Air Service, Brook Green Road, Hammersmith.
LORIMER, Private D., Army Service Corps, Aldershot.
MACKINNON, Private Eric, 9th Royal Scots Highlanders.
MACKINNON, Dr. J. M., Captain E.A.M.S., British East Africa.
MACKINNON, Patrick, Sapper, Divisional Engineers, 1st Canadian Contingent.
MACKRAY, E. D., Dardanelles Expeditionary Force.
MICHEU, Bombardier C. G., Royal Field Artillery.
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MORRISON, J., 2/4th Seaforth Highlanders.
MORTON, Private Stanley, 2nd Sportsman's Battalion.
MOSS, 2nd Lieut., Public Schools Battalion.
MUMFORD, Pat, Army Service Corps, Richmond Park, Surrey.
MUMFORD, Driver P. F., A.S.C., Osterly Park.
MUNRO, 2nd Lieut. J. G., 4th Scottish Rifles, Fort Matilda, Greenock.
NOWILL, Corporal Sidney, 7th (Res.) City of London Regiment.
PARKER, Trooper G., Royal Horse Guards.
PATERSON, Lieut. Alexander, R.A.M.C., 3rd Batt. Black Watch, Tain, N.B.
PEACOCK, Sapper Frank, R.E.
PENGELLEY, Sapper Walter, R.E.
POYNTER, Lieutenant H. E., Army Service Corps.
RAMSAY, Corporal F. R. F., 14th Service Batt. Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.
REES, Trooper R. (1709), Squadron D (in Egypt), Herts Yeomanry, c.o. G.P.O., Southampton.
ROBINSON, Lance-Corporal J. E., Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment (formerly of the C.M.S. College, Jerusalem).
RICE, Rifleman Cecil, 8th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
ROUTH, 2nd Lieut. C., 3rd/8th (D.C.O.) Middlesex Regiment.
SACKVILLE-WEST, 2nd Lieut. Hon. B., R.N.V.R.
SEAGER, Lieut. John Owen, B. Co., Public Schools Batt., 16th Middlesex Regiment, Woldingham.
SHAW, 2nd Lieut. T., R.E.
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VEDOVA, Rifleman Eghbert, 8th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
VEDOVA, Rifleman Lionel, 8th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
VERE, Lieut.-Commander Harry, R.N.
WARREN, Act.-Corporal R. M., 7th (S) Batt. Rifle Brigade, Guadeloupe Barracks, Bordon Camp, Hants.
WHEATLEY, Miss, Sister Q.A.I.M.N.S.R., No. 3 General Hospital, British Expeditionary Force.
WHEELER, Captain P. F. C. d'Erf, 1st Dorset Regiment.
WHITTALL, Captain G., 1st Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry.
WHITTALL, 2nd Lieut. Arthur, 7th (Res.) City of London Regiment.
WHITTALL, Lieut. Hugh, Royal Marines. (Serving abroad.)
WHITTALL, Private Kenneth, 10th Batt. Royal Fusiliers, Colchester.
WHITTALL, Private Roland, 10th Batt. Royal Fusiliers, Colchester.
WHITTALL, Rifleman Walter, 8th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
WRATISLAW, Lieutenant J. C., 8th Leicestershire Regiment, No. 9 Camp, Perham Down, near Andover, Hants.

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CROWN AND PEOPLE IN THE BALKANS.

It is a commonplace that the war is changing the world's outlook upon many things. In the face of a real crisis values are subject to modifications which remained undreamt of in more normal times. In the Balkans, for instance, it has always been accepted that those countries alone were well advised which imported their dynasties from abroad. It was the custom to point to Serbia as the fatal example of the policy of seeking to vest with royal dignity a family selected from among a peasant population. Rival claimants to the honour are encouraged, and the country is inevitably committed sooner or later to civil war. That Montenegro should apparently be an exception to this rule is due to the fact that the Petrovitch dynasty, which dates from 1696, originated in the system of ecclesiastical overlordship by means of which the country was saved from the fate of Serbia and Bosnia. To-day there is, perhaps, reason to revise our views of the advantages of a foreign dynasty for a country that is still engaged in carving out its own destinies. In Serbia, as in Italy, Belgium, and, we may add, Holland, where the Sovereign is of the same race as the people, we have the spectacle of the whole resources of the State mobilized in support of a national policy. In Roumania, Bulgaria, and Greece, on the other hand, we find divided counsels and national paralysis, and we are tempted to ask whether it is only a coincidence that each of these countries should have a foreign dynasty. Constitutional government, it is true, obtains in all three States, and in no case has the Sovereign deliberately sought to override the Constitution. But the fact remains that, while the majority of the nation inclines towards a certain policy, a minority, which enjoys in each instance the support of the Throne, is opposed to that policy, and so far this support has proved sufficient to override what must be regarded in a democratic country as the national wish. In Roumania and Greece the cleavage of opinion between the Crown and the people is most marked. At the outbreak of the European war the late King Carol proposed that Roumania should take her place in the field side by side with the Germanic Powers. The country would not tolerate such action, and neutrality was proclaimed as a compromise. Although King Ferdinand is believed not to be such an ardent supporter of Germany and Austria-Hungary as his uncle was, he remains a Hohenzollern, and can have little desire to declare war against the head of that House, if by any means Roumania can remain neutral. In Greece the nationality of Queen Sophie and the personal sympathies of King Constantine have played a more conspicuous part. Here, if we ignore for the moment the regrettable interlude of the King's illness, we have the monarch taking upon himself to revoke the decision of the representatives of the majority of the nation, and maintaining his attitude through the agency of the present Premier, even in the face of the verdict given by a general election.

Public opinion in Roumania, Bulgaria, and Greece can hardly ignore the similarity of the dynastic conditions existing in the three countries. There can be no question of impugning the loyalty of the Sovereigns to their adopted countries. The fact that their point of view finds support in the country, albeit in restricted circles, is sufficient proof that different interpretations of the policy required by the country's interests may be given in all honesty. But, without the support of the Throne, at least in the case of Bulgaria and Greece, there can be little doubt that long before this the wishes of the nation would have been translated into deeds. As far as Roumania is concerned, there is certainly no evidence to show that King Ferdinand is doing otherwise than awaiting the opportunity of ratifying the decision of the Government, which commands a parliamentary majority. But in regard to the encouragement which the dynastic relationships give to intrigues in a direction hostile to the national policy all three ruling Houses are on common ground. Here it is that the danger to the country's interests is in each case most pronounced. It may be possible to show that it is of little importance whether Roumanian intervention is delayed a few weeks or months, or whether Greece prefers to avoid material loss now at the expense of the future. But in each country signs are not wanting that this crisis in its history is not to be solved by academic discussion. As the period of national paralysis continues, feeling in each State becomes intensified, and may ultimately lead to most unfortunate results. If King Constantine were to persist in flouting the verdict of the Greek nation, there can be little doubt that the country would soon find itself on the verge of civil strife. In Roumania the bulk of the people may be less politically inclined than are the Greeks, but the demonstrations in the towns and the outspoken utterances of the Opposition leaders indicate that the policy of drift pursued by the present Government is meeting with growing resentment. The Bulgarians may be left to solve the riddle which their King's policy is likely to remain to his own subjects and to foreign Powers. If, since the outbreak of war, his attitude has been equivocal, the country will have suffered in the bitterness which a divergence of aim carefully fostered by German intrigue has engendered between political parties.

There will be no desire to minimise the difficulties of the position in which the rulers of Roumania, Bulgaria, and Greece find themselves. They feel responsible for the destinies of their countries, and the dilemma with which they are confronted may well tax the capacity of the ablest statesman. In the military situation they can discover little to help them in making their choice between the Central Powers and the Triple Entente. They see what a mighty effort the former have already made; they can hardly be blamed for not understanding how the intentions of the latter can be more potent than accomplished facts. Politically the choice may present less difficulty; but over all hangs the terrible knowledge that a mistaken decision spells destruction from without or from within, while even neutrality has its dangers. From this dilemma there can only be one method of escape. The sovereign must take his stand on the strict letter of his constitutional rights, and merely hold himself ready to ratify his people's decision. Advice it is his duty to offer, and he may interpose in order that public opinion may have time to mature. But deliberately to oppose the nation's wishes or to seek to thrust upon the country his own views before the national will has been made known is liable to prove as disastrous as it is unconstitutional. The wiser policy is the one which there is reason to believe King Ferdinand of Roumania is following; it is to be hoped that King Constantine and the King of Bulgaria will ultimately adopt it. In due course the present difficulties of the Balkan rulers will be eliminated to a large extent, even if the present situation in Europe were to repeat itself. In the second or third generation the foreign dynasty will be so completely merged in the adopted nationality that differences of opinion between Crown and people on racial lines will be almost impossible. While King Ferdinand is less of a German than King Carol, his son, Prince Carol, is wholly Roumanian; Prince Boris will hardly prove less a Bulgarian, while we may trust that no untoward influence will prevent the son of King Constantine and Queen Sophie from feeling himself a Greek of the Greeks.

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THE KHEDIVIAL WAKFS SCANDALS.—III.

(By Our Cairo Correspondent.)

The inquiry into the Seif ed-Dine Daira has elicited, in addition to such minor irregularities as that of the placing of the funds at interest and the appropriation of that interest by the trustees, other even more glaring and, because of the amounts involved, even more serious irregularities. The more important are the purchase by the Daira of what is known as the Sharnub estate for £E150,000 and of two buildings in Alexandria for £E160,000, as also the exchange of the latter for two agricultural properties costing £E396,000. It should be mentioned that the Daira is an exceedingly wealthy one. Its revenue amounts to about £E40,000 per annum, of which only £E5,000 is spent on Prince Seif ed-Dine, who, ever since he attempted to kill Prince Fuad Pasha, has been confined in an asylum in England. As a result, the revenues of this estate accumulate, and are periodically invested in land.

The Sharnub estate deal really covered another transaction in which the Daira Khassa was interested. It appears that Aly Pasha Galal had borrowed in 1910 from the Daira Khassa a sum of money repayable at certain dates. He did not pay his instalments, and this somewhat annoyed Abbas Hilmi Pasha, who, as usual, was in want of cash. He accordingly ordered an area of about 1,500 metres in Cairo belonging to the Galal family to be sold up. His Highness and his confederates knew that the Seif ed-Dine Daira had a substantial sum of money uninvested, but such a simple deal as selling direct to it would not have suited the book of these gentlemen, who liked to confuse issues as much as possible. Accordingly they looked around, and found that a, to them, profitable combination might be made if the Daira purchased the Sharnub estate, whose owner was ready to sell, and might be persuaded to take the Cairo plot in part payment. After negotiations an option was obtained from him at £E95 per feddan in favour of Galal Bey. Thereupon Abbas Hilmi Pasha ordered the Daira Seif ed-Dine to obtain the usual authority from the Meglis to acquire the property, but at £E120 per feddan—the price at which a certain Osman Bey Moharram, engineer of the Wakfs, had condescended to value them.

In due course the Meglis authorised the purchase, £E50,000 to be paid at once and the balance in three annuities without interest, the revenues in accordance with custom to accrue to the Daira from the day of purchase. The vendor was then asked to sell direct to the Daira, Galal having ceded his option to the latter at the higher price. Being quite unsuspicious of what lay behind it all and the transfer of an option at a higher price being quite a customary feature, he agreed. The deed of sale contained various infringements of the decision of the Meglis. The vendor received an advance of £E8,000; two delegations, one for £E17,000 and the other for £E28,000, on the Daira's bank were handed him; the Daira undertook to pay off in two equal instalments a mortgage of £E55,000 which the Crédit Foncier held, and, instead of the balance being payable simply at certain dates, bills for varying amounts due at intervals of one year were given him; whilst on the day the deed was registered the trustee signed another deed under private seal undertaking, in consideration of the Daira's enjoying the revenues from the day of purchase and of the vendor waiving an instalment of £E2,500, to pay during 1912-15 to the Crédit Foncier the sum of £E6,767, interest due to it.

It has not been possible to ascertain the real reason for this last arrangement, nor for the acceptance of payment of the mortgages, which, although they were mentioned by the vendor, were omitted in the petition to the Meglis. Both of these were in direct violation of the decision of the Meglis. The motives underlying the other irregularities are perfectly clear, however. Galal had succeeded in persuading the vendor to purchase the 1,500 metres which the Daira Khassa wanted to realise (it is permissible to assume that the larger deal would have fallen through if he had not consented to buy the smaller property). The price fixed was £E16 per metre, and two of the bills represented the exact amount of the purchase price. It was only by giving the vendor bills, which he could hand over to the Daira Khassa and which the latter could discount, that the liquidation of any part of Galal's debt to the Khassa could be effected. Secondly, the giving of two delegations of the amounts in question was explained by the fact that the difference between the purchase price as per deed and that of the option, less the final instalment waived by the vendor, came to approximately £E28,000, wherefore one of the delegations was handed over by the vendor to Galal, who promptly cashed it.

Thus the Daira Khassa obtained payment of a sum of £E23,000 odd in settlement of what was partly a bad debt; the vendor, as far as he was concerned, quite honestly got rid of all his obligations on his estate, and received what was certainly a good price for it; whilst the Daira was saddled with a property, on which it assumed obligations far in excess of the real value. In short, its loss on the deal is roughly represented by the delegation of £E28,000 cashed by Galal. The Daira is, it is true, wealthy, but it did not dispose at the moment of the funds justifying such a purchase, and in point of fact Khairy Pasha had to persuade the Crédit Foncier to permit a variation of the conditions of payment laid down in the new contract and to agree to payment in twenty-eight annuities, as had been provided for in the original mortgage contract signed between that bank and the vendor.

The purchase of the two houses in Alexandria was effected in even more outrageous circumstances. A report was submitted by an expert—as before, Osman Bey Moharram, who as it happened was no relation of the trustee—to the effect that the property was worth £E160,000, and an application was made to the Meglis by Hussein Pasha Moharram and Saddek Bey for permission to effect this purchase with the surplus funds at the disposal of the Daira. The Meglis had a separate valuation made by Alexandria notables, who actually confirmed the valuation of Osman Bey. It accordingly authorised the purchase on the following terms:—£E35,000 cash down, and the balance, £E125,000, in five equal annual instalments, the revenue, as usual, to go to the Daira from the day of the purchase, but the trustee was not to sign the deed until he had received the usual certificate that the property was unencumbered. In the meantime, it had been arranged with the vendor that he would sell the houses for £E137,000, but that he should sign the contract with the Daira for £E160,000, on the understanding that the difference should be paid over by him to the intermediaries, *i.e.*, Moharram Pasha and Saddek Bey. But for fear that he might play them a trick the vendor was required to sign an undertaking to sell the property at £E137,000 to a man of straw.

Prior to the completion of any formalities even, the vendor received £E33,800 in cash; from his books it appears that of this sum, £E25,000 was paid to the man of straw, whose name was used by Saddek Bey to disarm suspicion. It is to be presumed that the reason that this money was paid in advance in this manner was that Saddek Bey wanted to make sure of his profit before anything was done. It is interesting to note that although the difference between the two prices was £E23,000, Saddek Bey received £E25,000; this was explained by the fact that Saddek Bey demanded a brokerage of £E2,000 in addition from the vendor, who, obviously anxious for future favours, did not like to refuse. On the deed being signed, a further £E1,200 was paid to the vendor, and, in addition, the balance was stipulated payable in five equal instalments, starting from November, 1913. In this deed it was declared that there were two mortgages, of a total of £E95,000, and it was laid down that the first instalment, due November, 1913, should be paid to the vendor, that the others should go direct to the banks interested in the mortgages, and that the final £E5,000 should be paid to the vendor, who undertook to produce certificates certifying that these were the only mortgages existing on the property, and to obtain from the banks a formal acceptance of the new arrangement.

But whilst in the request to the Meglis and in the latter's authority no mortgages figured, and in the preliminary deed of sale only mortgages for £E95,000 in favour of two banks were mentioned, the Mixed Court certificates produced, before the deed was registered, showed other mortgages amounting to over £E24,000. Yet, notwithstanding this discrepancy and the non-production of the acceptance of the arrangement from the banks, the trustee proceeded with the registration.

The tale of his iniquities did not, however, stop here; even worse was to follow. The instalment due November, 1913, was ceded by the vendor to the Banco di Roma in June, 1913, but it appears that he was in urgent need of money, and that he persuaded Moharram Pasha to help him. The latter, ever willing to accommodate, gave him a signed declaration that no seizure on, or cession of, the property had been made, that he had arranged with the vendor to defer the 1913 instalment until 1914, and that he had agreed to pay £E15,000 of it to a well-known bank. To cover himself the trustee took from the vendor a declaration that these statements were false! With this document in hand the vendor managed to get his bill for £E15,000 on the Daira discounted. A week later he drew two bills, each for £E5,000, on the Daira and got Moharram Pasha to accept them for the purpose of discount. In the meantime, not content with this illegally acquired money, the vendor had the audacity to present a petition for compensation of the loss of £E52,000, which he alleged he had sustained through the Daira taking the revenues from the day of the sale and paying no interest on the instalments. The Khedive ordered £E27,000 to be paid him, and in due course this was done. The vendor's books show that of that sum Saddek Bey and Moharram Pasha received £E13,700, so this probably explains why his claim for compensation was entertained.

As a result of this deal and its combinations, the Daira has had to pay off £E7,000 to two of the banks, a third has started expropriation proceedings, and action has been taken by the holders of the bills for £E20,000, whilst the Daira has not the satisfaction even of being able to draw the revenues, for it has transpired that part of them are also mortgaged. In other words, the Daira, which purchased for £E160,000 property that was notoriously valued at £E115,000, but was worth on the basis of the net revenue only £E80,000, has already paid over £E103,000 in hard cash, and still has to pay £E123,000, plus interest at £E800 per mensem, to meet all the engagements thrust upon it by its trustees. It stands to lose on the deal about £E200,000.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

According to a gentleman who has just returned from Salonika, the Turks in that city have earned for their countrymen a new sobriquet, "The Gentlemen of the Balkans." This will probably surprise many people in England who have been accustomed to regard the Turk as "unspeakable" merely because they have never taken the trouble to question this popular statement. Yet to anyone who has come in contact with the average Turk in the days of peace, his new title will be no surprise at all. In many of the essential things of life, the Turk, being an Oriental, is different from the peoples of the West, but perfect manners and an unchanging affability in his dealing with foreigners have always been among his most prominent characteristics. Salonika to-day is an open neutral town where Christian and Turk, British, French, Austrian, and German meet. It is not difficult to imagine a more amicable community than this, for human nature is human nature, and it seems impossible for Briton and German, for instance, to hob-nob over the small table of a café while they read the latest news from the front. If open conflict is avoided and passions are restrained, it is only because necessity compels it, but, as a rule, the members of each community cling together, the Briton with his ally in the field, the German with the Austrian. Only the Turk is left, and, suave and impassive, he knows no foe, though the guns of the Allies are almost at the gates of his beloved capital. Perfect in his courtesy, he has made friends all round, a gentleman, cool and supremely indifferent to the small embarrassment of war. Seeing him, it is hard to understand how the nation of diplomats to which he belongs came to fall victims to the heavy bluster of German intrigue. But such surprises are, I suppose, the essence of diplomacy after all. The Turk is suffering, and must suffer further, because of his mistake, but I hope that the hand of retribution may be laid more heavily still upon the Teutonic schemers who led him to his doom.

***

The following extracts from a letter written from Braila about a month ago, are interesting as illustrating how valuable to the Allies is the service rendered by Roumania in preventing munitions of war for the Turks from passing through her territory, and at the same time how anxious is her position in view of the Russian reverses.

> I manage to keep fairly busy, which is a god-send, as our own good business is dead for as long as the Dardanelles remain closed; and as far as I can judge it is impossible to say when the Straits will be forced, unless the Turks capitulate and make peace with the Allies—an eventuality which is not altogether excluded. There is a note in the papers this morning saying that a Military Commission left Constantinople for Berlin to put before the General Staff the urgent necessity of the Turks withdrawing from the German *bloc*, owing to lack of munitions, etc.
>
> The Russian reverses and severe blows they had in Galicia and Bukovina have rendered Roumania joining the Allies a most difficult question, and I understand that we are not going to move until the fall of the Dardanelles, unless something quite unexpected happens in the meantime. Everything is ready now in the country for immediate action. —— has been appointed to the Braila corps, so will have to serve during the war, as will everybody else, in whatever capacity his years and personal aptitude will permit.

This, I think, bears out what I wrote last week regarding the difficulties of the Roumanian position. The attempted hectoring on the part of Germany confirms my opinion that Roumania is running straight enough in the matter of not allowing any smuggling of war material, and her firm refusal to be bullied or bluffed is greatly to her credit.

***

Apropos of Roumania's difficult position, it is interesting to learn from a trustworthy and very well-informed correspondent that the German Jews in Roumania are playing a very active part in endeavouring to keep that country from joining the Entente. One of the most active of these gentry, I am informed, is a man who, in the past, has received many kindnesses at the hands of our countrymen, and has actually held an appointment under the British Government. Which shows once more the advisability of avoiding at all costs employing anyone tainted with German blood or German sympathies in any position whatever in which he may be able to do harm to our interests.

***

In connection with this subject it may not be out of place to point out that Greece, also, appears to be suffering considerably from the alien pest and the influence of suspect parties in high places.—No, I am not referring to Queen Sophie! A Greek friend tells me that at the last election the agents of the Young Turks played an extremely active part, and that, as a result, Drama has the misfortune to be represented by a deputy who is the brother-in-law of Talaat Bey; while Vodena's Deputy is a Turkish bey, who can speak neither Greek nor Turkish, but only Bulgarian. The latter case strikes me as more amusing than annoying. But Drama has my sincere sympathy!

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It seems as if Hajji Wilhelm has been rather overdoing it in the matter of victories in Turkey. At the beginning of the war he got into trouble with the Christians by referring to his Maker as a sort of lieutenant to the Crown Prince; more recently he has put his foot in it by forgetting that another even greater than he once guided the Moslem hosts in war. According to a writer in the *Sunday at Home*, a Turkish peasant, commenting upon the constant victories of the German Army and Navy, remarked that he could not understand it. "Mohammed in his wars did not always meet with success; is the Kaiser greater than Mohammed?" he asked. This question may seem to be a little wanting in gratitude, considering that all the best liars in Germany have been working overtime for weeks past in order that the Turk might be comforted, but it was only the utterance of a poor, uneducated peasant, after all. It is too much to expect that such a creature could appreciate the difference between the liarless reports of the Prophet and the wireless distorts of the Kaiser. But even such as he is susceptible to the influence of education, and one day knowledge will be his. It may not be until the shadows of our fleet darken the city of Constantinople, but sooner or later he will appreciate the difference between Prophet and Kaiser. And although I do not love the Germans, I had rather not think of those who remain in the doomed city when, borne upon the shells of our naval guns, their lies fly home to roost.

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In an address on the subject of the Work of the Scottish Women's Hospital Unit, which she delivered at the King's College summer meeting last week, Miss Kathleen Burke told some good stories of the Serbian patients. One of these was to the effect that, observing a suspicious bump in one of the patients' pillows the nurses investigated—with the result that there was revealed a small roast sucking pig, which the man's wife had smuggled in to him, and which he was reserving until he felt equal to tackling it! I am not prepared to vouch for the truth of this tale, and I have my doubts whether Miss Burke would do so. In fact, I suspect that it was probably concocted somewhere in Serbia for the express purpose of annoying the Huns, who, now that they are reported to be short of pork, will probably be frantic when the yarn reaches them.

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The military party in Serbia is, as the letters of the Belgrade correspondent of THE NEAR EAST show clearly, not exactly eager to bridge over the gap that divides their country from Bulgaria. This is unfortunate; for if M. Pasitch were left free to handle the matter it seems not improbable that a marked improvement in the relations of the two States might be brought about in a very short time. For, though circumstances have not, perhaps, been quite so favourable to him as they have been to M. Venizelos, the Serbian Prime Minister is not unworthy to be mentioned alongside the great Hellene. He is a statesman of no mean order; and—what might be even more valuable at the present crisis—he is really, one suspects, well disposed towards Bulgaria. Unless I am much mistaken, he has more than once found safety over the frontier when the turn of the political whirligig made Serbia temporarily an unhealthy place of residence for him; and, I am told, by one who ought to know, that he speaks Bulgarian remarkably well. In fact, it is even said that in moments of excitement he has been known to lapse into Bulgarian when speaking in the Serbian Parliament, and has only been brought up by repeated cries of "This is the Skuptshina, not the Sobranje!"

***

Ornithology is not the strong point of the good people of Salonika. At least, that is the impression left on my mind by the following story, which was told me a few days ago. A certain British Consul in the Balkans had an Albanian kawass, who bore on his cap an heraldic representation of an ostrich, that being the Consul's crest. On one occasion, being in Salonika, accompanied by his kawass, the Consul was not a little surprised to find that he was everywhere taken for the representative of a certain large oil company, an American concern. Puzzled to account for this fact, he at last inquired point blank of one of the natives what was the reason for the mistake. The native, in his turn, looked surprised, too. "But, *Effendi*," said he, "surely there is no mistake at all! Your servant wears in his cap the representation of a stork, which, as we all know very well, is the mark of the great American oil company." If Stork and Ostrich could only *understand the* story, I wonder which of them would be *the more upset.*

CORSAIR.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST

German Intrigues in Asia.

In an article contributed to the *Daily Mail* (July 19) Mr. Lovat Fraser deals with the important and little understood question of German intrigues in the Middle East. He enumerates the various aspirations which animated German policy in the Near and Middle East when she was planning the present conflict, and emphasies the importance of Persian support to their successful issue:—

As military allies the Persians would have had little value, but the moral effect of their participation in the war might have been great. For example, Persia is still to Northern India very much what ancient Greece is to this country. Indian art, literature, and architecture, and still more the principal Indian language, have for centuries been profoundly under Persian influence. Moreover, if Mohammedan schisms had been so far healed that the Persian Shiahs had thrown in their lot with the Turkish Sunnis the result throughout the whole world of Islam might have been disturbing.

In commenting upon the activities of German agents in Persia Mr. Fraser pays a tribute to THE NEAR EAST for the manner in which the importance of the Persian question has been kept before the public. He notes with satisfaction that in the holding up of Dr. Pugin's expedition by the Persian Government and the recall of Herr Wassmuss, the Consular agent at Shiraz, the German propaganda in Persia has received a severe check, and the return of the British Minister, Mr. Marling, to the Persian capital is also of good augury.

But our greatest safeguards probably are that the Persians know a great deal about their near neighbours, the British and the Russians; that they know peace will pay them a great deal better than participation in fruitless strife; that Germany seems to them a very long way off; and that they have no reason to love the Turks. In Asia men look at the lessons nearest at hand. Persia has seen the Turks driven out of Lower Chaldea by a powerful British Expedition, and she will probably prefer to run no risks. Yet the East is a region of sudden changes, and the Persian question will continue to require anxious scrutiny for a long time to come.

The writer regards the British position throughout the Middle East as sufficiently secure at present, although "never entirely free from danger, and needing constant vigilance." He concludes:—

The real clue to the question is that parts of the Middle East might be stirred by a great Turkish victory, but never by a Turkish repulse. In the same way, the most certain solution of the whole Balkan problem lies in an Allied victory at the Dardanelles.

The Attitude of Roumania.

Dr. E. J. Dillon, in his concluding article on the above subject in *Land and Water* (July 17) sums up his conclusions in the paragraph which we quote below:—

Roumania for the time being is M. John Bratiano. And this idol of the nation is embarrassingly conscious that his shoulders are supporting the whole weight of the present Roumanian realm and also of the greater kingdom yet to come, and is resolved to fashion the latter as far as possible without trouble or expense to the former or risk to his own great name. He has thus set the national problem on the lowest grounds conceivable, and it depends on him to keep it there. For, with the exception of the enlightened and courageous band of young Roumanian patriots led by Take Jonescu and Filippescu, the only public opinion with which he is concerned is that of the classes whose main interests keep them closely linked to Austria and Germany. So long, therefore, as the Allies continue to table the problem on the lines heretofore adopted they can confidently anticipate no change except by far-resonant military success. But is it indispensable that they should continue their efforts on these barren lines?

Balkans and the Federal Principle.

In the *Asiatic Review* (July) Mr. A. Schopoff prefaces his article on "The Balkan States and the Federal Principle" with an allusion to that of Dr. Platon E. Drakoules which appeared in the February issue of the *Asiatic Review* under the title of "Peace and Brotherhood among the Balkan Peoples." This article, Mr. Schopoff refers to as "excellent," but has published his own to add important information and to examine Dr. Drakoules's "rights and reasoning." The contribution, in fact, treats the same subject from a Bulgarian as opposed to a Greek point of view. The writer shows that the idea of "a Balkan Confederation, on condition that the nationalities preserve the ethnical frontier, has for years past been the guiding principle of the greater part of the Bulgarian educated classes." His opinion on the necessity for Balkan unity may be gathered from the following paragraph:—

The Balkan nations and States may preserve themselves from invasions only by forgetting their mutual wrongs and persecutions, in patiently discovering a means to bear with each other, and in agreeing to decide all the differences among themselves by arbitration. . . . Serious fears exist in many circles that at the settlement of the general European War the Entente will fail to put in force its plan based on the principle of nationalities. Should it so fail, it will mean a complete defeat of the Allies and a triumph for the interests of the Central Powers. The volcano will not be extinct, and will cast up as before the most serious motives for conflicts among the European States. German and Austrian influence will increase in the Balkans, and the differences cleverly incited by these States will become more acute, and will be a constant menace to peace.

Mr. Schopoff goes very thoroughly into the Macedonian question, and quotes an imposing array of statistics in order to prove the validity of Bulgarian claims in that area. He concludes an interesting article in the following words:—

There is not in history a more favourable opportunity than the present European War for consolidating the compact masses of the Greek population living on the European and Asiatic seaboards of the Near East. But at the same time a similar national entity must be accorded to the Bulgarian people.

An American Opinion.

The *Christian Science Monitor*, of Boston, Mass. (June 30), contains a long article, contributed by its special correspondent in Athens, concerning the possible intervention of the Balkan States. The writer's remarks concerning the attitude of King Constantine are especially interesting:—

King Constantine, to the writer's personal knowledge, has never doubted, either that the Allies will emerge victorious from the war, or that the interests of his country run parallel to those of Britain and France, and, if ever the telegrams exchanged between him and the Kaiser in the first days of the war come to be published it will be found that he therein not only laid down Greece's position, on clear and unmistakable lines, but scornfully declined to entertain the German proposal that Greece should stand by the while Bulgaria attacked Serbia.

The correspondent regards Roumania's statement that she cannot march while Bulgaria's intentions remain in doubt as little more than a mere excuse for inaction, as Greece would attack Bulgaria if she moved against Roumania; but he nevertheless considers that the principal cause of Greek neutrality lies in the menace of a flank attack by Bulgaria.

The attitude of Bulgaria is endowed with an importance out of all proportion to the actual military assistance which she is in a position to render to either side, and, unless very serious arguments can be advanced in her favour, she lays herself open to a charge of having acted in a manner distinctly at variance with the interests of the entente Powers.

The remainder of the article is devoted to an examination of Bulgarian claims in Central Macedonia, which, with the personal interest of King Ferdinand and the "incompetency of Bulgarian diplomacy," the writer regards as the sticking point which prevents Bulgaria throwing in her lot with the Allies in the war.

Articles to Note.

"What Will be Austria's Future?" by "V.," in the *Fortnightly Review* (July).

"The Freedom of the Serbs," by Helen Douglas Irvine, in the *Treasury* (July).

"The Prevention of War," in the *New Statesman* (July 10).

"Leisure in a Serbian Hospital," by John W. N. Sullivan, in the *New Witness* (July 15).

"The Army of France" (illustrated), in the *Field* (July 17).

"Monks of the Sahara," by Stephen Graham, in *The Times* (July 21).

"Foes Over the Danube," in *The Times* (July 17).

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Egypt and the Sudan

At the Imperial Institute.

On Wednesday last Professor H. B. Gray concluded the course of interesting lectures that he has been giving at the Imperial Institute on the products of the various colonies and dependencies of the British Empire with an address on Egypt and the Sudan. The lecture was illustrated by lantern slides and followed by a tour through the Sudan Court, where various products are exhibited.

Professor Gray said that from the earliest times Egypt had been divided into two unequal parts—Lower Egypt, stretching southwards from the mouths of the Nile to Cairo, and Upper Egypt, which anciently extended only to the first cataract at Assouan, but now reached to the second cataract at Wadi Halfa. Egypt had been said to be the gift of the Nile, and this was true. The Nile was the life-giver; wherever the mighty stream extended to east and west there was life; beyond that lay desert and death. The strip of cultivated land had been irrigated for five thousand years by primitive appliances. Of these one was the *sakieh*, a large wheel turned by cattle or buffaloes, camels or asses, fitted with scoops of wood like a dredging machine; another was the *shaduf;* this could be set in motion by a man and drew water up in buckets. Several *shadufs* could be used as a substitute for a *sakieh*. Since 1882, however, irrigation had taken place by means of trenches and counter-trenches to so great an extent that the strip of fertile land had increased beyond all knowledge.

Beneficial Damming.

The Nile was fed chiefly by rainfall on the Abyssinian mountains and the melting of snows there in the hottest season. In June the river began to rise, then more quickly in July. The process was arrested in September, but resumed, and the river reached its greatest height in October, in which month it began to fall, until in February and March the fields dried up.

The great dam at Assouan, 550 miles from Cairo, held back a body of water amounting to 234,000,000 gallons. It had cost £2,000,000 to construct, but was calculated to enrich Egypt to the extent of £3,000,000 per annum, having irrigated lands once beyond the range of cultivation. There was another dam at Assiout, lower down the river, and a third barrage fifteen miles below Cairo. The damming of the Nile had had an immense effect on the industries of the country.

There were few great industries; cotton and sugar were two of the principal. Cotton required very little moisture. and sugar a great deal, and various tracts of land were irrigated more or less according to the crop intended to be grown. Both the crops named tended to exhaust the soil, so that, wonderfully fertile though the Nile mud was, the fields often had to lie fallow or else be manured. Egypt was second on the list of the world's great cotton-producing countries, the order being, first, U.S.A., then Egypt and the Sudan, India, Brazil, and Peru. The manufacture of cotton was a complicated process, but its cultivation was a very simple one. Cotton was produced by a plant which, after flowering, displayed a large boll or capsule. This, as it ripened, opened with three or five valves exposing seeds densely covered with a coating of fibre or wool. The seeds were separated from the cotton by means of a saw gin or roller gin; they were half husk, half kernel. From the kernel oil was extracted, the residuum being cotton cake, which was used for food for cattle. The cotton was put into bales, which were highly compressed for shipping, and thus packed it was ready for export to the countries of manufacture.

Egypt's Three Seasons.

There were three agricultural seasons in Egypt. First, a winter crop was sown in October. The ground was not ploughed for this, but the seed was scattered over the soft mud and pressed down by a wooden roller. The crops grown in this way were chiefly wheat, barley, and beans; they were harvested in March. Summer crops, among them rice and cotton, occupied the land from April to August. The autumn season from August to October lasted only seventy days; but short as the period was, it was long enough for a crop of maize or millet to be raised. Dyes, like indigo and henna, were other products, as also were oils, among them the tropical sesame and the saffron. Sesame oil to the value of £144,000 was exported annually. Besides these, leguminous plants, such as beans and lentils, were grown in profusion, and vegetables, including onions, cucumbers, melons, and tomatoes.

There had been a great increase in the number of trees since the British occupation and consequent extension of irrigation. Among these trees were the acacia, mulberry, sycamore, date palm, and dom palm. The last-named furnished nuts from which an oil was extracted, and which could also be used for making vegetable ivory buttons.

Professor Gray touched but lightly on history and archæology, for these were not his theme. But some interesting slides showed the ruins of Karnak and Philæ, colossal statues, pyramids, and other reminders of Egypt's wonderful past; and, speaking of the present, he gave an amusing account of the methods of bargaining prevalent in Egypt as in other Eastern lands. "There are no fixed prices in the East," he said, "and least of all in Cairo. If a tradesman declares an article at 18s. he is not offended if you offer him 2s. 6d. He then tells you that this will not buy bread for his children. Then you begin to bargain by the aid of a friendly cup of coffee, and you probably get the article for 4s. 6d."

The Sudan's Commerce.

Turning to the Sudan, he said it could not have developed any external trade without the line of railway which had been constructed since the country came under British rule. This has linked up Khartoum with Port Sudan and Suakin on the Red Sea and with Sennar on the Blue Nile, Kosti on the White Nile, and beyond with El Obeid. The change produced was almost miraculous. From 1906 to 1913 imports had grown from £1,222,527 to £2,109,776; while exports during the same period had increased from £264,096 to £1,185,186. The native cotton of the Sudan used to be very inferior, but now in the district round Tokar cotton was grown to the value of £300,000. In the Gezira district the land was being irrigated, and it was predicted that in twenty years crops would be raised to the value of £1,350,000 per annum.

Climatically the Sudan was divided into two parts—a northern part, where irrigation was necessary, and a southern part, where agriculture depended on rainfall. Wheat was grown only on irrigated land; it was a winter crop reaped in April. Maize was grown on islands and flooded slopes; but the staple grain and food of the country was a kind of millet called dura. This was grown on all lands. The principal article of export was gum; forty-six varieties were found of this. In the dry season, in December and January, the villager would split upwards a piece of bark and tear it off. In seven days the gum had exuded, hardened in the sun into what was called a tear, and the native returned and removed it; £370,000 worth of gum were exported annually. Another industry which might some day be developed with great results was the production of papyrus. This was still the best paper-making material in the world. In the sudd or swamp where it grew it was found in such quantities that a pathway had to be cut through it for the passage of steamers going up and down the rivers.

Speaking of another opportunity that the Sudan presents, Professor Gray said that one of the most prized openings for well-educated young men was in the Sudan Civil Service; but no one had any chance of acceptance unless he was a leader of men as well as a reader of books.

In a subsequent stroll through the Sudan Court various exhibits were pointed out enforcing or illustrating points in the address, the gum exhibit being especially valuable and interesting.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

The most interesting statement of the week is Mr. Asquith's speech in the House of Commons on Tuesday in support of the Vote of Credit for £150,000,000. That part of it concerning Great Britain's financial advances to her Dominions and Allies is important inasmuch as it shows to what an extent (£43,915,658) we have given to the good cause. More striking, however, was the Premier's plea that the Government should not be tied in future to the granting of loans *only* to our Dominions and Allies. For, Allies-to-be are not Allies *de facto*, and it might be necessary to come to the aid of the former before they had acquired the status of the latter. The circumstance that such powers have been asked for and granted points to pending happenings—perhaps not foreign to the Near East. But, as Mr. Asquith hinted, this was not the opportune moment for going into details.

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The meeting of the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields held last week was far from being satisfactory. The 214,000 "B" shares originally given for the Egyptian Oil Trust's property seem to be lost, the property having been proved worthless. The deepest boring seems to be one of 1,670 ft. at Hurgada. The third salient feature of the chairman's speech was a statement to the effect that the company had scarcely received from the Government the help which pioneers should be able to look for.

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My opinion anent the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields' methods has already been ventilated in these columns. I now venture to state that I differ, and on good authority, from the assertion that the Egyptian Oil Trust's property has proved valueless. It is quite possible that it is valueless as regards shallow oils, but what about deep oils? Has any attempt been made to strike them? And what is the deepest boring on that property? The Hurgada 1,670 ft. well cannot be regarded as a "deep" boring, so that admittedly the Hurgada field has not been "proven" either. As for the grumble against the Government, I maintain that the Government should oblige the company to make one or two serious trials, *under expert advice*, to reach the lower geological strata instead of merely tapping shallow oils wherever they are to be found. The Government must realise that, unless deep oil is struck, Egypt's future as an oil-producer is nil. If deep oil, as some experts maintain, is forthcoming, well and good; if not, the "oil in Egypt" illusion will burst like a bubble. But to say that a field has been "proven" because it contains no shallow oil is inaccurate.

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In connection with the 1,650 ft. well in Hurgada, mentioned by Sir Marcus Samuel as showing to what great depths the company had drilled, the following statistical information from the *Financier* will be read with interest by those who argue that the fields already tapped have been "proven," and that Egypt is a perplexing proposition. The depths mentioned are almost five times that of the Hurgada well, and can aptly be termed "deep" borings. The deepest well in the world, says the paper referred to, is in Upper Silesia, in the German Empire. It is a diamond drill-hole in a coalfield, and is 7,350 ft. deep. A well in the United States which may go deeper, according to the United States Geological Survey, is four miles north-west of McDonald, Pa., and about fifteen miles west of Pittsburgh. This well, which is being sunk to the Medina sandstone—a bed that elsewhere contains oil and gas—is now 7,174 ft. deep. Some gas and oil were struck in the upper part of the well. Between the depths of 6,830 and 7,100 ft. rocks bearing rock salt and salt water were encountered. The temperature in this well at the depth of 6,775 ft., as recently determined with great accuracy, is 145.8 degrees Fahrenheit. At Derrick City, Pa., there is a well 5,820 ft. deep, which is probably the second deepest well in the United States. Another deep well is on Slaughter Creek, Kanawha County, W., Va.; it is 5,595 ft. deep. Near West Elizabeth, Pa., there is another well 5,575 ft. beneath the surface, penetrating into a black shale. According to experts, deep oil should be struck in Egypt at depths varying from 2,000-3,000 or even 4,000 ft. Why not make the trial?

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We publish on anothes page the text of two Cyprus finance laws, the Budget Surplus Appropriation Law and a supplement thereto, the latter covering the last financial year and the former the current year up to May, 1916. The total of the two does not amount to £25,000, but more disappointing is the fact that agriculture is not provided for to the extent desired by most Cypriots. Thus a correspondent writes: "I feel strongly on the question of agriculture in Cyprus, and consider that a liberal policy is needed. It would not fail to be remunerative, in a reasonable time, if wisely directed. In the past the nature of our tenure has been some excuse for parsimony, but now? . . ." Another correspondent emits similar views: "The laws do not, in my view, show that expenditure is provided for on the lines of a decided and systematic policy. In agriculture, admittedly the life of Cyprus, we should face the situation (created by centuries of misrule and neglect) boldly and decidedly. . . . Expenditure has not hitherto been on lines of relative importance as regards island interests. Things have been carried out, or attempted, by fits and starts and in a too half-hearted way. . . . Take, e.g., the first item of Law IV., 'Malarial Campaign.' This is excellent, and £3,000 is voted. But can it be said that £3,000 would not be more wisely spent in other directions. The campaign in itself is a worthy undertaking, but other things should not, on that account, be left undone."

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The *Evening News*' howler last Monday, when it called General Sir John Maxwell the High Commissioner of Egypt, finds a counterpart in the supplement to the Chamber of Commerce *Journal*, treating of "Trade Products of the British Empire." This supplement is in every way a useful and handy compilation, excepting in so far as it persists in placing Egypt among foreign countries. This is hardly fair. Even the financial papers continue to classify Egyptian shares among the foreign ones, and surely it would not be a costly undertaking to alter the classification once and for all. The fact is we do not realise the change that has taken place in the land of Egypt. We are terribly insular, and the Empire can wag to the right or to the left of us for aught we care so long as it does not directly affect the United Kingdom. Even the highest in the land are at times unable to "think imperially." Take, for instance, Mr. Asquith's recent speech at the Guildhall, in which he urged a reduction in the consumption of imported articles. He cited tea and sugar, among other articles, without realising for a moment that over 90 per cent. of the tea imported into the United Kingdom comes from British possessions, and that a goodly percentage of the sugar comes from British possessions (the output could be greatly increased if foreign sugar were penalised). The fact is, Mr. Asquith, like so many thousand Britons at home, unconsciously classifies as imported goods all goods coming to these shores, regardless of their origin. This is a very narrow view to take, but I admit that it is unconscious, for we do not think imperially. If we did, Preferential Tariff, that bugbear of old-fashioned Cobdenites, would soon find a prominent place on our statute-book.

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The Egyptian Post Office is about to inaugurate a service of inland postal orders similar to that obtaining in Great Britain. The *Egyptian Gazette* gives the following particulars concerning the new orders, which, in view of the monetary conditions prevailing in Egypt, will be heartily welcomed by the community. It will be possible, says the paper alluded to, to purchase in the near future from any post office postal orders which, after the name and occupation of the addressee have been filled in, may be despatched through the post like a banknote. Though the office of payment may be left blank, the filling in of the name of the payee is obligatory, and not optional, as in the system adopted in England. The design of the new orders is based on the British ones, and is "neatly executed." The values range from P.T.5 to P.T.100, and fractional amounts may be made up by means of stamps. Orders from P.T.5 to P.T.25 are printed in red, and the poundage is four milliemes; orders from P.T.30 to P.T.50 are green (poundage 7 mm.); from P.T.55 to P.T.75 blue (poundage 7 mm.); and from P.T. 80 to £E1 brown, and poundage P.T.1.

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I congratulate those responsible for bringing out the Egyptian *Journal Officiel* (why not give it an English name now, such as the "Official Journal" or "Gazette"?) on its improved appearance. Hitherto the "Adjudication" pages consisted of a rambling lot of paragraphs delightfully full of repetitions. This has all been changed, and what the *Journal* gains in tidiness it likewise gains in labour and expense.

COMMENTATOR.

LEGAL NOTICE.

The Companies Acts, 1908 and 1913.
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R. B. PETRE, Liquidator

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Egyptian Trade During May.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, June 23.

From the bulletin for May issued to-day by the Egyptian Customs Administration it is evident that the trade depression from which Egypt, together with other countries, has been suffering is continuing unabated. Both exports and imports show a falling off during the past month. The figures are:—Imports £E1,578,769, against £E2,455,957; and exports £E1,378,206, against £E2,029,875 during the corresponding month in 1914. It is to be noted that the increases recorded in February and April have not been maintained by the exports, and the decreases in imports and exports since the beginning of the year are now £E5,140,788 and £E1,578,785 respectively.

Imports.

Imports of livestock and of construction wood and other woodwork were practically at a standstill, for of the former only 57 head, as against 38,551 in May, 1914, were imported, and the imports of the latter amounted to but £E4,844, as compared with £E125,227 a year ago. Skins and worked hides fell off by £E24,179, for £E10,694 of which the Triple Alliance, as now constituted, is responsible, the balance being accounted for by Great Britain and France. Rice imports increased by £E16,953 to £E54,958, practically all of which came from India, but flour fell from £E153,323 to £E47,127. Coffee more than doubled to £E66,334, Brazil accounting for £E59,775 and India for the balance. Only one ton of refined sugar was imported, as compared with 1,060 tons in May last year, when the whole of this trade was in the hands of Austria. Petroleum is up by £E50,642 to £E110,341, all of which came from the United States, who have taken in this matter the place which Roumania held. Coal was stationary, the figures being but £E682 less than in May, 1914; in reality, 102,692 tons less were imported, the statistics being kept up purely owing to the high prices created by difficulty in obtaining freights. Matches increased by £E8,407 to £E17,419 during the month, but as, since the beginning of the year, imports of this article had fallen off by £E5,223, this increase, comparatively speaking, only balances matters. Sweden is now the only source from which Egypt can draw her supplies, as Italy, which had taken the place of Austria, hitherto the chief purveyor to this country, has now entered the war arena, and has prohibited exports. Cotton piece goods and the rest of the textile category, with the exception of sacks, which came principally from India, show a decline of £E150,138 on the month, whilst ironwork and machinery of every description have fallen off by £E292,748.

Exports.

Turning to exports, we find that eggs again have increased by £E29,213 in value and 14,215,000 in number; by comparison with 1914 the egg trade has improved immensely. Skins are down by £E10,131, but practically the whole of the cereal category shows an increase, the maize, lentils, and beans exports having evidently profited by the recent permission to export freely. These cereals amount to £E53,980, as against £E2,205 in May, 1914. As almost all these cereals went to France, Italy, Greece, and Montenegro, there should be every prospect of this country being able to profit by the present situation, and thus derive some compensation for what it may lose from the restriction of the cotton area. Sugar continues to maintain its position; an increase of £E16,344 is recorded on the figures of May, 1914—since the beginning of the year the exports have increased by no less than £E307,104—and over half of the total quantity went to Morocco, the balance going to France and various parts of the British Empire. Onions still continue to improve, 8,293 tons more, with an increase in value of £E14,859, having been exported last month. Cotton is down £E786,772—186,494 cantars less—but cotton-seed, cotton-seed oil, and cotton-seed cake show increases, the latter of £E34,261. Natural phosphates have fallen off by £E13,511, whilst benzine and liquid fuel have increased by £E16,257. Gold, bullion and gold and silver articles show an increase of £E39,923. The depression in the cigarette trade continues; exports amounted to £E14,400 less in May, and the quantity decreased by 18 tons, Germany, Austria, and Belgium accounting for nigh upon the whole drop.

Specie imports would have been but £E119 if it had not been for the import of £E108,600 new silver and nickel for the Ministry of Finance. Exports amounted to only £E7,080, of which £E5,039 went to Jaffa for the American Jewish Relief Society.

Imports from the United States, Brazil, Greece, Spain, and Norway all increased, those from the first-named by as much as £E104,215, or over 160 per cent. on its share in May last. Whilst the imports from England remained to all intents and purposes stationary, the difference being but £E791 in favour of last year, those from the Empire as a whole show a slight improvement. It is interesting to note that the Triple Alliance account for £E539,627 of the decrease in Egypt's import trade last month, and that those countries stand for about half of the total shrinkage since January 1.

Great Britain's share of exports improved by £E74,017, and that of the Empire by £E85,822. The most striking increases amongst the other countries were United States, from £E219,065 to £E307,543; Morocco, by £E11,386 (sugar); and Japan, from £E16,763 to £E52,156 (cotton). For the first time for many months Italy and Switzerland show a falling-off in their purchases from this country, in both cases the shrinkage being considerable.

Trade with the Sudan.

During the month Egypt purchased goods to the value of £E46,175 from the Sudan, to whom she sold £E78,923 worth. Imports from the Sudan included livestock £E7,399—to counteract the decrease in foreign imports—gum £E2,605, cotton £E14,587, and cereals £E11,989. Exports to the Sudan comprised leather goods £E3,026, flour £E2,713, sugar £E27,596, cotton tissues £E16,666, and coffee £E2,170. The total trade between the two countries since the year started amounts to £E480,339.

SOMALILAND'S RESOURCES.

The *Bulletin of the Imperial Institute*, to be published to-day, contains the following paragraphs on the salt and coal resources of British Somaliland:—

Coal.

A sample of coal, stated to have been obtained from a locality fifty-three miles east of Berbera and thirty miles south of Karam, was received from his Majesty's Commissioner in Somaliland in February, 1915.

It consisted of lumps, varying from about ½ lb. to 5 lbs. in weight, of black and fairly compact coal of the sub-bituminous type. The coal had a specific gravity of about 1.3.

Streaks and nodules of iron pyrites were present in some of the lumps.

The coal was examined with the following results:—

	Per cent.
Moisture (on drying at 110° C.)	13·01
Volatile matter	35·16
Fixed carbon	39·78
Ash	12·05
Sulphur	0·64
Calorific value	5,661 small calories.*

The coal burnt freely, without caking, and gave a light cream-coloured ash which did not fuse. The calorific value was about 75 per cent. of that of Welsh steam coal.

The coal much resembled certain samples from Nigeria which have been examined at the Imperial Institute, but was not so good as the better qualities obtained from the Udi-Okana coal field of that country.

The sample was somewhat shaly in appearance, but the ash appeared to be fairly uniformly disseminated through the coal. The proportion of sulphur present could probably be substantially reduced by rough hand-picking.

If the sample now reported on is freely representative of the coal obtainable from this deposit, the latter can be of no immediate value except for local use, as the coal could not compete even in the nearer Mediterranean and East African markets with better coals available from other sources.

The deposit may, however, be of great economic value to Somaliland later on, and it ought to be thoroughly examined in order to ascertain its extent and the general quality of the coal.

* A small calorie is the amount of heat required to raise the temperature of 1 gram of water from 0° to 1° C.

Salt.

The samples of salt dealt with in this report were received from his Majesty's Commissioner in Somaliland in August, 1914. They were described as follows:—

No. 1.—"Specimens picked up from foot of Dagah Der Hill, twenty-five miles east of Berbera, thirty-five miles north-east of Dagah Shabel."

No. 2.—"Pieces chipped from block in Dagah Dor Hill through exposed orifice."

No. 3.—"Piece chipped from block in Darroboh Hill through exposed orifice."

The material in each case consisted of compact crystalline salt, which was analysed with the results given below:—

	No. 1. Per cent.	No. 2. Per cent.	No. 3. Per cent.
Sodium chloride NaCl	84·98	94·78	91·30
Sodium bicarbonate $NaHCO_2$	0·29	0·15	nil
Calcium sulphate $CaSO_4$	2·17	0·69	3·10
Calcium chloride $CaCl_2$	0·24	0·47	0·24
Matter insoluble in water†	11·87	4·05	4·62
Moisture	0·23	0·19	0·28

† Consisting mainly of calcium carbonate ($CaCO_2$).

No soluble phosphates, borates, nitrates, iodides or bromides, or ammonia, were detected in the samples.

The soluble portion of these three samples of salt from Somaliland is very similar in composition to most rock salts, except that a small percentage of sodium bicarbonate is present in Nos. 1 and 2. For comparison the following analyses recorded for typical European rock salts may be quoted:—

—	Cheshire.	Tyrol.	Stassfurt.	Marennes (red).
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Sodium chloride NaCl	98·30	99·43	94·57	95·78
Calcium chloride, $CaCl_2$	—	0·25	—	—
Magnesium Chloride, $MgCl_2$	0·05	0·12	0·97	0·68
Magnesium sulphate, $MgSO_4$	—	—	—	0·60
Calcium sulphate, $CaSO_4$	1·65	0·20	0·89	1·09
Alumina and ferric oxide Al_2O_2, Fe_2O_3	—	—	3·25	0·85
Water, H_2O	—	—	0·22	—

Refined salt of good quality could be prepared, if desired, from these crude Somaliland salts, by a process of re-crystallisation from water. With reference to the small quantities of sodium bicarbonate present in two of the samples, experiments were made in order to ascertain whether this impurity could be eliminated easily by re-crystallisation. For this purpose equal proportions of samples 1 and 2 were taken and dissolved in 2½ times their weight of water. The solution was allowed to stand, and the clear liquid was then decanted from the insoluble matter and allowed to crystallise at a temperature of about 40° C. Examination of the successive crops of crystals thus obtained showed that if the process was stopped when about 80 per cent. of the total quantity had been recovered, a refined salt was obtained free from sodium bicarbonate, and containing only about 1.2 per cent. of calcium sulphate as impurity.

The refined salt thus prepared was of good colour, and did not deliquesce on exposure to air. Such a salt would be quite suitable for culinary purposes.

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The Opening of the Dardanelles

Turkey's Coal Supplies.

The following extracts are from an article which appeared in *Syren and Shipping* (June 30). Attention may here be drawn to the figures of the Heraclea (Zoungouldak) coal mines output. It will be remembered that THE NEAR EAST has always insisted on the necessity of effectively stopping all transport of coal from these mines in the Black Sea to Constantinople :—

The importance of British trade to the port of Constantinople may be gathered from the fact that out of 1,568 vessels, of 3,357,844 tons, which were entered at the port in the year 1913, 304 vessels, of 669,318 tons, were from the United Kingdom; 442 vessels, of 1,043,212 tons, were from Egypt; and 92 vessels, of 165,853 tons, were from Malta. Against these figures may be put those of Germany, which had but seven vessels, of 19,689 tons.

The war with Italy did not make so great a difference in the trade of Turkey as might at first have been expected. But it must be remembered that the figures which we are examining are those of commerce with Britain. Thus, though the total trade of Constantinople no doubt suffered a serious restriction on account of those hostilities, Britain probably benefited to a large extent by the complete interruption of Turkey's trade with Italy, since that share of the trade formerly done by Italy which came our way filled to a large extent the gap which would otherwise have been left owing to the general restriction of commercial enterprise. On the other hand, it must be remembered that as the result of this war, and of the earlier one with the Balkan States, the Turks lost much territory in Europe. This region had previously been largely served with imports through the port of Constantinople, and it seems probable that this part of the trade will be within the reach of our merchants and manufacturers through Black Sea ports as soon as the Dardanelles are forced and the passage is open to our ships.

The Zoungouldak coal mines have been in evidence during the last few months, as Russian naval interference has rendered it difficult for supplies to be forwarded to the Turkish and German vessels in Constantinople. Figures regarding them are, therefore, of interest :—

OUTPUT OF HERACLEA MINES.

	1912.		1913.
Ottoman Co. (bunker coal)	217,672	....	166,570
Constantinople	186,415	....	160,585
Salonika	17,254	....	2,311
Dedeagatch, Beyrout, Panderma, Diridja, and Karabournou	2,528	....	24,874
Smyrna	64,445	....	56,720
Foreign countries, Roumania, Greece, and Hungary.....	25,585	....	*14,813
	513,899	....	425,903
Other Heraclea mines.....	220,000	....	400,000
Total	733,899	....	825,903

* Roumania only.

The relative prices of the Ottoman Company's coal, washed, screened, and delivered f.o.b. at Zoungouldak, show a great difference in the two years under review, for whereas the average price in the former period was 12s., it rose to as much as 16s. in the year 1913. But, in spite of this local production, Constantinople took 174,000 tons of foreign coal in 1910, and 230,000 tons in 1911, the total imports being 346,846 tons (of which 326,486 tons came from Britain) in 1910, and 421,779 tons (of which 369,611 tons came from Britain) in 1911. The enormous difficulties under which the Turks must be labouring through the shortage of the coal supply is, therefore, apparent. This must have its effect on the fortunes of the war, for coal is not only the breath of the steam engine, in conjunction with oil fuel, on board ship, but it is needed for troop trains and a thousand and one other military purposes. We know, for example, how the British naval coal bill has increased since August, 1914. Now, as the hot weather has come upon us and disease threatens armies, the need for water for sanitary purposes in cities near the seat of war is pressing indeed. Yet it is said that Constantinople is faced with the probability of a water famine owing to lack of coal.

We come now to consider briefly the probable results of the reopening of the trade with Russian Black Sea ports. According to the returns given by the Foreign Office in May, 1915, the latest available figures of Russian population are those of the census of 1897. At that period, it appears, the Odessa consular district contained a population of 32,975,484 persons, and, allowing for the natural increase in the seventeen years that have elapsed, it is estimated that the area now contains over 40 millions of inhabitants—a population not far short of that contained in the United Kingdom. The purchasing power of these people, as it has been pointed out by those who know the country, is almost entirely bound up in the success of the crops. A high price of foodstuffs—if, of course, there is a good surplus for export—means almost unbounded prosperity for such a community, and, of course, what, for them, is large purchasing power. The year 1912 was a bad one for South Russia; spring frosts damaged the fruit crops, and continuous rain from July onwards ruined the cereals, which it had been hoped would have furnished a record supply. The failure of the beet industry was estimated to have meant a loss to the community of five millions sterling, as the roots could not be shifted to the factories in consequence of the sodden state of the roads. This same factor prevented the transit of the cereals from the farms to the usual markets, and there were accordingly accumulations of produce left up country. The marketing of these stocks no doubt helped to swell the figures for the year 1913, which are reported as having been very satisfactory, both as regards quantity and quality. But the low price realised by the produce kept the purchasing power of the farmers down. In the Consul-General's report, published recently, reference is made to the growing demand for agricultural machinery, and satisfaction is expressed—though only issued a few weeks ago, the report was evidently written in pre-war days—that British manufacturers have fallen into line with the Germans in the matter of giving credit extending over three years to their customers. This, it was hoped, will give an impetus to British sales. But, at the same time, it is remarked that the United States retains the bulk of the trade in such articles as self-binders and reapers. The credit facilities afforded by the agricultural implement firms have not yet been adopted by the motor-car companies, with the result that German, French, and American makes are chiefly in evidence, though attention is directed to the fact that there is in Odessa a splendid market for strong, medium-priced cars if facilities as to stocking spare parts and as to terms of payment can be provided. The Germans were evidently pushing their way in here, as elsewhere, for not only had the Hamburg-American Line established a monthly service of passenger and cargo vessels between Odessa and New York, but in 1913 the Rickmers Company, of Hamburg, started a new line of steamers to trade from Odessa to Lisbon, Antwerp, and Hamburg. These activities have been interrupted by causes which are hardly likely to allow of their resumption, at all events in our time. . . . We may fairly conclude that the opening of the Dardanelles, quite apart from its military importance, will be of great commercial advantage. Not only is there a huge volume of trade accumulated and waiting to be let loose, but there are great possibilities of development and of extension. Britain has already her place in the Black Sea trade. She will assuredly improve it in the future to the mutual advantage of herself and her Allies. The British consumer will find the advantage of the restoration to the world's markets of the South Russian grain supplies, and the freight market will welcome the tonnage which is now lying idle in Black Sea ports. The military reasons which prompt the intention to force the Dardanelles are of themselves assuredly sufficient. But it is well not to forget that there are other advantages to commerce which, if not so striking as the political arguments, have their weight and will bring their reward.

NEWS FROM TURKEY.

In view of the impossibility for our Consuls to report on the state of trade in Asiatic Turkey, and in continuation of a similar report published recently in THE NEAR EAST from the the U.S. Consul at Smyrna, we reproduce to-day extracts from the U.S. Consular report on Jerusalem :—

The year 1914 opened with bright prospects for the commercial future of Palestine. The country recovered rapidly from the disasters of the early months of 1913 and made the remarkable progress in the last half of that year of an increase of 20 per cent. in imports and 6 per cent in exports over 1912. The first six months of 1914 were fully justifying great expectations when suddenly the war in Europe upset all calculations. It was hoped that Palestine would not suffer further than from the general depression, but this hope was soon dissipated, and special conditions affected the district in every part. The economic condition suffered greatly through the financial crisis resulting from the European war, but was also aggravated by the general mobilization of the army early in August and the great military activities and preparations since Turkey became involved. The stocks of merchandise of all classes hav been reduced in the whole district and will have to be replenished as soon as the routes of commerce are open. However, the buying power has been considerably diminished, and it is questionable whether a fair trade can be expected, unless liberal credit is extended by the European houses which may wish to dispose of their stock on hand.

Financial Conditions.

Early in August some of the banks in the district suspended general operations entirely, and others are paying only a small percentage weekly on their current accounts. This factor has an important bearing upon the financial condition of the district and aggravates the slackening of trade. The moratorium regulations in Europe are applied to Turkey, and bills payable during the period are dealt with in the same manner—by monthly payment of the percentage stipulated in the regulations. The bank rate at once jumped from the level of 6 to 7 per cent. to that of 9 to 12 per cent. In cases where 12 per cent. was charged by local banks the supercharge over the legal rate —9 per cent.—was disguised as "extra commission."

The closing of the banks came simultaneously with the grain crop marketing season. Quantities of grain were brought in for sale, but since speculators had their money tied up the banks which made a business of lending out funds for such investments were obliged to withhold them. Imported provisions and foodstuffs, such as rice, potatoes, sugar, coffee, etc., immediately took an upward turn in prices, but before long came down again, and remained about at normal until the Ottoman Empire entered into the hostilities. Local products, such as wheat and other grains, on the other hand, instead of going up came down very much in price. The fear of Government seizure, combined with the lack of cash among the purchasing public and the hesitation of dealers to sell on credit, kept the imported staples for a considerable time slightly above

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normal, in spite of the fact that nothing was or could be imported. When, however, Turkey declared war all these articles and many others went up by leaps and bounds. For a while coffee beans were about as scarce and unprocurable as rice, sugar, and petroleum, but later a supply came from Jaffa and was sold openly in the market. While much above the average price, the cost was still far below what it was previously. Undoubtedly the lack of cash and the impoverished state of the inhabitants forced the local speculators to come down in the price of coffee, as it was not among the absolute necessities. Flour prices increased, but again lowered slightly, and while this commodity advanced as high as 30 per cent. above the prices obtaining at the outbreak of hostilities, it did not go as high as was feared. Nevertheless, considering that in general the poor man was unable to earn any money, the price was felt very keenly.

Lack of Transport.

Jerusalem depends on the Hauran and the plateau east of the Jordan for its grain. Quantities are said still to be there, and prices might be normal in Jerusalem but for the lack of transportation facilities, every good mule, camel, or horse having long since been called into service for military purposes. The only substitutes are the scrawny little donkeys of the peasants and Bedouin, and some poor camels.

Luxuries, cloth, lumber, iron, and other necessaries, not foodstuffs, which are imported did not advance in price. This is accounted for by the impoverished state of the people. Aside from foodstuffs a few imported articles greatly advanced in price, notably matches, which reached six times their normal value; brass, which doubled; and some kinds of hardware and cotton cloth which made high records.

Grain Crop Prospects

The outlook for the grain crop is extremely dark. First of all, so many men have been called to the colours and so many animals are required for military purposes that a large percentage of the land has remained uncultivated.

The scarcity of rain, too, is causing much concern. The most appalling apprehension, however, is caused by the appearance of locusts, which are now seen in large numbers on the plain of Sharon and in the neighbourhood of Jaffa, as well as in the valley of the Jordan. They will not only eat up the crops, but will destroy leaves and blossoms on the trees, thus affecting the summer fruits. This danger calls for the most determined action.

BRITISH TRADE WITH RUSSIA

At last week's meeting of the Advisory Committee to the Board of Trade on Commercial Intelligence it was reported that the number of written and personal inquiries received at the Commercial Intelligence Branch in the first half of this year was 28,500, as compared with 9,400 in the corresponding period of 1914, whilst the number of firms on the special register at the end of June was 3,128, against 1,645 at the same date in 1914. The Committee unanimously approved the decision of the Board of Trade to organise a second British Industries Fair next year. Among other matters before the Committee were the question of steps to be taken to promote British trade with Russia and questions arising out of the work of the Commercial Intelligence Branch.

Larnaca will soon have a house for its poor, thanks to the generosity of a well-known philanthropist, Mr. Costa J. Pierides, who had presented a large house for the purpose, and has made provision for its maintenance. As soon as this institution is in full working order, Mr. Pierides hopes to erect in his native town a building to serve as an elementary school for boys.

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Near East Markets.

SPECIAL REPORTS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cyprus. July 10.

The price of wheat is high and tending to rise. The villagers are hoarding their stocks in the expectation of getting 8s. and even 10s. per kile (bushel). The price of bread has risen to 3½ cp. (a fraction under 4¾d.) per oke (2¾ lbs). The stock of petroleum seems to be exhausted, or nearly so.

SUDAN CROPS.

The May report of the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Sudan Government states that gum continued to come in well in Kordofan Province during the month under review.

The total amount sold in El Obeid market was 45,281 kantars of 120 rottles (54 kilos), of which 2,083 kantars were from Nahud. This is very nearly the record for a month's sale in El Obeid, the only month which ever beat it being May, 1913, in which 46,869 kantars were sold in the market.

The amount sold at El Obeid this season to date is already within 13,000 kantars of the total amount sold in El Obeid last season.

The price of gum has been rising steadily lately, and from P.T. 57 a kantar at the beginning of the month it has risen to P.T. 71.

From White Nile province it is reported that it is now clear that island crops have practically failed owing to the late appearance of the islands. The wheat crop is unusually small, as it was too late to sow, and the only ones which promise fairly well are bamia and Indian corn. The area under cultivation, however, is insignificant compared with former years. The fall of the river was almost one month too late to admit of good island cultivation. The same applies to the late foreshore crops.

One of the features of the year is the large quantity of barley in the Berber Province. Wheat, on the other hand, has been in some districts affected by pest.

A recent arrival from Sennar Province, who is *au courant* with the state of the natives there, and the condition of the crops, etc., informs us, says the *Sudan Times* (July 7), that dura from last year's crop is very plentiful, the natives in some cases not knowing what to do with it. At Singa the price has fallen as low as P.T. 20 per ardeb, and there are some localities on the Dinder where one could easily buy dura at P.T. 10 per ardeb.

This shows that all the alarmist rumours which were spread by interested parties some two or three months ago about the scarcity of dura were entirely without foundation.

EGYPTIAN COTTON CROP.

The following report on the state of the cotton crop was issued by the Alexandria General Produce Association on July 2 :—

Lower Egypt.—The temperature during June has been favourable, and under its influence the crop has made satisfactory progress; the backward condition previously noticed has all been practically made up. The condition of the plants is satisfactory; everywhere the plants look healthy and vigorous. Water for irrigation purposes continues to be sufficient. Worms and egg masses are reported in all districts. The cultivators are destroying them under Government supervision, and the damage caused, up to the present, is of little importance. In some districts only, locusts have been seen in flight; there are no eggs.

Upper Egypt and Fayoum.—Temperature has been very favourable to the crop. The plants are healthy and well developed. The water supply is quite sufficient. There have been no reports of worms. Locusts, with the exception of a few flights, may be said to have disappeared entirely.

ROUMANIAN EXPORTS.

A Braila correspondent, writing about a month ago, said :—

Hardly anything is passing the borders in the way of foodstuff at present, and it is well nigh impossible to get any wagons for Austria or Germany even for non-prohibited articles. The Government, in order to render such export impossible, has applied a tax of 3,000 fr. in gold on beans and 500 fr. in gold on maize, in addition to 1,000-1,500 fr. per wagon for the Red Cross. Consequently export by rail into the above-named countries has almost entirely ceased.

Crops Idle.

On the other hand, the stocks here are enormous, and the new crop is very promising, too, so that nobody knows where on earth it will be stored. Every store in Braila, Galatz, and all Danubian ports is already full. Every lighter is chartered for another year (the majority of the lighters are fully laden with old crop grain), and rent prices for lighters have risen to 11 fr. per kilo, July 1 to July 1, 1916. Grain prices are, therefore, bound to drop considerably, and I am really afraid that part of the crop will simply be left to rot in the fields! There is only one hope, that of the opening of the Straits, which will enable us to effect some shipments to get rid of at least part of the old and new crops.

TRADE WITH HEJAZ.

According to the *Monthly Journal* of the Sudan Chamber of Commerce, the following proclamation was issued by the Sudan Government on May 22 :—

"In February last the British Government, hearing that there was considerable distress among pilgrims and the inhabitants of holy cities on account of lack of food, despatched through the medium of the Egyptian Government a large consignment of grain to Jeddah for distribution among the pilgrims and poorer inhabitants of the holy cities. On arrival at Jeddah the consignment was seized by the Turkish military authorities and held by them for the use of the Turkish garrisons.

"In consequence of this high-handed action the British Government was reluctantly compelled, in accordance with the usage of war, to stop the export of food supplies from India, Egypt, and the Sudan to Jeddah. It has recently come to the notice of his Majesty's Government that this stoppage of supplies to the Hedjaz is causing distress not only among the pilgrims but to innocent residents of the holy places.

"His Majesty's Government, therefore, in view of the fact that they have no hostile intentions towards the Arabs, with whom they had always maintained most friendly relations, and in spite of the risk of such supplies being again misappropriated by the Turkish authorities, have decided once more to authorize the export of supplies to Jeddah sufficient to meet the needs of the innocent inhabitants and pilgrims."

The Board of Trade are in receipt of information from H.M. Consul-General at Tunis to the effect that the local Government have authorised the exportation to France of wheat (in any quantity), of 25,000 tons of oats, and of 50,000 tons of barley, of this year's crop. In the case of barley, a quantity up to, but not exceeding, 25,000 tons may be sent on to the United Kingdom.

PRODUCE REPORT.

London, July 22.

Currants.

The market has been quiet this past week, and prices have declined. Owing to the unsatisfactory condition of the last arrivals of Pyrgos fruit sales of same were effected at much lower prices. Bags are offered at 24s. to 24s. 6d., and quarter cases at 27s. to 27s. 6d. Vostizza is quoted 37s. to 40s., Patras 31s. to 32s., while Amalias and Zante were sold from 28s. to 31s. New fruit, in bag, to arrive, first and second steamer, and September shipment, sells at 21s. 3d. to 21s. 9d. c.i.f.

The Liverpool market has also been quiet, with a few sales of Zante and smalls at 28s. to 32s. Pyrgos is quoted 26s. to 26s. 6d., Patras 28s. to 31s., Zante 28s. to 32s., and Smalls 28s. to 33s.

Sultanas.

There has been only a moderate demand, with a few sales, of Smyrna fruit at 58s. to 59s., and fine at 60s. to 61s. No arrivals are expected at present, and as for new Smyrna fruit there is little hope that any will be saved, most of the growers having been driven into the interior left their vineyards to the mercy of the soldiery.

In the Liverpool market there is very little doing in sultanas; prices are higher, and nothing is known of any further arrivals.

Onions.

Egyptian are selling at 3s. to 4s. 6d. with very little demand; while Valencias are moving better at prices from 5s. to 6s. 9d.

Seeds.

Linseed has been quiet but fairly steady. London-Calcutta, spot, is quoted 55s.; afloat and July-August, also 55s.; and August-September 55s. 3d. Rapeseed is generally quiet, brown Cawnpore quoted, June-July, 49s. 6d., and Guzerat, ditto, 55s. 6d. Cottonseed is firm but inactive; London-Egyptian, spot, is quoted £9 2s. 6d., and July £9 13s. 6d. per ton.

Oils.

Linseed oil is steady, but quiet, spot pipes £25 5s., barrels £26 15s., August £27, September-December £27 7s. 6d. Rape oil remains quiet. Ordinary brown, naked, spot £36 to £37; English refined in barrels £38 to £40. Cotton oil is steady, ordinary pale refined, spot, pipes, £31 5s., sweet edible £36 to £37.

Oilcakes.

Cotton cakes.—There has been a further improvement in prices, especially of Egyptian makes, which are selling freely at £6 15s. per ton, ex quay; while English are also dearer at £6 15s. to £6 17s. 6d. Bombays cannot be obtained.

Linseed Cakes.—Some parcels of foreign makes have met with a ready sale at an advance over last week's quotations, while English makes are 5s. per ton dearer this week. Best London made sell freely at £10 7s. 6d. to £10 10s. Greek of fine quality in bags are quoted at £10 10s.; and East Indian, pure, sold at £10 5s. ex steamer afloat.

Locust Beans.

In spite of the continued scarcity, prices are unchanged at £8 for whole and £8 5s. for kibbled, and there is no prospects at present of any further supplies.

Tobacco.

There has been a fair business in all grades of tobacco, and prices are ruling very firm. Turkey is quoted at 8d. to 15s., Greek 5½d. to 3s. 6d., Latakia 6d. to 2s.

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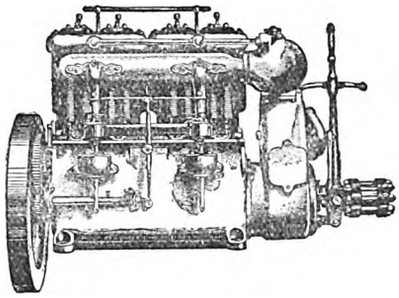

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Engineering Notes.

Modern Munitions of War.

"Shells and their Concussive Effect" was the subject of a very interesting lecture given by Professor Vivian B. Lewes last week at the Royal Society of Arts. Shells were divided by the lecturer into two classes, shrapnel and high explosive. The former were most effective against advancing troops, since one 6-in. shrapnel shell carried 375 bullets, and when the shell burst these bullets were scattered over an area of 300 square yards, or more than one bullet to every yard. High explosive shells, Professor Lewes explained, were of two main kinds, those used for armour-piercing as in the Navy and for attacking steel cupolas, and those employed in modern trench and siege warfare. Of the former we had an adequate supply. The shortage was of the latter, which were invaluable in the kind of warfare now in progress. The special merit of the high explosive shell lay in its concussive effect. The enormous blast of the gases instantaneously resulting from detonation of the charge of high explosive, combined with the high-pressure air displacement, was a sufficiently disruptive force to tear down wire entanglements and massive fortifications independently of the work done by shell fragments. The blast, moreover, had a deadly concussive effect on men in its vicinity. It was that which left men standing dead in the trenches or elsewhere without any visible wound. Cases were on record where the concussion had caused a heart displacement of as much as two inches. Many of the deaths, said Professor Lewes, popularly supposed to be due to poisonous fumes evolved from bursting shells had a purely concussive origin. The reason why enormous craters were created by high explosive shells bursting on the ground, the lecturer explained by describing the downward effect of high explosives. If a large quantity of nitro-glycerine be placed upon a rock, and then be fired by detonation, the rock would be smashed to atoms because of the recoil of the gases against the down-pressing atmosphere. The gases are generated so rapidly and in such enormous volume that they find it impossible to push aside the surrounding air sufficiently quickly; they, therefore, take the path of least resistance, which in the case stated lies in the direction of making a downward displacement of matter, which is instantly done, even though it mean the pulverisation of a mass of solid rock.

Naxos Emery.

Owing to the misapplication of the name "Naxos" to a variety of emery preparations and tools that are being used for various purposes in engineering, munition, and other factories, it should be known that often articles bearing that name have not a particle in them of the real famous substance. Naxos emery (smiris), which comes from an island of that name in the Ægean Archipelago, is practically a monopoly of the Greek Government, the profits being employed to pay off public debt. Direct exportation from Naxos itself being subject to great difficulties, a depot was established at Syra a few years ago. The shipping from there is carried out with greater ease and the quality is also better, as all the stuff is carefully looked through and treated before it is put on board. Until recently the selling price remained the same as before, viz., about 85s. per ton measurement, and probably it still continues to be the same. There is a permanent stock of about 2,000 to 3,000 tons always kept at the Syra depot, and nearly 6,000 tons of the goods are exported every year, representing a total value of nearly £25,000. Of the entire quantity exported, over 2,000 tons go to Holland, 1,500 tons to the United States, 1,000 tons to France, and nearly the same quantity to the United Kingdom. Smyrna emery is of an inferior quality to that of Naxos, but competes with it keenly. The two kinds are often mixed and sold as pure Naxos emery. The same happens with another kind of emery of American origin, which contains not an atom of Naxos emery, although it is sold as such.

New Railways in Asia Minor.

The *Morning Post's* Berne correspondent says that the *Official Gazette* of Constantinople publishes a decree according to which the Ministry of War is granted a credit of one and a-half million Turkish pounds to build and work four main and two branch lines, all under military control. The chief of these lines are from Angora to Erzeroum, from Erzeroum to a point on the Black Sea, from Muradli to Rodosto, and from a point on the Erzeroum railway to the Black Sea.

Munitions at Malta.

Reuter's Agency reports from Malta that the question of munitions has been taken up seriously. Up till now only the dockyards and the military departments had been engaged, and these have been turning out a fairly large quantity of munitions, but apparently the resources of the island are now about to be organized with a view to increasing the output. There are several private firms at Malta besides the civil Government Departments possessing the necessary plants for making munitions, and willing to co-operate in any scheme aiming at providing the men in the firing line with what they need. There is no doubt that the output will be considerably increased when such organisations are effected. It is probable that a local committee will be formed for that purpose.

Reapers in Baghdad.

An attempt has been made (says the U.S. Consul at Baghdad) to introduce light American reapers and plows, but this has been attended with little success so far. When larger areas of land come under cultivation, however, modern methods and implements will become imperative, and the most suitable reaper for use upon lands intersected with small irrigation ditches fed from large canals is undoubtedly the "Light American." Hoeing, mowing, and threshing machinery also in the course of time will become a necessity. Owing to Government prohibition, there was practically no export of wheat during 1914. In addition to growing wheat, barley millet, sesame, and similar grains, a portion of the increased area of cultivation probably will be devoted to the production of cotton.

TRADE NOTES.

Egypt.

Tenders are invited by the Economat Central, Cairo, for the supply of articles of stationery required for the Government Departments during the year 1915-1916. August 5.

Tenders are invited by the Ministry of Education, Cairo, for the supply of clothing for the pupils of the Bulac Elementary Training College for Women Teachers. July 31, 1915.

The Egyptian *Journal Officiel* of June 28 contains certain tariff valuations for hides, skins, sesame, flax, wool, ivory, wax, onions, eggs, cotton seed, oil, caustic soda and various other products exported from Egypt, which are to remain in operation from July 1 to September 30, 1915. The list of valuations may be seen by the British traders interested on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

The following information is from the report by H.M. Vice-Consul at Alexandria (Mr. A. B. Geary) on the trade of that district in 1914, which will shortly be issued: "The number of cash-on-delivery parcels despatched from Alexandria to the United Kingdom in 1914 decreased by 206 and the number received at Alexandria from the United Kingdom decreased by 2,140. Up to the end of July, however, increases of 11.9 and 21.1 per cent., respectively, were recorded in this branch of the service. It is hoped that British exporters are fully alive to the present opportunity afforded them of securing a representative share of this trade. Much might be accomplished by judicious advertising of specialities in the local press. When dealing with reputable firms, the service of many facilities to purchasers with a minimum of risk."

Persia.

H.M. Commercial Attaché at Petrograd reports that the *Torgovo-Promyshlennaya Gazeta* (Petrograd) of June 9 publishes the following information:—

The free passage in transit through Russia to Persia of foreign parcels, increasing in number from year to year, is a serious danger to Russian trade interests in Persia, as in the guise of small parcels foreign goods, mostly German and Austrian, were thus despatched in enormous quantities. With a view to diminishing this traffic, the Council of Ministers in 1913 empowered the Minister of Finance to take the necessary steps to close the Julfa and Askabad Customs against such parcels despatched in transit through Russia. These measures, however, were not carried out in consequence of certain difficulties of an international character. At present, owing to the war, the despatch of parcels from Germany has ceased altogether, while the number of similar parcels from Sweden and Norway, containing presumably German goods, and following the same route, has increased very largely. In view of the above, the Ministry of Commerce has found it desirable to submit once more for consideration the question of closing the Julfa and Askabad routes for such transit parcels for which purpose an Inter-Departmental Conference will meet in the near future at the said Ministry.

Bulgaria.

H.M. Vice-Consul at Sofia reports that at the end of 1912 there were 1,388 miles of railway completed in Bulgaria, the number of passengers conveyed being 3,342,000. The weight of the merchandise transported annually averages 2,000,000 tons. The construction of the following lines should be taken in hand during the present year:—Radomir - Dupnitza - Gorna - Jumaia, with extension down the Struma Valley to the Greek frontier, Plevna-Lovetch, Dupnitza-Bobov-Dol, and Gabrovo-Sevlievo. Work is progressing on the survey and preparation of the Mikhailovo-Haskovo-Porto Lagos line. As to Porto Lagos itself, where the construction of a large port is contemplated, the harbour is to have an area of from 3,000,000 to 3,500,000 square metres, and will be protected by a breakwater 1,500 yards long.

Greece.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of telegraphic information from H.M. Minister at Athens to the effect that a notice was published in the Greek *Official Gazette* of July 9 prohibiting the exportation from Greece of cotton as from July 1.

The British Vice-Consul at Cephalonia reports that with regard to imports from Germany, those goods which, it would seem, are made expressly for the markets of the Levant, have established a hold on the market in Cephalonia owing in great measure to their cheapness, though they are inferior in quality to similar articles from other markets. Cheapness is a matter of no small consideration with small markets, especially those where consumers of slender means and others from habits of economy prefer, as a rule, the cheaper to the dearer article. This hold on the market is also due, in some cases, to easier terms of payment and to the activity of travelling agents who are furnished with samples and price lists based on the metric system. Their goods also are faultlessly packed. These agents know one or two languages, besides possessing a knowledge of the market, and are thus in a position to treat with buyers direct. Orders given to German concerns are promply executed and forwarded at c.i.f. prices to their destination, through the Piræus.

The British Vice-Consul at Zante reports that many articles, such as woollen and cotton goods, haberdashery, hats, gloves, butter, perfumes, cards, etc., are now manufactured in Greece, and although comparing unfavourably with foreign goods, are superseding them to a considerable extent owing to the heavy import duties imposed in Greece. Notwithstanding this fact German and Austro-Hungarian competition, which is now temporarily stopped, has been very keen of late. On

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inquiries recently being made why German goods, such as cotton and woollen stuffs, silks, hempen goods, cordage, crockery, hollow enamelled ware, hardware, paper, etc., were so much in evidence in the market, the general reply was elicited that although the superiority of the British article, of whatever kind, is universally acknowledged, it is found difficult to deal with British firms owing to the fact that the trade facilities offered by German firms are altogether discountenanced by the former. These are long terms of payment, prompt despatch of goods c.i.f. Zante, compilation of price lists in the Greek language, and terms (both as regards money and weights and measures) made in accordance with Greek customs. Representatives of German firms know exactly the requirements of the market and not infrequently the Custom House duties in force, which they take into account in regulating orders with their customers. It must be owned that the Germans have the ascendancy in the way of securing orders, however small, by offering such facilities and endeavouring to satisfy their clients in every possible way.

H.M. Consul at Piræus reports as follows: The articles which were formerly obtained from Germany and Austria-Hungary and are now being obtained from the United States, especially since Italy declared war on Austria, are cotton, jute, wire, machinery, paper, textiles, yarns, sugar, coffee, rice, motor cars, cloth, oils (lubricating, petrol, etc.), cheap cotton and woollen goods (half cotton, half wool), horses (formerly from Hungary), electrical goods, military boots, colours, soda, acids, sulphur, and chemical manures. The terms offered by American exporters are confirmed credit in New York, for cash against documents on shipment.

GREEK NATIONAL STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.

Considerable interest has been aroused in New York export circles (says the U.S. *Daily Consular Reports*) by the arrival in America and departure for Greece of the steamship King Constantine, the new passenger steamer of the National Steam Navigation Company. The present company is a combine of the old National Steam Navigation Company of Greece and the Hellenic Trans-Atlantic Steam Navigation Company. The King Constantine, which is completing its maiden voyage, has a displacement of 18,000 tons. It is 490 feet long and has a beam of 58 feet. The boat was built by Cammell Laird and Company, of Birkenhead, England, and is capable of developing a speed of 18 knots. It has accommodation for sixty saloon, 550 second-class, and 1,950 steerage passengers. In about two months the company expect to have another new steamer ready, the Queen Sophia, of 20,000 tons, and this vessel will be put on the Piræus-New York service.

This company runs a service outward from New York to Naples and Piræus, calling on the return voyage from Piræus to New York at Patras and Palermo, and maintains both a passenger and a freight service. Besides the two steamers mentioned, they have the following passenger boats: Athena, 12,000 tons; Themistocles, 11,000 tons; Iaonina, 9,000 tons; Salonica, 8,000 tons; Patras, 8,000 tons.

BAGHDAD EXPORTS.

Under normal conditions, says the U.S. Consul at Baghdad, large quantities of wheat and barley are exported every year from the Baghdad and Busreh *districts*, to places along the Persian Gulf and to India.

The only manufactured articles which leave Baghdad in any considerable quantities are Persian carpets and opium. The variety and beauty of the Persian carpets are well known to American connoisseurs, who pay fancy prices for the genuine vegetable-dyed rugs. The introduction of aniline dyes of German manufacture has, however, seriously jeopardized the carpet industry, and, while enhancing the value of antique rugs, has robbed the modern article of artistic and lasting value.

Opium is also of Persian origin. The manufactured paste is exported in cases of two tins, each containing seventy bricks of one pound each. India and China were formerly large buyers of this article, but owing to legislative measures the trade has greatly diminished, and London has assumed the position of principal buyer for the world.

CINEMA THEATRE IN TEHERAN.

The only cinematograph theatre in Teheran (says the U.S. Consul) has a seating capacity of 200, is open each day from 8 p.m. to 9.30 p.m., and is well patronised. Electric power is used. The reels used contain 800 to 900 ft., and are changed every third day. There are no film agencies in Teheran, and the theatre obtains its films from dealers in Russia, all films being second hand. French, German, and Russian pictures are being shown at present. The most popular pictures are comic, tragic, war, and chases with amusing falls. Explanations are generally printed in Persian and French, although English, German, and Russian are sometimes used. Films are imported in tin boxes, the duty charged being 5 per cent.

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EGYPTIAN FINANCES DURING APRIL.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, July 9.

Close on the heels of the final figures for the financial year 1914-15, there have now been published those for the first month of the new account. As these are too early days for any extensive analysis to be of any utility, I shall only deal very succinctly with the figures. The revenue during April amounted to £E1,064,598, as compared with £E1,360,825 a year ago, whilst the expenditure came to £E1,470,743, as against £E1,726,046 in the preceding April. At this period of the account there is always an excess of expenditure over revenue, and the amount of that deficit is £E40,924 more than it was at the end of April, 1914.

The chief decreases in revenue appear under Direct Taxes, £E6,116—Land Tax, it may be pointed out, is £E6,560 better and Urban Tax £E12,857 worse than in April last year—Customs, £E53,582; Port Dues, £E28,736; Legal Dues, £E9,593—the receipts from the Native Courts are, however, some £E3,000 up—Railways, £E50,617; Post Office, £E3,489; Investment of Funds, £E37,489; Sales of Land, £E15,768; Extraordinary Receipts, £E91,838. Tobacco Duties increased by £E8,976 and Domains Receipts by £E5,338.

It should be borne in mind that in the Budget for this year reductions varying between 10 per cent. and 75 per cent. were made on the estimates for 1914-15. In every case, with the exception of the proceeds from the Investment of Funds and the Extraordinary Receipts, the figures for the month show a diminution of less than the reduction allowed for.

The reduction of £E255,303 effected in the expenditure of the month compared with April, 1914, is represented by Mixed Courts, £E16,517; Irrigation Department, £E47,213; Drainage, £E8,592; Railways, £E80,426; and Ministry of War, £E63,885.

A slight innovation has been made in the form in which the accounts are presented. Instead of adding to the month's figures the bank and other balances showing the operations effected during the month and leaving the public to work out the exact position of the State's finances up to date, the difference between the revenue and expenditure is clearly shown in the monthly account, and an entirely separate summary of the month's operations is given. The innovation, since it tends to clarity, is certainly an improvement.

BANKS AND CREDIT.

In connection with The Near East's continuous appeal for the creation of British banks in the Near East in order to serve as a useful link between the cash (Western) and credit (Eastern) systems, it is interesting to find the U.S. Consul at Jerusalem pleading a similar cause. He says :—

"A banking organization would solve the problem to the satisfaction of all concerned. As the result of the new banking law in the United States such a scheme is more practicable than ever before, and a branch of one of the home national banks could be situated in Athens, Constantinople, or Alexandria. This organization would be in a position to handle all the banking operations of the Near East with the United States. The trade of Turkey alone with the United States is about 30,000,000 dols., and, including the neighbouring countries, it will surely be double or treble that figure. It is apparent that this volume of business is worth the attention of a big banking concern. Such a central institution, with correspondents in all the large cities of the Near East, would reduce the high rate of exchange which London and Paris banks are charging for the same service. The nationality of the bank would inspire more confidence among the home manufacturers and merchants, and it would be to the interest of the bank to advise business men at home as to the best methods of handling such a business or entering such a market, and to furnish confidential information as to the standing of local businessmen."

CYPRUS FINANCE LAW.

The *Cyprus Gazette* of July 2 contains a supplement giving the text of two finance laws—the Surplus Balance Appropriation Law, 1915, and the Surplus Balance Appropriation (Supplementary) Law, 1915.

The preamble of the first law, dated June 12, 1915, states that "whereas it is expedient to make provision for certain expenses of the Government of Cyprus which are not already lawfully provided for, or shall not hereafter be provided for by any law" . . . "there shall be issued and applied during the period of twelve months ending March 31, 1916, to the services enumerated hereunder an additional sum not exceeding the sum of £21,550 for defraying the services herein declared.

"The said amount shall be appropriated as follows :—

	£
Medical—	
Malarial campaign	3,000
Agriculture—	
Purchase of breeding stock	300
Olive trees, pruning of	800
Forest—	
Construction of forest roads	500
Special tree planting	1,500
Railway—	
Railway extension and rolling stock	1,100
Purchase of locomotives	6,000
Railway improvements	300
Public works—	
Construction of new bridges	500
Grain stores	450
Improvements, Limassol customs	825
Building of law courts	375
Water supplies and culverts	1,500
Motor roads	2,500
Extended sanitary works	400
Miscellaneous—	
Museum, building and fittings of	500
Relief of distressed Cypriots abroad	1,000
	£21,550

The preamble of the second law, dated likewise June 12, states that "whereas it is necessary to make additional provision for the service of the twelve months ended on March 31, 1915" . . . "there shall be issued and applied to the service of the twelve months ended March 31, 1915, an additional sum not exceeding the sum of one thousand nine hundred and fifty pounds thirteen shillings and five piastres for defraying the charges of the Government of Cyprus for such period. The said amount shall be appropriated as follows :—

	£	s.	cp.
Agriculture—			
Carob cultivation, improvement of	50	13	5
Miscellaneous—			
Purchase of quay and sheds at Famagusta Harbour	1,500	0	0
Relief of distressed Cypriots abroad	400	0	0
	£1,950	13	5

PERSIA'S INDEBTEDNESS.

A correspondent writes to the *Economist* :—

In view of the request by Persia to Great Britain and Russia for a three years' moratorium for both sinking fund and interest, it is worth quoting from official sources exactly what the indebtedness of the country is. Here are the figures :—

Indebtedness of Persia to England.

	£
Loan	300,000
1911	1,250,000
1912	140,000
1913	300,000
1914	50,000
	2,040,000

The annual charges payable on the above loans by the Persian Government on account of interest and sinking fund are £226,406 2s. per annum.

Indebtedness to Russia.

	£
1900-1902 Loan	3,250,000
Consolidated Kran loan	980,628
1913 advance	200,000
	4,430,628

Of the above amounts, after the payments already effected, there remains about £3,666,666. The annual charges for sinking fund and interest on this amounts to, approximately, £348,017 per annum, and the annual charges on British loans, as seen above, are £226,406; on Russian loan, £348,017; total for both, £574,423 per annum. These charges are payable out of Customs, the net receipts of which, according to the Estimates of 1912-13, were, approximately, £640,581, but owing to the present war, they have depreciated. That is why the Persian Government is now asking Great Britain and Russia for postponement of all payments on account of interest and sinking fund of the above for three years from June, 1915.

U.S AND GREEK EXCHANGE

The U.S. Consul at Patras writes :—

"The export trade from the consular district of Patras, Greece, to the United States amounts annually to some £400,000. Of this amount, 60 per cent. is currants and 30 per cent. is olives, oil, and cheese. Practically the entire business is done upon the basis of confirmed letters of credit. The banking element involved in this trade presents an anomaly. The letters of credit, instead of being opened by the American buyers through American banks direct to sellers in Greece, are opened through American banks viâ London to sellers. Moreover, the letters of credit are opened in pounds sterling for currants and in francs for most other articles—very rarely in dollars for either.

"The result of this practice is to impose a threefold handicap upon the trade. In the first place, it imposes a double banking expense, since both the American and the London bank will charge for service in handling the transaction. In the second place, it imposes a double cable expense since the American bank must cable its London correspondent that the credit is opened through it, and latter must then cable the seller in Greece authorizing him to draw. In the third place, the transaction is carried on in a currency foreign at once to both buyer and seller, and consequently more or less inconvenient to both. This practice had its origin in a condition of trade which prevailed between the United States and Greece in former times. Years ago communication between the two countries was difficult. There was little import trade from the former country. As a consequence the American dollar had no substantial exchange value on the Greek market. Moreover, the currant trade, then practically the only trade from this district to the United States, was handled largely by London houses having correspondents in Greece. It was not unnatural under such conditions that the banking business involved in the trade should go viâ London and be in terms of pounds sterling.

"To-day, however, the conditions of this trade have entirely changed. Communication between Patras and New York, by either freight or post, takes little more time than communication to English centres. Cable communication is also direct and inexpensive. There is a fairly large and growing import trade from the United States to Greece, and the American dollar has come to have an exchange quotation on the Patras market practically as stable and as favourable as that of the pound sterling or the franc.

"From conferences with leading men in local banking and export circles it appears that there is now no sufficient reason why banking business with America might not be done directly and in dollars. Such business is done directly with England, Belgium, France, and Germany, and with each country in terms of its own currency. Exchange on New York is at present in good demand, and the dollar now holds a permanent and favourable position on this market. This is evidenced by the fact that for more than two years before the outbreak of the European war the exchange as between the dollar and the pound sterling on this market did not vary in favour of the latter more than one-seventh to one-half of 1 per cent. American importers interested in Greek products might find it advantageous to take up with correspondents in this district the matter of issuing future letters of credit direct and in dollars. Already a beginning seems to have been made in this direction, for some invoices certified through this consulate recently have been drawn in dollars. A number of responsible export merchants have indicated to the consul their readiness to adopt such a change in their banking, and there is little doubt that all would fall in with such a suggestion if American buyers would make a point of it when negotiating future transactions. Exporters suggest that such letters of credit might best be opened direct to sellers instead of through local banks here, thus leaving the seller free to negotiate his paper to the best advantage. This would be in keeping with the practice of London banks, which open credit direct to the seller."

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COMPANY NOTES.

Anglo-Roumanian Petroleum Co.

The report for the year ended December 31 shows gross profits amounting to £20,039. After deducting London expenses and commissions, writing off £11,880, as against £5,636 the previous year, on account of depreciation, and providing £762 for debenture interest, the net profit amounts to £4,424 (against £22,670). This, with the balance brought in of £3,973, makes a total of £8,397, which amount it is proposed to carry forward. The production of crude oil for the year 1914 was 13,585 tons. The war considerably hampered the operations of the company, as in addition to the shortage of labour the Roumanian Government prohibited the export of oil products, thus rendering the sale of crude oil extremely difficult. Some of the company's wells had accordingly to be closed down and the production curtailed to the quantity that could be disposed of.

Egyptian Hotels, Limited.

The directors' report for the financial year ended April 30 states that, after charging all expenses in connection with the working of the hotels, the profits of the hotels were £6,284 17s. 5d., as compared with £30,651 12s. 8d. in the previous year, the decrease being due to the war as referred to hereafter. After providing for the charges payable in London the accounts show a profit of £3,965 7s. 3d. The balance of undivided profit brought forward from last accounts, after providing for the dividends declared on July 8, 1914, is £2,711 14s. 1d., giving a total of £6,677 1s. 4d. From this has to be deducted—(1) debenture interest, £3,553 9s. 4d.; (2) one-fifth of the debenture expenses (reducing the balance carried forward on this account to £1,724 19s. 8d.), equal to £574 19s. 10d., or a total of £4,128 9s. 2d., leaving a balance to carry forward of £2,548 12s. 2d. During the year the sum of £3,429 has been expended out of revenue on maintenance of buildings, gardens, plant, fixtures, and furniture at the company's hotels. During the season there have been practically no visitors in Cairo, and Ghezireh Palace Hotel and the Semiramis Hotel have remained closed. The charges for food and hotel accommodation have been reduced very considerably, and the local board in Egypt have felt it to be their duty to place the conveniences of Shepheard's Hotel at the disposal of the officers and men of the Expeditionary Force, and this has been much appreciated. The net expenditure on capital account during the year has been on land and buildings, £1,605 2s. 7d.; less amounts recovered at Ghezireh Palace for plant sold, etc., £648 12s.; or a total of £956 10s. 7d. In accordance with the company's articles of association, two of the directors retire and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election. The directors retiring are the Lord Claud Hamilton, M.P., and Mr. E. A. Harrison.

COMPANY MEETING.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN OILFIELDS.

Sir Marcus Samuel presided last Thursday at the meeting of the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields (Limited), and in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that in Egypt they were confronted with geological features differing in almost every particular from conditions in other fields. They had not yet been able to arrive at any definite opinion as to the value of their several territories beyond that the Zeitieh property, acquired from the Egyptian Oil Trust, had proved valueless, so that the consideration of 214,000 "B" shares originally given for it was lost. The hope of obtaining a paying production on the Gemsah Fields was not definitely abandoned, and at Hurgada a well carried down to 1,670 feet had given for a time a large production. That well was not yielding at the moment, but their experts did not think that the supply of oil was exhausted, and steps were being taken to see if they could recover it. They had many rigs at work over all the concessions; any strikes of oil would be communicated immediately to the shareholders. He thought that they had scarcely received from the Government the help which pioneers should be able to look for, especially when they realised how great an asset it would be to Egypt, and, indeed, to the British Empire, if they could successfully develop supplies of fuel. Almost every ton now used in Egypt had to be imported. They could only hope that in more settled times the Government would assist them in obtaining a market for their oil, should they obtain it, by inducing the Egyptian railways to substitute it for coal. Unless there were a material increase in production the available funds would be quickly exhausted, and they would have to call on the shareholders to provide additional capital. The report was adopted.

COMPANY RESULTS, &c.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN OILFIELDS.—Gemsah: Production for the week, 260 tons (last week, 231 tons). Hurgada: Production for the week, 266 tons (last week, 240 tons).

ANGLO-ROUMANIAN.—Productions for weeks ended the 3rd and 10th inst., 403 and 664 tons respectively. Several wells shut down owing to lack of storage.

COMPAGNIE IMMOBILIERE D'EGYPTE.—The annual general meeting of shareholders will be held in Cairo on July 31.

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.—Dividend of 2½ per cent. for the year ended March 31, 1915, on the preference shares. Receipts for ten days ended June 30 amounted to £E3,880, as against £E5,367 for the same period last year.

EGYPTIAN HOTELS.—The eighteenth annual general meeting will be held at the registered offices of the Company, No. 11, Ironmonger Lane, London, E.C., on Thursday, July 29, at 2.30 p.m.

MALTA AND MEDITERRANEAN GAS COMPANY.—An extraordinary general meeting of this company will be held at the company's offices, No. 59 and 60, Gracechurch Street, on Tuesday, August 3, 1915, at one o'clock p.m. precisely, for the purpose of submitting the following resolution:—"That the payment of the directors' remuneration as at present authorised, and as hitherto paid, free of income-tax, be confirmed, and that until otherwise determined the directors' remuneration shall continue to be paid free of income-tax."

ROUMANIAN CONSOLIDATED OILFIELDS.—Total production for year ending June 30, including Chiciura oilfields, was 103,968 tons, as compared with 66,232 tons last year.

SOCIÉTÉ CIVILE DE L'IMMEUBLE DE LA BOURSE DU CAIRE.—An extraordinary general meeting was held in Cairo on July 16.

CORPORATION OF WESTERN EGYPT.—An extraordinary general meeting will be held at 208, Gresham House, Old Broad Street, on Monday, July 26, at eleven o'clock, for the purpose of considering and if thought fit of passing as an extraordinary resolution the following resolution, that is to say: "That the company be wound up voluntarily and that Mr. Harry Meredith, of 208 and 209, Gresham House, Old Broad Street, in the City of London, chartered accountant, be and is hereby appointed liquidator for the purposes of such winding-up." A further extraordinary general meeting of the company will be held at 208, Gresham House, Old Broad Street, on Wednesday, August 11, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon, for the purpose of receiving a report of the proceedings at the first above-mentioned meeting, and of confirming, if thought fit, as a special resolution the above-mentioned resolution.

August Pasha Adib, Director-General of Accounts of the Egyptian Government, arrived in Paris last week from Cairo with his two daughters, having been granted leave of absence for three months. On the expiration of the leave he will retire on pension. At a farewell meeting held by the employees in the Finance Department, many eloquent speeches were delivered in praise of the work of Adib Pasha in the past. The employees presented the Pasha with a beautiful tea-service and a landscape picture by Philip Marouni, the Lebanese artist. This picture was a prize-winner in the Paris Exhibition.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE	Mean Price. July 27.	Min. Price. Mar. 20.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	—	89½xd
Do. 4½% do. Bonds, 1907	82	—	—
Do. 4½% do. Bonds, 1909	80	—	66
City of Alexandria 5%, 1909	99	—	90½
City of Constantinople 4% Bnds	96	—	—
Egypt. Gov. 3% Guar. Loan	93½	87⅞	87⅞
Egyptian 4% Unified Debt	98	85	85
Do. Pref. Rd. 5%, 1890	88	78	78
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82½	73½	78⅜
Do. 4½% State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	80⅛	75	75⅜
Greek 5%, 1881	57	52	57
Do. 5%, 1884	56	52	56⅜
Do. 4% Monopoly, 1887	49	45	48
Do. 4% Rentes, 1889	45	40	43⅛
Do. 5%, 1890	56	52	54
Do. 5% Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	—	51⅛
Do. 4% Rails. Loan, 1902	77	—	68½
Do. 5% Nat. Ln., 1907	94	—	88½xd
Do. 5% Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	—	76½
Montenegro 5% Loan	82⅛	—	—
Persian 5% Loan (1911)	91	—	80
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £60p.	92	—	85
Servian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—xd
Turkish Guar. 4% Loan, 1855	103	97	—
Do. 4%, 1891	94⅛	—	83
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	—	73½
Do. 4% Loan, 1902	82½	—	—
Do. 4% Unified	79	—	54
Do. 4% Loan, 1908	65½	—	49
Do. 4%, 1909	69	—	47⅛
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	—	2⅞
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	—	6¾
Do. 3½% Bonds Red.	80	—	73
Do. 3½% Guar. Bonds Red.	83	—	76
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	—	9¾
Bank of Abyssinia	½	—	—
Bank of Athens	£2	—	1½
Bank of Roumania	8½	—	—
Eastern Bank	5	—	82/6
Imperial Bank of Persia	7¾	—	6
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	—	—
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅝	—	3½
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6¾	—	4½
National Bank of Egypt	13¾	—	11½
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½% C.P.	8	— no	m.6½
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8½	—	6¾
Do. do. 5% Debs., Red.	98	—	95
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½% Debs., Ser. I.	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88½	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17¾	—	13
Do. do. 6% Cum. Pref.	22	—	13½
Do. do. 4% 1st Deb.	87	—	57
Do. do. 5% 2nd Deb.	101	—	69
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	—	—
Pirræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	90	—	—
Do. do. 3% Bonds	61	—	—
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1⅛	—	⅜
Do. 5% 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	—	95
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	¼	—	—
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	—	2
Do. Do. Def.	¼	—	—
Béhéra Co.	⅛	—	7
Do. Pref.	4½	—	3½xd
Daira Sanieh	2/2	—	2/6
Do. Def.	⅞	—	20/-
Egyptian Agr. 5% 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	9/-	—	6/-
Do. Gov. 4% Irr. Tst.	98	—	90
Do and Foreign Trust	5/-	—	5/32
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	—	1
" " Founders	¼	—	—
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—	—
Do. 5% Debs. Red.	—	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	9⅜	—	7½
Do. 4½% 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	—	87½xd
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	—	¼
Sidi Salem Co.	⅛	—	¼
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	—	9
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	—	-/9
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	—	10⅜
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt	97	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	—	—
Egyptian Hotels	1½	—	—
Do. 4½% 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—	—
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅜	—	1⅛
Do. do. 5% Debs. Red.	99½	—	99
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	1⅜	—	13/3
Do. 5% 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	96	—	98
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	—	9/-
Do. do. Prefs.	3½	—	3xd
Do. do. 4½% 1st Mt.	90	—	85
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (fr.500)	£179½	—	£—
Upper Egypt Hotels	2¼	—	—

OIL.	Price on July 30.	July 21.
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	⅜	5/-
Anglo-Persian	22/1½	20/-
Cyprus Oil Trust	2/3	—
European Oilfields	4/9	3/-
Roumanian	20/-	13/6

PARIS BOURSE.

	Jan. 4.	July 21.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane	—	430
Canal de Suez	4050	3985
Credit Foncier Egyptien	639	548
Turkish Unified 4%	61.50	—
Egyptian Unified 4%	87.75	87.95
Serbian, 1895	—	62.05

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 221.—Vol. IX. FRIDAY, JULY 30, 1915.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Recent news from the Dardanelles has been confined to accounts of minor engagements. In all of these, however, success has rested with the Allied troops. The Turks continue to attack our lines, but the official statements indicate that the fierceness that characterized the earlier assaults has gone, and that the Allies have little difficulty in holding their ground. Reports from Constantinople to the effect that the shortage of coal and ammunition is assuming serious proportions are becoming more insistent. We shall do well not to lay too much stress on the enemy's difficulties; but we cannot fail to note them with some satisfaction, and it will be remembered that two semi-official Turkish representatives have been reported to be in Switzerland on a mission of inquiry regarding possible terms of peace for Turkey. Russia's naval forces in the Black Sea have recently been strengthened, and she ought to be able to carry out a more effective blockade of the Bosphorus. The Turks will have relied for some time past on sailing vessels and small steamers for their trade with Black Sea ports. Gradually the Russian Fleet has taken the measure of these blockade runners; but if it be true that the Breslau has again been damaged in the Black Sea by mine or by torpedo, it is evident that there is still room for drawing a tighter cordon round the entrance to the Bosphorus.

Turkish resourcefulness under German inspiration is again shown by reports of a recrudescence of trouble for the Italians in Libya. The pacification of the interior could never be said to have been completed, but the Italians had made sufficient headway to be able to regard the situation with equanimity. With the first attempt to relax their efforts, however, they have found the Arabs quite ready to assert their independence. In all probability the Italian Government had its hands too full with European complications to pay much attention to North Africa, and instead of re-establishing its authority at once it seems to have overlooked the earlier manifestations of restlessness among the native population. The result, if we may believe the Italian Press, is that the situation in Libya has suddenly become grave. The Italian Government is said to have evidence that the Arabs are being instigated by the Turks, in spite of the fact that Italy and Turkey are not yet at war with one another. As long ago as last March Enver Pasha is supposed to have sent his brother, Nuri Bey, to Cyrenaica to foment a rebellion. A number of Turkish officers, as well as ammunition, supplies, and money, were also dispatched to the Arabs at the same time, and the latter are thought to be in a favourable position to carry on a rebellion. The Italians may console themselves by reflecting that they lose little by relinquishing their hold on the interior, while it will be an easy matter to defend the coast line against all attacks.

The Turkish raid into the Aden hinterland is not going to have things entirely its own way. After falling back on Aden, the British Movable Column has again advanced against the enemy, and Sheikh Othman, which lies between Aden and Lahej, has been reoccupied. According to the official statement it is now securely held, and the civil population is rapidly returning. The Turks were easily expelled and driven back five miles, but they are still reported near Lahej, which is twenty-one miles from the "Barrier Gate" of Aden.

Further successes have been gained by the British forces in Mesopotamia. Three weeks ago we mentioned a Constantinople report which stated that a British force advancing up the Euphrates Valley had been defeated by the Turks and forced to retire. No mention has been made in any British official statement of the engagement referred to in that report, but we know now that there has been considerable fighting extending over several weeks in the Euphrates Valley. After being driven back from Busreh in the second week of April the Turks retired on Suk-es-Sheyukh and Nasiriyeh, on the Euphrates. Here they proceeded to entrench themselves in a series of positions covering these places and the entrance of the Shatt-el-Hai. A British force followed towards the end of June, but before it could reach the Turkish positions a passage had to be forced along the waterways, which had been mined and closed by obstructions. These were removed early in July, and in spite of a very determined resistance on the part of the Turks, the *communiqué* adds, the British column, skilfully supported by extemporized

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gunboats and launches, forced its way to the Euphrates. On one occasion a regiment, by dragging its boats overland, was able to outflank the enemy's gun position on the right bank. Driven from Suk-es-Sheyukh, the Turks retired on Nasiriyeh. Our troops pressed on, but the main position of the Turks proved a formidable barrier. A series of Turkish counter-attacks were repulsed, and then on July 24, in spite of a stubborn resistance, we drove the enemy from the ground they held. The same day the gunboats with the force advanced up the Euphrates and shelled Nasiriyeh, with the result that during the night the Turks retreated towards the north, and the town was occupied the next morning.

In a statement to the House of Commons the Secretary of State for India, Mr. A. Chamberlain, gave some interesting details regarding the advance up the Euphrates. The operations, which extended over twenty days and culminated in an attack on a series of entrenched positions, were carried out in a shade temperature of 113° F. under the most difficult and onerous conditions, the country being a network of marshes and canals. No complete reports of the captures made or of the enemy's losses have yet been received. Our own casualties are estimated to be between 300 and 400 of all ranks. In spite of the great heat, the health of the troops in Mesopotamia is good. Among the efforts made by the authorities to minimize the effects of the heat Mr. Chamberlain mentioned the supply of spine protectors and goggles, mosquito nets and veils, ice, mineral waters, and fresh vegetables from Bombay.

Of the Mesopotamian campaign it is enough to say that sufficient unto the day is the progress it makes. Whether we shall be led on to make further advances, as we have been from Kurna to Nasiriyeh, remains to be seen. Much will depend on Turkish strategy and the nature of the opposition encountered. It is recognized that for the future satisfactory administration of the Busreh vilayet it is essential that the Baghdad vilayet should not only be out of Turkish hands, but should itself be under the influence of an enlightened form of government. In their operations against our Persian Gulf Expedition the Turks have met with far more success in inducing the Arabs of Mesopotamia to join them than was to have been anticipated. There is, therefore, an additional inducement to show Great Britain's strength wherever the native population has been misled by Turkish threats and German intrigues.

A regrettable incident is reported from Bushire. The presence of hostile tribesmen in the vicinity had been indicated to the Residency, and it was decided to send out Major Oliphant, 96th Regiment, and Captain Ranking, Assistant Political Officer, with a mixed patrol of infantry and sowars, to reconnoitre. While returning the patrol was ambushed, and both British officers were killed. We can but hope that the lesson will be taken to heart, and that, if the forces at Bushire are not strong enough to provide large reconnoitring parties, they will be reinforced without delay. The hostility of the tribesmen tends to confirm the reports of successful German propaganda in this region.

Greek representations to the Porte on the subject of the persecution of the Greek population in Turkey have elicited the reply that the removal of a number of Greeks from their usual place of residence to other parts of the Empire is a measure taken from purely strategic reasons dictated by the safety of the State. The measure was not to be interpreted as one of oppression or persecution. If the Greek Government rests satisfied with this explanation, it might have saved itself the trouble of making representations to the Porte. M. Gounaris, however, is placed in an awkward position. If he were to pick a quarrel with Turkey at this juncture, he would find himself committed to war entirely on Greece's own behalf, and could, therefore, not count on even the promises which the Entente Powers held out to M. Venizelos.

The view hazarded in these columns that we should do well not to take the threatened prosecution of M. Gennadieff too seriously has been justified by the course of events. A statement issued by the semi-official News Agency in Sofia now declares that the whole matter has been greatly exaggerated. The decision of the court-martial which dealt with the Casino outrage, it continues, was dictated by a desire to elucidate certain points which were still left doubtful by the trial. There is no question of the arrest of M. Gennadieff, who is not even under observation.

For the time being the result of the negotiations between Bulgaria and Turkey remains an enigma. In the first place some doubt is expressed in many quarters whether the negotiations have actually been brought to a conclusion. If, however, we accept as correct the statement that the Porte has agreed to cede to Bulgaria that portion of the Dedeagatch railway which runs through Turkey and with it all territory lying to the west of the Maritza, the question arises whether this agreement implies a *quid pro quo* on Bulgaria's part. For reasons which are set forth elsewhere we incline to the belief that the situation at the Dardanelles has given Bulgaria her opportunity, which she has used to the full. Turkey knows that she has little to hope for if she antagonizes Bulgaria, and has accordingly thrown up her hands as soon as the Bulgarian pistol was pointed at her head. The Bulgarian Government is doubtless proud of its achievement; but there is one question which it is obliged to ask itself, that is: In the event of the Central Powers and Turkey winning this European conflict, what chance has Bulgaria of being allowed to keep the territory which it has wrested from Turkey, virtually by force?

We regret to see that the Montenegrin Government has found itself obliged to publish an explanation or justification of its military acts. So many reasons could be adduced for the occupation of Scutari that it seemed almost impossible that Montenegro's action in this matter should be misunderstood. A candid avowal of her plans to the Allied Governments, it would have been thought, was all that was required. But the criticism of "certain foreign newspapers" has given umbrage at Cettinje, and we are left to infer that some of the Allied Governments have failed to make it understood in their own countries that they are entirely satisfied with the correctness of the Montenegrin attitude. In these pages it has never occurred to us to doubt that Montenegro was pursuing the best course, always presupposing that she was keeping her Allies informed beforehand of her intentions. But we welcome the straightforward declaration, reproduced elsewhere, in which the Government sums up the position.

In this issue we publish the last of a series of articles on the Khedivial Wakfs scandals from our Cairo correspondent. The story unfolded in these articles will help the reader to realize what abuses went on in the Public Wakfs Administration prior to its conversion into a Ministry. Lord Kitchener did not intervene a moment too soon when he removed it from the pernicious influence of the ex-Khedive. Abbas II. is known to have reduced the values of many of the public wakfs by the exchange of property which he initiated, and judging by what he achieved in the case of several Dairas and of the "Aukaf" during the last two years of his reign, would have committed irreparable ravages in the Public Administration if it had not been taken away from him just prior to that period. The revelations made in the course of the Seif ed Dine inquiry come as a timely confirmation of what the Judicial Adviser, Sir Malcolm McIlwraith, said in his last report on the subject of the unsatisfactory position of orphans, minors, and interdicted persons under the existing law. It is to be hoped that the publicity afforded to the abuses committed will create in Moslem circles a current of opinion favourable to the change advocated, and that thus the hands of the Government will be strengthened, and its task of cleansing the Augean stables on behalf of the Moslem masses will be thereby lightened.

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ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, July 15.

The Government Crisis.

After the publication of the list of the Venizelist deputies who have been elected, numbering 184 out of the total 316 members of the Chamber, the Government apparently lost all hope of remaining in power or of effecting a second dissolution, seeing that it could not bring over to its side the other groups of the Opposition, with the exception of the Theotokists. Consequently it is now doing everything in its power to defer the Ministerial crisis. The King's health has been an excellent pretext for putting off the opening of the Chamber, which was to have taken place on July 20. The Venizelist papers report on the one hand that after the Cabinet Council M. Gounaris announced that the Chamber would reassemble without fail on the above date, and, on the other, that as a result of frequent conferences between the President of the Council and some of the King's doctors, the latter decided to hold a consultation with all the other doctors last Sunday. It was then agreed that, as the heart was not yet normal, it was absolutely necessary for the King to avoid all fatigue, all emotion, and any sudden movement for some indefinite time. The doctors further stated that they would meet in consultation again next Sunday—two days before the opening of the Chamber—to consider whether the King was able to take part in politics at the present crisis. If they decided that he was not, as seemed certain, then the Chamber would be again adjourned for thirty days by Royal Decree.

Nevertheless, the fact remains that since the date of my last letter the King's health has improved so rapidly that he has already resumed most of his Royal duties. His Majesty has frequent conferences with the President of the Council on all the affairs of State, he signs decrees and reads the newspapers.

Foreign Policy.

The Ministerial papers reply that the King would be perfectly well able to proceed to a change of Cabinet if it were merely a matter of the formal signature of decrees and receiving the oath. But as the present change involves the reinstatement of M. Venizelos, with whose foreign policy the King has disagreed, his Majesty would be drawn into new and exciting discussions, which would be certain to prove injurious to his health.

These discussions would be the more difficult, the above papers add, as it seems certain that England is preparing to make new proposals to Greece, to be handed to her as soon as M. Venizelos returns to power. England will ask permission to land ten divisions of troops at Salonika, to be joined by a large Greek force of 250,000 men, and to march on Turkey through Thrace and Bulgaria, Bulgaria being obliged either to co-operate with them or to allow their passage through her territory, as the Gounaris Cabinet proposed three or four months ago. The dangers to which such a step would expose Greece, not only from Bulgaria, but also from Roumania, whose attitude is suspicious, says the *Nea Himera*, would certainly give rise to most fatiguing discussions. Needless to say, there is in the meantime no fear of any such step being suggested, as the negotiations of the Entente with Bulgaria have really only begun. It would seem that this report has been spread abroad in order to frighten the public, and to alienate them from the cause of M. Venizelos by attributing to him such anti-constitutional designs.

On the other hand, it seems certain that the King still favours neutrality, and the Ministerial Press states that the adjournment of the Chamber for a month is expedient, as it will give more time for the King and the Government to see on which side victory lies. The same journals go so far as to state that the question whether M. Venizelos and his party shall return to power is not one to be settled by the preponderance of one party or another in the Chamber, but depends on the possibility of an agreement between the King and the head of the Government on the question of foreign policy.

M. Venizelos has categorically denied a statement made by the anti-Venizelist Press that he had announced his determination to abandon neutrality as soon as he came into power. Thus the situation remains uncertain, and it is impossible to make any kind of prediction.

Allies Search Greek Vessels.

The Ministerial Press considers that the strict measures taken by the Admiral of the Allied Fleets against Greek merchant vessels, in order to prevent their trade in contraband of war and their carrying supplies to German submarines, as had been done in several cases, are aimed at the Government, which is thought to be Germanophile. At the same time these newspapers do not seem to realize that it is not surprising in such circumstances if the Entente Powers have no confidence in the vigilance of the present Government.

Græco-Italian Relations.

The altercations between the Greek and Italian Press have lately become more and more violent. Greek journalists, ignoring the altitudes at which the Italian armies are fighting in the Trentino, made fun of the bulletins of General Cadorna, in which he speaks of the difficult atmospheric and meteorological conditions; and in a comic *revue* at one of the Athens theatres the corps of Bersaglieri was ridiculed with mordant wit. Then in both countries rumour had it that the other was about to occupy Berat (in Albania). But neither has done so, and the *status quo* is maintained.

Meanwhile, there occurred the incident of the small Italian warship Giannicolo, which, flying a Greek flag, cruised about in the waters round Corfu, and pretended to wish to buy benzine at Parga, so as to find out whether the responsible Greek authorities were vigilant in the matter of contraband of war, and whether the German submarines were being supplied by the Achilleion (the Kaiser's estate at Corfu), as had been reported. But thanks to the tact and the friendly dispositions of the two Governments and their respective diplomatic representatives, explanations were given on both sides, and the good relations of the sister countries do not appear to have been disturbed.

(Note.—The Giannicolo was captured by a Greek destroyer and taken to Corfu, where it was released on revealing its identity and proving itself to be a warship.)

Persecution of Greeks in Turkey.

The continued and increasing persecution of the Greeks in Turkey is causing much anxiety to the Government. Protests have again been formulated and presented to Turkey, especially against the forced evacuation of Greek villages on the Marmora coast and the coast of Asia Minor. It appears that the inhabitants of the latter have been turned out of their homes at the suggestion of General von Sanders, in conformity with the German plan of supplanting them after the war.

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NEWS FROM TURKEY.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Athens, July 12.

Persecution of Armenians.

One of the most distressing consequences of the war, and one of which little has been heard, is the renewal of the persecution of the Armenians by their old enemies, the Turks and Kurds. The news which leaks through from Armenia presents an appalling picture of massacre, torture, pillage, and all the other horrors that the Armenian race has from time to time suffered at the hands of the Turks. In the Erzeroum district the people have been driven to desperation, and there have been wholesale conversions to Islam as a means of deliverance from torture and persecution. At Mardin, it is reported, massacres on a large scale have occurred; the Armenians have been driven out of Zeitoun, and those who survive take refuge wherever they can. Since the alleged discovery of an Armenian conspiracy the Armenians have everywhere been treated very harshly. They are now being driven from the towns on the Marmora coast; Armenian officials are being dismissed from Government employment, and on the railways they are being replaced by Jews.

The American Ambassador appears to have spoken to Talaat about this state of affairs in Asia Minor. But the extermination of the Armenian race is part of the policy of the Young Turks, and in their present frame of mind they are not to be deterred either by remonstrances or by threats. "We stand or fall," they say. "We have no thought of the future. If we win, as we believe we shall, we shall dictate our own terms to England, France, and Russia. If we lose, the future of Turkey does not affect us!"

Turkish Confidence.

Such is the spirit of the men who, under the dictates of the Germans, are now in power at Constantinople, and they will not be divested of that power so long as they have any control or influence over the army. How much longer the army will follow them it is impossible to say, but it is fairly certain that only a crushing defeat and the presence of the Allied Fleet in the Marmora will have any serious effect on the situation. The Turks generally, who obtain their information only from the Turkish newspapers, have acquired the conviction that the Dardanelles cannot be forced by the Allies, and they are equally convinced of the final triumph of Germany; and this opinion, which prevails in Constantinople in spite of the discontent and distress, will only be changed by inflicting a severe defeat on the Turkish forces at the Dardanelles.

Practically two-thirds of the Turkish officers are *hors de combat*, and once the Turkish soldiers become demoralised it is highly improbable that the German officers will be able to maintain any command or discipline. In any case, the Germans are doing their utmost to prepare a warm reception for the Allies when they reach Constantinople. Defences have been prepared all round the capital, mines have been laid off Seraglio Point, and at least four or five German submarines are at Constantinople waiting to attack the Allied Fleet.

Men and Munitions.

According to reports received here large quantities of ammunition are now being manufactured in Constantinople, and hundreds of men from Krupp's have organised factories at Chichli, Beicos, Galata, Macrikeuy, in the Arsenal, and other places, where work goes on night and day.

Raw recruits continue to arrive in Constantinople from Anatolia, men up to the age of fifty being called up. In one district the Vali appears to have remonstrated at this measure, as no labourers will be available for harvesting the crops, which are reported to be very good in most parts of Anatolia. Wheat is even now still plentiful; sugar, rice, and bread are cheaper in Constantinople than they are in Athens.

Mr. Sellar Released.

Mr. Alfred Sellar, who was brought before the Court-Martial on the charge of supplying benzine to the British submarines, was released after five days' detention. He says he was well treated by the authorities.

According to the latest newspapers from Constantinople, the health of the Sultan was satisfactory, his temperature being normal.

There appears to be no change in the situation in Smyrna.

Athens, July 19.

Effects of the War.

To outward appearance, the situation remains unchanged at Constantinople, and the daily routine of life in the city goes on much as usual. A correspondent writes that everything seems to be going on normally, and no one would say on seeing the crowded streets of Pera that war was waging at the doors of the capital, and it is only when the long string of carriages carrying wounded is seen that one is brought back to realities. Large numbers of German officers are to be seen, and the German language predominates; the place teems with spies to an infinitely greater extent than in the Hamidian reign, and inquiries for the latest news are made to one another in whispers.

Stamboul and Galata, however, have lost their busy appearance. The "Bridge of Nations," which spans the Golden Horn, no longer presents a scene of activity, and when the eye is cast over the harbour one sees an unusual sight: apart from a few idle Bosphorous steamers and some rowing boats, the port is almost denuded of shipping. One is amazed by the transformation from bustle and noise to silence and idleness. Constantinople harbour is one large blank, ominously, even painfully, silent.

Recently a further clearance has been made by the removal of a large number of the harbour buoys, which, it is said, have been taken to the Dardanelles for the purpose of some contrivance with which it is hoped to entrap British submarines in the Straits.

Turco-German Difficulties.

From a political point of view, the situation is probably more disconcerting to those in power. There are reports of revolts amongst the troops at the Dardanelles, and some Turkish officers have been brought to Constantinople in chains. New formations of troops drawn from different parts are being prepared for the Front, and are replaced by raw recruits. The gendarmerie from places in Anatolia have been brought to Constantinople, and are to be sent to the Front, armed with out-of-date rifles.

There are said to be nine German submarines inside the Dardanelles, which apparently cruise in the Marmora and in the Black Sea, and five others are reported to be near Smyrna. What truth there may be in these reports I cannot say.

Baron Wangenheim's Departure.

The papers announce that the German Ambassador, Baron Wangenheim has left Constantinople on account of his health; but the real reason of his departure is said to be friction with Liman von Sanders, who had disapproved of some plan of attack at the Dardanelles suggested by the late Military Attaché and agreed to by Berlin through Wangenheim. The plan was a failure and entailed enormous losses on the Turkish forces, whereupon the Military Attaché committed suicide and Wangenheim was recalled.

Reference was made in a recent article to the new regulation in Constantinople respecting signboards. An Iradeh has just been issued promulgating a special law on the subject, the main points of which are the following:—

1. All theatres, hotels, *appartements*, boarding-houses, restaurants and pharmacies, must have a signboard with the name in a place visible night and day. 2. The inscription must be in Turkish. 3. The use of other languages is permitted, but the space occupied by the foreign language must not exceed half the size of the Turkish inscription, which must always be on the top or in the most conspicuous position. 4. This regulation also applies to placards and handbills. 5. The same measure applies to shops, offices and all commercial establishments. 6. The public must conform to these regulations before the end of August, failing which offenders will be prosecuted. 7. From the date of the promulgation of this law until the end of hostilities, the use of the language of the enemy is prohibited.

FOR THE DARDANELLES WOUNDED.

In a letter to *The Times*, Sir Francis Elliot, H.M. Minister at Athens, writes:—

For some weeks past the members of the Anglo-Hellenic League, assisted by generous subscriptions from Greeks and British outside the League, have been sending weekly consignments of comforts to the wounded from the Dardanelles. These comforts, consisting more particularly of such little luxuries as vegetables, fresh honey, etc., which cannot be procured on the spot or sent out so well from England, but which we can buy here fresh and get to the wounded within twenty-four hours, have been much appreciated. . . . Indeed, I understand that the hospitals would gladly make use of a good deal more than we have so far been able to send. Unfortunately, local resources are limited, and without further help it will be impossible to continue sending the parcels for many weeks longer. That being so, I hope I may be forgiven if I venture to address one more appeal to the generosity of the public at home, who, I know, are anxious that our brave wounded out here, as in France, should have the advantage of any little luxury that can alleviate their sufferings or hasten their recovery. A properly constituted committee, under my presidency, will administer the funds received, and, in addition to the formal receipts which will be issued, it is hoped to publish the names of donors in the columns of *The Times* under the heading of "Fund for the Sick and Wounded at the Dardanelles." Subscriptions for the above object may be paid in to the Ionian Bank, Limited, 25, Abchurch Lane, London, E.C. (marked "Dardanelles Fund"), or cheques may be sent direct to the honorary secretary, Lady Montgomery Cuninghame, British Legation, Athens.

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SUDAN NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Kassala of To-day.

To-day, July 30, marks two memorable events in the history of Kassala, one of the smaller but more important of the Sudan's fourteen provinces. It was on the 30th of this month in 1885 that the town fell to the Mahdists, after having been beseiged since November, 1883, the gallant garrison having been starved into submission; while, on July 17, some nine years later, the town again fell, only this time into the hands of the Italians. Since the province was transferred to the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan there has been a marked improvement in the commercial conditions. Kassala province now has a population of about 84,000 and an approximate area of 44,200 square miles. Under the governorship of Captain C. H. Townsend, and especially under that of his predecessor, Major A. Cameron (now Governor of the Sennar Province), there has grown up a good trade in agricultural products, among which dura occupies first place. Among cattle, camels form the most prominent feature, while the trade carried on in cotton, butter, seeds, and skins has also become considerable. Were it not for the continual smuggling that goes on, almost entirely across the Abyssinian border, the commercial prosperity of Kassala might easily become twofold. At the frontier town of Gallabat an appreciable loss is sustained by the Government in Customs dues owing principally to the lack of police or coastguards. One instance alone shows how heavy the loss in the Customs Department can be. A large amount of silk thread is imported into the Sudan annually, for resale to the Abyssinians; but out of some 26,415 pieces received in the course of six months only 1,364 pieces paid duty, so that over 25,051 were smuggled out of the country. When Captain Hobart was acting as Inspector at Gallabat he once sent out a small patrol along the frontier, and during the fifteen days this patrol was out 3,035 pieces of silk paid duty to the Customs, which is equivalent to saying that in this short period the quantity paying was more than double that for the six months when there was no patrol. It may be estimated that the annual loss to the Sudan Administration from this cause alone exceeds £E1,000. Why, therefore, it may be asked, is there not a more numerous and more efficient police patrol maintained in this district? The present Inspector at Gallabat (called by the Abyssinians "Matemma"), and which has been in the possession of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan since September, 1898, finds his task of supervision no less difficult than did his predecessor.

Distress in Dongola.

Considerable distress among a section of the poorer people of the Province of Dongola still continues, notwithstanding the heroic attempts made by the Governor, Colonel H. W. Jackson, to afford relief. It is not too much to say that but for the humane attention shown by the local administration there would have been many deaths from starvation among the women and children. Free meals have been distributed since the middle of last May, as many as 500 applicants being dealt with at one time.

Unfortunately, there is a great deal of usury prevalent in Dongola, as well as in some other of the Sudan provinces, and apparently no amount of governmental supervision can stop it. The improvident people of this province, hard pressed by the failure of the autumn dura crops during the past three years—caused by visitations of the asal fly—resorted to the old system of borrowing from money-lenders, offering as their only security their future wheat crops, and thus leaving themselves, when they have discharged their indebtedness, practically nothing upon which to subsist until the harvesting of the summer crops. When these fail, also, nothing but starvation stares them in the face. The utmost kindness and sympathy are shown by the Government authorities to the unfortunates who, through no fault of their own, become the objects of their charity; and there can be no doubt that the recipients themselves are deeply grateful, not alone for the assistance rendered, but for the compassionate manner in which it is usually tendered. Colonel Jackson pointed out in his last report that the outlook for the province generally was "gloomy and discouraging"; it has since proved so to an even greater extent than feared, for the asal fly—one of the greatest pests known to agriculturists, and which no scientific experiments have as yet succeeded in overcoming—has destroyed food and fodder over a widespread area, while the cattle disease has decimated *sakieh* cattle.

It is understood that Dr. Harold H. King, the distinguished and capable Government Entomologist, and one of the most brilliant members of the Association of Economic Biologists, is pursuing his studies of the asal fly, and much may be hoped from his investigations. A considerable amount of time has already been expended upon studying the life history of this so-called fly and endeavouring to devise some method for controlling it, but up to the present all endeavours have failed of success.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

The Price of Bread.

Complaints are made in all districts of the high price of bread—viz., 3½ piastres (over 4½d.) the oke (2 4/5 lbs. av.)—during the present time of poverty and unemployment. The native papers submit that the price should not be allowed to exceed 3 piastres (4d.) the oke, and call upon Government to deal with the matter by restricting exportation of grain, or by importing flour, in order to secure on a calculated basis the quantity needed for the purpose.

There have, however, been very considerable consignments of wheat to Larnaca and Limassol at prices not exceeding 6s. the bushel. The quality is excellent, but loud complaints are made that bread made from it is inferior to that made from native flour, showing that adulteration is practised locally to a large extent. All Cypriots, including villagers, are very particular as regards their flour and bread, and take great pains in cleaning and grinding their corn when the bread is home-made. Unfortunately, Cypriots are no more exempt than traders elsewhere from practices of adulteration, and in some industries are great adepts. The Government Analyst, Mr. Francis, is indefatigable in dealing with numerous samples of many kinds that are constantly submitted to him, and the published returns show the importance of his Department, which the Government wisely established some years ago.

Protecting the Children.

Strong approval is accorded to Government action and to the proclamations by Commissioners to the effect that children under fourteen years will not be allowed to leave the island unless they can show to the satisfaction of the authorities that they are proceeding to the homes and care of relatives. This meets a need which has claimed attention for several years, in consequence of information received from Egypt that young persons of both sexes have come to harm while seeking their fortunes in that country.

The Cyprus police have lately called up youths who have no occupation, and warned them that they must take to some trade or honest means of livelihood. The local Press strongly approves this step, and indeed calls for even more stringent measures, recommending that in cases where police warnings are unheeded further systematic action should be taken. This shows a commendable spirit, which has not been lacking on several occasions in the chief towns, when the youth of the period have shown an excessive propensity to gambling and other accompaniments of a new civilization.

The condition and treatment by the Turks of Greeks at and near Smyrna is bitterly resented. The local papers continue to devote much space to Hellenic politics, the health of King Constantine, the Balkans, and, of course, to the war in all areas.

Convalescents at Troodos.

The splendid and invigorating air of Mt. Troödos is greatly appreciated by convalescents. It is expected that at least 1,000 will be landed altogether.

GERMAN SPY'S ARREST.

Baron Otto von Gumpenberg, the German spy, has been arrested on board a steamer in the Mediterranean and brought to Alexandria, where he is now detained by the British military authorities, says the *Egyptian Gazette*.

It appears that a British warship, while cruising in the Mediterranean, sighted a large sailing vessel flying a neutral flag. An officer who was sent on board to look at her papers found that one of the passengers had what was palpably a false passport. The passenger in question was immediately arrested and sent to Alexandria, where he was quickly recognised as the famous Baron von Gumpenberg. He is now in the Hadra prison awaiting an inquiry into his case by the military authorities.

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ROUMANIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, July 3.

The Conservative Party : New Leader.

The funeral of M. Jon Lahovary and the election of M. Filipescu as leader of the Conservative Party are the only happenings of importance in an otherwise uneventful week. In order to take up his new position, M. Filipescu had to resign that of President of the Conservative Club, and M. Mishu Contacuzino has been elected to fill the vacancy thus produced.

Heavy Storms.

The week has seen the capital visited daily by a thunderstorm, and there has been almost continual rain, quite torrential in character at times. Some of the lower parts of the city are inundated, but generally speaking no great damage has been done. Similar heavy falls are announced from Oltenitza and some other parts, and in some places in the provinces the train services were much delayed, the lines being damaged in more than one spot. But the rain, much needed for the young maize crop, does not appear to have been general by any means, and there are quarters where it is still badly wanted. Although so heavy, it has not damaged the wheat crop at all. The wheat and barley crops in Transylvania are, by the way, reported to be very poor.

Grain and Cattle Smuggling.

The prohibition against the export of wheat, etc., from this country has led to many attempts at smuggling across the frontier into Transylvania, as grain is much needed there, and a substantial profit is to be made on any successful "run." The Roumanian frontier guards have, however, been extremely vigilant of late, and more than one smuggler and his load of grain have been surprised and arrested in the mountain paths of the Carpathians. The patrolling of these mountains, covered with nearly trackless forests, falls to the lot of men of the Regiments of Frontier Guards, who are generally accompanied by trained dogs; and these canine assistants have been found very useful in detecting smugglers by scent alone, when the soldier patrols, with only their eyes and ears to depend on, would have been at fault.

Attempts have even been made to take small numbers of cattle across the frontier, but, as far as is known, with scant success. Only a few days ago two smugglers, Petre Svichi and Vasile Ciorni, of the village of Adancata, were surprised near the point known as Poiana, close to the frontier, by a corporal and a private of the frontier guards, when trying to cross into Transylvania with four head of cattle. They were detected just at the moment when their Austrian buyers were handing over the price of the cattle, 1,300 fr. At the sight of the gendarmes the Austrians took to flight without the cattle, which were later confiscated. The Roumanian guards pursuing them, some Hungarian frontier guards fired on them on their approaching the frontier. The Roumanians replied, but no casualties are reported on either side.

Near Dorohoi, the most northerly town of Moldavia, some smugglers with grain, ignoring a summons to halt, were fired on, and one, a Transylvanian Roumanian named Josub Vonioschi, was shot dead.

Queen Marie's Movements.

The officers of the 4th Brigade of Roshiori (Red Hussars) having organised some riding competitions at the town of Tecuci for to-day, Queen Marie has accepted an invitation to be present. Her Majesty, who will be accompanied by the Princesses Elisabeth and Marioara, will afterwards pay a visit at the estate of Mme. N. Cinco, one of her Ladies-in-Waiting.

Passport Regulations.

Some newspapers have announced that the restrictions regarding passports, imposed about a year ago, when partial mobilization took place, have been withdrawn. This is incorrect. Only men over forty-six years of age can leave the country; those between the ages of seventeen and forty-six cannot obtain a passport without the authorization of the Minister of War.

M. Maiorescu's Foreign Visit.

The disturbing reports published in several papers regarding the object of M. Maiorescu's visit to Austria prove to have had no foundation at all. The real reason of M. Maiorescu's journey was a wish to visit the village of Bucerdea-Granoasa, near Blaj, in Transylvania, the birthplace of his father.

Signs of the Times.

It is announced that the Italian Red Cross Society has opened a subscription for Roumanian soldiers who may be wounded in battle, and that an Italian Red Cross hospital is to be opened in Bucharest. More than 20,000 fr. have already been subscribed.

The railways are not putting on any extra trains or running any excursions this year as they usually do during the holiday season.

ATTEMPTED SMUGGLING OF MUNITIONS OF WAR.

To the Editor of The Near East.

Sir,—One of our friends has called our attention to a paragraph with the above heading, which has been published in your esteemed journal (Roumanian Letter) on July 2, and we have heard from our Bucharest house on the subject, by circular issued to all our branches, in which they distinctly state that the great brewery firm of Pschor handed over to them seven truck-loads of beer in casks, with instructions to forward one direct to Bucharest and the other six to Bulgaria, and to see especially that the ice in the refrigerators was renewed at certain points.

We may remark that not only the firm of Pschor, but a great many other breweries have been employing our firm as transport agents during the past quarter of a century, and that the breweries are in the habit of using their own specially constructed beer trucks. These contain a kind of refrigerating chamber which, in summer time, is filled with ice, and it has always been the duty of our Continental houses to see to the repacking of ice because, owing to the great heat, the ice provided at Munich melts very quickly.

Now, these seven trucks of beer were handed to our Continental house in the same way and with the same instructions as they have had in the past, and we had no reason to doubt the declaration given by the senders, that the casks contained nothing but beer; and it would be impossible for us to carry on our business, with the enormous number of transactions that pass through our hands daily, if we had to verify the contents of each parcel or consignment.

Therefore, as far as our firm is concerned, no intentions of smuggling munitions of war can be attributed to us, as we were simply made the tools of the brewers, as they in turn were no doubt made the tools of the German Government. It is evident that the German Government used two well-known names to cover up their deeds.

It goes without saying that had we known that munitions of war had been placed in some of the beer casks we would have refused to have anything to do with them, as we would not allow our name to be mixed up with scandalous proceedings.

We shall be greatly obliged if you will kindly publish in your next issue a few lines mentioning our standpoint in the matter.—Yours faithfully,

Schenker and Co.

91 and 92, Bishopsgate, London, E.C.

July 28, 1915.

GREECE'S REPRESENTATIVE IN TURKEY.

Under date of July 27, Reuter's Athens correspondent telegraphs:—In view of Dr. Streit's hesitation to take up the post of Greek Minister at Constantinople, the Government proposed to transfer M. Gryparis there from Vienna, but the latter has refused on the ground of ill-health. M. Gryparis was Minister at Constantinople for many years, and considerably strengthened Greece's position in Turkey, but all that he did has since been undone, and it is quite comprehensible that he is not anxious to return at the present juncture.

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PERSIAN NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Meshed, June 30.

An Epidemic of Murders.

In my letter of April 10 I spoke of the murder of a Babi mullah in the bazaar in broad daylight. A few days later the following report was current in the bazaars.—Twelve Moslems covenanted together to kill twelve specified Babis, and each of them deposited four hundred tomans to form a fund for the protection or escape of any of their number who commit a murder. If one of them sees one of the specified Babis and does not kill him, the other eleven are to kill that one. It was said that the mullah who was killed in the bazaar was murdered by one of these twelve men. Since then there have been a number of murders, but not apparently committed by any of the twelve.

The son of the "Tajir Boshee," a Turk Russian subject, was murdered in cold blood just outside the city one afternoon. The murderer was a well-known highway robber by the name of Kakkah. He disappeared for a few days, but was finally caught and brought in one evening. The next morning he was paraded through the city accompanied by a brass band, taken to the quarter called the Naugan Gate, and hanged. The rope broke, and he fell to the ground alive, and was immediately riddled with bullets. There are few cases of such summary justice here, and it is possible that in this case Russian influence assisted justice.

Another murder was committed late one night near the house of one of the leading ecclesiastics, and it was said that the victim was mistaken for the ecclesiastic, whom the murderer meant to kill. The criminal escaped. The Chief of Police was deposed from office.

Just at the same time the Prince Governor-General resigned, probably for other reasons, and for a couple of days the city was under martial law, with Salar-i-Ashraf in control. Meshed thought it was having, or was going to have, some excitement; but about fifty of the leading merchants demanded that the resignation of the Prince Governor-General should not be accepted, the matter was arranged, the Prince Governor-General again took over the administration, and the excitement did not come off.

The Russian Cossacks.

The Russian Cossack regiment stationed here and at Kuchan and along the military road to the frontier has been exchanged. The First Semirechie Cossack Regiment has been replaced by the Second Regiment of the same name. On the morning of the departure of the First Regiment an interesting ceremony took place in the public square. At 8 a.m. the First Regiment was drawn up in line in the street on the east side of the public square, while others of the garrison, officers, and friends had their position just inside the square, and a religious service was conducted by the garrison priest. Then followed the expression of good wishes by the Commandant and by the Russian Consul-General. During all this time about 250 Persian infantry were drawn up in two lines inside the square on the north side. When the Cossacks were ready to move the Persian band played the Russian National Anthem, and the Cossacks wheeled into the square and rode past the Persian ranks while the Russian band played the Persian National Anthem. Then the Cossacks wheeled, and were drawn up facing the Persian soldiers. Salutes were exchanged by the Cossacks and the Persian soldiers, and the Russians rode off with band playing and colours flying. Colonel Haig and his staff rode with the Commandant of the Cossacks, the procession being led by the Indian escort of the British Consulate-General, to a point outside of the city, where final farewells were exchanged.

"The Anglo-Russo-Persian Entente."

The night before the departure of the Cossacks, Colonel and Mrs. Haig gave a farewell party at the British Consulate-General to the Commandant and officers of the First Regiment. It was a brilliant function, as all functions at the British Consulate-General are, and was attended by a large number of people. The Anglo-Russo-Persian Entente is "going strong" in Meshed.

The Russians frequently hold a public religious service and review of the regiment in the public square. Recently, St. George's Day and the Tsarina's Name Day, the Tsar's birthday, the Tsar's Coronation, and the Tsarina's birthday have thus been celebrated in the presence of a large crowd of people. On these occasions the flags of all the Allies are hung on the tent in which the religious service is conducted, and each one of the Allies is prayed for and saluted in turn by name.

Persian Celebrations.

On the fifth anniversary of the Constitutional Government of Persia the Prince Governor-General's palace, the post office, and the artillery barracks, all facing on the public square, were illuminated, as was also the park. The Russian Cossack band and three Persian bands furnished music. In the artillery barracks Salar-i-Ashraf entertained invited guests with *ballat* dancers.

The Persians made a showy display on the occasion of the birthday of Ali. The artillerymen, gendarmerie, and the police, each headed by their brass band and all clothed in their new uniforms, marched to the Prince Governor-General's palace and saluted. The showy part of the ceremony consisted in the display of their uniforms and the noise made by their brass bands.

'Music—Hath Charms?"

There is one thing yet to be desired in Meshed, and that is a civilised method of developing brass band music. There are three of these brass bands, whose headquarters are very near the public square, and the daily practising they indulge in for several hours, beginning very soon after daylight, is most excruciatingly painful to people who live within reach of their sound. When we bear in mind that the Persian is not musical by nature, and that the brass band musicians are selected from among villagers and others who have no natural idea of music or musical instruments the degree of proficiency which they attain is really wonderful. But if they would go outside the city to do their practising they would, on the whole, make a much better impression on a large part of Meshed's population.

King's Birthday Celebrations.

King George's birthday was celebrated by the usual garden-party given at the British Consulate-General. The music was furnished by the Russian Cossack band. The flags of all the Allies and of some of the neutrals were displayed in profusion. The garden was at its best. This garden is probably the most beauitful spot in all Persia. Trees, walks, flowers, and lawns are always kept in perfect condition, and the premises as a whole are an object-lesson to the Persians of the attainment in artistic culture which has been reached by British. This might seem a matter of little real importance; but the Persians are great lovers of the beauties of nature, and the people of Meshed greatly admire this beautiful place, and by it their admiration for the British people is increased.

The guests were received in the big tent pitched on one of the lawns, where refreshments were also served. The first day the 150 guests were officials and foreign civilians. There was a gorgeous display of uniforms and jewels. On this day the Indian Attaché of the Consulate-General was publicly presented with the gold medal of the Order of Khan Bahadur, and the Indian assistant-surgeon of the Consulate-General Hospital with the silver medal of the Order of Khan Sahib. The second day the guests were about the same in number, and consisted of the Persian civilian classes, largely merchants.

All the Austrian prisoners who escaped from Turkistan and were interned here have gone to Teheran.

How to Deal with Intriguers.

Some months ago I wrote about the murder of a German shopkeeper by one of the Russian Cossacks, the cause being that the German had told the Cossack that in a short time the Russian Tsar would be cleaning the boots of the German Kaiser. After the shopkeeper's death his business was taken charge of by one of his wives and a grown-up son. The shop became a meeting-place for pro-German Persians, and was a menace to the safety of the city. The Persian Government took no steps to stop it. A few evenings ago fifteen Russian Cossacks walked into the shop, cocked their rifles, and arrested the young man, and early the next morning he was on his way to Russia as a German spy.

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GERMAN ACTIVITIES IN PALESTINE.

(From a Correspondent.)

Dr. Hardegg.

Many prominent and capable persons figure amongst the members of the German community in Palestine. But the German Consul at Haifa, whose efforts for the Fatherland have been referred to more than once by "Corsair," and whose residence was bombarded by a French warship not long ago, heads the list. Dr. Hardegg is a diplomat of no mean ability. He is "cultured," and consequently charming and entertaining. He has done much to promote his country's political and commercial interests and aspirations in Palestine; and particularly attempted to attract the natives' sympathy towards Germany, but, it may be added, the people were and continue to be markedly Anglophile. The Consul even approached the editors of various papers and other Press representatives with the view of their adopting a friendly attitude towards his Fatherland, and offered them money—but unavailingly. He was formerly an attaché at the Imperial Embassy at Constantinople, and speaks Turkish fluently and is conversant with the Arabic, French, and English languages. He made great efforts to achieve popularity among the Moslem section of the population. The son of an influential Pasha was appointed as his dragoman, and he himself fraternised freely with the Mohammedans, and is even reported to have visited their coffee-shops to announce Germany's "glorious victories." He also made a special point of spreading all sorts of nonsensical reports about Britain, accusing the English of the meanest of intentions on every opportunity.

An Illustrious Engineer.

The notorious Herr Schumacher comes next in order of importance. At one time he was American Consular Agent, but, being of German extraction, his nationality was restored to him by the Kaiser on his famous visit to Palestine, and he then relinquished the American consular post in the hope of becoming German Consul. His aspirations were not fulfilled, however.

A German Naval Base.

Dr. Schumacher is an engineer by profession; and an extremely interesting incident in his career is his connection with the ill-fated British enterprise for the Haifa-Damascus Railway. It is very generally believed that he was the person chiefly responsible for the failure of that project. It is understood that the Kaiser made prodigious efforts with the view of securing a naval base on the coast of Palestine. He negotiated with his (then) personal friend, the Sultan Abdul Hamid, in order to secure possession of Tantoura, a tiny port near Haifa; and emphatically pointed out that if Britain was allowed to carry on the construction of the railway line to Damascus, Germany must have Tantoura as "compensation." Dr. Schumacher acted as his local agent, and kept the Wilhelmstrasse posted as to the development of the railway construction. Finally, in order to debar the Kaiser from realising his ambitions, Great Britain had to oblige the unfortunate group interested in the project to abandon it entirely. Schumacher was awarded an Imperial decoration on the occasion of the Kaiser's tour in Palestine.

The Khedivial Mail Agent.

Herr Lange, who has also received attention from "Corsair," has been the Khedivial Mail agent for a long time. He was also Belgian Vice-Consul. He is a turbulent person, and he recently trampled the Belgian flag under foot and destroyed the consular flagstaff. He is a staunch German propagandist, who has made untiring efforts in spreading news of the kind that is "made in Germany."

Pastor Schneider.

This reverend pastor did not confine his energies to preaching Christianity. He delegated agents to distribute, free of charge, the correct version of a new Koran, the object of which was to arouse the fury of the Moslems against their Christian fellow-countrymen, and, particularly, against Britain, who was called "the traditional enemy of Islam." On the outbreak of war he sent native emissaries to distribute these dangerous pamphlets, written in Arabic.

THE COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE OFFICE OF EGYPT

23, Sharia Soliman Pasha, Cairo.

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The Hejaz Railway Director.

Herr Dickmann is an active and energetic German. He is responsible for the recent improvements in the Hejaz railway organisation, and it is believed he is at the head of directors charged with the construction of a railway line to Egypt. It is also believed that he has an inexhaustible stock of railway and building materials at his disposal.

Dynamite and Explosives.

Another significant fact which may be emphasized is the existence in Syria of considerable quantities of dynamite and explosive materials. I well remember the arrival in Haifa, a short time before the outbreak of war, of a large consignment of dynamite, which was said to be destined for the Jewish technical school—under German auspices. The arrival of this material created a panic in the town, and indefatigable efforts were made by the German Consul to secure its discharge. On the other hand, the event did not stir the unsalaried British Vice-Consul at Haifa at all. Probably he never furnished a report on the subject. Another German ship loaded with explosives and dynamite arrived in Beyrout immediately before the outbreak of war. Despite the united remonstrances of the Allied Consuls, the dangerous cargo was discharged and safely removed to Damascus.

MONTENEGRO AND SCUTARI.

Sir J. Roper Parkington, Consul-General for Montenegro, has received the following official telegram from Cettinje:—

Certain foreign newspapers have accused Montenegro of abandoning the Herzegovinian frontier, and thus permitting the Austrian troops stationed there to proceed to the defence of the passes in the Italian Alps. Similar charges have been made against Serbia. In addition to this accusation, the utterly false suggestion is revived that Montenegro has occupied Scutari at the instigation of Austria. To silence these calumnies, we wish to make the following statement:—

Montenegro, from the very commencement of the war, has willingly endeavoured to perform her duty, and even to take upon herself much heavier burdens than could reasonably be expected, especially as our country was terribly impoverished by the two Balkan wars, in which our only gain was a few miles of additional territory of no special interest, as Scutari, so valuable a possession for Montenegro, was denied us. Quite unrecovered from these severe trials, we were confronted by the much more difficult and dangerous task of opposing Austria. Montenegro, who had lost in the Balkan conflicts thousands of dead and wounded, at once faced with renewed enthusiasm this formidable adversary, powerful in all respects and unweakened by recent wars. The call to our manhood met with a glorious response, and our efforts were crowned with success; for the enemy, though greatly outnumbering our troops, were repeatedly driven back from our frontiers with heavy loss. At Gradowa, Montenegro is successfully accomplishing as difficult a task as our ally Serbia so resolutely carries out at Belgrade. Should the enemy force these two gates, they could strike at the very heart of the two kingdoms, Serbia and Montenegro, and not only should we be placed in a most critical position but Germany and Austria would find an open road, which they have for so long coveted, through the Balkans, and thus be placed in direct contact with their ally Turkey. Montenegro, therefore, has concentrated the larger portion of her forces on this important position.

We could not, however, regard with indifference the repeated incursions on our Albanian frontier; these attacks were incited by the agents of the Austrians and Young Turks. It was quite as much in the interest of our Allies as of our own country that we should be placed in a position of safety on our southern frontier during the continuance of the present war. This was the dominant reason which compelled Montenegro to undertake measures to enforce the security of this portion of our country, and by so doing, our chief front in the north is greatly strengthened. It was also imperative that effectual means should be at once adopted to prevent the continual pillage of our food supplies by the Albanian bandits on the Boyana. Evidently it was greatly to the interest of Austria that Scutari should not be in our power, as our means, both offensive and defensive, are materially strengthened now that we are in occupation of the town. It is clear, therefore, that Germany and Austria should be the only Powers aggrieved by the fact that Montenegro has been compelled to take peaceful possession of Scutari, for now we can concentrate our attention on the northern frontier; though, of course, it is quite untrue that these positions were even temporarily abandoned. These facts are evidently appreciated by the enemy, for attacks on our positions above Cattaro and in others directions have become much more frequent of late. To sum up the position, we are now ready, being reinforced by troops set free from guarding the Albanian frontier, to undertake the offensive in any direction, and only await instructions from our Allies to direct our attack. Our record during past ages should assure our Allies that no sacrifice on our part will be considered too great to lead our united armies to victory.

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NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Armenian Massacres. July 28.

Viscount BRYCE asked whether the Government had any information regarding the massacres of the Christian inhabitants which were reported to have been committed by the Turks in the districts of Zeitoun, Mush, Diarbekir, Bitlis, and elsewhere in the region inhabited by the Armenians; and regarding a reported wholesale deportation of the inhabitants of some districts into Central Asia Minor and the desert parts of Mesopotamia; and whether if these reports were well founded, there was in the opinion of the Government any step that could be taken to save what remained of the Christian population of Armenia. He said information had reached him that very grave massacres had occurred. It was reported that in one district all the male population were shot, and the women and children, to the number of 9,000, were thrown into the Tigris and drowned.

The Earl of CROMER, while fully appreciating the difficulty of knowing what could be done in this matter, hoped his Majesty's Government would do what they could by representations through the American Ambassador to mitigate these horrors.

The Archbishop of CANTERBURY said he had received letters describing the fearful crimes which had been perpetrated by the Turks in districts, some of which were now being occupied by the Russians. The most pitiable part was the feeling which prevailed in these districts that nobody in Europe either knew or cared anything about these atrocities. He hoped that our Allies would be told of the indignation that was felt at the indescribable horrors which had been perpetrated in these districts previous to their occupation by the Russian troops.

The Marquess of CREWE grieved to say that the information in the possession of the Foreign Office on this subject was entirely in accordance with the facts as stated by Lord Bryce. On May 24 his Majesty's Government, in concert with the Governments of France and Russia, made representations with regard to the massacres which had been perpetrated up to that time to the effect that members of the Ottoman Government and all those who had instigated or actively participated in these crimes would be held personally responsible. Since then the outrages had increased in number, and, if possible, in atrocity. There had been wholesale murders, wholesale deportation carried out under the guise of the necessity for the evacuation of particular districts, and a series of other outrages. Information had been received by his Majesty's Government that these crimes had been encouraged by German officials, whose presence had been an unmitigated curse both to Christians and Moslems, with a sinister disregard of the welfare of the country and its inhabitants. Obviously no immediate steps could be taken for the suppression of these outrages, but there was a fixed determination that when the time came that the facts could be proved those who had been responsible, either directly or indirectly, for the commission of these crimes or for their inspiration should be punished and all the more severely the higher the positions that they occupied.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

English Officials in Egyptian Government. July 22.

Mr. JOYNSON-HICKS asked what was the position of English officials in the Egyptian Government who had joined the Army in regard to pay and pension; and how that position compared with similar officials in the Indian Government.

"I have no information on the subject, but will inquire," was Lord ROBERT CECIL's answer.

Parcels for Mediterranean Fleet.

Col. WHITE asked the Postmaster-General whether parcels addressed to troops serving in the Dardanelles were charged for at the rate of 1s. 4d. for 7 lb., and 1s. 7d. for 11 lb., whereas parcels for the Fleet serving in the Mediterranean were charged 1s. 9d. and 2s. 6d., respectively; and, if so, whether he would arrange that parcels for the men of the Fleet should be placed on the same basis as those for men of the Expeditionary Force there.

Mr. HERBERT SAMUEL: The postage rates on parcels for the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force are the same as on parcels for H.M. ships in foreign waters (including those in the Mediterranean), namely, 1s., 1s. 9d., and 2s. 6d. for parcels not exceeding 3 lb., 7 lb., and 11 lb. respectively.

In reply to Col. YATE, Mr. SAMUEL said he was afraid it was impossible to arrange to send a 1 lb. parcel for 4d., in view of the fact that payments had to be made to other countries for costs involved in transmission.

Col. WHITE: Will the right hon. gentleman arrange that parcels to the Mediterranean Fleet shall be placed on the same basis as those for the Expeditionary Force?

Mr. SAMUEL: That is already done. I stated in my answer that the arrangements are the same for the men serving with the Fleet, and the men with the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

Col. WHITE: But are the rates for the Fleet the same as those for the Expeditionary Force in France? I understand they are higher.

Mr. SAMUEL: That was not the question. The question was whether the parcels for the Expeditionary Force in the Dardanelles and the Mediterranean Fleet were on the same basis.

Persian Gulf Operations.

Mr. T. M. HEALY asked the Under-Secretary of State for War why no dispatch or official report of the operations in the Persian Gulf had been published. He also wished to know whether it was intended to publish any report dealing with the operations which commenced in November, 1914; and, if not, whether the services of the officers and men of the Forces so engaged were to be left without recognition.

Mr. TENNANT: Dispatches regarding the operations in Mesopotamia were published in the *Gazette of India* on February 28 last, and further dispatches have been received, and are being considered by the Government of India, with a view to publication. I am discussing with the Admiralty and the War Office the desirability of reproducing these dispatches or their substance in the *London Gazette*. In any case, I hope to take steps to ensure due recognition of the services of the officers and men whose work has been commended.

Allowance to Troops in Egypt. July 26.

Mr. TOOTHILL asked the Under-Secretary of State for War if he was aware that troops of the Expeditionary Force awaiting embarkation for the Dardanelles were refused Colonial allowance, while troops of the Army of Occupation, Egypt, stationed in the same camp, were receiving it. Would the Under-Secretary state why this distinction was made, and would he take immediate steps to effect a satisfactory adjustment?

Mr. FORSTER (Financial Secretary to the War Office): Colonial allowance is designed to meet the extra cost of residing regularly in Egypt for prolonged periods. It is issued to all whose stay there exceeds fourteen days, but not to those who are landed for shorter periods.

Captured by Moors.

Mr. HINDS asked the Foreign Secretary if one lieutenant and three seamen belonging to H.M. Navy, together with two officers of the British Merchant Service, had been captured by Moors in Almanza Bay and had been held to ransom since May 13; and, if so, what steps had been taken for their release.

Lord ROBERT CECIL: According to my information, Sub-Lieutenant Kent, R.N.R., and three seamen from the armed merchantman Richard Welford, together with seven seamen from the British merchant steamer Eburna, are in the hands of the villagers of Ain Deshisha, in the Anjera, having been captured on May 13. H.M. Agent at Tangier entered into communication with the tribes immediately after the capture. A ransom was demanded, which it is not considered advisable to pay. I can give no further information at the moment as to the steps which will be taken in the future, but meanwhile I am informed that the captives are being well treated, and that there is no reason for anxiety as to their safety.

Anglo-Persian Pipe Line. July 27.

Sir EDWARD GREY, answering a question put by Commander BELLAIRS, said that the Anglo-Persian Oil Company's pipe-line was damaged in the first week in February, and that the necessary repairs were finally completed in the second week in June.

Dardanelles Casualties.

At the request of Mr. MOLTENO, Mr. ASQUITH has furnished a return of the total casualties among the British forces in all the fields of operations up to the latest date available. The figures given for the military casualties in the Dardanelles operations, including Naval Division losses, are as follows:—Killed: Officers, 567; men, 7,567. Wounded: Officers, 1,379; men, 28,635. Missing: Officers, 198; men, 10,892. Total: Officers, 2,144; men, 47,094.

Dardanelles Wounded. July 28.

Mr. TENNANT, replying to Mr. Joynson-Hicks, said there was a certain amount of enteric fever and dysentery among our troops in the Dardanelles. The Director-General of the Army Medical Service had received from the General Officer Commanding in Egypt a letter in which he said: "I wish you could see what is being done. . . . There were difficulties which were enormous. There was some want of organisation, but it is all now remedied or in process of being remedied. I have gone on the principle of asking you for everything I want, and here I have spared no expense to improvise. With regard to nurses and doctors you have already responded, and we have never been really in want."

CABINET CRISIS IN PERSIA.

Letters received from Teheran state that a Cabinet crisis had broken out as a result of a stormy sitting of the Mejliss. It is announced, Reuter's Agency learns, that a considerable number of Austrian prisoners, mostly wearing new uniforms, had arrived in Teheran, after making their escape from the Caucasus. They were originally taken prisoners by the Russians and sent to the Caucasus to be interned.

BRITISH PRISONERS IN TURKEY.

Under date of July 28, Reuter's Malta correspondent telegraphs:—Lieutenant-Commander Stoker, who was in command of the submarine A.E. 2 when she was lost in the Dardanelles on April 30, and is now a prisoner of the Turks, writes to a friend in Malta:—"I am very fit, and you need not worry about our treatment, which is quite as good as can be expected. It is splendid being back with the others and being allowed daily exercise. We are now six Russians, two Frenchmen, two Australians, and six English."

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THE BALKANS, 1912: EUROPE TO-DAY.—II.

A COMPARISON FROM A NURSE'S POINT OF VIEW.

By Katherine H. Wheatley.

On one occasion, taking over a school temporarily turned into a hospital, we found it full of wounded lying eight deep, some living and some who had been dead several days, huddled together, with their ghastly and invariably gangrenous wounds untended. Practically all were suffering from dysentery of a malignant kind. They had received no attention but the daily visit of a soldier carrying two pails, one of water and one of native soup, the latter consisting of a handful of rice in a large quantity of water, with fat, usually buffalo butter, floating on the top.

Fortunately, the Turkish peasant is a stout fellow. The physique of the Asiatic, his hard outdoor existence from babyhood, on the scantiest of diets, and his immunity for many generations from alcoholism enabled him to endure hardships and fatigue that would have killed an ordinary European. It also enabled him to throw off septic conditions and to recover from what would in a European have been considered a fatal wound. The staple diet of the average Turkish peasant is maize bread, very coarse, sour and yellow, cheese, onions, and a preparation of sour milk called *yaourt*. His drink is water, and his day's work is from sunrise to sundown. At such times as the great fast of Ramadan this work is carried out without food, water, or tobacco passing his lips between sunrise and sunset, and often under the most tropical sun.

Anti-tetanic serum was not used, perhaps not known, by the Turkish doctors, although there were a large number of tetanus cases. As far as I could ascertain, in the native hospitals there was no special treatment, and men who might in favourable circumstances have recovered died in numbers in an exhausted condition. In the British Red Cross hospital and the British Red Crescent hospital the proportion of tetanus cases that recovered was about 65-70 per cent. of those admitted.

No precautions were taken by the authorities against typhoid, either by inoculation or sanitation. It is interesting to note that they have not reformed in this direction, and that when typhoid broke out amongst the troops as lately as last October the typhoid isolation camp was pitched beside the Derkos water, which is the sole supply of the city of Constantinople, thus seriously endangering the health of the inhabitants.

As a result of exposure to wet and cold without adequate shelter, there were a number of pneumonia cases. The Asiatic is particularly prone to all chest troubles, and is a bad subject for them, owing to the lowering of his resisting power by poor food and insufficient clothing.

The fact also that the men were compelled to wear new, hard, and badly fitting boots, when they had been accustomed to native slippers, produced many injuries to the feet, by means of which the infection of gangrene gained access to their system. This disease and cholera were the two greatest causes of mortality of the war. It is impossible to estimate the number of men who lost their limbs from gangrene, and nothing seen so far in the European War has equalled their appalling state. Feet, and even legs, came away as the men were undressed, and an average day's work in the theatre was twenty-eight amputations of leg, mostly at the thigh. Many men lost both hands and feet.

The outbreak of cholera was so violent that any other diseases were lost sight of. In the army in Thrace alone men died at the rate of 1,000 a day. Recovery could be expected if the patient was able to reach warmth and food, but in the malignant cases, which were fewer in number, death usually occurred within twenty-four hours. The thousands that perished of the milder variety lost their lives from want of care and proper food. Such terror was caused by the disease that if a soldier was even suspected of having cholera he was left to die. There was no native hospital for infectious diseases built until after the outbreak had subsided, and suspected cases were thrown out of the trains and deserted by the roadside. Miss Alt was the first to make an effort to go to San Stefano to their rescue, and gave great assistance by supplying hot soup, etc.

When any attempt at all was made to bury the dead they were thrown into uncovered pits, more often than not situated close to a well or stream. This contaminated the drinking water of hundreds, and it was quite usual to see men on the march crowded round a polluted well, trying to draw water with a tin mug tied to a string, which was perhaps all they had between them; and this must have greatly facilitated the spread of disease.

There was great difficulty in identifying a body or even a wounded man. Regimental numbers did not exist, no lists were kept of the killed and wounded, and no attempt was made to estimate the numbers of troops engaged in or surviving after an action. This led to great hardship and misery among the relations of the soldiers, none of whom were informed of the death of their relatives. The men simply did not come back. It also made matters very complicated for a soldier to trace his family amongst the refugees in Asia Minor. Often, if found, the only means of identification was the woman's word, and if during her husband's absence she found she was better off, or he returned to her a cripple, she frequently and very vehemently denied all knowledge of him. As a means of identification, names in the East are of small value, as, for instance, when in one village there are several families of Ali, the son of Ali.

If the state of the men was bad, that of the animals was much worse. There were no veterinary surgeons and no existing organization for the care of wounded and sick animals. The horses were in an appalling condition. I have seen several hundreds of these worn-out, wounded creatures, full of sores, landed at Panderma, being driven into the interior of Asia Minor, dying on the road. At one khan where they were resting for the night I could not sleep for their screaming; and in the morning out of two hundred there were but twenty living. Why anyone took the trouble to bring these useless animals nobody knows; the most humane act would have been to shoot them where they stood.

In the present war our sick and wounded animals are cared for as if they were human beings, having their own carefully trained surgeons and attendants and fitted horse ambulances to convey them to their hospitals. In the event of an animal being too severely hurt to recover it is put out of pain in the most merciful manner.

Whereas in this war but a comparatively small part of the countryside has suffered from the invasion, and the farmers for the most part are able to follow their usual occupations, in many big districts, especially in Thrace and Macedonia, the harvest was not gathered in or the crops sown, and farming was entirely at a standstill owing to want of labour. Most of the owners of the farms and all their men had gone to the war, leaving only their womenfolk behind.

In those days every paper was publishing long lists of fearful atrocities, but the evidence was manufactured, and I can say on the highest authority, as well as my own experience after working amongst the refugees for twelve months, that in reality there were very few atrocities committed on either side. A Commission, composed chiefly of Englishmen, went thoroughly into the matter, with the result that they came to the conclusion that the Turkish peasants fled in fear of being ill-treated, and that the Greeks in particular amongst the opposing armies got a bad name for committing atrocities, but that with two exceptions, viz., at Kavalla and Drama, none took place.

I wish we could say as much for our opponents in the present war.

There were, of course, but few ancient cities with historic buildings on the route of the invading armies, but the Bulgarians spared the beautiful old mosque in Adrianople, which is very precious to the Turks for old associations' sake.—What of the smoking ruins in France, Belgium, and Flanders?

The omission on the part of the Turkish authorities to supply transport for food and for wounded men was not from cruelty or indifference, but from want of knowledge, want of organization, and disregard of the value of human life. None of the races engaged—the Serb, the Bulgar, the Montenegrin, or the Turk—possessed the means of organizing or of directing an organization for the maintenance and care of troops in the field.

Anyone who went through the campaign on either side, and with whatever feelings of friendship toward the people they helped, must own, like myself, that it was war under very primitive conditions, and that there can be no real comparison between the civilization and knowledge of the twentieth century and that of the thirteenth, to which period most of the combatants, and particularly the Turks, may be said to have attained.*

Comparisons cannot be instituted. I have attempted only to set down a few statements of what actually took place in one army in the Balkan War, which may be contrasted with the care of our troops in health and in sickness in the European War.

THE PUBLISHER
would be obliged if Readers would inform him if they experience any difficulty in obtaining copies of the paper.

FROM UIST TO GALLIPOLI.

The antics of a Uist pony at the seat of war in Gallipoli are a source of delight to a Tobermory lady, who owned the animal before it was commandeered, says the *Morning Post*. She knew Polly to be acute enough, for she often watched her as she robbed certain hen roosts of newly-laid eggs. The pony stalked likely hens while pretending to be busy gathering her usual food close by. At the Dardanelles, to the intense amusement of certain sections of the transport service, Polly lies down when she hears the scream of a shell coming in her direction, stretches out her forelegs, puts her head to earth, and shuts her eyes. She is apparently dead, but she leans to one side, making a hiding place for her rider till the danger has passed. Then Polly rises again and takes her Tobermory gunner on her broad chestnut back.

* Since this article was written the Germans, as all the world knows, have been using poisonous and asphyxiating gases, a refinement of cruelty and barbarism which the Turk would never have thought of employing.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF

THE SIGN OF THE CRESCENT.*

In making public the reasons which prompted him to embrace the religion of Islam, Lord Headley has gone far towards the removal of many false impressions and beliefs which are current in Europe regarding the teaching of Mohammed. It is well that this is so. As guardians of the interests and wellbeing of thousands of loyal and devoted Moslem subjects it is the least of our duties to meet their religious outlook with understanding. The present war, with its ramifications penetrating to the very heart of Islam and showing it resolutely superior to the illegal but alluring proclamation of a Jehad by the hoodwinked Sultan, has undoubtedly served to awaken public and sympathetic interest in England; Lord Headley's book will supply much information to the inquirer who wishes to carry his sympathies and his interest to the point of complete understanding.

With the controversial basis of Lord Headley's plea for Islam we will not attempt to deal. The writer may be said to be sufficiently sound in his reasonings as a whole to ensure the attention of his reader, without, however, having produced a single paragraph of sufficient strength to give the professing Christian "pause to think" concerning the validity of his own views. One criticism we would, however, advance at the outset. The author would have been better advised had he omitted altogether any reference to bitternesses existing between Christian and Christian as argument in favour of the abandonment of Christian belief in favour of Islam. The conditions of the adherents of the two beliefs, Christian and Mohammedan, are too dissimilar to justify the drawing of any such parallel. Speaking broadly, the latter religion is only now entering upon the present measure of trial through which religions, like men and nations, pass—higher education. The soul of religious belief lies in simplicity, and the much-quoted maxim that "a little knowledge is a dangerous thing" is now more true when applied to religious bodies than to individuals.

Again, in writing a book of this description Lord Headley should have been more careful to avoid the inclusion of broad statements liable to the immediate questioning of any considerable body of the religion he seeks to discountenance. Take, for instance, the following paragraph:

> For many hundreds of years there have been no miracles, and men's minds have become used to ordinary every-day happenings, but if suddenly a Divine Message were revealed they would be so much surprised and upset that they would refuse to give any credit to the manifestations, and would probably try to make away with the medium as an uncanny and dangerous person.

There are thousands and thousands of Christians who to-day find the chief comfort of their spiritual life in the recognition of Divine intervention in daily life. To quote two instances of recent date: there is the recovery of the King of Greece, a recovery implicitly believed by the majority of Greek people to have been directly due to miraculous intervention, and again there is the argued question of the angelic hosts after Mons.

On the other hand, Lord Headley has stated his case for Islam in a manner that, as we have intimated, throws the necessary light of sympathetic knowledge upon many points that were growing obscure or grossly misrepresented in England. He is especially observant in his efforts to destroy the prevailing ideas regarding the position of women under the Moslem law. Here, again, however, he draws invidious comparisons between East and West, forgetting that the "Woman Movement" here is a growth of the latter part of the centuries of Christianity, and that if various sympathetic women writers on Turkey are to be relied upon, the Moslem women of that country bade fair to emulate the methods of their Western sisters after only twelve centuries of Mohammedanism. We do not personally subscribe to this belief, but in fairness to Christianity we must remember the temptations of an almost universal education and its effect upon the mind.

* "A Western Awakening." By Lord Headley. (London: J. S. Phillips.)

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W. & G. FOYLE, 121-123, Charing Cross Road, London, W.C., England.

NEAR EAST BOOK NOTES..

Our Cyprus Correspondent writes (July 11):—A "Report on Plantation Work in Cyprus from 1879 to 1914," by A. K. Bovill, Principal Forest Officer, has just been published (price 7s. 6d.). It gives an interesting *resumé* of the work done during the period of the British Occupation in the matter of re-afforestation.

Messrs. G. Harrap and Co. have just published "Serbia: Her People, History and Aspirations." The book is written by M. Woislav M. Petrovitch, of the Serbian Legation in London, well known to our readers through his book of Serbian folk-tales. The price of the new book is 3s. 6d.

A book on Roumania, which, though not new, may be commended to the notice of our readers, is "La Vivante Roumaine," written by Paul Labbe, and published by Hachette (4fr.).

We have received from Messrs. Raphael Tuck and Sons copies of six photogravure portraits of members of the Royal Family, which they have just published. Reproduced from copyright photographs, in a style worthy of Messrs. Tuck's high reputation, these pictures should—and, we doubt not, will—prove extremely popular, especially at the present time, when we are all beginning to realize that we need not feel in the least ashamed of being patriotic—and showing it. There are two portraits of the King—one in naval and one in military uniform—and one each of the Queen, the Prince of Wales, Princess Mary, and Prince Albert. All are pleasing, that of the Princess Mary especially so; and the price at which they are issued (1s. each net, or 2s. 6d net hand-coloured; India print edition 1s. 6d. net, or 3s. net hand-coloured) is certainly low enough to place them within the reach of the poorest of his Majesty's subjects, even in these "hard times."

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Allward. By E. S. Stevens. (Mills and Boon. 6s.)
War and Diplomacy in the Balkans. By H. Charles Woods. (Horace Cox. 6d. net.)

THE MONTENEGRIN FORCES.

Sir J. Roper Parkington, Consul-General for Montenegro, has received the following official telegram from Cettinje:—

"The statement published in the foreign Press that Montenegro had withdrawn her troops from the Herzegovinian frontier is absolutely false. Following the occupation of Scutari, a large number of Montenegrin troops, which had been guarding the Albanian borders since the commencement of the war, have been sent to the front, and more than 3,000 men have thus been added to our army opposing the Austrians on the Bosnia-Herzegovina frontier."

SERBIA'S CRY FOR HELP.

PITIFUL PLIGHT.

"The air is full of farewells to the dying and mournings for the dead."—(Last Friday's *DAILY MAIL.*)

HELP THIS GALLANT LITTLE NATION—NOW

Drugs, Surgical Accessories, Clothing, &c., needed at once.
All funds are promptly and carefully expended under British supervision.

Send MONEY to—
Sir EDWARD BOYLE, Bart., Hon. Treasurer, Serbian Relief Fund, 55, Berners Street, London, W.

Send PARCELS to—
Mrs. CARRINGTON WILDE, 5, Cromwell Road, S.W.

The SERBIAN RELIEF FUND.

Patroness:—HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN.
President:—THE LORD BISHOP OF LONDON.
Chairman:—Mr. BERTRAM CHRISTIAN.
Hon. Sec.:—Dr. SETON-WATSON.

Please Help — Now!

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1915. July	1915. July		1333. Ramadan	5675. Ab.
30	17	Friday	18	19
31	18	Saturday.....	19	20
August 1	19	Sunday	20	21
2	20	Monday	21	22
3	21	Tuesday	22	23
4	22	Wednesday	23	24
5	23	Thursday	24	25

Monday is the birthday of H.R.H. Prince Alexander of Greece, second son of King Constantine, who was born at Tatoi in 1893.

Tuesday is the birthday of H.M. King Constantine, who was born at Athens in 1868.

A Reuter's message dispatched from Athens on Tuesday says:—The health of King Constantine has been improving during the last fortnight, and his Majesty is regaining his strength. The King may now be regarded as convalescent.

Lord Kitchener and Colonel O. A. G. Fitzgerald arrived at Windsor Castle on Tuesday as the guests of the King. They left on Wednesday.

Sir Henry and Lady Bax-Ironside have arrived at Heronden House, Eastry, Kent, from the British Legation at Sofia.

Lord Oranmore and Browne left London on Wednesday for Castle Macgarrett, County Mayo.

Viscount Milner has been elected Chairman of the General Council of the National Service League, in succession to Lord Newton, who resigned on taking office as Paymaster-General.

H.H. the Aga Khan left London for the Continent on Wednesday.

Sir Roper Parkington, the Consul-General for Montenegro, and Lady Parkington left London for Harrogate a few days ago.

Captain Matila Costiesco-Ghyka, of the Roumanian Legation, has returned to London from Paris.

M. Radovitch, the ex-Prime Minister of Montenegro, has left London for the Continent.

Captain W. D. Kenny, A.D.C. to the Sultan of Egypt, who has been doing duty in Gallipoli, has returned to Cairo.

Professor Alexander van Millingen and Mrs. and Miss van Millingen arrived in London last Friday. Their address while in this country will be c/o The Imperial Ottoman Bank.

Mr. F. G. Lowick, of Alexandria, has arrived in England, and has joined the A.S.C., to which he has been posted as lieutenant.

Among Anglo-Egyptians staying at the Regent Palace Hotel are Mr. W. R. Carruthers, Mr. J. E. Cornish, Mr. Rowland Snelling, Mr. F. G. Lowick, and Mr. Cumming.

Mr. Robert Hyde Greg, whose appointment as a First Secretary in his Majesty's Diplomatic Service is gazetted, has seen much service in Egypt. Born in 1876, he entered the Foreign Office in 1899, and was promoted Assistant Clerk ten years later. In 1911 he was attached to the Agency at Cairo as Acting Second Secretary. He acted as Chargé d'Affaires for a short time in 1912, and again in 1914, having meantime (1913) been appointed Acting First Secretary. He rejoined the Foreign Office in August last year, but was reappointed to Cairo the same month, and remained there till last January, when he again returned to the Foreign Office.

Lieutenant Ian Ross, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Ross, of Alexandria (who are staying for the summer at Hindhead), has been gazetted a temporary captain in the 4th Battalion of the King's Liverpool Regiment. He is at present at the front, having returned there last week after a few days' leave.

A correspondent writes:—Cecil Rice, who is mentioned in your Roll of Honour as one of the British subjects from Turkey in H.M. Forces, was wounded on the 8th inst. somewhere in Flanders, and, unfortunately, died on the 11th inst. Acting-Corporal Rice, who came over to England last October with a party of sixteen other British subjects from Smyrna, was the son of Mr. Percy Rice, of Rice Brothers, engineers, Smyrna. He, together with the others, joined the Rifle Brigade, and they belong to the 7th Service Battalion. Other members of this contingent who have been killed are Mr. Lionel Vedova, whose death you reported in your last week's issue, and Mr. Burns, who was accidentally shot some four or five weeks ago. Amongst the wounded are Mr. E. Vedova and Mr. Walter Whittall.

On July 19, at Tullow Church, Carrickmines, the marriage took place of Major C. W. Spinks, R.F.A., attached Egyptian Army, with Miss Marguerite Stuart Coleman, the younger daughter of Mr. R. H. Coleman, of Toronto, Ontario. As reported in last week's issue of THE NEAR EAST, Major Spinks was recently retransferred to the Army, having been serving for some time as Government Inspector, Mongalla Province, Sudan.

Messrs. Housden and Preece, late of the staff of Victoria College, Alexandria, have just completed their period of training in the Officers' Training Corps at Cambridge, and have joined their battalions.

On July 12, at All Saints Church, Cairo, the marriage was solemnized of Ernst R. Matthaei, Egyptian Civil Service, son of the late Mr. Ernst Matthaei, The Boltons, S.W., and of Mrs. Matthaei, 113, Clifton Hill, N.W., with Edith, daughter of the late Mr. J. Lucas, of Wormleighton, Leamington, and of Mrs. Lucas, of Eastwell Lodge, Melton Mowbray. Miss Lucas is a sister of Lieutenant W. R. Lucas, A.S.C., who in times of peace belongs to the Egyptian Ministry of Education, to which Mr. Matthaei also belongs. The wedding was a very quiet one. Mr. Risdon Bennett was best man.

The wedding of Mr. C. A. A. Douglas-Hamilton, of the Egyptian Civil Service, and Evelyn Addison Chater, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Chater, of 25, Addison Road North, and The Caboose, Chesham Bois, Bucks, will take place in Egypt. Miss Chater will leave for Egypt early in October.

The O'Mahony, who is known to readers of THE NEAR EAST as an able and eloquent champion of the rights of Bulgaria, and in Bulgaria as a philanthropist who has established one of the largest and best organised orphanages in the country, has lately been very actively engaged in addressing recruiting meetings in Ireland. Since Whit Sunday he has addressed over forty such meetings, and has motored considerably over 2,000 miles in moving from point to point of his campaign. Judging by the big crowds he attracts, we feel justified in hoping that his appeal to his fellow-countrymen will result in securing a large number of recruits.

Lieutenant-Colonel Stewart MacDougall, of Lunga, 10th Battalion Gordon Highlanders, who is reported killed in action in Flanders on July 21, was born in 1854, and was the second and only surviving son of Mr. John MacDougall, of Lunga. He entered the 93rd Highlanders in 1876, with whom he saw service in the Egyptian campaign of 1882. He was seriously wounded at Tel-el-Kebir, was mentioned in despatches, received a medal and clasp and the Khedive's Star. He was adjutant of the 4th Battalion Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders 1884-89, and retired with the rank of major in 1892. Lieutenant-Colonel MacDougall was appointed Gentleman-at-Arms in the Household of Queen Victoria in 1900, and received the Coronation medal. He was appointed temporary lieutenant-colonel in command of the 10th (Service) Battalion of the Gordon Highlanders on September 4 last year.

Our Special Correspondent at Athens, in forwarding us news of Constantinople, under date of July 19, writes:—

Mr. Newman Mumford, Surveyor to Lloyd's Register at Constantinople, has proceeded to Mudros on his Majesty's service.

Mr. Arthur Cumberbatch, Chief Cashier of the Tobacco Regie, has also proceeded to Mudros.

Archdeacon Ward, chaplain of St. Mark's, Alexandria, and Archdeacon in Egypt, is leaving that country to take up work in England, having been offered, and accepted, the benefice of Sturminster Newton, Dorset. He was appointed to the chaplaincy at Alexandria in 1902. Two years later he was made an honorary canon of St. George's, Jerusalem; in 1907 he became Archdeacon of the Church of England in Egypt, and the next year he was appointed Bishop's Commissary.

Commenting on his departure, the *Egyptian Gazette* says:—"Archdeacon Ward has played a prominent part in the affairs of the British community throughout his thirteen years of work here, and he will be greatly missed. An outstanding event of his chaplaincy was the restoration of St. Mark's Church, both inside and out, which was completed about six years ago."

We regret to learn, from the Egyptian papers, of the death of Mr. Charles Orr Campbell, M.I.C.E., of the Egyptian State Railways. He joined that service nine years ago, having previously served with the North-Eastern Railway, the South Indian Railway, and in the Sudan, where he was largely responsible for the town and harbour works of Port Sudan. In Egypt he supervised, as executive engineer at headquarters, the construction of the more recent railways, the Marg-Shebin-El-Kantara, Barrage-Ashmun, and Zagazig-Zifta lines being the most important. He died at the Anglo-American Hospital, Cairo, after a short illness, on the 10th inst.

The Islamic Society is giving an "At Home" at the Hotel Cecil on August 7, in honour of Mr. Chaudhrie Abdul Haq, the retiring hon. secretary of the society.

A demonstration will be given at the Royal Society of Medicine, 1, Wimpole Street, today, at 5 o'clock, by Lieutenant-Colonel Leiper, who will illustrate, by means of living specimens and lantern slides, the successful researches recently made in Egypt which have made it possible experimentally to transmit to animals the Egyptian bilharziosis.

Mrs. Laidlay, widow of the late artist, W. J. Laidlay, is exhibiting many of the smaller of his paintings at 50, Circus Road, St. John's Wood, with a view to their disposal in aid of the Red Cross Fund. Most of the paintings are of the East, and include "A Corn Boat on the Nile," which is a characteristic example of the artist's skill.

Reuter's Paris correspondent telegraphed on Saturday: M. Deville, the French Minister at Athens, has, at his own request, been relieved of his post. M. Guillemin, Minister Plenipotentiary and French delegate on the Danube Commission, has been appointed Minister in Athens. M. Legrand, Minister Plenipotentiary, has been appointed French delegate on the Danube Commission.

Mr. L. E. Barrington-Ward, F.R.C.S., on his return from Serbia, has been appointed visiting surgeon to the King George Hospital.

The death took place on Wednesday at his residence in Portland Place of Count Otto Stenbock, G.C.V.O., at one time

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Councillor of the Swedish Legation in London, and has been Swedish Minister at Lisbon and Constantinople. Count Stenbock, who was 77 years of age, was married to a daughter of the first Baron de Reuter.

Lord Cromer's brother, Mr. Walter Baring, who used to be Britain's Minister in Uruguay, left £47,727.

Mark Axe, a Crimean veteran, of Montacute, Somerset, formerly in the Black Watch, who is eighty years of age, is now acting as recruiting officer for the Somerset Light Infantry. Besides the medal with clasps for the Alma, Balaclava, Sevastopol, and the Turkish medal, he has the Mutiny medal carrying the bar for Lucknow.

Our Bucharest Correspondent writes, under date of July 3:—

M. Psychas, the Greek Minister at Bucharest, accompanied by his military attaché, paid a visit at the beginning of the week to the Greek Colony at Braila, and then made an excursion into the Delta of the Danube.

Her Highness Princess Vera Ypsilanti has passed through Bucharest en route for Petrograd from Athens.

King Ferdinand has conferred on General C. Barozzi, one of his aides-de-camp, the First Class of the Order of the Resplata Muncei (Labour Recognition) on his completing the fortieth year as Vice-President of the Royal Geographical Society of Roumania.

M. Derussy, Roumanian Minister to the Bulgarian Court, who has been in Bucharest for a few days on private matters, returned to his post yesterday.

Princes Troubetzkoi, wife of the Russian Minister at Belgrade—or at Nish, as one must say at present—has passed through Bucharest on her way to Serbia.

Baron von Wangenheim, the late German Ambassador in Constantinople, arrived in Sofia on Saturday. He had a conference with the Prime Minister, M. Radoslavoff, and an audience of the King while in the Bulgarian capital, and left for Bucharest on Sunday.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, etc.

The appointment of Hakki Pasha as Turkish Ambassador at Berlin has been confirmed.

The Egyptian papers announce that his Highness the Sultan has been pleased to approve of the following promotions:—El Kaimakam (temporary Miralai) A. W. Jennings-Bramly Bey, Governor and Commandant Sinai Peninsula, to be Miralai; El Bimbashi (temporary Kaimakam) S. S. Butler, Sudan Government, to be Kaimakam.

Captain William McConaghy, M.B., Royal Army Medical Corps, has been taken on the strength of the Egyptian Army with the rank of Bimbashi, and posted to the Medical Corps.

Dr. Cyril H. Goodman has been appointed Assistant Director-General of the Public Health Department, Egyptian Government.

Mr. Frank Cole Madden, M.D., F.R.C.S., has been appointed operating surgeon to the British Forces in Egypt and attached for duty to a military hospital in Cairo.

Captain Wilfred F. L. Bright, Army Veterinary Corps, has been taken on the strength of the Egyptian Army with the rank of Bimbashi and posted to the Sudan Government.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The charge for Announcements under this Heading is 2s. for three lines and 1s. per line afterwards. Minimum charge, 3s. All announcements must be authenticated with the name and address of sender.

DEATH.

CAMPBELL.—On July 10, at the Anglo-American Hospital, Cairo, Charles Orr Campbell, M.Inst.C.E., Egyptian State Railways, of typhoid fever. Aged forty-two years.

DARDANELLES DISTINCTIONS.

A further list of awards for distinguished service in the field was issued last Saturday. From it we take the following items:—

VICTORIA CROSS.

Second Lieutenant George Raymond Dallas Moor, 3rd Battalion The Hampshire Regiment.

For most conspicuous bravery and resource on June 5, 1915, during operations south of Krithia, Dardanelles. When a detachment of a battalion on his left, which had lost all its officers, was rapidly retiring before a heavy Turkish attack, Second Lieutenant Moor, immediately grasping the danger to the remainder of the line, dashed back some 200 yards, stemmed the retirement, led back the men, and recaptured the lost trench. This young officer, who only joined the Army in October, 1914, by his personal bravery and presence of mind saved a dangerous situation.

No. 465 Lance-Corporal Albert Jacka, 14th Battalion Australian Imperial Forces.

For most conspicuous bravery on the night of May 19-20, 1915, at "Courteney's Post," Gallipoli Peninsula. Lance-Corporal Jacka, while holding a portion of our trench with four other men, was heavily attacked. When all except himself were killed or wounded, the trench was rushed and occupied by seven Turks. Lance-Corporal Jacka at once most gallantly attacked them single-handed, and killed the whole party, five by rifle fire and two with the bayonet.

D.S.O.

To be Companion of the Distinguished Service Order.

Lieutenant-Colonel James Thomas Rankine Wilson, 1st/5th Battalion the Royal Scots (Lothian Regiment) (Queen's Edinburgh Rifles), Territorial Force.

For conspicuous ability and resource on June 19, 1915, during operations in the neighbourhood of Krithia, Dardanelles, where he reorganised and carried out the recapture of a Turkish trench from which the troops of another division had been forced back. The success gained was due to Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson's skilful and bold leading and his prompt assumption of responsibility.

THE MILITARY CROSS.

Lieutenant Oscar Taunton, 1st East Lancashire Field Company, Royal Engineers, Territorial Force.

For conspicuous gallantry on June 4, 1915, during operations south of Krithia, Dardanelles, when he held back the enemy from advancing along a trench on the left flank, which was much exposed. By means of bombs and hand grenades he personally held his position for over two hours. He picked up several of the enemy's bombs and threw them back before they exploded.

Second Lieutenant Francis Arthur Sutton, Royal Engineers.

For conspicuous gallantry during operations west of Krithia, Dardanelles, on May 22, 1915, when attached to the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. During a counter-attack, which he led, he picked up and threw back into the enemy's trenches, at great personal risk, a number of bombs, thereby probably saving many lives. He threw six bombs, and the seventh exploded in his hand.

Second Lieutenant Thomas Wallace, 3rd Battalion the Border Regiment.

For conspicuous gallantry on the night of June 10-11, during operations S.W. of Krithia, Dardanelles, when he volunteered to lead a party to clear the enemy out of a trench in which they were constructing a sap. He advanced under a heavy fire, and rushed the trench at the head of his men, bayoneting some and driving the remainder away. He afterwards led his own men down a communication trench, showing great coolness, and remained there until the enemy evacuated it. The success of this enterprise was mainly due to his personal bravery and gallant leading.

WHERE TO STAY.

UPPER EGYPT.

Luxor.

The Winter Palace. The Luxor Hotel.
The Karnak Hotel.

Assouan.

The Cataract Hotel. The Savoy Hotel.
The Grand Hotel.

Are the Finest on the Nile.

Cairo's Hotels de Luxe.

SHEPHEARD'S HOTEL.
Open all the year round.

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

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

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

Alexandria.

MAJESTIC HOTEL.
Every modern comfort and luxury. Private apartments with bath-rooms attached & combined suites.
150 ROOMS AND SALOONS.
Hot and cold water in each bedroom. Large and luxurious dining rooms. American bar and restaurant stocked with best wines and liquors. Garden terrace. Verandah. Lift. Motor Car, Guides and Interpreters meet all trains and ships on arrival.
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BULGARIA AND TURKEY.

According to the well-informed correspondent of *The Times* in the Balkan Peninsula, a convention ceding to Bulgaria the Turkish portion of the Dedeagatch Railway was signed in Constantinople on July 22. By the terms of this agreement Bulgaria is said to have obtained the whole extent of the line traversing Turkish territory, together with the stations Karagatch, Demotika, and Kuleli Burgas. The Bulgarian frontier is to coincide with the course of the Maritza, all territory to the west of that river becoming Bulgarian. Although this convention is said to have been signed last week, no confirmation of the fact has been received, and it is noticeable that in spite of its optimistic forecasts of a satisfactory issue to the negotiations between Bulgaria and Turkey, the German Press declared up to a few days ago that no agreement had been reached. It is unlikely, however, that *The Times* correspondent has been misinformed. The negotiations between the Bulgarian Government and the Porte had been in progress for some months, and it will be remembered that last week we cited the Bulgarian order stopping all railway traffic with Turkey as an indication that a crucial stage had been reached in the relations between the two countries. Such action on the part of Bulgaria left Turkey the choice between acquiescing in the Bulgarian demands and a declaration of war. For the Turks look to the Bulgarian railways to forward them not only munitions of war but also some of the necessaries of life. To be cut off from all communication with the Central Powers would render any further resistance at the Dardanelles practically useless. Confronted with this dilemma, Turkey has made up her mind very rapidly. She has not only abandoned an untenable attitude in regard to the management of the Dedeagatch Railway, but she has surrendered without an armed struggle the portion of territory west of the Maritza secured to her by the Treaty of Constantinople. Bulgaria had been granted certain rights in regard to her traffic over the portion of the line running through Turkish territory. Even before war broke out between Turkey and the Entente Powers the Turkish authorities had contrived to encroach upon Bulgaria's rights; but under the exigencies of military requirements technical violations gave place to forcible interference with Bulgarian traffic and to the commandeering of Bulgarian rolling stock.

With the announcement of the concession it is insisted that the agreement with Turkey implies no engagement whatever of a political character on the part of either country; that Bulgaria neither binds herself to remain neutral nor to permit the passage of contraband of war to Turkey. The same claim was made when the Bulgarian Government at the beginning of the year obtained advances from German and Austrian banks. The loan convention, it was stated, carried no political obligations with it; but the fact remains that Bulgaria since that time has continued to observe a neutrality which favours the Germanic Powers alone, even if the Bulgarian authorities have not actually connived at the transport of contraband of war to Turkey. For Bulgarian neutrality has not been, as far as the Triple Entente was concerned, of a sufficiently benevolent character to satisfy Roumania that she would be safe from all complications on her southern frontiers, if she engaged in military operations in the north. Bulgarian neutrality, therefore, has demobilised Roumania without imposing any proportionate embarrassment on the Germanic Powers. It may be that a similar state of affairs will repeat itself as a result of the new agreement with Turkey. Bulgaria may have avoided any treaty commitments, but the result of the negotiations will hardly allow either party to the contract to contemplate the possibility of an immediate rupture of diplomatic relations. On the other hand, the Bulgarian disavowal, taken in conjunction with the fact that negotiations are actually in progress with the Entente Powers, asks us to believe that Bulgaria is perfectly ready to attack Turkey to-morrow, if she could have her aspirations satisfied by the Allies. If this be the case, we must suppose that the negotiations which have been taking place in Constantinople were by no means as amicable as the German Press represented them, but that Bulgaria threatened Turkey with an immediate declaration of war, if her demands were not satisfied. The Turkish surrender, which was virtually forced upon the Porte by its German allies, would thus be eloquent of the position in which it finds itself as a result of the operations at the Dardanelles. Bulgaria, at the same time, will not have exposed herself to the charge of double-dealing. She will merely have taken advantage of Turkey's predicament to redress certain malpractices of the latter in connection with Bulgarian rights on the Dedeagatch railway. Her action would have to be viewed in a very different light, if she had accepted the surrender, let us say, of territory up to the Enos-Midia line as a possible settlement of her claims against Turkey, while simultaneously carrying on negotiations with the Triple Entente, having Bulgarian co-operation in the war as a possible objective.

For the present Bulgaria must have the full benefit of the doubt. We can accept her assurances that the convention with Turkey carries no political obligations with it, and that she is free to carry on *pourparlers* with the Triple Entente in regard to her attitude towards the war. It is understood that the Bulgarian Government is now awaiting a reply to its last Note, in which it informed the Allied Powers of the terms on which it was prepared to abandon neutrality. Thus the Balkan situation has not yet made any actual advance beyond the stage which it might be said to have occupied at any time since the outbreak of the European war. Bulgaria's terms for abandoning neutrality have been well known, even though the Allied Governments may not have received official notification of them. They affect, unfortunately, Serbia, Greece, and Roumania as well as Turkey, and until the Entente Powers have brought the first three States into line, Bulgaria will have little inducement to change her attitude. The illness of King Constantine, together with the political paralysis of the country brought about by the maintenance in power of a Government which has not a majority of the Chamber or the electorate behind it, prevents any headway being made in regard to the unwillingness of Greece to consider concessions to Bulgaria. But the determining factor, it has to be admitted, is now the forcing of the Dardanelles, coupled with the general military situation in Europe. Until the Balkan Governments are confronted with the elimination of Turkey and some definite success for the Allied arms, they can one and all shield themselves behind their military advisers, who have in nearly every instance received their military training in Germany. Their information comes from German sources, and they regard the course of the military operations in the light in which the German official reports affect to regard it. In these circumstances the Balkan Governments find abundant justification for adhering to a neutral attitude. They do not believe in burning their fingers from altruistic motives, and they are not unnaturally anxious that they should gain the maximum results with the minimum effort. The Turkish concessions to Bulgaria cannot fail to have cleared the ground to some extent for the Entente Governments. If they are satisfied with the assurances of the Bulgarian Government, they will know that it has not shrunk from using the Dardanelles operations as a lever against Turkey; if, on the other hand, they are *not satisfied*, they will have no excuse for continuing their negotiations at Sofia on lines that are foredoomed to failure.

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THE KHEDIVIAL WAKFS SCANDALS.—IV.

(By Our Cairo Correspondent.)

Whether the complications and obligations in which the purchase of the two houses mentioned in the preceding article had involved them had disquietened all concerned, and had impelled them to seek some relief from their embarrassments, or whether one and all had become indifferent to all considerations, and were obsessed with the idea of bleeding the Daira to the fullest extent, it is impossible to say. The fact remains, however, that, whilst the trustee was still conspiring with the vendor of the two houses to obtain funds on the strength of certificates delivered in the name of the Daira, he had already commenced negotiations for another deal that was destined further to aggravate the financial position of the Daira.

A petition to the Meglis informed it that two agricultural companies were ready to effect an exchange, which was recommended because the two houses, which had been considered such an acquisition when their purchase was first proposed, were urban property, possession of which was always risky, whereas the property offered in exchange was agricultural land, completely reclaimed and fit for cultivation, which was always a more permanently remunerative investment! Needless to say, the deal was not a pure exchange; as is usual in such cases, there was a difference to be paid. And, also needless to say, it was not the society's property that was the lesser in value, and that, as usual, the Daira was called upon to pay out.

The combination was quite an ingenious one. The Meglis was informed that the societies agreed to value the two houses at £E180,000—be it noted that this was £E20,000 more than the exorbitant price already paid, in itself a sufficiently suspicious feature—and to reimburse the two banks for the amount of their mortgages—viz., £E95,000, plus interest, the net sum to be credited to the Daira being £E85,000. In exchange the Daira was to receive two estates of 4,200 feddans, valued by an expert at £E95 per feddan, but which the societies magnanimously deigned to cede at £E93 per feddan, or in all £E396,000, including machinery, etc., valued at £E33,000. The Daira was to pay the balance of the money—i.e., £E311,000—in six instalments, without interest, and was at once to enter into possession of the estates, which were declared to be returning an annual rental of £E27,000. In due course the Meglis signified its approval of the proposed exchange on the conditions mentioned, merely insisting that before completing the purchase the trustee should make sure that the land was unencumbered.

The parties proceeded to draw up the deed of sale. But, again, as in the case of the first purchase, it contained various serious divergencies from the conditions approved by the Meglis. Thus the Daira had to undertake certain works of improvement which were necessary to the whole scheme of which the estates formed a part; this indicated that the land was only in process of reclamation. Next it was stipulated that the banks' mortgages of £E95,000 were to be paid by the Daira and not by the societies, who would credit the Daira with the full value of the houses—viz., £E180,000. This was a subterfuge to put on the shoulders of the Daira the payment of the interest and to relieve the societies from the responsibility of meeting the mortgage instalments in hard cash when they fell due. Machinery valued only at £E17,000 was to be handed over to the Daira, which would only receive the revenues in proportion as it had paid the price; on the other hand, the rents of the two houses were to accrue at once to the societies. Moreover, it was declared that the estates bore a lien of £E260,000, plus interest, in favour of the debenture-holders, and that the societies undertook to liberate them of the sum actually due on them—£E93,000—before the two last instalments had been paid, and to obtain the debenture-holders' acceptance of the arrangement at once. Further, although no certificates of freedom from encumbrances had been produced, three bills for £E86,000, representing the two first and part of the third instalments, were handed to the societies, and it was laid down that all the fees, amounting to £E8,000, should be borne by the Daira.

It would have been bad enough if, under these circumstances, the Daira had been able to obtain clear possession of the property and if all the certificates stipulated for had been produced and found satisfactory. To this day, however, no acceptance from the trustees of the debenture-holders has been obtained, and the Daira has not been able to obtain possession, as the societies refuse to allow the survey preliminary to handing over, and the Government, it appears, claims part of the area. As matters stand, the Daira has already paid £E18,000 in cash, and has given £E86,000 in bills to the vendors, and it has assumed all the liabilities in connection with both the Alexandria properties and the agricultural estates. The effect of this second deal has merely been to double the net loss to the Daira. It has, in fact, spent, or will be called upon to spend, in connection with the two deals £E600,000, and all it has to show for the money are two estates valued by the new trustee—Mohammed Pasha Said, the late Premier, than whom no better man could have been chosen for the task—at £E200,000—just half that put on them in the exchange deed—and which have turned out to be far from remunerative, seeing that between November, 1913, and July, 1914, they were worked at a dead loss. The whole business has been shameful from start to finish, and the contract with the societies is so obviously irregular and unjust that the new trustee has not hesitated to take action for the cancellation of the exchange, for the refund by the societies of all moneys expended by the Daira, and for the payment of damages.

The incidents related in the foregoing articles throw lurid light on the manner in which the management of Wakfs property and that belonging to minors and interdicted persons has been conducted in the past. The instances quoted are admittedly few in number, but they are typical of the discreditable motives that actuated those who controlled, directly or indirectly, these matters.

It is, of course, natural that all those implicated should try to throw off responsibility by imputing the blame for the irregularities and the origin of the deals to Abbas Hilmi Pasha, who was the supreme head, and was generally known to be dabbling with the various funds. No documentary evidence is to be found to prove that the instructions were ever given by his Highness. Nevertheless, in face of the facts, it is quite impossible to give the absentee the usual benefit of the doubt. Everyone, including those who have no interest whatsoever to lie, agrees that he never gave his orders in writing, but always verbally or by telephone. Moreover, many substantial sums have been traced to have been utilised on his behalf; the placing of the funds at interest was done with his cognizance, and he would never have permitted the withdrawal of the interest and of the administrative expenses, which were his peculiar perquisite, had he not been closely interested in the operations on the Wakfs funds that they were intended to cover up. Many things may, it is true, have gone on, and many thefts may have taken place, without his being aware of them, but the sale of his Ragdia and Sabarbay estates to the "Aukaf," the transactions of the Daira Khassa, and the land deals of the Seif-ed-Dine Daira were all matters of his cognizance, of which absolute proof exists.

But while there is no doubt in anyone's mind that Abbas Hilmi Pasha was at the bottom of all this scandalous work, that does not excuse those who are to-day being held to account. Their plea that they were subservient to the will of his Highness—that, as one put it, "to question his orders or to ask for them in writing would have been an act of discourtesy and of disloyalty"—cannot exculpate them. With but one exception, they were all men who had held high posts in the past, who, therefore, should have known the very grave nature of their actions, and who, since they drew good pensions from the Government, could have afforded to resign if called upon to execute orders that they knew to be illegal or for which they, as the executive head of their respective administrations, did not wish to be responsible.

THE "S.P.C.," BEYROUT.

The 48th annual report of the Syrian Protestant College (Beyrout) tells the story of much good work done and progress achieved. Among other things, it chronicles "the completion and occupation of three new buildings for the use of the Preparatory Department; the completion and occupation of West Hall, the home of the College Young Men's Christian Association; the purchase of two desirable pieces of land . . . an addition to the plant of the institution unparalleled in any single year of its previous history," and refers to "the magnificent gift from the Jesup Estate, constituting a sum in excess of any amount heretofore received at any one time by the institution." These are points on which the College is to be warmly congratulated. On the other hand, the resignation of his professorship by Dr. Porter Harvey is a loss which the College has to deplore; though, happily, he remains an active member of the Faculty.

All departments of the College have been busy, the School of Medicine especially so. In this particular school, we read: "Good work is being done, with the standards higher than ever. . . . But we are not satisfied. Already there is very great pressure for more time. The five years' course recommended last year by the Faculty to the Board of Trustees must eventually come in one form or another. The measure of ability of the College to be a civilising, up-lifting power in the Near East is to a very large extent determined by the kind of doctors we send out. We ought not to send out men who are inadequately trained. The call for a five years' course, the call for a new laboratory, the call for two or more professors, are based upon the conviction that an adequate training demands enlargement in these three directions." The Schools of Pharmacy and Dentistry and the Nurses' Training School continue to train men and women whose services prove of great value throughout the Near East.

A postscript to the report, written on October 29, 1914, states:—"At this date 680 students have entered the different departments of the College as over against 933 last year at this time. The total enrolment last year was 961."

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

So, after all, M. Ghenadieff has not been arrested, there was never any intention of his being arrested, and he "is not even under observation." No wonder the semi-official Bulgarian News Agency characterises the reports and rumours that have been set afloat regarding him as "fantastic." To me at least, the whole business has the appearance of having been engineered by our friend the enemy, who, realising that M. Ghenadieff is a power to reckon with in Bulgaria, and that the weight of his influence is not going to be thrown into the scale on the side of the Turco-Teutonic alliance, has been indulging in much mud-slinging. The attention bestowed upon him by the German Press shows how glad the Germans would be to believe the most "fantastic" of the stories set about regarding his arrest and his suicide. It is a case of the wish being father to the thought. But let us hope that the wish will not be gratified, and that M. Ghenadieff may long live to laugh at the Huns.

***

I have never met M. Ghenadieff, but friends who have done so unite in describing him as a gifted orator and a particularly able man, very unlikely to fall into any snare set for him by the German agents. He is of quite a different calibre from the Enver and Talaats. A Macedonian by birth, he is a Stambulovist by conviction. For years he was Petkoff's right-hand man, and he was with the Premier when the latter was assassinated, being in fact, fired at himself, and wounded in the arm. Afterwards, at Petkoff's funeral, he delivered a very fine oration on his chief, in the Cathedral.

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The more I learn about the present state of Roumania the more sorry do I feel for the inhabitants of that beautiful country, who are suffering from a plague of Germans almost as badly as the Egyptians must have suffered from the plague of flies and the plague of lice.—Apologies to both insects for instituting any comparison between them and the Huns!—One French lady in Bucharest, writing to a friend in this country, says:—"Je connais une dame qui a dû quitter l'Hotel —, tant elle etait irritée d'entendre parler l'Allemand du matin au soir," and other letters tell the same tale. In fact, Bucharest, which has always plumed itself on being a Paris in miniature, appears to be in some danger of becoming a kind of Berlin.

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The German visitors are, of course, as active as can be in the interests of the Vaterland, and are spending money very freely. But they do not find every one ready to sell his soul for a price. For some reason they approached one lady with a proposal that she should purchase for them all the old copper she could; and so liberal were their terms that she stood to make a profit of £4,000 on every truck-load she secured. She, however, drew their attention to the tri-colour ribbon she was wearing, and informed them, with quiet contempt, that she would not supply metal to kill her own people. "Whereupon" (says the correspondent who sends me the story, which is a true one) "they were greatly surprised; for, as you know, there is a class here that does not understand such a sentiment."

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Yet another correspondent, a lady whose position lends considerable weight to what she writes, says:—"All would go well for us if there were fewer German Jews here. It is all a network of intrigue and bribery . . . —— is working hard to keep Roumania from joining the Entente; and my husband, who is becoming bitterly anti-Semitic these days, fears the Jews are going to win. Of course, the feeling of the people is heartily on our side."

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Pasted across the flap of the envelope of a letter received from Italy this week I found a neatly printed label, with the inscription:—

Italiani! non parlate di notizie militari. Guardatevi dalle spie e denunziate ogni individuo sospetto.

This, I take it, means "Italians! do not speak about military matters. Be on your guard against spies, and denounce all suspicious individuals." Both the sentiment and the idea of the label strike me as quite good, and I should not be sorry to see something of the kind put on the market in this country. Not that anybody who really knows anything worth mentioning about military matters is likely (I hope) to "blab" about them. But one does get somewhat weary of the amateur strategists and of the superior persons who know just what our generals *ought* to do. And perhaps if we were heartened up a bit by English versions of this Italian label we might pluck up courage and —denounce these bores as "suspected persons." Most of them ought certainly to be shut up.

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The capture of Suk-es-Sheyukh by our forces has apparently caused a good deal of bother to conscientious sub-editors who have tried to get the "proper" spelling of the name; for I have seen at least half-a-dozen different renderings of it; though that of the official communiqué is certainly the most satisfactory. The place is hardly worth so much trouble, being a very ordinary little village, like scores of others in the district, with mud-built houses and reed hovels, and little else besides. Its name, which is pronounced by the local Arabs "Sook esh-Shay'ookh," means "The market place of the Sheikhs." Nasriyeh is—or was when I knew the district—a more important place, but even so its chief interest lies in the fact that it is the nearest inhabited spot to Tel Mugheir, the ruin mound that marks the site of Ur.

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In the *Daily Telegraph* I read lately of scores of starving, homeless cats having been adopted by a kindly Turk, and being nourished and housed at his expense. The case of their former owners must have been hard indeed to lead them to the abandonment of their favourites, because the Turks' regard for animal life is notorious throughout the world. But in looking back upon days spent in the Orient it is a curious thing that nowhere can I find any dominant recollection of cats, whereas every incident of daily life seems in some manner or other to be associated with dogs. A few stray and haunted-looking cats I remember, but they were gaunt members of their race, and seemingly had no part in the scheme of things as they are. And yet of all creatures one would imagine that the cat would command most reverence in the Orient, or, at least, in Egypt, where once they were sufficiently important to merit mummification.

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At first sight it might almost seem as if the Egyptian had lost one of the chief characteristics of his ancient superstition, but personally I am inclined to think that this is very far from being the case. The cat is everywhere recognized as possessing a special gift of psychic vision, and is accredited also with an indiscriminate love of spiritual manifestation, good or evil; and to its perspicacity in these matters may, I think, be traced the disinclination of the average Egyptian to harbour it in his homestead to-day. It is one thing to be merely inwardly conscious of the presence of spiritual beings at one's side; it is quite another to be constantly reminded of them by the action of a material animal which, with arched back, rubs against the legs of an invisible presence, or with bristling hair and dilated eyes backs towards you spitting angrily into the empty air. And so, acting upon the principle that "where ignorance is bliss 'tis folly to be wise," the Egyptian has shown his distaste of this spiritual barometer by persistently refusing to encourage it as a household companion.

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But the dog is the friend of man, and has no dealings with lurking beings of the underworld. And, therefore, everywhere in the Orient his kind have increased and multiplied until at last his numbers were almost as great a source of embarrassment to the Turks as rabbits to the Australians. Their name is legion. Any visitor to Turkey, Arabia, Egypt, or Persia will remember the packs of lean, hungry pariahs which scour the refuge heaps of the cities in search of food. Although the majority of them belong to no man, and are a nuisance to the entire community, they are safe from death at the hands of the natives, for to spill their blood would be to court disaster.

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In many country towns of England the shops are now closing for a full hour or more at mid-day; shortage of labour is responsible for this change, but during the hot season through which we passed some time ago one might almost have imagined oneself in the East, so sun-struck and silent were the empty streets at noon. By the time that this war is over it is possible that midday closing will have become a habit so congenial that we will not seek to throw it off, and England, like Egypt, will pause to rest when the sun is at its height in the broad days of summer. We are not usually supposed to be an adaptive people, but in the exigencies of existing circumstances we seem to be accepting the many changes so suddenly thrust upon us with an almost Oriental passivity. The Germans are making a boast of their superiority, and say that we are only now learning what is already natural to them; they point to our campaign of thrift as evidence of a canker of fear. But the more terrible thing is the fear of being thought afraid, and, thank Heaven, we have none of that. If we have come unprepared upon the hard necessities of war-time, it is not because of weakness, but because of the strength that is in us. It is the small things that count, and while we cheerfully put up with the inconvenience of closed shops at mid-day, and accept other pin-pricks of fortune in the spirit that made heroes of our Indian soldiers in the frozen trenches last winter, we may rest assured that all is well with England. It is not in the Englishman's character to sit down and say Kismet until he has fashioned circumstances to his own liking, but a leaven of Oriental patience will do us no harm for all that.

CORSAIR.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Bulgaria's Deal.

In a leading article on the Turco-Bulgarian deal over the territory traversed by the Dedeagatch Railway, the *Daily Chronicle* (July 27) remarks that "in the light of Bulgaria's previous German war policy we cannot feel unconcerned." On the other hand it is recognised that, taken by itself, the deal may have no great political importance.

The terms imposed by Turkey on Bulgaria by the Treaty of Constantinople, after her prostration in the second Balkan war, left Dedeagatch to the Bulgarians as their Ægean port, but by withdrawing this section of railway from them gravely hampered the port's use. . . . A fortnight ago it was announced that Bulgaria had suspended all railway traffic of every kind with the Turkish lines. This drastic step, coupled perhaps with other threats, may possibly have supplied the final motive for the Turkish concession.

Remembering that free Bulgaria was a Russian creation, while Turkey was for centuries the arch-oppressor of the Bulgar people, the *Chronicle* hesitates to believe that Bulgaria should have cemented an alliance with the latter nation, although Bulgarian policy is admittedly "obscure and 'materialistic.'" The article concludes with a reference to the actual benefits that may accrue to the Allies as the result of the change of territory.

It will facilitate sea export of Bulgaria's surplus wheat crop, and perhaps that of Roumania's, too. This is important, not only because it will increase our wheat supply, but it will diminish that of Austria and Germany and save Bulgaria and Roumania from depending on those countries for markets. In lands where agriculture is almost the sole source of the national wealth, such a consideration may have considerable influence in shaping the ultimate course of foreign policy.

The Euphrates Success.

The *Birmingham Daily Post* (July 27) devoted a leading article to our recent successes on the Euphrates, and includes an interesting *resumé* of the campaign up to its present stage. The article continues:—

It is clear that the operations have been conducted with great ability. It is equally clear that great demands are being made on our troops. The force engaged is, we believe, largely Indian. Two British Regular regiments have figured in the casualties, and one communiqué has mentioned good work by a Territorial battery. But whether the troops are British or Indian, they have had a most arduous task. The temperature is round about 113 degrees in the shade; the flanking movements have involved hard work in swamps and marshes; the frontal attacks have usually been across plains devoid of cover from fire or shade from the sun. The enemy, finally, has fought with great tenacity. Even with our imperfect knowledge of what has happened, it is easy to see that this campaign will, for good management and good fighting, rank very high in the list of the campaigns on the edges of the Empire. And it would be sheer ingratitude for the public to forget or neglect the men who, from no wish of their own, are occupied on the outskirts rather than in the centre of a world-war. After all, most of our Empire has been won by similarly "small" campaigns.

Italy and Turkey.

In a dispatch devoted to the consideration of feeling in Italy after two months of war, the Rome correspondent of the *Morning Post* (July 27) expresses the opinion which we quote below regarding the chances of war between Italy and Turkey:—

As for Turkey, I am informed on very good authority that opinions were divided about the desirability of sending an Italian contingent to the Dardanelles. The King, General Cadorna, and the military authorities generally, as well as Baron Sidney Sonnino, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, were opposed to the idea, believing that Italy's true policy was to concentrate all her available forces against Austria. The Foreign Office, however, for political and diplomatic reasons, desired the appearance of Italy at the Dardanelles, in order to "peg out claims" in Turkey. The Foreign Minister and the Foreign Office, be it observed, bear much the same relation to one another that the Pope does to the Vatican. They may be, but are not always, of the same opinion in politics. While, therefore, Italy will scarcely go to the Dardanelles, she may attack Turkey, if the latter continues to stir up the natives against her in Libya, where the situation is described as not roseate.

Germany and Roumania.

According to the *Westminster Gazette* (July 23) the German papers show an increasing anxiety about the attitude of Roumania. The *Frankfurter Zeitung*, which is particularly well informed about the Balkans, wrote as follows in a recent issue:—

And now the critical moment may arrive, and perhaps it is not far distant, when a balancing of interests will no longer remain possible, and this will decide whether the German point of view is shared by Roumania, and whether Bucharest is inclined to draw the necessary consequences. So far as we know, Germany attaches less importance to the military co-operation of Roumania. The decisive factor is how far Roumania wishes a share in the results of this war. For Germany, the most important point is that Roumania should accept that interpretation of neutrality which rules among our enemies and among neutrals of the first importance—namely, the United States and Sweden—that is to say, that she should allow the transport of munitions and arms to take place over her territory without any difficulties. . . . We are confident that Roumania will come to the conclusion that fits in with her interests.

The Greek Parliament.

A recent number of *Truth* regards the decree postponing the opening of the Greek Parliament on the ground that the King's health will not allow him to receive M. Venizelos as a "mendacious subterfuge," discreditable to all concerned.

If the King can receive M. Gounaris, he can receive M. Venizélos. The King's unconstitutional action has brought M. Venizélos back to the place which he ought never to have left as leader of the Liberal party in Greece, and it now remains for the people, who voted him into power, to see that he gets it, and that the puppet placemen who have usurped office during the past five months are sent to the right-about.

Balkan Neutrals.

The *Nation* (July 24) in its notes on the Balkan situation remarks that the position is extremely critical, but thinks that the Balkan drama is fast moving to its climax. It concludes:—

All the Balkan States, in short, are up for action, and it is the more flexible and determined diplomacy which will secure them.

Bulgaria and Serbia.

The correspondent of the *Morning Post* (July 26), writing from Budapesth on the 18th, announces that the rumours of a meeting between the Kings of Roumania, Bulgaria, and Greece are still insistent in Sofia, and that it is now said that the Serbian Prime Minister is also to take part in the conference. As such a meeting would mean a *rapprochement* between the Balkan States, it is naturally regarded with great anxiety. In the following paragraph reference is made to the unfortunate attitude of the Military party:—

Private advices from Sofia also state that the negotiations between Serbia and Bulgaria are proceeding very satisfactorily, for both Governments are showing a spirit of compromise on the question of Macedonia, and only the military party of Serbia, under the influence of Prince Alexander, is still hesitating, though M. Pashitch and M. Radoslavoff are in agreement in principle already. According to this agreement a certain section of Macedonia, on the Serbian-Greek frontier, would remain in the possession of Serbia. Political circles and the Press are again very uneasy as to the Balkan situation, and great attention is being paid to the Balkan diplomatic movements.

The Case of Bulgaria.

In a leading article entitled "The Rebuff in the Balkans," the *Evening Standard* (July 26) deals with the recent Turkish concession to Bulgaria. After a review of the various reasons which make the possession of the ceded territory essential to Bulgarian aim, the article continues:—

That Bulgaria has committed herself to a definite pledge of neutrality we do not believe. The strip of land across the Maritza is only one of the territorial acquisitions at which she aims, and it is clear from her previous declarations of policy that she is prepared to go to war with Turkey as the price for the recovery of regions at present in the possession of Roumania, Serbia, and Greece. On the other hand, it is equally clear that with the Dedeagatch railway in her possession she is able to put up her terms with regard to her share of disposable territory in Thrace. In a word, the transaction has strengthened her position vis-à-vis the Entente, while her neighbours may well feel that she has again become a potential adversary and must be conciliated. That she has definitely decided to take the Austro-German side is, in our view, most improbable in spite of the recent visits of her emissaries to Berlin.

Articles to Note.

"L'Istruzione Pubblica in Egitto," by Aurelio Stoppoloni, in *La Vita Italiana* (July 15).

"The Military and Naval Strength of Peace." By H. Charles Woods, in the *Field* (July 24).

"The Levant Company in Smyrna," by Geo. Jeffery, F.S.A., in *Notes and Queries* (July 24).

"Will They Cross the Balkans?" Dispatch from G. Renwick, in the *Daily Chronicle* (July 29).

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DIRECTORY

showing the present addresses of English residents in Turkey, who have left the country in consequence of the war, or have been prevented from returning there. Readers from Turkey whose names are not given below will oblige by forwarding to the Managing Editor their present addresses for inclusion (free of charge) in the Directory, which is intended to be of assistance in bringing friends together. Changes in addresses should be notified as early as possible. The "Near East" accepts no responsibility for the correctness of the addresses given.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

I read in the *Mercantile Guardian* that the British Engineers' Association seems to have been "none too fortunate in the impressions created in China." The reason, according to the same source, is that "something has been heard from China of the alienation of Chinese sympathies by the too open attempts to force British goods upon the Chinese." I hope that there is no truth in the—to call it by a mild word—suspicious rumour. We talk about Germany's aggressive commercial policy, and have come to the very silly conclusion that the Huns force their goods "aggressively" on their would-be victims. In this we are wrong. There is much more of the insinuating grace, of the slimy oiliness of the eel about the German trader than there is of jaguar-like aggression. And that is why they have been successful. Which brings me, in a roundabout way, to the question of travellers.

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My experience in the Near East has been that the British-born traveller for a British firm insists rather on the nationality of the goods he is working than on their quality. The Hun-born traveller, on the other hand, leaves nationality quite out of the question, and points out quality and favourable terms—trying to make them appear favourable even if they are not so. The "you-must-take-this-because-it's-English" argument is one that does not appeal to anybody who is not British-born. Opposed to this is the German traveller's argument: "Take it, because it is good, and you cannot get better terms elsewhere." Personally, I am of opinion that this difference in methods goes a long way to explain why so many well-known firms prefer to employ travellers who have no nationality or who successfully cast it aside like a worn-out garment when necessary.

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But to return to the British Engineers' Association. The idea which promoted it was an excellent one (a similar organisation on a smaller and less ambitious scale was started in the Near East, but of this more anon), but from the start they were up against two immovable obstacles: lack of official backing and lack of financial backing. Not that the firms represented in the Association are not amongst the most wealthy in the country, but it is one thing to be a rich manufacturing firm, having to devote all available capital to the improvement of particular interests, and another thing is to be backed by a financial group (as German firms working abroad are by the hydra-headed Deutsche Bank), which directly obtains concessions for its affiliated groups and—incidentally only—is backed throughout the negotiations by the winning, not necessarily aggressive, ways of the Kaiser's ministerial and consular representatives. The British Engineers' Association went into the field—practically speaking, a new field—without any such powerful backing, with the unfortunate, the very unfortunate, precedent of the Crisp failure to encourage them. The dream they had was a noble one, the aim one worthy of our mettle, but the ideal and the object were bigger than the backing at their command.

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Which brings me to the somewhat similar organisation of engineering firms in the Near East. The aims of this group were more modest, but the corresponding possibilities of realisation were greater. Offices were opened in the Balkan capitals and in Constantinople with, considering the short time between the Balkan and Europeans wars, commendable results. Local men were engaged in each of the various countries who knew what was wanted, and who, being in touch with firms able to supply the wants, were able to place orders. They did not push the "British" article, but the good article, after the manner of the 'cute German traveller. The war has, of course, knocked this (among so many other schemes) on the head, but it is to be hoped that when all is over, when the atmosphere has been cleared, the project will be re-started with renewed energy. With a little official and financial backing—financial in the sense used before—it ought to do well. What the official backing will be Heaven only knows, but this matter was commented on in last week's issue of THE NEAR EAST. It is a matter on which I feel very strongly, and, as stated, I shall analyse it again on some future occasion.

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I have so frequently insisted on the necessity for the creation of a British commercial bank in the Balkans that no further comment is needed to explain my views. But a circumstance of more than ordinary significance has come to my notice, and I feel it incumbent on me to mention it. For the past few months no consular report from a United States consul in the Near East has been published without a serious and emphatic appeal being made for the establishment of an American commercial bank in the Near East. It is pointed out that, unless United States trade in that part of the world is to remain stationary, such a bank *must* be created. The argument applies to us also. It would be disappointing indeed if the United States consuls succeeded in doing for the American trader what our consuls have never (or rarely) attempted to do for us. The fact, however, that the demand for an American foreign commercial bank is being dinned into the ears of the United States public at a time when financiers in New York dream of turning their country from a "borrowing" into a "lending" State—i.e., into one placing its investments abroad—is significant, and should do much to open our eyes as to the future.

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Another point emphasised by the U.S.A. consuls is the necessity for the creation of an American Mediterranean steamship service. Here, again, we are on familiar ground, as I have urged, again and again, that we should do likewise. We are in a better position to do so than the Americans, because we have the ships; it only means organization. Nevertheless, I should not be surprised to see the American line created before we decided to organize a regular service out of the material already at our disposal.

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The opinions expressed by a correspondent in THE NEAR EAST of July 2, anent the wheat problem in Egypt, would seem to have been well justified, to judge from the contents of the latest number of the monthly return published by the Statistical and Agricultural Departments in Cairo. I understand, however, that the amount of leeway which Egypt would have to make up before attempting to export wheat is even greater than the article in question stated to be the case. In a table showing the "Production and Consumption of Wheat in Egypt," I find that the wheat imports ranged from 25 per cent. to 16 per cent. of the total consumption of the country during the last six years, that of 1915 being nearly the highest of all. Egypt has thus to grow some 200,000 tons more wheat, of a quality which will make European bread, before she can become self-supporting, much less a wheat-exporting country.

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Another table in the same return gives the imports and exports of the principal agricultural products for the last three years, which shows that the export of beans has jumped from 4,379 and 2,345 ardebs up to 40,011 ardebs in 1915, as our correspondent foretold. Similarly, while the import of wheat has remained unchanged, that of wheat and maize flour and of maize has dropped to a fraction of the usual amount, and the export of maize has leapt up from less than 1,000 ardebs to 207,039 ardebs already.

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The *Egyptian Gazette* to hand as we go to press announces that the Cyprus Government has accepted the Cairo Motor Company's tender for the transport of mails and the passenger service in the island, commencing from September 1 next. The journal then says:—"It appears that the late contractors were not so successful as they might have been owing to the design of their cars being unsuitable for Cyprus roads. The cars to be used in the new service will be a radical departure from those at present employed. A regular service is to be maintained between the four important towns of Nicosia, Larnaca, Limassol and Famagusta, and Larnaca has been chosen as the headquarters of the Cairo Motor Company in the island."

***

The above item of news is the first of its kind to reach us. Of course, I congratulate the Cyprus people on the maintenance of their motor-car service, but before committing myself to an analysis of the working arrangement between the Government and the Cairo Motor Company, I must know the conditions. These are, however, not public property as yet.

COMMENTATOR.

DELICIOUS COFFEE.
RED WHITE & BLUE
For Breakfast & after Dinner.
Wholesale, of Hanson's, London, England.

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The Sudan Court at the Imperial Institute.

The new Sudan Court in the Exhibition Galleries of the Imperial Institute at South Kensington, contributed by the Sudan Government, is a valuable representation of the present condition and resources of the Sudan. The exhibits are provided with descriptive labels and comprise examples of every important product exported from the Sudan, and, in addition, samples of a number of products of probable importance. The court, therefore, should be of interest not only to merchants and manufacturers and others engaged in the development of the country, but to the general visitor and student of the resources of the Empire.

The most important export of the Sudan is represented by complete series of commercial grades of Hashab (Kordofan) gum sold in the British, French, and German markets. Samples of less important gums are also shown—*e.g.*, Gedaref, Talh and Chiriya (Da) gums. The exhibit is accompanied by photographs illustrating gum gardens, methods of collection, preparation for the market, and export.

The cotton-growing industry is illustrated by an extensive series of samples including the following varieties (ginned and unginned) :—Mitafifi, Abassi, Yannovitch, Nubari, Gallini, American, native and "wild" cottons. Samples of cotton-seed and cotton-seed cake are also shown. The most important oil-seed of the Sudan is sesame (sim-sim), in which there is a large export trade. Good samples are shown.

The date industry is represented by a series of samples of named varieties.

Dura, an important cereal, is illustrated by a fine series of samples, the grain in the ear being also shown. The principal varieties exhibited are Fatarita, Gassabi, Wad-el-Fahl, Safra, Hegairi, Balhag, Wad Masnad, Wad Akr, Shelsheli.

The samples of senna comprise both leaves and pods of Tripoli and Alexandrian sennas, in different commercial grades.

Samples of hippopotamus ivory are exhibited.

The important industry in hides and skins is represented by exhibits of leather and finished leather articles. The leather shown includes tanned goat and sheep skins—natural colour, dyed, glazed and unglazed. The leather articles comprise saddles, boots, shoes, water skins, and scabbards.

The exhibits referred to above illustrate the leading exports of the Sudan. Other resources of the country are represented by a large number of additional exhibits of which the following are the more important :—

Cereals.—Dukhn, wheat (Sudan, Egyptian, Indian), barley, maize (Egyptian and native varieties), rice, represented by samples both in the grain and ear.

Legumes.—Beans, peas, lablab, lentils, fenugrec.

Condiments and Spices.—Chillies, East African cardamoms, African peppers, coriander seeds.

In addition to sesame, the following oil-seeds are shown :—Castor seed (Sudan, Indian, and Java varieties), ground nuts, shea butter nuts, senna seed, sunflower seed, safflower seed.

Several tanning materials are of local importance. The more important exhibits are sant bark, pods and grains; "alimu" (bark of *Ximenia americana*), "mudus" (bark of *Parkia filicoidea*), and "abu surug" (bark of *Prosopis oblonga*).

The principal rubber exhibits are sheets and biscuits of Cerea and Landolphia rubbers respectively. Botanical specimens of rubber-producing plants are also shown.

In addition to senna, samples of "sakran" (*Hyoscyamus muticus*), a valuable source of atropin, are exhibited, together with specimens of certain native drugs.

Dum palm nuts, used as vegetable ivory, are represented by specimens in the husk, shelled, and cut in section.

A good collection of timbers illustrating the resources of the forests in the southern part of the country is available. About 30 different timbers are represented.

The Red Sea pearl shell fishery is one of long standing, and a biological investigation of the marine resources of the Red Sea littoral has been undertaken by the Government. The exhibits, accompanied by explanatory photographs, comprise a series of specimens illustrating stages in the life history of the oyster, shells below the official size-limit, typical shells, diseased and abnormal shells. Among other marine exhibits are sponges (bath and cup).

Ostrich feathers, beeswax, tamarinds, jute, teel fibre, bowstring hemp, Ushar floss, and papyrus reeds are among other products exhibited.

The following native industries are represented :—Pottery, weaving (cotton cloth), leather work, matting and basket work. A native loom is exhibited.

Photographic illustrations form a special feature of the court. A series of large framed pictures occupy the north and south walls, and some striking photographic transparencies are shown in the windows. A special fitting carries a collection of photographs, diagrams, and plans of the towns of Khartoum and Omdurman; and series of photographs illustrate the construction of the Suakin-Atbara Railway and the dredging work of the Sudan Irrigation Service respectively. Native types, customs, industries, are also represented.

A new large-scale map has recently been prepared for the Court, and statistical diagrams recording the development of the leading industries are being added. An important feature of the Court is a large model of Port Sudan, which conveys a vivid picture of the place. With the further additions now being made, the Sudan Court at the Imperial Institute will provide the finest illustration of the resources of the country which has yet been seen.

EGYPTIAN COTTON AND GERMANY.

By W. Lawrence Balls.

The statistics for exports of cotton from Egypt up to June 26, 1915, which have just been received in the monthly return of the Statistical Department, are interesting with respect to the controversy which is now raging around the question of contraband cotton.

In 1913-14 Germany imported 696,336 cantars of Egyptian cotton. In 1914-15 she nominally imported none at all, but Switzerland took 831,666 cantars in place of 249,711 in the previous year, and Italy 420,734 in place of 256,141. The excess thus obtained adds up to 746,528 cantars, which is about the normal consumption of Germany.

The Austrian consumption was normally about half that of Germany; it was 361,476 cantars in 1913-14, and this does not appear to have been made good, unless the half-million cantars which went to America, over and above the normal U.S.A. consumption, were in part re-exported.

The total export of Egyptian cotton to the enemy countries in the year before the war was just over one million cantars, out of a total of seven millions. It seems a pity that the export to neutral countries during the war could not have been limited by the authorities in Egypt before three-quarters of this amount, at least, had got through to the enemy, considering the importance of this kind of cotton in the making of pneumatic tyres and the wings of aeroplanes.

NEWS FROM TURKEY.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, July 19.

The Treasury bonds to the value of £T6,583,094 to which reference was made in a previous letter are apparently being put into circulation, and the Turkish papers again congratulate the Ministry of Finance on this sound method of raising funds. They say the Turkish Treasury possesses large sums of gold, deposited partly in the Reichsbank at Berlin and partly in Vienna with the Austro-Hungarian Bank.

These notes, which are, therefore, fully covered by their equivalent in gold, offer greater security (they say) than bank notes which are only partially covered. A special article in the *Hilal* states that the funds in question have been transferred to the name of the Council of Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt, represented in Berlin by Bleichroeder, and at Vienna by the Crédit Anstalt, in virtue of which transfer the President of the Debt Council signs the following declaration on the back of the notes :—

"La contrevaleur en or de ce bon etant intégralement remise à l'administration de la Dette Publique Ottomane, celle—ci s'engage à le rembourser, en or, à Constantinople à vue et au porteur six mois après la conclusion de la paix."

Until the time comes for the bonds to be redeemed the gold will remain in the name of the Public Debt in cases sealed by this Administration, and deposited in the vaults of the Reichsbank and the Austro-Hungarian Bank.

DIRECTORY—*continued from page 362.*

SILLEY, Bernard, 37, Elliscombe Road, Charlton, S.E.
SILLEY, E. C., 37, Elliscombe Road, Charlton, S.E.
SILLEY, Mrs. Alfred C., Miss Alice, and Miss Beryl Dedeagatch, Bulgaria.
SILLEY, Mr. and Mrs. C. C., 70, Kingsdown Avenue, Ealing, W.
SILLEY, Mr. and Mrs. Walter and family, care of Imperial Ottoman Bank, Limassol, Cyprus.
SIMMONS, Albert, 84, Worple Road, Wimbledon, S.W.
SIMMONS, George H., c/o Imperial Ottoman Bank, Larnaca, Cyprus.
SKRIMSHIRE, C. R., Sand Haven, Weston-super-Mare.
SMITH, A. H., c/o Mrs. Gwilt, Hillsboro,' Maxwindrodd,
SMITH, F. W., "Heathcote," Bexley, Kent.
SMITH-LYTE, Mr. and Mrs. William, 30, Westbourne Terrace, Hyde Park, W. Tele., Paddington 7191.
SOFIANO, Mrs. Alexander, and sons, Rue Nikis, No. 11, Athens.
SPROWSON, Mr. and Mrs. William, and family, The Ferns, Harrow-on-the-Hill.
STELIANIDI, Mr. and Mrs. L. N., and family, Hôtel Métropole, Athens.
STRONG, Miss K. M., Thorpe Hall, Peterborough.
STREATER, Mr. and Mrs. Frank, British Consulate, Dedeagatch, Bulgaria.
STOCK, Mrs. H. W., and family, 13, Norland Sq., Holland Park, W. Tel.: Park 8770.
SUMMERS, Misses L. and M., Old Phaleron, Greece.
SWAN, Mr. and Mrs. T. Angus, 12, Ramshill Road, Scarborough.
SWAN, Mrs. Charles, 43, Lythoe Road, Finchley Road, N.W.
SYKES, Mrs. W. Norman, and family, 24, Osborne Road, Birkby, Huddersfield.
TALBOT, Miss, The Homestead, Basingstoke.
TALBOT, P. M. G., The Old Rectory, Scole, Norfolk.
THEWLIS, Frank, 33, Randolph Crescent, Maida Vale.
THOMAS, Mrs. L. I., and family, "Glack," Braconing Avenue, Boscombe, Bournemouth.
THOMPSON, William A., Glenmore, Avenue Road, Falmouth.
THOMPSON, Mrs Harold, Glenmore, Avenue Road, Falmouth.
THOMSON, Mrs., 124, King Henry's Road, South Hampstead, N.W.
THOMPSON, Miss C., c.o. Dr. Thompson, The Quay, Bideford.
THOMSON, Miss Gladys, 124, King Henry's Road, South Hampstead, N.W.
THOMSON, J. Crabtree, Cairo.
TRISTRAM, Mr. and Mrs. U. B., and family, 84, Worple Road, Wimbledon, S.W.
TUBINI, Mrs. T., 84, Worple Road, Wimbledon.
TUCKER, Thomas C., and family, 13, Odos Kebaya, New Phaleron, Greece.
TUCKER, Thomas J. V. Ferid, c/o A. H. Brace, Esq., 46, Goldshill Road, Handsworth.
VIDOVICH, Nicholas, and daughter. Hotel Centrale, Rue du Stade, No. 22, Athens.
WATT, Mr. and Mrs. A. B., Grand Hotel, Larnaca, Cyprus.
WEAKLY, E., C.M.G., Norfolk Hotel, Kensington, W.
WEALE, W., Foreign Office S.W.
WEALE, Miss Mary, 10, Upton Road, Slough.
WEALE, Miss Norah, Lydgate House, Hunstanton.
WERNDEL, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. G., Grand Hotel Bulgario, Sofia.
WHEATLEY, Miss N., "Falklands," Birkdale.
WHITEHOUSE, Rev. Canon F. C., and family, 6, St. Andrew's Square, Surbiton.
WHITTALL, Hugh E. C., Royal Societies' Club, 63, St. James's Street, S.W.
WHITTALL, Reginald, and family, 60, Scarsdale Villas, Kensington, W.
WHITTALL, W. H. J., 1, Princes Square, Bayswater, W.
WHITTALL, Lady, Moda Cottage, Esher.
WHITTALL, Kenny, 62, Princes Square, W.
WHITTALL, Edwin, and family, 16, North Road, Surbiton.
WHITTALL, Miss Enid, 84, Worple Road, Wimbledon.
WHITTALL, Miss Lucy, 60, Scarsdale Villas, South Kensington, S.W.
WHITTALL, Mrs. Jack, Hotel Minerva, Athens.
WILKINSON, J. W., and family, Chios, Greece.
WOODS, Mrs. Harold, Baynton House, Westbury, Wilts.
WOODS, Harold, Continental Hotel, Cairo.

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Alexandria Prize Court.

Claims for Release of Cargo.

Three judgments were delivered by Judge Grain on May 26 in H.B.M.'s Supreme Court for Egypt, sitting at Alexandria in prize, in regard to claims for the release of cargo found on the German steamers Barenfels and Derfflinger. The following are extracts from the three judgments:—

Judgment I.

The first case was a claim by the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China for the release of chiffon, frilling, bridal veils, elastic belts, etc., of the value of £66 16s. 9d.

"In this matter Mr. Booth appears on behalf of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China and claims the release of certain goods on board the s.s. Barenfels on the ground that the ownership of these goods has passed to an admitted British firm, Messrs. Diethlem and Co., carrying on business in Colombo, Ceylon. The Procurator opposes the claim for release on the ground that the property in the goods has not passed to Messrs. Diethlem and Co. and consequently the ownership remains with the consignor, an admitted enemy firm in enemy country.

"The facts are as follows:—The goods in question were shipped on board a German ship, the s.s. Barenfels, by Messrs. E. G. Kistenmacher and Co., of Leipzig (the sellers) at Hamburg on July 9, 1914, consigned to Messrs. Geo. Diethelm and Co., of Colombo, Ceylon (the buyers), to the order of the shippers, 'documents against acceptance.' A bill of exchange for £66 16s. 9d. was drawn on Messrs. Diethelm and Co. on July 22, 1914. This draft was duly discounted with the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China on the same date, July 22. On August 11, 1914, the bill of exchange was accepted by Messrs. Diethelm and Co., and the documents handed over. The s.s. Barenfels has already been dealt with by this Court, and an order made for 'detention and restoration after the war.' The Procurator argues that the acceptance of this draft on August 11, after the outbreak of war with Germany, comes under the Law of Trading with the Enemy, consequently the contract between Kistenmacher and Co., the German firm, and Diethelm and Co., the British firm, has never been completed and is void, and the property in the goods has never passed to the British firm, but remains in the German firm, and quotes in support of his arguments Proclamations concerning trading with the enemy of August 5, September 9, Westlake's International Law, Part II. War, Griswold and Waddington, Small and Lumpkin, Kershaw and Kelsey, Scotts' cases, the 'Hoop' E. P. C. Vol. 1, p. 104, and the 'Panariellos' and the 'Odessa' cases decided by Sir Samuel Evans in the English Prize Court. . . .

"I am satisfied beyond a doubt that the transactions in this case bring it within the Law of Trading with the Enemy. The acceptance of the draft by Messrs. Diethelm and Co. was an essential part of the commercial undertaking between the German firm, Kistenmacher and Co., and the British firm, Diethelm and Co. The German firm agrees to ship and sell the goods, and the British firm to buy and pay. The real contract is between those two firms, and therefore the acceptance is part of a commercial undertaking with the enemy, although the actual benefit to the enemy may be remote. The Chartered Bank of India are merely intermediaries who, to assist the German firm, advance money on the security of documents placed in their hands, and consequently are merely pledges whose claims under the 'Odessa' case cannot be taken into consideration. As the contract in this case was one of 'Documents against acceptance,' the property in the goods does not pass until the acceptance has taken place, and as I am of opinion that the acceptance which took place after the outbreak of war is an act of trading with the enemy and is consequently illegal and void, I hold that for the purposes of this case no acceptance has taken place, and the property in the goods still remains in the German firm and has not passed to the British firm, Diethelm and Co.

"I therefore hold that the goods in question are enemy goods, viz., the property of Messrs. E. G. Kistenmacher and Co., of Leipzig, and strike out the claim of Messrs. Diethelm and Co., and refuse the release to the Chartered Bank."

Judgment II.

The second case was a claim of Frederick H. Van Stade, New York, for the release of fifty cases of bristles of the value of £928 2s. 6d., part of the cargo of the Derfflinger.

"Mr. Booth appears on behalf of the claimant, and asks for the release of fifty cases of bristles which were on the German s.s. Derfflinger when she was seized as a prize of war. The s.s. Derfflinger has already been dealt with by this Court, and an order made against her of confiscation and delivery to the Crown. The Procurator appears, and on behalf of the Crown opposes the release, and asks for confiscation of the goods as enemy cargo.

"The facts are as follows:—On or about June 2, 1914, Fred. H. Van Stade, an American citizen of New York, bought from a German firm, Eduard Meyer and Co., of Tsingtau, China, fifty cases of Tsingtau bristles, which, on June 23, were shipped on board the s.s. Derfflinger at Tsingtau, consigned to Van Stade at New York. A bill of exchange for £928 2s. 6d. was drawn on Van Stade's account against London Joint Stock Bank, London It was accepted, July 22, and bills of lading were handed over, and the bill of exchange was paid on October 31, 1914. The contract of purchase, dated June 2, 1914, between the sellers and Van Stade, the buyers, contains the following provisions:—'Terms.—This contract is contingent upon strikes, floods, fire, pestilence, riots, war, rebellion, and other causes, beyond control. No arrival no sale. Insurance to be effected by buyers.'

"The sole point to be decided in this case is how the passing of the property is affected by the words 'no arrival no sale' in the terms of the contract. The Procurator, on behalf of the Court, argues, that these words constitute a special conditional contract, and until the conditions have been fulfilled the property in the goods does not pass; that as these goods have not arrived at New York the sale is cancelled and the property in the goods remains in the sellers, the enemy firm at Tsingtau. Mr. Booth, on behalf of Frederick Van Stade, urges that the phrase 'no arrival no sale' is merely for the protection of the seller against an action for 'non delivery' if the goods by any mischance do not arrive. And in support of this view he puts in an affidavit by the claimant in which he states that the said contract was made in the City of New York, and the said words 'no arrival no sale' have the following well accepted meaning among merchants engaged in the Chinese trade in this city; that 'if goods are shipped under the contract, the contract is to be regarded as fulfilled and the title is in the purchasers whether the goods arrive at their destination or not, so that if goods are lost after shipment, the shipper is not bound to make a new shipment,' and he attaches to his affidavit statements to the same effect from six other business firms in New York. . . .

"It appears to me that in coming to a conclusion in this case one is thrown back on the intentions of the parties to the contract. If it were not for the words 'No arrival no sale,' there would be no doubt that the property in the goods passed from Meyer and Co. (the sellers) to Van Stade (the buyers), on July 22, when the draft was accepted and the bills of lading handed over. Have these words 'No arrival no sale' affected this passing of the property? . . . There are some American cases in which the words 'No arrival no sale' appear in the contract, viz., Harrison v. Fortlage, 161 U.S. 57, and others, but they all appear to be connected with actions for 'non-delivery,' and as I am not able to read the reports, but merely find them cited in text books, I cannot get much assistance except what from the meagre details given, they do appear to support the theory of the American firms which I have before referred to, viz., that these words are used to relieve the seller on the non-arrival of goods from making another shipment of goods on the same contract.

"In this case there appears to me to be no intention whatsoever on the part of the sellers to retain in themselves the property in the goods which were comprised in the bill of lading handed over on the bill of exchange being accepted. And in using the words 'No arrival no sale,' he merely intended to protect himself from further responsibility in case of non-arrival; that is, he would not be called upon to ship another consignment. And I am of opinion that in using this phrase the seller had no intention of reserving any property in the goods. Nor, according to the facts placed before me, has the buyer in any way suggested that the property had not passed to him or that there was any intention in his mind that if the goods did not arrive he had either a right to another shipment or repayment of the money paid. Under these circumstances I find that it was the intention of the parties that the property in these goods should pass from seller to buyer on July 22 when the bill of exchange was accepted and the documents handed over, and that, in fact, it did then pass, and that therefore these goods are the property of Frederick Van Stade, an American citizen of New York, and that he is entitled to a release."

Judgment III.

The third case was a claim by the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China for the release of earthenware, ironware, lead pencils, and lamp parts, of the value of £127 6s. 4d., part of the cargo of the s.s. Barenfels.

"The facts in this case are as follows:—The goods were shipped by Messrs. Kistenmacher and Co. from Hamburg on July 9, 1914, to Messrs. Darley, Butler and Co., a British firm at Colombo, Ceylon, on the German s.s. Barenfels. A bill of exchange for £127 6s. 4d. was drawn on Messrs. Darley, Butler and Co. on July 16, which was discounted with the Chartered Bank on July 16, accepted on August 3, and paid after the outbreak of war on August 6.

"The only difference between this case and the first is that while in the other case the contract was 'documents against acceptance,' in this case it was one of 'documents against payment.' And it is obvious that if, as I have held in that case, the acceptance after the outbreak of war was trading with the enemy, and being an illegal act, prevented the passing of the property, then payment for the purpose of acquiring the property in goods must also come under the same stigma and equally prevent the passing of the property in these goods. These goods are therefore enemy goods, the property in them being in Messrs. E. G. Kistenmacher and Co., of Leipzig, and the claim of Messrs. Darley, Butler and Co. must be struck out and release refused."

G. N. LIONDA
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THE MANAGING EDITOR, THE SUDAN TIMES, KHARTOUM.

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Trade Notes.

Sudan.

The *Sudan Government Gazette* of June 30 contains copy of "The Customs (Tombac Duties) Amendment Ordinance, 1915" (No. 10) of 1915), which amends the rates of duty leviable on tombac under the Customs Ordinance of 1913 on importation into the Sudan. The Ordinance states that the new duties shall apply to all tombac which is not cleared through the Customs on or before the date of the publication of the Ordinance in the *Government Gazette*, viz., June 30, 1915.

The Board of Trade have received copy of "The Customs Transit Regulations, 1915," which came into force on July 1.

Under the new regulations, goods may be conveyed in transit through the Sudan from a place of departure outside the Sudan and Egypt to a destination outside the Sudan and Egypt free from import and export duties on import into and export from the Sudan, and, as regards goods upon which royalties are collected in the Sudan, free also from royalties. Goods in transit must be exported finally from the Sudan or Egypt within six months from the date on which the transit advice note (*elm khaber*) was issued at the Customs station of entry into the Sudan or Egypt.

A certificate showing the nature of the goods for transit outwards and the marks, numbers and weights of the packages signed by the proper official of the country from which they come, and showing of what country they are the produce or manufacture, shall be presented with the declaration on the entry of the goods into the Sudan, and shall be retained by the chief Customs officer. If such certificate is not produced the chief Customs officer may refuse to accept the goods as goods in transit.

Ivory entering the Sudan from the Uganda Protectorate or the Belgian Colony of the Congo shall not be accepted as goods in transit unless it is proved by the production of official documents that export duty has been paid in respect thereof. Except as specially provided for, no ivory shall be accepted as goods in transit unless the consignor signs a certificate to the effect that no part of the consignment consists of tusks of female elephants or of tusks less than 10 lbs. in weight. Provision is also made for the import and export of goods through Egypt.

The Customs Transit Regulations of 1908 and 1910 are repealed.

The Board of Trade have received a copy of the Customs Stations on Inland Waters Regulations, 1915, which came into force on July 1. Under these regulations, which repeal the Customs Stations on Inland Waters Proclamations of 1908 and 1911, provision is made regarding manifests, and the discharge, removal, loading and examination of goods on inland waters.

The *Sudan Government Gazette* for June 30 contains a notice stating that the rates at which Customs duty will be collected on goods which cross the frontier between Abyssinia and the Sudan on the import thereof into Abyssinia, and the export thereof from Abyssinia, respectively, will be the same as are chargeable, from time to time, on the import and export respectively, on similar goods into the Sudan. The duty on the import of the natural produce of either country into the other intended for consumption there and not otherwise chargeable at a lower rate of duty, and except also tobacco and tombac, will be collected at the rate of 5 per cent. *ad valorem*.

The *Sudan Government Gazette* of June 30 contains copy of an order stating that the

Prominent Industries of India

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

CAWNPORE WOOLLEN MILLS CO., Ltd.
— CAWNPORE, INDIA. —

Everything in Pure Wool.
MANUFACTURERS OF
"LALIMLI" WOOL WEAR
Flannels, Serges, Blankets, Tweeds, Broadcloths, Coatings, Hosiery, Rugs, Puttees, Uniforms, &c., &c. . . . .
CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT

COOPER, ALLEN & Co., Ltd.,
CAWNPORE, INDIA.
Army Boot and Equipment Manufacturers.
CONTRACTORS TO THE INDIAN, EGYPTIAN AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS.
THE LARGEST CONCERN OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD.

The NORTH-WEST TANNERY CO., Ltd.,
CAWNPORE, INDIA.
Tanners and Curriers, Leather Goods Manufacturers.
Saddlery and Harness of every description.
Travelling Requisites, Bags, Trunks, &c.
CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

The ELGIN MILLS Co. Ltd.
CAWNPORE, INDIA.
Spinners, Weavers, Bleachers, Dyers, and makers of every description of Cotton Goods such as TENTS, DURRIES (Cotton Carpets), and other Floor Coverings, Dusters, Towels, Bed & Table Linen, &c., &c.
Contractors to various Government Departments for Uniforms, Tents, Camp Equipment, &c.

New Egerton Woollen Mills Co.,Ltd.
DHARIWAL, PUNJAB, INDIA.
Sole Manufacturers of the Famous . .
Dhariwal
Long Life Wool Wear
Costume and Suiting Materials, Blankets, Rugs, Lohis, Hosiery, Puttees, Uniforms, Liveries, &c.. &c.
CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

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Customs (Tobacco Duties) Ordinance, 1914, and the Customs Ordinance, 1915, would come into operation on the following day.

The *Sudan Government Gazette* of June 30 contains copy of the Customs Regulations, 1915, which have been issued under the Customs Ordinance, 1915. These Regulations, which came into force on July 1, relate, *inter alia*, to storage, overtime charges, porterage charges, supervision charges, as well as the miscellaneous fees for permits and certificates.

Egypt.

The *Journal Officiel* of July 1 contains a notice giving revised tariff valuations (No. 2) for use in assessing Customs duties on coal and coke imported into Egypt, with effect to September 30.

The *Journal Officiel* of July 1 contains revised tariff valuations (No. 7) for petroleum on importation into Egypt, which are to remain in force until the end of this month.

The *Journal Officiel* of July 5 contains a notice giving the tariff valuation for cinematograph films imported into Egypt.

Greece.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of telegraphic information from H.M. Minister at Athens to the effect that the exportation from Greece of raw and calcined magnesite was prohibited by a Royal Decree of July 7.

Bulgaria.

The Board of Trade are now in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of telegraphic information to the effect that the exportation from Bulgaria of photographic apparatus, lime, and pocket electric batteries and bulbs has been prohibited, and that the exportation and transit of the following articles is at present prohibited:—All metals and metal goods, worked brass for harness, etc., rubber goods, including indiarubber washers for bottles, wooden material for building, wooden sleepers, tanning extracts, money, blankets, preserved fish, window glass, corks, sulphur, phosphorus, and gold.

Persia.

H.M. Consul-General at Meshed reports that at present very little trade is done in Persia by means of catalogues, as the Persian trader either does not understand or mistrusts them, and prefers samples. As retail traders become more enlightened, however, catalogues will undoubtedly play a more prominent part in business, and British firms should therefore consider the advisability of preparing catalogues in both French and English for the Persian market.

LIFE IN TEHERAN.

The U.S. Consul at Teheran, writing on May 20, reports:—

"In normal times Teheran is one of the most expensive cities in the world in which to live. Coal sells for £4 per ton; apples, 16s. per bushel; cheese, 60 cents (2 cents equals 1d.) per pound; ham, 65 cents per pound: butter, 50 cents per pound. These high prices are largely caused by the lack of transportation facilities. Coal is transported to Teheran from the nearest mine (a distance of 50 miles) by donkeys. Goods imported through the Persian Gulf are transported from Mohammerah or Bushire to Teheran (a distance of 800 miles) by mules and camels, and are usually from 6 to 12 weeks in transit. Goods imported through Russia are subject to a heavy transit duty, and are transported across the mountains from Enzeli to Teheran (a distance of 250 miles) by pack animals and wagons.

"Upon the breaking out of hostilities in Europe last August importations into Persia practically ceased. Articles of foreign production have, therefore, greatly increased in price, while increases in price of articles produced locally have been slight. Among the articles of local production that have not increased in price are mutton, beef, Persian flour, chickens, eggs, and fruit. Rice, which is grown on the lowlands along the Caspian Sea, has increased in price from 5 cents to 6 cents per pound. The price of sugar has increased from 8 cents to 10 cents per pound; coffee, from 30 cents to 50 cents per pound; tea, from 48 cents to 80 cents per pound; European flour, from 7 cents to 12 cents per pound.

Near East Markets.

ROUMANIA'S NEW CROP.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, July 3.

The question of finding storage room for Roumania's new crop has been engaging serious attention. The Minister of Domains has been studying it closely of late; and as he considers this to be the only feasible solution of the difficulty, he has appointed a Commission to go into the figures in a practical manner and to supervise the construction of the necessary stores. The first question is, of course, as regards the quantity, and to obtain a just estimate of this Dr. Colescu, the Director of the General Statistical Department, was requested to give figures that would allow of this being arrived at.

Dr. Colescu has been obliging enough to see me, and put before me his calculations as regards the new crop.

For this season, he told me, wheat was planted over a surface of 1,950,000 hectares. Taking into consideration the extremely favourable state of the wheat crop to-day, a crop may be expected of, approximately, 20 hectolitres to the hectare, which will give a total of 39 million hectolitres. Taking the weight of a hectolitre of wheat as 77·78, a fair average, we have a crop of 300,000 wagons, or 3,000,000 tons. The quantity required for home consumption is about 1,340,000 tons, which includes seed for next year's crop. It therefore follows that there would remain for export, were this possible, 1,660,000 tons of wheat.

As regards barley, the area planted was 550,000 hectares, which it may be assumed will yield, at an average of 18 hectolitres to the ton, 9,900,000 hectolitres. If we take an average weight of 62 kgs. to the hectolitre, the barley crop this year represents a total of 610,000 tons. From this one must subtract the wants of the country, about 183,000 tons; so that 427,000 tons remain for consideration.

Oats were planted over 410,000 hectares. Reckoning an average production of 20 hectolitres, we have a crop of 8,200,000 hectolitres. At a weight of 43 kilog. to the hectolitre the oat crop is approximately 350,000 tons. Again subtracting the country's needs for fodder, seed, etc., 161,000 tons remain for storage.

Thus it appears that there will remain:—

	Tons.
Wheat	1,660,000
Barley	427,000
Oats	161,000
Total	2,248,000

Of this, no doubt, a large part will remain in the warehouses of the producers, as is the custom with the larger proprietors, who have their own stores. Actually, therefore, only about one-third of the whole crop—that is to say 675,000 tons—will require storage room, for which the State proposes to provide.

The warehouses to be constructed will occupy a surface space of 440,000 square metres. The State railways have at their disposal but a third of this, so that depôts over a space of 300,000 square metres will have to be constructed. The Committee is now considering the best model of warehouse to be adopted, and in which manner their use can best be put at the disposal of merchants, etc. They will be constructed with the credit of ten million francs voted by the Ministry of Domains.

ROUMANIAN RAINFALL AND CROPS.

The weather in Roumania was unfavourable for the crops at the end of June and early July, and, according to the Roumanian newspaper *Universul*, torrential rains have been falling in the country for some time, some farms having been flooded, and considerable damage and destruction having been done to live stock, crops, and property. The following is the bulletin of the Meteorological Bureau at Bucharest of July 4:—

During the last twenty-four hours intermittent rain has continued all over the country, the rainfall at different towns being as follows:—

39 mm.	Bucharest
44 ,,	Ciochina
49 ,,	Caracal
51 ,,	Focsani
52 ,,	Tirgu-Ocna
64 ,,	Ramnic-Sarat
65 ,,	Odobesti

PRODUCE REPORT.

London, July 28.

Currants.

Only small transactions have taken place this past week, and prices remain unchanged except for lower grades, which in some instances are easier. It has been reported from Greece that the weather is very unfavourable, and there is uneasiness in all the currant districts.

In Liverpool the market is firmer, with a slight advance in provincial. Zante and smalls are also in better demand, but very little business has been done in either.

Sultanas.

The market is very quiet, only small business passing at unchanged prices.

In the Liverpool market, owing to the small compass of available supplies, only small transactions have taken place at full prices.

Dates.

There is no demand, but prices are well maintained.

Seeds.

Linseed.—The demand is very quiet, and with a drooping oil market sellers of seed show more disposition to meet buyers. London-Calcutta spot is quoted at 55s. 3d. in any position. Cottonseed is firm at full prices, owing to the absence of any seed afloat from Egypt. London-Egyptian, spot, is quoted at £9 15s. per ton. Rapeseed has been inactive all the week. Guzerat, July-August, is quoted at 56s., Toria ditto 50s. 6d., and brown Cawnpore ditto pure 50s. Mustard is steadily held at late rates. Rangoon beans have further advanced, and £18 per ton is now asked for spot lots, whilst for forward shipment quotations are also higher.

Oils.

Linseed oil is dull and 2s. 6d. to 5s. dearer. Spot pipes £26, barrels, month and August £26 10s., September-December £26 12s. 6d., January-April £27 15s.

Cotton oil is quietly steady. Crude spot in pipes £29, refined pipes (pale) £31 5s., and barrels (sweet) £36 to £37, as to makes. Rapeseed oil continues quiet. Ordinary brown naked spot £36 to £37, English refined (barrels) £38 to £40.

Oilcakes.

Cotton Cakes.—The market is quiet, and only a very limited quantity of Egyptian remains in store, for which holders ask £7 10s., while July-August shipments are quoted at £6 18s. 9d. to £7 ex ship, with English makes offered at £7 to £7 10s. per ton.

Linseed Cakes.—The market is unsteady, and prices generally are irregular, while the small quantity available for immediate delivery makes extreme prices as compared with last week. Best London-made are quoted at £11 5s., fine seedy La Plata £11 5s. to £11 10s. Japanese sells £10 15s. to £11 per ton. Greek is scarce at present.

Locust Beans.

The scarcity continues, and prices are maintained at £8 5s. for whole and £8 10s. for kibbled.

EGYPTIAN COTTON.

Liverpool, July 29.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report that Egyptian spot has been in improved demand this week, more especially for the higher grades of Sakellarides, chiefly for export, and a good business has resulted. Quotations show an advance of 10 points. Estimated sales, 3,600 bales, against 3,100 last week.

Manchester Market.—The week again passed with nothing of particular interest to note. We still hear complaints regarding trade generally, but our view is that there is more business doing than is generally admitted.

The cotton crops have reached maturity in certain provinces of Upper Egypt, including Assiout. The first crop, says the *Egyptian Gazette*, is expected to be picked during the first days of the coming month.

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HUNGARIAN METAL INDUSTRIES.

Reviewing the Hungarian metal industry in 1914, the *Honi Tpar*, the official organ of the Hungarian employers, says:—

"The first half of 1914 was, on the whole, unfavourable, the mills operating with a reduced force, owing to the financial crisis. Orders were few, and all efforts to improve the conditions failed, on account of the uncertainty of the situation. The difficulties were aggravated by the moratorium decree issued at the beginning of the war, which postponed payments for goods already delivered. It was expected that after the excitement of the first months of the war the situation would improve through the need of arms and equipment for the army, but the improvement was rendered impossible by the lack of raw materials, the lack of workmen—large numbers of whom had been called to the colours—and the limitation of transportation facilities.

"The foundries suffered the most. In the last quarter of the year orders for cast-iron grenades were received, which will keep the mills busy for three or four months. The mills producing heavy goods were altogether idle.

"The machinery industry profited by army orders, but only toward the end of the year, when the lack of workmen in that branch of the industry became serious. The steel-tool industry flourished in the second half of the year, but the electric branch suffered. Army orders were of some help, but there was a pronounced shortage of skilled workers. The steel-working mills suffered from a lack of orders during the first half of the year and from high prices of raw materials during the second half, when army orders were received.

"The lamp and chandelier industry had a satisfactory year, owing to good exports to the Balkan countries in the first half of the year and army orders in the second.

"Factory workers in the Hungarian metal industries are under military orders."

OLD SCOTS WHISKY.

The current issue of *The Scottish Review* contains a vigorous article from the pen of Mr. P. Jeffrey Mackie, upholding the much-maligned Scots national industry, namely, the distilling of Scotch whisky, and combating the proposed Prohibition measures. He points out that whisky is the national drink in Scotland, as beer is in England, and asks whether it should be condemned? Here are some pungent arguments:—

"The medical faculty is largely responsible for the popularity of Scots whisky. As a rule, the family doctor is our trusted friend. . . . The doctor's recommendation, therefore, necessarily carries great weight, and, as I have already remarked, it is largely due to the advice tendered by the medical faculty, that persons suffering from gout, rheumatism, and other bodily troubles which arise from excessive acidity of the blood, have been accustomed to drink old Scots whisky, plentifully diluted with some sound still water, in preference to liquors which are more or less acid in their nature. Those who have followed this advice have had no reason to regret it. It is sound, and it holds just as good at the present day as it did at the time when our medical friends first began to tender it. . . . When a doctor recommends a patient to drink whisky, it is to be presumed that it is good old whisky which he wishes him to take."

From which the natural deduction is that the "new grain whisky that is sold in the less reputable sort of public-house, and whose sole recommendation is its cheapness," ought to be condemned. But not for this should the old be condemned along with the new. As Mr. Mackie points out, "the proper way to protect the consumer is by stopping the sale of the cheap and nasty rubbish now on the market. No spirits under two years old should be offered for sale. Reform is really a perfectly simple matter. There is nothing on earth to prevent it. Reform the public-house! Charge, too, a higher duty on new spirits than is charged on old, and thus put a premium on genuine old liquor."

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

A Vienna telegram states that the Director of the Bulgarian National Debt, Dr. Styanow, arrived this week in Vienna, where he came in touch with the principal financial institutions. He left later for Berlin.

Cotton demonstration farms in 1914 furnish the leading and bulk topic dealt with in the latest *Agricultural Journal of Egypt*, allied to which are notes on large scale experiments against the pink boll worm in cotton seed, embodying information on a mechanical cleaning apparatus made in England. An apparatus for the fumigation of cotton seed has been built by Messrs. Thos. Cook and Son at their Bulak workshops. The mechanical cleaning apparatus referred to was built by Messrs. Wm. R. Dell and Son.

The war has done a very great deal to further English commercial interests in Egypt, both in Cairo and Alexandria, says the *African World*. Firms like Davies, Bryan and Co., and Roberts, Hughes and Co. are doing better business than at almost any period of their career; and much the same might be said of all engaged in equipment and catering lines.

A British agent who has been forced to leave Constantinople has settled for the time at Volos, Greece. If any of my subscribers, says the *Mercantile Guardian*, desire representation in Greece I shall be pleased to place them in communication with the gentleman referred to. He is already engaged for trade in beer and spirits.

In accordance with a decision published by General Sir John Maxwell in the *Journal Officiel*, Mr. R. E. Moore, of the firm of Messrs. Price, Waterhouse and Peat, has been appointed as sequestrator of the business and property of the German firm of Messrs. Finck and Baylaender, better known as Diemer's, of Sharieh Kamel, Cairo.

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Engineering Notes.

The "Caterpillar" Tractor.

It is very probable that the average reader of the war-news is often puzzled over the allusion that is, at times, made in same to the remarkable efficiency of the "caterpillar" tractor, or the "caterpillar" motor-wagon, in transport-service over certain grounds at the front; and, perhaps, he wonders in what way an, evidently, powerful traction-engine or vehicle can be associated with that creeping coloured and often hairy larva of the *lepidopterous* insect. It is, we believe, an American nickname given to a vehicle running on its own tract, which, latter, is formed by articulated pedal attachments resembling, in a way, the caterpillar's feet. Everybody is familiar with the traction-engines, or tractors, or motor-wagons, but not many with the "caterpillar" tractor, which forms a type that is decidedly original and distinctly different from all others. The "caterpillar" does not run on wheels, in the ordinary acceptance of that term, but, instead, is provided with its own iron or steel track, which might be termed self-laying and li'ting. Owing to this system the traction is greater than can be obtained by any other means, so that there can be no slipping, either in soft or on hard ground, while it will work equally well in sandy, wet or stony soils, and will travel with ease across country and over soft soils that could not possibly be negotiated by ordinary traction-engines or wagons. The superiority of the "caterpillar" type of tractor is due to its great grip upon the soil, which gives it much more traction than can be delivered by wheels. In Flanders, Poland, and other places it has been of great service to our Allies, especially when the ground was very soft and often impassable to other vehicles. The greatest number of "caterpillar" tractors employed now on the battlefields, East and West, are of American origin, although some excellent types designed and constructed in England have proved to be far superior to the American types.

The British "Caterpillar."

The object of the "caterpillar" type of vehicles was, generally, to displace wheel friction, which causes the destruction of the road, by endless tracks, whereby the load is spread over a much greater area, and as the tracks are simply laid down and support the road, their effect upon the road surface is rather beneficial than otherwise. The system, moreover, permits of vehicles so arranged travelling over soft or sandy soils, which ordinary vehicles could not do. In one of the latest "endless rail" type of vehicles of British construction the foot carriers run on endless roller chains, whereby friction is reduced to a minimum. The central frame, mounted on leaf springs, carries a steel rail, on which travels an anti-friction roller chain, consisting of three lines of rollers, those running in the centre being vertical, while the rollers on the two side lines are placed alternately horizontally and vertically. The object of this arrangement is to prevent side motion and flange friction, and provide plenty of contact for the foot slipper. Above and below the frame are suspension rails, joined by vertical channels. These suspension rails carry the chains, to which are attached the foot carriers, these chains being rotated by one of the peculiar-shaped spoked wheels which bring round the foot carriers and place them horizontally, and at a perfectly equal distance from each other on the ground. This is a special feature of what is known as the Pedrail system, and one that is regarded as of the greatest importance, since by this is obtained a perfectly smooth and vibrationless motion. The foot carrier is articulated on the slipper running on the anti-friction chain, and it is under compression by two vertical springs, of which the force is calculated to allow of the feet mounting any obstruction on the road. In the absence of explanatory diagrams this description is necessarily incomplete, but it is sufficient to give an idea of the principle of this excellent system. This type of vehicle is particularly suitable for transport over rough country, and can be run on sandy or marshy land where other means of transport would be impossible.

The "Caterpillar" in Agriculture.

The many purposes for which a "caterpillar" tractor can be used successfully include rooting up trees, pulling stumps, ploughing, harrowing, harvesting, threshing, and running flour or sawing mills, or it can be attached to a number of wagons, which it will haul over any kind of ground, even or uneven. In fact, one of the great merits of this machine is that it appears to make little difference how rough the surface of the ground may be as it has no wheels to sink in, and the track upon which it runs enables it to cross ruts and hollows of considerable width and depth, or to surmount small ridges and hills.

The Disc Cultivator.

The introduction of the disc harrow and cultivator in the Near East is due to the American manufacturer and his energetic representative. The latter, by a methodical and persevering energy, and by practical displays of the merits of the implement during the last two or three years, has succeeded in persuading the Oriental farmer to adopt it and use it effectively on his field. A firm—American, of course—has booked several orders for the coming season, and it is probable that a large-size power disc cultivator will be at work this year in Macedonia, where the American traveller has been very busy since the war began, while we here have been satisfied merely with reading the Board of Trade bulletins and the names of the "probable" buyers of our manufactures. The disc harrow has been found useful especially in parts where new land is being broken up, its peculiar construction giving particularly satisfactory service when used for pulverizing heavy sods or clayey soils. The concave discs, unlike those of the ordinary harrow of this class, have serrated or scalloped edges, which are claimed to cut and turn the ground much more effectively than straight edges, leaving the soil in better condition, with less strain on the horses. These implements are constructed in many different styles, and in sizes from the small one-horse affair to the immense machine that can be pulled only by a traction engine; but the most popular design is the one intended for the use of the average farmer. This harrow, which can easily be drawn by a team of horses or oxen, cultivates a strip of ground between five and six feet in width. There are two rows of serrated discs, one being placed in front of and working between the other. A comfortable seat is provided with every machine, and the discs are arranged in such manner that the occupation of the seat by the operator places no extra weight on the neck of the animals which are pulling the machine. This form of harrow has been found very easy to work in the East, and British makers of such implements should try now to introduce them into the Eastern markets while the Americans are rousing the interest of the farmers and landowners in the merits of the implement.

Motor Boats in the Sea of Marmora.

Although Turkey is not usually considered to be in the forefront of naval construction, at least she is employing, during the present war, says *The Motor Ship and Motor Boat*, some motor craft for naval work, having thus taken advantage of the latest means of propulsion. At the present time the waters of the harbour of Constantinople and the Dardanelles are being controlled by motor boats. They are 28 ft. in length and are designed for a speed of nearly 15 knots. The motor installed is a 20-35 h.p. medium-duty Sterling machine, and is fitted forward under the half cabin. The engines for these boats have a curious history. Before the outbreak of the war the Sterling Company received an order by cable from their Turkish representatives for four 20-35 h.p. medium-duty motors. These were intended for use in some new boats which the agents (the Chantiers Constructions Navales de Phanar) had under construction for the Police Administration of Constantinople. They were shipped to their destination, but war broke out whilst on the way, and upon arrival at Constantinople they were confiscated and put to the use indicated. They were installed by the engineers of the Turkish War Department. The Police Department appear to have made every effort to get hold of the motors, and the Sterling Co., through the United States State Department, also endeavoured to get the engines returned to the consignees. One was apparently returned to the Customs for a time, but finally they were evidently put to use for naval work.

It is needless to say that the island suffers in various ways from the commercial crisis, which threatens to be of long duration.

ROUMANIAN PETROLEUM.

The Roumanian production of petroleum has again lately suffered another set-back owing to more restricted working by several concerns. The daily output is given as about 450 wagons. Export conditions, about which the industry has been complaining for months past, have improved a little since transport by tank-wagons was resumed nearly a month ago. At present 70 to 80 tank-wagons are moving out of the country daily, which is equal to about 100 ordinary wagons. The despatch by barrels could not be resumed, as there are no railway trucks available. On account of the scarcity of tank-wagons good prices are obtainable for illuminants for export, but contracts are still awaiting execution which were booked at much lower prices. The German demand continues for illuminants, but prices are easy, though satisfactory for good quality oil. For prompt delivery of crude oil of the Bustenari and also certain Bordessi light types the price has been retained at 3.50 fr. per 100 kilos (says the *Morning Post*), but demand is rather poor, and an improvement is hardly expected, although some refineries have purchased from stocks on the basis above named. Other descriptions of crude oil are difficult to quit even at lower rates. The low level of values is out of proportion with the increased costs of working, and some concerns are already thinking of stopping working since actual costs are now barely covered. There is now, however, some talk of the Government affording relief.

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COMPANY MEETINGS.

NATIONAL BANK OF ROUMANIA.

In presenting their annual report and balance-sheet to the general meeting of the shareholders of this Bank, held on February 15/28 last, the directors recall that, from the economic point of view, the year 1914 opened under the most favourable auspices. Following upon the two Balkan wars, and especially since the treaty of Bucharest, a period of calm had been enjoyed by the Roumanian business world; trade was improving, and the outlook for agriculture seemed good. By the middle of 1913, indeed, an enormous amount of money had been deposited in the Roumanian banks generally, much of which formed part of advances made by foreign financial concerns, who also offered to lend to private individuals in Roumania. There were, in short, signs of a plethora of money, indicative of widespread and exceptional prosperity. The National Bank was, however, very cautious, and abstained from encouraging anything of the wild-cat order. It maintained the rate of discount at 6 per cent., lowering it to 5½ for one month only, in the belief that the year 1914 should be devoted to the liquidation of outstanding liabilities.

Then came the unforeseen event that has upset all calculations, and brought the whole world face to face with a situation unparalleled in history—nine European States, including five of the most considerable, involved in a terrible war, with millions of men in battle array, prepared for a fight to the death. And this upheaval affects not only the belligerents, but also neutral countries like Roumania, especially as the bloody strife is proceeding at her very doors, making it necessary for neutrals also to prepare for possible eventualities. In Roumania business has been almost entirely suspended, owing to the virtual closing of the highways of communication for imports and exports. Then, as though this were not enough, the wheat harvest was scanty, thus reproducing much of the suffering with which the nation had had to contend during the preceding two years.

Such an exceptional situation could only be met by exceptional measures on the part of the National Bank. In a word, its operations have shown a total exceeding anything in its previous history. Owing to the state of panic amongst the public, there was a general run upon the banks throughout the country. Foreign financial institutions in particular were asking for cover in respect of their advances, so that the National Bank had to undertake a large discount business as well as granting direct loans on securities. As regards discounting—which constitutes the bulk of the transactions between the National and the other banks—the turn-over amounted to some 1,246 million lei, with a balance at the end of the year of 246 million lei. Loans upon public securities, which showed a balance at January 1, 1914, of 77 millions, rose by 313 millions in the course of the twelvemonth to 390 millions, including the first loan granted to the Government on approved security, leaving at the end of the year a balance of 81 millions, without taking into account the sums advanced to the Government, which had been carried forward to the account of the new loan, of 200 million lei, on the basis of 4 per cent. Treasury gold notes.

The Bank rate remained but slightly above the normal figure, varying between 5½ for two and a-half months and a maximum of 7 per cent. for one month, and the rest of the year at 6 per cent. This figure the bank was bound to maintain, seeing that similar rates were adopted in countries having an older and more substantial economic organization, although in certain of these the rate rose to 8 and 10 per cent. on occasion. Interest, however, ruled much higher in the country at large, reaching in general as much as 12 per cent.

In order to facilitate the payment of bank deposits, the National appealed to its colleagues in the provinces, asking them to pay their depositors by means of cheques on the National Bank. In this way, public confidence was restored, with the result that many people offered to deposit their money without interest in the hands of the National Bank, while others handed back to their local bankers the sums but recently withdrawn. Again, in order to assist the agriculturists, who could not sell their produce (and two-thirds of the Bank's business is done with the farming interest), the National Bank opened a special credit for the benefit of the smaller banks to the tune of twenty million lei, fixing the interest on advances granted either on the security of produce deposited or on personal guarantees given by members of the various boards of directors at 2 per cent. over and above the National Bank rate, the other banks not to demand a higher rate than 8 per cent. And here it is pointed out that the year 1914 passed without any emergency measures like the moratorium, etc., which were adopted in other countries. In view of these transactions, however, and the uncertainty as to the value of the forthcoming harvest, the directors of the National Bank decided to establish a reserve of one million lei, so as to meet possible losses while not actually anticipating any.

As regards the shares of the National Bank, there were at December 31, 1913, 24,000, about half being inscribed and half to bearer. The nominal value of the public securities representing the Bank's capital was at the above date 14,363,400 lei. The reserve fund amounted then to 39,402,565 lei.

In connection with the rise in the rate of discount in 1914, it is pointed out that 40,959 more bills were dealt with than in the previous year, representing a value of 226 million

NATIONAL BANK OF GREECE.

ESTABLISHED IN 1841.

CAPITAL - Dr. 20,000,000. RESERVES - Dr. 13,500,000.

Head Office: ATHENS.

BRANCHES.

Aegion, Agrinion, Almyros, Amalias, Amphissa, Arta, Atalante, Calamata, Calavryta, Céphalonia, Chalkis, Corfu, Corinth, Cythère, Dimitzana, Gythium, Ithaque, Janina, Karditza, Kyparissia, Lamia, Larissa, Lévadia, Mégalopoli, Messina, Missolonghi, Naupacta. Nauplia, Patras, Paxos, Piræus, Poros, Pylos, Pyrgos, St. Maure, Salonika, Santorin, Sparta, Syra, Thèbes, Trikkala, Tripoli, Volo, Zante,

Every kind of Banking Business Transacted. **Correspondents in all Parts of the World.**

Cable Address—NATIONALBANK, ATHENS. Codes Used—LIEBER'S; A.B.C. (5th Edition).

NATIONAL BANK OF BULGARIA.

State Bank of Emission. *Established 1879.*

Head Office - - SOPHIA.

Branches at Sophia, Roustschouk, Varna, Philippopolis, Tirnovo, Burgas, Widin, Plevna, Sistov, Sliven, T.-Pazardjic, Shumla, Stara-Zagora, Gabrovo, Dede-Agatch, Xanthie, Gumuldjina, and 70 agencies.

Capital - 20,000,000 leva gold = £800,000. Reserve Funds - 10,500,000 leva gold = £420,000

EVERY KIND OF BANKING BUSINESS TRANSACTED.

Governor, CHR. TCHAKALOFF.

AGRICULTURAL BANK OF BULGARIA

(BANQUE AGRICOLE DE BULGARIE).

PRIVILEGED CREDIT ESTABLISHMENT.

ESTABLISHED IN 1864.

CAPITAL (fully paid-up) - - Frs. 45,500,000
RESERVE FUNDS - - - ,, 14,500,000

Head Office: SOFIA.

85 Branches and 100 Agencies in all the principal centres of Bulgaria.
Banking and Stock Exchange Operations undertaken. Special Service for Debt Collection Transfers. Letters of Credit, etc.

ROYAL EXCHANGE ASSURANCE CORPORATION.

Incorporated in A.D. 1720.
ROYAL EXCHANGE, LONDON, E.C.
FIRE AND LIFE.
Egyptian Branch: Head Office, Cairo.
39, Shareh el Manakh. Telephone 4114.
Agencies:
ALEXANDRIA - GABBARI STORAGE CO., 3, Pl. Mohamed Aly
Agents in all the principal towns in Egypt and the Sudan.

The Corporation accepts all classes of FIRE INSURANCE, such as MERCANTILE RISKS, HOUSE PROPERTY, FURNITURE, etc., etc., on the best possible terms and effects LIFE INSURANCE in Egypt at the same rates and under the same conditions as in England.

Proposals and requests for information should sent to the Office of the Corporation.

EVERARD STOKES,
Manager for Egypt and the Sudan.
Telegraphic Address, "FOXHOUND," Cairo.

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lei. The balance at the end of the year exceeded its predecessor by upwards of 64 million lei.

In the period reported upon the Bank bought bills and other remittances on foreign countries for 27,700,000 lei in excess of the purchases in 1913, and the profit accruing was 750,717 lei.

The balance from the discounting of coupons in 1914 was 232,156 lei, as against 148,411 lei in 1913.

Advances made upon public securities represented a sum of 313,425,000 lei, as compared with 77,216,800 at the previous accounting. Allowing for reimbursements, the balance was 81,039,800 lei.

At the end of the financial year under consideration, the real property held by the National Bank was valued at 6,719,000 lei, with an amortization fund in respect thereof amounting to 5,078,420 lei. More land has been purchased in the provinces for the extension of the Bank's activities.

The notes in circulation in 1914 represented a sum of 480,681,934 lei, or some 57 millions more than in the preceding year, while the corresponding metallic basis varied from 51 per cent. in February to 36 per cent. in October.

The gross profits of the National Bank in 1914 were 17½ millions, so that, allowing about 6,600,000 lei for expenses and amortisation, the net profit amounted to 10,922,913 lei. Of this sum the Board of Directors decided to carry forward a million lei, leaving 9,922,913 for distribution as follows :—Six per cent. as a first dividend, 720,000 lei; 20 per cent. to reserve, 1,840,582 lei; leaving a balance of 7,362,330 lei, of which 30 per cent. went to the Ministry of Finance, 2,208,699 lei; 7 per cent. to the Board of Directors and the Auditors, 515,363 lei; 1 per cent. to the employees' pension fund, 73,623 lei; and 62 per cent. to the shareholders as a second dividend, 4,560,000 lei. This, added to the first dividend of 720,000 lei, made it possible to distribute a total dividend of 220 lei per share. Of this 50 lei had been paid on account, leaving a balance of 170 lei.

The report contains a feeling reference to the loss sustained by the National Bank through the death of M. Antoine Carp, its highly respected Governor. Nominated a Director by the Government in 1881—only some six months after the foundation of the institution—he was successively appointed temporary Governor on the resignation of M. Campineano, the first Governor, in 1882, then Vice-Governor, and finally Governor in 1910. He was thus largely responsible for the conduct of the Bank during a period of thirty years, and in 1913 a demonstration was held in his honour by the shareholders, with whom were associated many prominent men belonging to the political, economic, commercial, and industrial circles of Roumania.

M. Jacques Negruzzi having completed his term of office as auditor, to the entire satisfaction of his constituents, has been succeeded by General N. C. Constantinesco, nominated by the Government for a term of three years.

ANGLO-ROUMANIAN PETROLEUM.

Presiding at the meeting of the Anglo-Roumanian Petroleum Company, Limited, on Tuesday, Mr. J. C. Williamson stated that the production of crude oil for the past year was 13,585 tons, and would have been considerably greater were it not for the difficulties which beset oil enterprises in Roumania during the past year. Apart from the shortage of labour in consequence of the war, the Roumanian Government prohibited the export of all oil products. This led to large accumulations of stocks in the refineries and storages, with the result that it was extremely difficult to dispose of crude oil, even at the low market prices which prevailed. Consequently some of the company's wells had to be closed down, and several others, which had been drilled to within a few metres of the deeper prolific sources, were not brought into production. They had a good and proved property, and it was extremely vexatious to find that when they had an increased output of oil they were unable to dispose of it satisfactorily. It was, however, solely owing to the war that their operations had not resulted in large profits.

EGYPTIAN HOTELS.

The eighteenth annual general meeting of the Egyptian Hotels, Limited, was held at the registered offices of the company, 11, Ironmonger Lane, London, on the 29th inst.

Lord Claud Hamilton, who was in the chair, said :—The accounts for the year ended April 30, 1915, are in your hands, and while the results shown constitute the lowest on record in the history of the company, they give no occasion for alarm, and, indeed, are better than might have been expected under the circumstances. Since we last met the world has been convulsed by the most disastrous war in history. With five of the great European Powers and some of the smaller ones at war, and with the bulk of the manhood of military age of these nations in arms, it is not to be wondered that the profits of our hotels are small, but rather that there are any profits at all. Such profits as have been made would have been impossible but for the presence in Egypt of large numbers of his Majesty's Expeditionary Force, which were drafted there from home and from the Australasian Colonies and India at the outbreak of war. It must not be supposed, however, that no business has been transacted at our hotels. It is true that the Ghezireh Palace Hotel has been closed, but a constant stream of traffic has flowed through Shepheard's Hotel, entailing a vast amount of work, though yielding very little profit. Our *clientèle* now consists almost entirely of the military element, and we have in consequence largely modified our charges. We felt it our duty to do so because we owe our security and freedom from invasion to the British Army in occupation. There never was a greater military fiasco than the attempt of the Turks to invade Egypt, thanks to the rapidity with which we were able to transport troops in large numbers to that country, rendered possible by our command of the sea. Turning to the accounts, I have little to add to what is stated in the directors' report. In spite of the expense of keeping up the gardens and the buildings at Ghezireh while closed, we have succeeded in obtaining an excess of receipts over expenditure at the hotels of £6,284 17s. 5d., as compared with £30,651 12s. 8d. in the previous year, while we are able to carry forward £2,548 12s. 2d., as compared with £2,711 14s. 1d. The directors have thought it right to reduce their fees during the war by one-half, and this arrangement took effect as from July 1, 1914. While the capital expenditure of the current year has been small, we have expended a good deal on Ghezireh Palace within the past two years, and have for a comparatively small outlay greatly improved and modernised the hotel, providing new bathrooms and sanitary arrangements instead of following out a programme of rebuilding as at one time contemplated. Our subsidiary investment in the Swiss Egyptian Hotels has not been remunerative, as in common with many other hotels the Semiramis has been closed during the war. In conclusion, the best thanks of the board and of the shareholders are due to Mr. Baehler and his staff, who have had a very trying season owing to the changed conditions, and to the loss of staff through mobilization. The local board, too, have shared in the stress and anxiety which have marked this period. I think it is due to our energetic manager, Mr. Charles Baehler, and to his wife, to say that they have worked untiringly to assist our wounded soldiers in every possible manner. I now move that the directors' report and accounts for the year ended April 30, 1915, as submitted to the shareholders, be received and adopted.

This was seconded by Sir W. Peat, and agreed to.

Sir W. Peat then moved that Lord Claud Hamilton and Mr. E. A. Harrison should be reappointed directors of the company, which, having been seconded by Mr. Alfred Wright, was carried unanimously.

The auditors having been re-elected, a resolution was passed to Mr. Charles Baehler for the able manner in which he had conducted the hotels.

A vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the business of the meeting.

CORPORATION OF WESTERN EGYPT.

A meeting of the shareholders of the Corporation of Western Egypt, Limited, was held at their offices in Gresham House, Old Broad Street, London, on Monday. A resolution was passed to the effect that the company be wound up voluntarily, and that Mr. Harry Meredith, accountant and secretary of the company, be appointed liquidator. A confirmatory meeting will be held on August 11.

CAIRO EXCHANGE.

The annual meeting of the shareholders was held on Tuesday, the following report of the directors being read and adopted:—"The accounts for this period show a loss of £E1,428,521, and, owing to the circumstances that now exist, there does not seem any probability of improvement in the near future. In the meantime, the company's expenses are being kept at the lowest possible figure. A large proportion of the call of 5s. per share, made in 1912, is still unpaid."

COMPANY NOTES.

British Cotton Ginning.

The report of the British Cotton Ginning Co., Limited, for the year ended June 30, 1915, states that the balance at credit of profit and loss account, after charging directors' remuneration and secretarial and other expenses, is £7,000. There have already been paid dividends at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum on the paid-up capital. During the year the sum of £15,000 has been received from the British Cotton Growing Association (making, with the £83,282 received as per last balance-sheet, the sum of £98,282) to provide a fund for the repurchase of the company's properties on June 25, 1916, and for the extinction of the preliminary and formation expenses on that date.

COMPANY RESULTS, &c.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN.—Gemsah production for the week, 199 tons (last week 260 tons). Hurgada production for the week, 233 tons (last week 266 tons).

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN COMMERCIAL COMPANY.—Resolved on June 24, and confirmed on July 9, that the company be wound up.

ANGLO-ROUMANIAN PETROLEUM.—Production of crude oil for week ending 17th inst., 411 tons.

BANQUE EGYPTIENNE DE COMMERCE (IN LIQUIDATION).—The annual general meeting will be held in Cairo on August 2.

BRITISH COTTON GINNING.—Annual meeting of shareholders at 15, Cross Street, Manchester, on August 3.

BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT FOUR-AND-A-HALF PER CENT. GOLD LOAN, 1907.—Messrs. Stern Brothers publish the numbers of 675 bonds which have been drawn for repayment at par on and after August 1. Drawn bonds duly bearing the English stamp will be paid by them at their counting-house on and after August 3, 1915, so far as the funds remitted to them will permit.

EGYPTIAN MARKETS (week ended July 22), £703; increase, £44. Total from commencement of year, £30,409; decrease, £45.

OTTOMAN RAILWAY FROM SMYRNA TO AIDIN.—The half-yearly ordinary general meeting of the shareholders will be held at Winchester House, 50, Old Broad Street, London, E.C., on Tuesday, September 28, at twelve o'clock noon.

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.—The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal for the 25th inst. amounted to 140,000 frs., against 420,000 frs. for the corresponding day last year.

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THE PERA FIRE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, July 19.

The conflagration in Pera does not appear to have hit the British insurance offices very hard. Their losses are said to be as follows:—

	£
Sun	4,600
Central	2,750
Western	2,380
Patriotic	725
Royal Exchange	600
Commercial Union	400
London and Lancashire	400
State	330
Norwich Union	200
Phœnix	165
General	150
Union	150
National Benefit	75
Lancashire	50

BULGARIAN DEBT SERVICE.

Messrs. Stern Brothers announce that funds have been remitted to them from the Bulgarian Government to pay the coupon No. 17, due August 1, 1915, of the Bulgarian Government Four and a-Half per Cent. Gold Loan 1907, belonging to English holders and bearing the English stamp. These coupons will be paid on presentation at the counting house of Messrs. Stern Brothers on and after August 3 (Saturdays excepted), less income-tax at 2s. 6d. in the £, so far as the funds in their hands will permit.

BULGARIAN FINANCE.

During the year 1914 (says the *Echo de Bulgarie*) a number of new banking establishments have been started. Among them we may mention the Bulgarian Discount Bank of Sofia, with a capital of £80,000; the Bank of Burgas, with a capital of £40,000. Two insurance societies have been formed, one of them with a capital of £40,000, and the other with a capital of £80,000. Almost all the other banking establishments have increased their capitals during the year by issuing new stocks. The Commercial Bank of Bulgaria, the loan bank "Girdap," and the Industrial and Commercial Bank of Plovdiv have increased their capital by £80,000 each. The General Bank has raised its capital from £200,000 to £600,000, and the Balkanic Bank from £240,000 to £400,000. The Bank "Nopredak" (Progress) of Plevna has issued new shares for the amount of £40,000. The Discount Bank of Rustchuk and the Bank "Progress" of Varna have increased their capitals by £16,000 and £10,000, respectively.

The industrial development of the country, slacked by the Balkan war, resumed its normal course during 1914. The new sugar factories of the Rustchuk and Burgar have increased their output. Industrial activity has been especially marked by the creation of new industrial companies and by the increase of the capital of those already existing. Among the former may be mentioned a company for the production of carthenware (vases, pitchers, etc.), another for tiles and bricks, a third for the production of carbonic acid, with capitals varying from £8,000 to £12,000; while two building societies have increased their capital by the issue of new shares for £20,000 and £12,000, respectively.

GREEK DEBT.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders issues the following information compiled from figures published by the International Financial Commission at Athens with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek Debt from January 1 to May 31, 1915 (New Style: January 14 to June 13, 1915):—

—		Monopolies, Tobacco, Stamps, Stamped Paper, Naxos Emery.	Piræus Customs.
		Drachmæ.	Drachmæ.
Gross Receipts, May, 1915		2,895,328	2,330,000
Do. do. do. 1914		2,949,078	2,668,755
Estimated Receipts for 5 months (Law of Control)		12,041,666	4,458,333
Actual Receipts, 5 months, 1915		15,612,415	12,292,887
Do. do. do., 1914		16,391,724	12,784,088
Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 5 months	1915	+ 3,570,748	+ 7,834,553
	1914	+ 4,350,058	+ 8,325,754

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Situation au 31 Mai, 1915, publiée en conformité de l'Article 8 des Statuts.

SERVICE DE BANQUE.

		£E.
Titres d'Etat et Titres garantis par le Gouvernement Egyptien		787,511
Titres divers		388,003
Comptes-Courants		295,653
Avances sur Marchandises		871,380
Avances sur Titres Locaux et Etrangers		1,600,482
Avances sur d'autres garanties		1,096,423
Effets sur l'Etranger		1,431,989
Effets sur l'Egypte		396,081
Immeubles et mobilier		244,619
Placements à courte échéance		1,443,000
Comptes Banquiers		787,802
Gouvernement du Soudan		389,605
Encaisse:		
Espèces:		
Or	£E.177,870	
Argent et nickel	£E.62,431	
	£E.240,301	
Billets de Banque	£E.918,486	1,158,78
Divers		120,705
		£E.11,011,040

	£E.
Capital	2,925,000
Réserve:—	
Statutaire	1,267,500
Comptes-Courants, Dépôts et autres	3,980,217
Tribunaux Mixtes	1,350,502
Ministère des Finances	935,200
Ministère Compte spécial	15,638
Comptes Banquiers	96,698
Chèques et effets à payer	160,085
Divers	280,200
	£E.11,011,040

SERVICE D'EMISSION DE BILLETS DE BANQUE.

Espèces	£E.4,432,861
Titres	3,317,139
	£E.7,750,000
Billets émis	£E.7,750,000
	£E.7,750,000

NATIONAL BANK OF ROUMANIA.

BALANCE-SHEET, JULY 20/3, 1915.

Assets.

Metallic reserve	Gold (specie)	163,069,161	
	On deposit	25,220,000	
	Gold (bars)	205,000	
	Foreign bills payable in gold	71,036,292	259,530,453
Silver and other coins			605,557
Roumanian and foreign bills			220,121,361
Advances against Government securities		27,767,200	
On current account		49,899,700	48,954,775
Unused balance		28,712,125	21,187,575
Loan of 15 millions to the State			11,273,958
Loan to Government on 4 per cent. Treasury Bonds (1914)			203,469,328
Bank's capital invested in Government stock			11,509,360
Reserve invested in Government stock			16,463,177
Reserve, depreciation of buildings, furniture and printing machinery			3,965,281
Premises			6,733,709
Furniture and printing machinery			1,110,866
General expenses			1,602,773
Government and other securities deposited			133,986,716
Four per Cent. Gold Treasury Bonds as security for loan to State			300,000,000
Securities held against advances or temporarily lodged			162,738,278
Current accounts			21,635,425
Security accounts			22,662,382
Sundry accounts			30,207,203
Total Lei			1,456,570,602

Liabilities.

Capital	12,000,000
Reserve	39,744,409
Reserve, depreciation of buildings, furniture and printing machinery	5,768,306
Notes in circulation	656,134,980
Profit and loss account	7,941,587
Current accounts and drafts at sight	70,023,710
Securities, etc., held on account of customers	596,724,994
Sundry accounts	68,232,616
Total Lei	1,456,570,602

Bank Rate, 6 per cent.

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs announced in last Friday's *London Gazette* the reception from the British Ambassador at Rome of a translation of a Royal Decree, under which the blockade declared by the Royal Government on May 26 and 30 is extended to the whole zone of the Adriatic Sea to the North of the Otranto-Aspri-Ruga (Strade Bianchi) line. The navigation of the Adriatic Sea to the north of this line by merchant ships of any nationality is forbidden, but the Minister of Marine, or the authorities delegated by him, may grant, after necessary inquiries, special safe-conducts to merchant ships desirous of proceeding to ports belonging to or occupied by Italy or Montenegro.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE	Mean Price. July 27.	Min. Price. Mar. 20.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	—	89½xd
Do. 4½% do. Bonds, 1907	82	—	—
Do. 4½% do. Bonds, 1909	80	—	66
City of Alexandria 5%, 1909	99	—	90½
City of Constantinople 4% Bnds	96	—	—
Egypt. Gov. 3% Guar. Loan	93½	87½	87½
Egyptian 4% Unified Debt	98	85	85
Do. Pref. Rd. 5%, 1890	88	78	78
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82½	73½	78⅝
Do. 4½% State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	80½	75	75⅝
Greek 5%, 1881	57	52	57½
Do. 5%, 1884	56	52	56½
Do. 4% Monopoly, 1887	49	45	48
Do. 4% Rentes, 1889	45	40	43½
Do. 5%, 1890	56	52	54
Do. 5% Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	—	51½
Do. 4% Rails. Loan, 1902	77	—	68½
Do. 5% Nat. Ln., 1907	94	—	92
Do. 5% Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	—	77
Montenegro 5% Loan	82½	—	—
Persian 5% Loan (1911)	91	—	80
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £60p.	92	—	85
Servian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—xd
Turkish Guar. 4% Loan, 1855	103	97	—
Do. 4%, 1891	94½	—	83
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	—	73½
Do. 4% Loan, 1902	82½	—	—
Do. 4% Unified	79	—	54
Do. 4% Loan, 1908	65½	—	49
Do. 4%, 1909	69	—	47⅛
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	—	2⅞
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7¾	—	6¾
Do. 3½% Bonds Red.	80	—	73
Do. 3½% Guar. Bonds Red.	83	—	75
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	—	9¾
Bank of Abyssinia	½	—	—
Bank of Athens	£2	—	1½
Bank of Roumania	8½	—	—
Eastern Bank	5	—	82/6
Imperial Bank of Persia	7¾	—	6
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	—	—
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅞	—	3½
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	—	4¼
National Bank of Egypt	13⅜	—	10½
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½% C.P.	8	—	no m.6
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8½	—	6¼
Do. do. 5% Debs., Red.	98	—	95
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½% Debs., Ser. I.	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88½	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17½	—	13
Do. do. 6% Cum. Pref.	22	—	13⅞
Do. do. 4% 1st Deb.	87	—	57
Do. do. 5% 2nd Deb.	101	—	69
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	90	—	—
Do. do. 3% Bonds	61	—	—
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1⅛	—	⅜
Do. 5% 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	—	95
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	¼	—	—
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	—	2
Do. Do. Def.	¼	—	—
Béhéra Co.	8¼	—	7
Do. Pref.	4⅜	—	3½xd
Daira Sanieh	2/2	—	2/6
Do. Def.	⅞	—	20/-
Egyptian Agr. 5% 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	9/-	—	6/-
Do. Gov. 4% Irr. Tst.	98	—	90
Do and Foreign Trust	5/-	—	⅝
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	—	1
" " Founders	¼	—	—
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—	—
Do 5% Debs. Red.	—	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	9⅜	—	7⅞
Do. 4½% 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	—	87½xd
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	—	¼
Sidi Salem Co.	⅛	—	⅛
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1¼	—	⅜
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	—	-/9
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12¼	—	10⅞
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt.	97	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	—	—
Egyptian Hotels	1¼	—	—
Do. 4½% 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—	—
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅛	—	1⅛
Do. do. 5% Debs. Red.	99½	—	99
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	⅛	—	13/9
Do. 5% 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	96	—	98
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	—	9/-
Do. do. Prefs.	3⅜	—	3xd
Do. do. 4½% 1st Mt.	90	—	85
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (fr.500)	£179½	—	£—
Upper Egypt Hotels	2¼	—	—

OIL.	Price on July 30.	July 21.
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	5/-	5/-
Anglo-Persian	22/1½	20/-
Cyprus Oil Trust	2/3	—
European Oilfields	4/9	3/-
Roumanian	20/-	13/6

PARIS BOURSE.

	Jan. 4.	July 21.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane	—	430
Canal de Suez	4050	3985
Credit Foncier Egyptien	639	548
Turkish Unified 4%	61.50	—
Egyptian Unified 4%	87.75	87.95
Serbian, 1895	—	62.05

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 222.—Vol. IX. FRIDAY, AUGUST 6, 1915.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The report that a convention ceding to Bulgaria the Turkish portion of the Dedeagatch Railway was signed in Constantinople on July 22 remains unconfirmed. It is difficult to suppose that *The Times* correspondent in the Balkans was misinformed on the subject, but it is possible that the announcement was made earlier than the Bulgarian Government wished. The reception accorded to the news of the agreement has not been of a nature to encourage it to lay much stress upon its diplomatic achievement. In Russia comment has been in a marked degree adverse. The *Bourse Gazette* states that the Allies would not object to Bulgaria's possession of the Enos-Midia line, if acquired as a reward of conquest, but would object if it was received as a gift from the foe. Even in Germany, where a satisfactory issue of the negotiations between Turkey and Bulgaria has been continually prophesied, the report of the convention, if not actually doubted, is received without enthusiasm. But the reason for their attitude may have to be sought in the reflection that Turkey would not have yielded so much unless she had been hard pressed.

In view of the fact that *pourparlers* are passing between Bulgaria and the Entente Powers, the acceptance of this "gift from the foe" would only be justified if made with the full knowledge and consent of the Allied Powers. Whether the Bulgarian Government kept the latter fully informed of the negotiations with Turkey is not yet known; but this course is one which we may expect it to have adopted. There are many indications that German threats and intrigues in the Balkans have definitely overreached themselves. In a recent interview, accorded to the correspondent of the *Petit Parisien*, the Bulgarian Prime Minister, we are told, "expressly denied that Bulgaria was ready to march at the side of Austria and Germany or to lend to Turkey the co-operation of Bulgarian arms." For the rest, however, Dr. Radoslavoff could only repeat the declaration that the Bulgarian Government wanted to be paid for its services before they were rendered. "The Quadruple Entente," he said, "can obtain our assistance, if it secures from Serbia the restitution to us of that part of Macedonia which is our land and our property, which is the flesh of our flesh and the blood of our blood, and thus close the open wound in our side." We have always favoured a settlement of the Balkan question on the lines of an equitable redistribution of territory, which would entail the cancellation of the Treaty of Bucharest; but there are obvious difficulties in the way of Bulgaria receiving her compensation before the other Balkan States receive theirs.

It would be of interest to know how it comes about that Roumania has to turn to Germany for the disposal of the surplus of her harvest at this juncture. The closing of the Dardanelles prevents the passage of large quantities of grain which in normal times find their way to Egypt and Western Europe; but it ought to have been possible to arrange for the holding in Black Sea ports of whatever amount Roumania has this year for export. Nominally she maintains an attitude of neutrality in regard to the war; but the fact that she has accepted loans from the Allied Powers since the outbreak of hostilities must predispose her to favour the latter as potential purchasers of her grain surplus. There can be little doubt that the Allies ought to have made a point of securing all the cereals Roumania had for disposal abroad, if only to prevent them entering Austria-Hungary and Germany. Their failure to do so has not only helped to increase our enemies' powers of resistance, but has placed Germany in a position to bargain with Roumania. As the number of wagons owned by the Roumanian State Railways is not sufficient for the enormous quantity of cereals available for export, Germany has been asked to supply the deficiency. This request the German Government is now using in order to extract from Roumania as a *quid pro quo* an undertaking to transmit munitions to Turkey.

The Roumanian Government is hardly likely to strike a bargain so prejudicial to its own interests. Fresh explanations are forthcoming, or old explanations are revived, to show why Roumanian participation in the war is still delayed; but few Roumanians hold now that the national aspirations in Transylvania can be realized unless the country is prepared to draw the sword. Sooner or later, therefore, we may expect to find the Roumanians making common cause with the Entente Powers, and it would be a suicidal policy to allow further supplies of ammunition to reach Turkey,

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whose prolonged resistance is not without effect on Roumania's own actions. There can be little doubt that for some time German ingenuity has defeated Roumanian watchfulness in regard to the transit of war material to Turkey. Not only have there been significant discoveries on the part of the Roumanian Customs officials to show the lengths to which the German authorities were prepared to go in order to forward contraband goods to the Turks, but recent phases of the fighting at the Dardanelles have proved that by way of either Roumania or Bulgaria the Turkish army was still capable of receiving fresh supplies. In the absence of large consignments of ammunition, however, sustained artillery fire can only be indulged in after long periods of quiescence. The Turks are passing through this experience, and it is only necessary for closer supervision to be exercised in Roumania and Bulgaria to ensure that their present stocks should become exhausted in a comparatively short time.

A small advance on Gallipoli Peninsula was recorded on August 2, when on the right of the position held by the Australian and New Zealand Corps a successful attack was carried out against a network of Turkish trenches, which were beginning to threaten the safety of one of our advanced posts. After the bombardment of neighbouring works, mines were exploded under sections of trench, and these were occupied at once. Another section was rushed with the bayonet. These advances brought our troops to the crest of the ridge, and, in the words of the official report, have materially improved the position on that section of the line.

A few months ago it was reported that the Emperor William had sent an open telegram to his sister, the Queen of the Hellenes, in which he used the expression: "Woe to him who dares to draw the sword against me." The threat, if it was actually uttered, was made at a time when intervention on the part of one or more of the neutral States of the Balkans seemed imminent. According to a Bucharest newspaper Queen Sophie has now received a further telegram from her Imperial brother. In this message the Emperor refrains from threats, but indulges in such foolish braggadacio that even those who have no cause to feel respect for him will hope that the telegram is apocryphal. "My destructive sword," the Emperor William is reported to have said, "has crushed the Russians. They will need six months to recover. In a short while I will announce new victories won by my brave soldiers, who have shown themselves invincible in battle against nearly the whole world. The war drama is now coming to its close." If it be true that this message was sent to Queen Sophie, its despatch can only imply that the Emperor is again anxious lest the action of the Balkan States should weight the scales against him. On this point German diplomacy is probably well informed.

King Constantine's recovery appears to be so well maintained that his present advisers can have no justification for any further adjournment of the opening of the Chamber. It is reported that M. Venizelos has been received in audience, and we may hope that the meeting will have laid the foundation for a permanent understanding between the two men who are so essential to Greece's welfare at this time. Both will have allowed the logic of actual events to influence any policy which may have appealed to them seven or eight months ago. King Constantine is confronted by the emphatic expression of the nation's wishes given in the result of the general election. On the other hand, M. Venizelos, while he may be as convinced as ever of the soundness of his former advice, will recognise that a different set of circumstances govern the situation to-day, and he will know how to keep abreast of Greece's real interests while carrying public opinion with him.

If the German Emperor made up his mind that his destructive sword had crushed the Russians, he must have counted upon something more than a mere triumphal entry into Warsaw. But even this satisfaction has been denied him for a longer period than he could have anticipated, when he expressed his *jubilation* to the Queen of the Hellenes. Warsaw has *not yet* fallen. The German armies, it is true, are very near to the city, and a few days ago they had some justification for supposing that they held it in their grasp. But all along the line the Russians have developed an even more heroic defence than they have opposed hitherto to the German advance.

References in the House of Lords to events in Armenia leave no room for doubt that terrible atrocities have been perpetrated in that unhappy province. In answer to a question whether the Government had any information regarding the massacres of the Christian inhabitants in the districts of Zeitum, Mush, Diarbekir, Bitlis, and elsewhere, Lord Crewe could only confirm the reports that had been quoted. There had been, he said, wholesale murders, wholesale deportation carried out under the guise of the necessity for the evacuation of particular districts, and a series of other outrages. "Information had been received by his Majesty's Government that these crimes had been encouraged by German officials, whose presence had been an unmitigated curse both to Christians and Moslems, with a sinister disregard of the welfare of the country and its inhabitants." Lord Crewe added: "Obviously no immediate steps could be taken for the suppression of these outrages, but there was a fixed determination that when the time came that the facts could be proved those who had been responsible, either directly or indirectly, for the commission of these crimes, or for their inspiration, should be punished, and all the more severely the higher the positions that they occupied."

When we compare the reports of what has happened in Armenia with statements to the effect that the Turks at the Dardanelles have shown scrupulous regard for the sanctity of hospital ships within range of their guns, it is apparent that there are two voices of command in Turkey. We know, too, that a timely remonstrance on the part of the British Government sufficed to secure satisfactory treatment for British subjects within the jurisdiction of certain Turkish provincial authorities. But when similar representations were made to the Turkish Government in regard to the excesses in Armenia, we have it on Lord Crewe's authority that the outrages have subsequently increased in number and, if possible, in atrocity. The discrepancy between the two sets of conditions in Turkey may be susceptible of a twofold explanation. In the first place, it will be recalled that Kurds are likely to be the chief offenders in the case of atrocities in Armenia. Secondly, we cannot overlook the significant statement that the crimes "had been encouraged by German officials." The accusation is not levelled without good authority, and we are left to the tragic reflection that Germans have deliberately egged on their allies to the massacre of a defenceless Christian population.

We can only hope that the British Government has weighed well the serious undertaking given by its spokesman. Lord Crewe has announced that those who can be proved responsible, either directly or indirectly, for the commission of these crimes or for their inspiration will be punished, and all the more severely the higher the positions they occupy. The ultimate responsibility rests with the one man who brought about and ratified the alliance between Germany and Turkey. To force Turkey into war with the Entente Powers, to inspire the declaration of a *jehad* and to launch the Kurdish hordes on the war-path constitute as deliberate an instigation to massacre the Christian population in Armenia as if the outrages to be committed had been specified by Imperial announcement in Berlin. There will be intermediate agents of German and Turkish nationality; but wittingly or unwittingly the British Government would seem to have pledged itself to mete out personal punishment to William the Butcher after the manner in which a hundred years ago Napoleon was made to expiate an insensate ambition.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, July 19.

The Attempt on the Sultan.

The inquiry into the attempt on the life of the Sultan continues, but as yet it has produced no definite result. A reward of £E500 has been offered to any person giving information that will lead to the arrest of the individual who threw the bomb, and the country has been plastered with placards to this effect, which give his full description. The authorities are conducting their investigation with the greatest secrecy, and the local Press is being given no information as to the progress made, for fear that clues, other than those known to be in their possession, may be covered up by the plotters. There is absolutely no doubt now that there was a conspiracy, and it is possible that the investigation may reveal further and hitherto unsuspected ramifications.

Another examination of the missile has shown that it was not a bomb in the strict sense of the word. Its contents were pieces of thread, about 180 nails, a piece of newspaper, and a quantity of nitro-glycerine, the whole being done up in a piece of oilcloth. The newspaper was dated "Alexandria, July 8," so that the "bomb" must have been put together within about eighteen hours of the commission of the crime.

Despite the Sultan's express wish that the provincial population should remain at home and not send deputations to congratulate him on his escape, a great numbers of notables have gone down to Alexandria to express their sympathy with his Highness, who has been the recipient of telegrams from all parts of the country, from the Sudan and from Europe. One of the earliest messages received came from H.M. King George, and was couched in warm terms. The vernacular Press, without exception, condemns the attempt in most scathing terms, not only because of the patriotic character of the Sovereign, but also because such an act may prejudice the Egyptian name in the eyes of the civilized world. Indeed, wherever one goes amongst thinking Egyptians one finds the same fear, that a repetition of this act—and failure to bring the culprit in this instance to task will certainly encourage other misguided malcontents or adventurers—will hasten "annexation" and put an end for all time to what hopes there exist of the setting up of an "Egyptian nationality," the recognition of which the maintenance of the Protectorate regimé would in time have facilitated. Of the accuracy of this view there can be no doubt, and it is beyond question that had the recent attempt been successful annexation would at once have followed, and the revised Sultanate of Egypt would have ended with the death of its first Sultan.

Enemy Establishments.

One by one the enemy establishments are being brought under control, and the latest to have a receiver appointed is the well-known firm of booksellers, Messrs. Finck and Baylaender ("Diemer's"). Apropos, is it not a reflection on the enterprise of our numerous publishing firms at home that after thirty years of British occupation the only bookselling establishment of any standing in Egypt should be a German one? There is, it is true, one local English firm selling English newspapers, but surely it should be worth the while of one of our home establishments of repute to establish a branch in this country!

Capture of Notorious German Agent.

The authorities made an interesting capture this week in the person of one Baron Otto von Gumpenburg. This gentleman is a German artillery officer, who became the intimate friend of Enver Pasha when the latter was Ottoman Military Attaché at Berlin. When the Tripoli war started he obtained permission from the German War Office to go to Cyrenaica, where he received a small command in the Turkish forces. He came to Egypt several times, and on these occasions met and had close intercourse with many prominent Egyptians. Whilst in Tripoli von Gumpenburg became a convert to Islam, and greatly assisted Enver in training his troops; he especially devoted himself to instructing them in the gentle art of riding motor-cycles! Eventually, when Enver returned to Constantinople, the Baron accompanied him, but returned to Egypt several times, notably in 1913. He then made several trips to Solloum viâ the Siwa Oasis, and went on at least one special mission to the Senussi. He was lost sight of by the local authorities just about the time the European war broke out last summer, and active endeavours have been since made to trace him. He is most fluent in Arabic, and could successfully pass the closest scrutiny in Arab garb. There is little doubt that the Baron is one of the type of political agitators whom the Wilhelmstrasse has employed of late years for the purpose of furthering, under the cloak of diplomatic, scientific, and other apparently innocent enterprises, its anti-English propaganda in the Near East. The Anglo-Egyptian authorities, who had never regarded von Gumpenburg's activities in Egypt and Cyrenaica with a favourable eye, were, in the circumstances, fully justified in viewing with acute suspicion his "sudden disappearance" at the peculiar juncture at which it occurred. It would appear that the Baron had found that he could do no further work in these parts, and decided to try to get back to Constantinople; for he was captured in the Mediterranean on board a Turkish sailing vessel, which was proceeding towards the Syrian coast. It is interesting to note that the commander of the warship which stopped the sailing vessel had no idea of the importance of his capture. His suspicions that all was not as it should be were aroused by the fact that one of the passengers had an "American" passport, which seemed somewhat out of place in the circumstances, and he accordingly decided to bring all on board to Alexandria, where the "American citizen" was at once identified.

The Law School.

Since the regrettable incident at the Law School last March that institution has in one way or another been the subject of much discussion in the vernacular Press and in semi-official circles. It was stated amongst other things that this school, which had only a couple of years ago been attached to the Ministry of Justice, was about to revert to the Ministry of Education, from which it had depended in the past. That report has, however, proved to be untrue, and the school will for the present continue to be directed by the Ministry of Justice. It would appear that the circulation of this report was prompted by the feeling that the Administrative Council of the Law School, as at present constituted, is by its very composition inclined to look too much at the legal, and to neglect the administrative and disciplinary, aspect of breaches of discipline brought before it; and that the Council constituted under the Ministry of Education would deal more effectively with such matters. Attention has been drawn to this point in previous correspondence, but it would seem that a transfer of authority such as that mooted would be highly undesirable, seeing that one of the motives for attaching the Law School to the Ministry of Justice was to enable the latter to direct the preliminary training of those from whom its *personnel* would have to be recruited, The case could easily be met by appointing an Administrative Council consisting of men who have had experience in the management of schools and students, and who would thus be better able to judge and deal

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with the breaches of school discipline, etc., submitted to them.

A change has this week been made in the directorship of this institution. Mr. Maurice Sheldon Amos, who succeeded Mr. W. H. Hill when the school was attached to the Ministry of Justice, has returned to the Native Court of Appeal, and has been succeeded by Mr. F. P. Walton, hitherto lecturer in civil law. It should be mentioned that Mr. Amos, who accepted the Law School post under pressure, had some months ago expressed his wish to return to the Courts at the earliest possible moment, and a vacancy having occurred in the Court of Appeal, and other promotions being contemplated in the very near future in those tribunals, it was decided to allow Mr. Amos to attain his desire.

July 20.

Since writing the above, information has reached me which gives me every reason to expect that the inquiry into the bomb outrage will be completely successful, and that an announcement on the subject may be made very shortly.

CAIRO, July 26.

Sympathy with the Sultan.

H.H. the Sultan's statement to the editor of *El Mokattam*, of which I sent a translation last week, has created an excellent impression. The note of sadness which was evident in his reference to the misinterpretation of the motives that prompted his acceptance of the throne and to the moral decadence which these attempts made noticeable in the character of the nation rekindled the lively sympathy which at the very outset had gone out in full measure from all well-intentioned Egyptians and from all foreign residents to the Sovereign who before everything is a model Moslem and a patriotic Egyptian. There is general agreement that he spoke worthily as the descendant of Mohammed Ali, when he declared that nothing would deter him from carrying out his intention of saving his subjects from themselves and from the insidious machinations of the country's enemies, and of bringing them "to the path of true happiness"; and that his decision to eradicate "the germ of evil" is deserving of the whole-hearted support of the population, It is assumed from the definite nature of the Sultan's statement that strong action is about to be taken in regard to the Turcophil and intriguing element. If one might offer a suggestion, it is that every person, no matter of what position, whom the authorities have any reason to suspect, should be turned out of the country. In Egypt, where back-stair influence and protection from high quarters still come so much into play, only a general measure of this description can have any salutary effect; any measure that allowed for exceptions would most certainly defeat its own ends. It is because we have been too lenient with enemy subjects that most of our troubles have arisen; it is because we have been too tolerant with the reactionary Egyptians and with the Turkish emissaries that Egypt has witnessed within three months two attempts on the life of the best Sovereign she could possibly have. The Egyptians as a whole are neither a bellicose nor a trouble-seeking race; but, like children, they respond to any influences with which for the time being they may come into contact. Remove the evil influence of the reactionary and intriguing element, and the sons of Egypt will give no further cause for anxiety; leave the "canker of intrigues and plots" to eat its way into their heart, and you will continue to have incidents, such as these attempted assassinations, to mar the history of the country. The time has come for clearly defined but drastic action.

Arrest of an Accomplice.

Meanwhile, the inquiry continues at Alexandria. Since last week the authorities have secured a man, who, they have every reason to believe, is an accomplice. Indeed, it is not so certain that he is not the actual thrower of the bomb, as there appears to be some discrepancy in the various witnesses' evidence of the descriptions of the man they saw, and it is now thought that the man who threw the bomb may be quite a different person from the one who rented the house from which it was thrown, and whose definite description the authorities have. The man in custody is Neguib Helbawi, a master in the Alexandria School of the Moslem Benevolent Society, and there are several circumstantial pieces of evidence against him. On him were found cigarettes that were identical with those found in the room whence the bomb was thrown; a cigarette dealer has identified him as the man who purchased these particular cigarettes from him. A few days before the attempt he wrote to his father a letter, wherein he asked for his forgiveness, saying that a good Moslem and patriot had at times to execute certain deeds, and that he would probably not see him again; at the same time he enclosed his photo, which he had had taken in Alexandria just previously. The photographer has identified him, and stated that at the time he was accompanied by another young man, who cannot be traced. Moreover, Helbawi was seen unlocking the door of the house on the afternoon preceding the attempt, by one of his pupils, whose evidence led to his arrest. This pupil had passed down Ras-el-Tin Street that afternoon, and meeting his master had saluted him, but to his astonishment the latter, who was opening the door of the house, turned his back on him. The incident evidently rankled in the boy's mind, and when he heard the details of the outrage he at once remembered that he had seen his master at the very house, and reported it to the police. Helbawi, who, it appears, vacated his ordinary domicile at about the time the contract for the house was signed, and spent his nights with various friends, gives no information, and maintains a stolid and indifferent attitude; but there is no doubt that he knows a good deal about the plot, and that he is at least an accomplice. The police are now actively searching for the young man who went with him to the photographer. On being pressed, after first denying that he had been accompanied to the photographer's, Helbawi finally admitted the accuracy of the latter's information; but he repeatedly gave wrong information as to who his companions were. Helbawi endeavoured to prove an alibi in regard to his movements on the day of the attempt, but it appears that so far he has been unsuccessful.

The Protection of the Railway.

A military court assembled at Tanta has just sentenced to one year's imprisonment, to be followed by a long period of police supervision, a native charged with knowingly having in his possession certain tools for an unlawful purpose. It appears that one evening about two months ago the *ghaffirs* of Biela, a place in north-eastern Gharbia, and rendered historical owing to Lord Kitchener's first model farm having been created there, met at intervals three men, who were carrying what they said was "iron" on their shoulders. The *ghaffirs'* suspicions were aroused, and they took them in charge. The "iron" proved to be five T-spanners—such as are used to turn the screws that hold railway rails on the sleepers—and nine fish-plate keys—such as are used for turning the nuts of the bolts of the fish plates that keep the ends of the rails together—which these men said they had been asked by a certain Abdel Rahman Minshawi to take from a field, where they had been hidden, and convey to a certain point on the agricultural road. Abdel Rahman Minshawi could give no satisfactory explanation of his possession of these tools and of the use to which he intended to put them; and the circumstances being altogether suspicious and there being every reason to believe that the tools were ultimately destined for criminal purposes on the railway lines near by, he was awarded the above-mentioned sentence. As far as is known this is the first case of this description which has come before the authorities, and on which they have been called upon to take definite action. This is exceedingly remarkable, for in a country like Egypt, where a road-system is for all practical purposes non-existent, and the railway, as a sole reliable source of communication between the capital, the ports, and the districts, becomes a factor of paramount importance, it would naturally be expected that serious and repeated attempts would be made by hostile agents to damage

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this vital link in the country's system of defence. This immunity is undoubtedly due in great measure to the action of the authorities in having all the bridges and important sections guarded by soldiers. It is, however, obviously impossible to protect in this manner every yard of the permanent way, even on the main lines, and reliance has to a certain extent to be placed on the activity and watchfulness of the provincial authorities and of the railway staff. It is, therefore, to be hoped that the opportunity will be taken to give a suitable reward to the *ghaffirs*, through whose alertness the intentions of Abdel Rahman Minshawi were thwarted, as this will encourage those who are not directly concerned in the protection of the railways to exercise vigilance.

A Case of Thought Transmission?

Anglo-Egypt, when it wants to be instructed on the trend of current events, always has recourse to the *Egyptian Gazette*, which has acquired quite an unique reputation for the originality of its leaders and for the special articles it periodically publishes from the pen of well-known publicists. On Monday last (19th), when Anglo-Egypt picked up its *Gazette* from the breakfast-table and turned, as is its wont, to the second page, it was not disappointed, for there it found a leader on "Progress in Gallipoli." But on reading the article Anglo-Egypt felt puzzled. At the back of its mind it felt somehow that the phrases it had just read were familiar. Cudgelling its brains awhile as to what was the matter, Anglo-Egypt sought respite in the bundle of *The Times*, which had arrived on the 17th inst. Soon the solution to the mystery appeared, for turning over the pages Anglo-Egypt lighted upon the number of the 7th, which, as it contained Sir Ian Hamilton's dispatch on the Mediterranean Expedition, had been read immediately on arrival. There it saw a leading article headed "Sir Ian Hamilton's Dispatch," which coincided almost entirely with the leader on the same subject, but under different heading, that had appeared in the *Egyptian Gazette* of the 19th. Closer comparison showed that but for a short introduction, a score of words in the middle and half a dozen lines at the end, the rest of the latter article was identical with what *The Times* had said on the subject!

Anglo-Egypt is sorely distressed to account for this curious case. Unthinkable thought! did *The Times* crib the article from its Alexandria contemporary? No, that was out of the question, for the latter's leader was printed twelve days after *The Times* article had appeared in London. Did the *Gazette* then copy *The Times?* That theory also could scarcely hold water, for nowhere does mention of that origin appear in the *Gazette* of the 19th. What, then, is the explanation? Can it be, as a vernacular organ suggests, that this is another illustration of the saying that great minds sometimes think alike, and that we are in the presence of one of those phenomenal instances of thought transmission which occasionally arise to astonish the world and provide an absorbing theme for psychologists?

THE WOUNDED AT PORT SAID.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Port Said, July 27.

About four hundred wounded are at present being cared for in Port Said in various Government buildings taken over for the purpose. Many are in tents and huts, hastily thrown up on the seashore and in open spaces of the town. The Red Cross are shortly taking over the new building of the Lady Strangford Hospital, and further arrangements are in progress to receive another batch. It is said that preparations are being made to accommodate in Egypt a further twelve thousand wounded, of which number about five hundred are expected at Port Said.

A special commission of bacteriologists arrived in the P. and O. steamer Maloja on the 22nd. They are mostly eminent Harley Street men, bearing the honorary rank of colonel. A large number of nurses also arrived in the same steamer for Alexandria.

THE SULTAN AND THE BOMB OUTRAGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, July 20.

Amongst those who went down to Alexandria to present their loyal congratulations to the Sultan on his miraculous escape was Dr. Faris Nimr, the well-known and talented Syrian journalist. His Highness accorded him an interview, which appeared this morning in *Al Mokattam*—the organ which Dr. Nimr, with his colleague, Dr. Y. Sarruf, has directed for many years with such signal ability—and of which the following is a translation:—

You doubtless wish to know, doctor, the effect of this attempt on myself and on my intentions, as regards the country and its inhabitants, as well as my future resolutions. I will explain it to you at greater length than you would expect, and allow you to publish the facts, so that all, whether they be near or far, should know them. Before I proceed, let me tell you that I firmly believe that nothing can happen to us unless it is written by God. Such attempts, therefore, do not frighten me, with the grace of God. Had I been sure that these attempts were being made by individuals who are *exaltès*, who are driven to commit such crimes by their evil nature and mean character, my concern would have been much less than it is now. (In my opinion the ruler who has no other object but caring about himself cannot occupy himself in the interests of his subjects. I need not give you examples of this.) But when it is proved that the crime has been committed by the concert of a party of evildoers, it proves the existence in the country of a germ of evil which injures society, and this germ must be eradicated in order that the whole society should be clean and sane.

This is what concerns me very much. I am pained beyond measure to find that these people cannot distinguish between good and evil. I am very much pained to see that they judge matters according to their sentiments and not according to their reason. Why should they not stop a little to consider the reason which prompted me to accept the Sultanate? Had they had the least knowledge of politics they would have thanked me for my acceptance. Had there been among them a person who reasons or who thinks, they would have ascertained that my being on the throne does not reflect any advantage on my person, but that the advantage is to the country (with the help of God!).

I do not propose now to dwell at length on the political side of this question, but time will teach them what they do not know now. I do not wish to boast, but I will say this in all plainness, in all frankness, that there are very few persons who know the real condition of my country, its defects, and the requisite remedies as well as I do. I accepted the throne in these critical circumstances not because I desired it, not because I had striven for it, but because the conditions of the country necessitated my acceptance; and God is my witness that nothing so strengthened me in my acceptance as my conviction that my countrymen already knew the amount of my love for them and for the country, and appreciated my great solicitude for their and its prosperity. The responsibility of this post is not a light matter, even during a period of rest and calm. Unfortunately, I have had these attempts, which had not been foreseen.

My cause for regret, though, is owing to what I notice in the moral decadence which, if not remedied at once, may have very serious consequences. But these attempts will not deter me from carrying out my intentions of making a perpetual effort, with the help of my Ministers and the high functionaries who assist them, to cleanse the country of its canker of intrigues and plots, and to develop the character of the people and raise it until I shall have brought them to the path of true happiness. I am convinced that the majority of the people resents the acts of these evildoers, and I have no doubt that the nation will do its best to help in removing all the causes which disturb the public tranquillity and prevent development, and I trust that I shall have the happiness of seeing my country and the people thereof in as good a state of prosperity as I desire for them.

And be sure, doctor, a small company of mean, despicable evildoers, who try to injure the country, will never succeed in preventing me from reaching the goal so near my heart. I shall continue, with the help of God, to carry out my intentions, and I repeat to you that I do not despair—I shall do all this, if God so wills.

Considerations of space and time prevent me from commenting this week on the utterances of his Highness, which in the dignity and spirit that they breathe are in every respect worthy of the man, and which I may say foreshadow important and firm action on the part of the Government in the very near future.

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ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, July 25.

Relations with Turkey.

The renewal of the persecutions and deportations of the Greek population in certain districts of Turkey has been engaging the serious attention of official circles during the past fortnight, and has caused much general irritation. According to reports—official and otherwise—some doubtless exaggerated, the province of Marmara has been cleared of its Greek population, and the deportation of Greeks from Konia and Broussa is imminent. The official reports state that orders have been issued to transfer all the Greek inhabitants of Aïvali to the interior, and this it is that has caused the greatest alarm in competent circles. According to newspaper accounts, the women and children of the deported families have been lodged in prisons and stables, and the men, not excepting the priests, forced to enlist in the Turkish army.

As I have previously indicated, the general conviction here is that the chief object of these deportations is to change the ethnological composition of these Asiatic shores, to remove the Greeks from the coast of Asia Minor, and to introduce a Turkish population in their place. This plan is said to be dictated by General Liman von Sanders with a view to securing for the Germans the long-coveted influence on this seaboard, by removing the more or less formidable rivalry of the Greek element.

The Operations of the Young Turks.

On the other hand, a refugee, a man of note and most trustworthy, who arrived here a fortnight ago, states that at one of the recent meetings of the Committee of Young Turks, attended by the Vali of Adrianople (an implacable enemy of the Greeks) and by Hajji Kaltzell and Toufexieff, the following resolutions were passed:—

That Turco-Bulgarian relations should be strengthened and the other nationalities deliberately suppressed; that the Turco-Bulgarian Committee should be reconstituted and a Turco-Bulgarian commercial society formed to capture the Greeks' trade; that a Turkish commercial agent should be appointed to supervise the import and export of goods destined exclusively for the Mussulman members of the society, so as to do without the Greek middlemen; to limit the privileges of the Patriarchate, especially in respect of the marriage laws, transferring his powers to the Turkish Iman; to limit the teaching of Greek in schools, and ultimately to suppress it altogether. It was resolved, in fact, to Turkicise the Greek element by creating a mixed population, the majority of the men being Mussulmans and of the women Greeks. If this be the case, it is not improbable that the recent deportations form part of the above plan.

The Steps Taken by the Government.

The Greek Government, seeing that its repeated friendly protestations produced no effect, has at last intimated to the Porte, through the Greek representative at Constantinople, that "the continuation of the persecutions would gravely compromise the peaceful relations of the two countries." As it is equally in the interests of Germany and Austria to avoid a conflict between Turkey and Greece, the Government thought it wise to communicate this step to Berlin and Vienna. The two Central Powers replied that they would use their influence with Turkey, but explained that this could not go far, as Turkey would resent their intervention as an interference with her internal politics.

Turkey's Reply.

After delaying her reply for a week, Turkey first sent a *communiqué* couched in unfriendly terms, and then a letter addressed by Ghalib Bey (who is at present at the Loutraki Baths) to the President of the Council, and finally made a verbal communication yesterday to the Greek Minister at Constantinople to the effect that there was no question of persecuting or oppressing the Greeks, but that it was simply a case of transferring the Greek population of certain localities, for military reasons, to places of greater safety.

Needless to say, this reply from Turkey was regarded as far from satisfactory. If her statement were sincere, why should it be only the Greek inhabitants who were removed to the interior, and not also the Turks, Jews, Armenians, and Germans? Nevertheless, the Government has accepted the reply, and awaits events in the hope that the persecutions will cease.

German Propaganda.

The agitation against German propaganda has recently become more and more violent. The Venizelist Press has revealed its machinations. The *Patris* has just published a photograph of a compromising letter addressed by the editor of a small paper in Canea to Baron Schenck, who conducts the German propaganda in Athens. The latter has tried to clear himself by publishing a statement that he has indeed paid for the insertion, in certain newspapers, of telegrams and *communiqués*, and also of leading articles, of which the German source was indicated. The *Patris* points to the insulting tone of the above statement, and further asserts that Baron Schenck keeps paid agents at the theatres, and particularly at a current "Review," where they applaud specially inserted Germanophile couplets.

The Political Situation.

The motion for the postponement of the opening of the Chamber until August 16, on account of the King's state of health, was carried in an arbitrary and unconstitutional manner, in spite of the statement made by M. Venizelos as leader of the majority that his party would be prepared to co-operate with the Government, until such time as the King's health should be re-established, in the legal and constitutional way, which would mean either the convocation of the Chamber or, at least, the establishment of some understanding with the leader of the majority.

The Ministerialist papers continue to assert that the King will not call M. Venizelos to power unless the latter promises to give up his idea of abandoning neutrality, and that there will be a second dissolution of the Chamber. Little importance is attached to these statements by the opposite party, who regard them but as the *pium desiderium* of the present Cabinet, which hopes to remain in power, and the Venizelist Press considers it wrong even to suspect the King of wishing to commit such a violation of the Constitution to disregard the express wish of the people. "The King," says the *Ethnos*, "cannot but call to power the illustrious statesman to whose efforts he owes the happiest period of his life; and if their views are still at variance and the course proposed by M. Venizelos is not in accord with the will of the people, then the King could proceed to a second dissolution of the Chamber. But now everything tends to show that the two great constructors of a greater Greece will work in harmony, the more so as, under the present conditions, M. Venizelos will probably be obliged to maintain a neutrality favourable to the Triple Entente."

Recall of French Minister at Athens.

M. Deville, French Minister at Athens, has been recalled, and has been succeeded by M. Guillemin, member of the Danube Commission. The recall of M. Deville is attributed to the fact that in the course of a speech to the French Colony on July 14 he congratulated the Greek people on "having proved at the recent elections the firmness of their political spirit." This remark gave offence to the Greek Government, and the matter was officially reported to the French Government. Immediately M. Deville was recalled, his position having become very difficult, especially in relation to the King. By his sincere devotion to the cause of Hellenism, and the influence in this direction which he exercised in the most trying and critical times, M. Deville had secured the sincerest sympathies at Athens, and his work for Greece has earned the gratitude of our country.

GREECE AND THE ALLIES.

A Reuter's message from Athens, dated August 4, states:—It is semi-officially announced that the Ministers of the Entente Powers yesterday made collective representations to M. Gounaris, the Prime Minister and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs. It is understood that these representations had for their object the settlement of the Balkan situation.

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CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

The Cost of Living.

Great satisfaction is expressed that Government is disposing of tithe wheat at 58 piastres (about 6s. 6d.) the bushel, in limited quantities, to bakers, subject to the condition that they will not charge more than 3 piastres (4d.) the oke for bread. M. Theodotou, a Greek member of the Legislative Council, recently had an interview with the High Commissioner on the subject at Troödos. To add to the grievance of high prices, there have been numerous complaints as to short weight on the part of bakers.

The Government is also selling tithe barley at about 2s. 10½d. the bushel, on condition that purchasers will not re-sell at a price more than 2 piastres over cost price; or charge more than 2 piastres the oke. The Greek papers continue to urge strongly the need of relief works to alleviate poverty and unemployment; and they specify various public works, including improvements in connection with the harbour of Kyrenia, on the north coast, and work at the "ports" on the south coast.

On the Trail of the Forgers.

With a view to tracing the operations of persons who have been placing in circulation counterfeit Government notes, Mr. S. Televantou and Mr. W. Greenwood, of the police, have been called to the capital from Limassol and Larnaca respectively. Mr. Televantou has rendered excellent service in the department on many occasions, in connection with detective work, and Mr. Greenwood has had a long experience in different districts of the island.

An Opening for Enterprise.

Several visitors have gone to take the waters at Kalopanagiotes, in the picturesque heights of the Nicosia district, on the northern slopes of Troödos, not many miles from the camp. The waters, which are sulphurous, have an excellent reputation in the island; and the place would be more widely known if there were better accommodation at the village which overhangs the springs and neighbouring villages. A small hotel, which could be enlarged according to needs, would probably attract visitors in increasing numbers.

Greeks Fighting for France.

Interesting accounts are given by the *National Herald*, a Greek newspaper, of the fighting of the Greek section of the Foreign Legion in France, especially during the forward movement at Arras. The Greeks were engaged chiefly in the tedious trench warfare during the winter months. The number originally was only about 100, but it was gradually increased to about 600. Like other contingents of the Foreign Legion, they did some excellent service, including a good deal of night work with bombs and hand grenades.

SUDAN NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

The Companionship of the Order of St. Michael and St. George has been conferred upon Lieutenant-Colonel G. F. Clayton, the Sudan Agent at Cairo, who has been in the service of the Government, in one capacity or other, since the end of 1902. In addition to being Sudan Agent, Colonel Clayton is also Director of Intelligence. The pay received is considerable, namely, £E1,200, together with an extra allowance of £E144 for services as Intelligence Director. The total cost of the Agent's Department to the Sudan Government is in the neighbourhood of £E4,000 per annum.

The recent earthquake in the Sudan, the effects of which were particularly felt in the Province of Mongalla, appears to have caused more alarm than actual damage. The two towns of Mongalla and Rejaf seem to have suffered the most. Fortunately, there are very few houses or other buildings constructed of more than one storey, so that the damages occasioned, such as they were, can be repaired without much difficulty. The whole of the surrounding country is, perhaps, the most beautiful, from the scenic point of view, to be found in the Sudan. Rejaf has become the last port of call on the White Nile steamer route, since Gondokoro has been abandoned owing to the prevalence of sleeping sickness, and the appearance of the place reminds one forcibly of an enormous and very beautiful park. The high, rocky hills a few miles distant slope away in beautiful undulations to the river's bank. Thousands of handsome ornamental trees are dotted about the surface, while in the summer both Rejaf and Mongalla are carpeted with millions of exquisite flowers and various coloured grasses which would rejoice the heart and delight the eye of the botanist. At Rejaf, also, is to be seen a very remarkable natural rock supported upon a pedestal that forms a gigantic table. This great slab of syenite is one of the many that have become detached and fallen as the original mountain decomposed.

NEWS FROM TURKEY.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Athens, July 25.

The Dardanelles: Hopeful Outlook.

The situation at the Dardanelles is said to be excellent for the Allies, who have acquired a complete ascendancy over the Turks; and if progress is slow, the reason must be attributed to a desire to reduce loss of life as much as possible rather than to any military deficiency. There are indications that the Turkish army is becoming seriously demoralised, and an attempt is being made to raise their *moral* by sending priests and poets to the troops at the Dardanelles. There have been indications of dissatisfaction amongst the soldiers; officers have been brought to Constantinople in chains; and it is said there is serious friction between Enver and Liman von Sanders. The soldiers are reported to have complained that their officers did not accompany them in the firing line, whereupon an order was issued that they should do so, with the result that in a subsequent fight 700 officers were placed *hors de combat*.

Recruits from Anatolia continue to arrive, and are sent to Thrace, the soldiers from there being withdrawn to replace losses at the Dardanelles. Many of the men now being sent to the front are without uniforms and are supplied with Martini rifles. Hundreds of Germans continue to arrive, being artillerymen or for special work.

British Wounded Well Treated.

It is satisfactory to learn from private letters from the front that English wounded have been found in captured Turkish trenches with their wounds dressed and water by their side. This is the Turkish instinct of humanity uncorrupted by contact with the Germans. Turkish prisoners are surprised at the treatment they receive from the Allies, and there is ample evidence to show that the Germans have done their utmost to convince the Turkish soldier that fearful consequences await him if he falls into the hands of the enemy. To a certain extent this has probably deterred a large number from deserting; but the Germans show no mercy on any signs of surrender or desertion. It is a lamentable spectacle to see these unfortunate Turkish peasants being led to slaughter in a cause in which they have absolutely no heart.

There are no incidents of any importance to report from Constantinople this week, with the exception of the visit of an English submarine to Constantinople Harbour. More Turkish steamers, sailing vessels, and lighters have been destroyed. The Breslau, it is reported, made a trip to the Black Sea, and struck a Turkish mine in the Bosphorus, and has received serious damage.

The month of Ramazan commenced on July 14. The Sheik-ul-Islam has decreed that the soldiers at the front need not observe the fast.

Moratorium Extended.

An official notice has appeared extending the moratorium for a further three months—*i.e.*, until the end of September. A provisional law is announced authorising a credit of one and a-half million pounds to be added to the Budget of the Ministry of War for the construction of new railways from Angora to Erzeroum; from Erzeroum to a point on the Black Sea coast; from Muradli to Rodosto; and from a point on the Angora-Erzeroum line to the coast of the Black Sea. Considering the impossibility of putting into execution any works of this kind, the promulgation of such a law seems just as incomprehensible as the departure, on a mission of peace, of Nedjmeddin Mollah and Sassoon Effendi. The rulers in Constantinople are certainly in no mood to entertain peace proposals at the present time, and the men mentioned are hardly qualified for the mission with which they are credited.

The Sultan's health is reported to be satisfactory, and Prince Youssouf Izzedin, it is announced, has gone to the Dardanelles to visit the troops.

Shortage of Benzine.

The Turks are evidently short of benzine, for a notice has appeared in the papers requesting all holders of benzine to notify their stocks to the military authorities, and those who fail to do so will have their stocks confiscated. The stock of coal in Constantinople is said to be about 30,000 tons. Wheat is plentiful. There is no confirmation of the statement that there was a shortage of water; but it is not an improbable event if coal is not available for the waterworks at Dercos.

Good News of British Hospital.

It is satisfactory to announce that the Government has decided to carry on the British Hospital in Constantinople.

Very little news comes through from Smyrna, and the only excitement there appears to be the occasional visit of British aeroplanes, dropping bombs on munition works, petroleum and other depots, and other military establishments. There is a great shortage of bread there, and coal and petroleum practically do not now exist.

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SERBIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Nish, July 17.

The War in the Air.

Although Belgrade may be said to be within the war zone, the town has been left almost undisturbed for a long time. The chief reminders of the existence of war have been the flights of aeroplanes. On July 12 two of the enemy's aeroplanes flew over the city and dropped some bombs, one of which fell in the middle of a street without doing any damage, while another destroyed a house, but without causing any loss of life. Two other bombs were thrown on Bagnitza, where is a military camp.

On July 13, at 5 p.m., an aeroplane flew over Belgrade in the direction of Mali Mokri Lug. Fired at by Serbian artillery, it retired towards Pantchevo, a town on the Danube in Hungary, near Belgrade. One of our aviators was sent in pursuit and reached the enemy aeroplane high over Pantchevo, where an encounter took place, our aviator opening fire with machine gun and rifle. The enemy aeroplane escaped, flying into the interior of Hungary.

Serbian Troops Impatient.

The Serbian troops, which are held prepared for action, are beginning to complain of their inactivity. They dislike being obliged to remain on duty when they think they might have been doing work in the fields, if their services are not yet wanted. They evidently do not understand the necessity of being prepared for an emergency, and the long absence from home, where their presence is required, makes them impatient and fretful. The fact that Serbia is also at war falls into the background.

Balkan Alliance Outlook.

Judging from all one hears, there appears to be but little probability of an immediate renewal of the Balkan Alliance. An agreement between Serbia and Bulgaria is the stumbling-block. If Bulgaria, as it is said, demands the immediate granting of concessions in Macedonia, at present occupied by Serbia, there is no chance of arriving at an understanding, as it is hardly likely that Serbia would agree to give up possession of any territory until after the termination of the war. The extent of the Bulgarian demands is also a hard nut for the Serbians to crack. The Serbian Press pleads for the continuance of a good understanding with Greece, and calls upon the latter country not to be misled by unrealisable projects with other countries.

King Peter's Name-day.

July 12, St. Peter's day, was King Peter's name-day. In Serbia very little attention is paid to one's birthday, but the name-day is of importance and a day of festivity. On the King's name-day, therefore, the Cabinet Ministers, who had been holding a council at Kragujevatz, the seat of the Military Headquarters, motored over to Topola to congratulate his Majesty. Prince Alexander, the heir to the throne, also paid him a visit.

It is reported that the King's health is greatly improved, and that he will now leave Topola and go to a bathing resort, as is customary at this time of the year, probably to Ribarska Bagne.

The Serbian Bathing Resorts.

This year the Serbian public will not enjoy the Serbian bathing resorts as usual. The season is already far advanced, the weather has become excessively hot, and it is a great deprivation not having the free use of the bathing towns as in ordinary times; and to go to foreign baths is at present quite out of the question.

There are many very fine bathing resorts in Serbia, such as the Ribarska Bagne, Bagne Kovilyatcha, the Vrnatchka Bagne, Vranjeska Bagne, Soko Bagne, Nishka Bagne, etc., etc.

Bagne Kovilyatcha, often patronised by the King, is near to Shabatz, and was destroyed by the Austrians at the time of the invasion. The hotels and large buildings in the other bathing resorts have been converted into hospitals and convalescent homes for the reception of the sick and wounded soldiers, and for prisoners of war, and the remaining houses in these resorts are packed with refugees. Take the case of Nishka Bagne, a small bathing resort about an hour's carriage drive from Nish. Last year there were two restaurants and one hotel there, but to-day neither hotel nor restaurant exists; they are converted into homes for the wounded and for war prisoners, and visitors going there can get no accommodation. This is to be regretted, as the Nishka baths are much patronised, and the waters enjoy a high reputation. The place is now crowded with war prisoners and wounded soldiers.

Living at Nish.

Nish, the present seat of the Government, is still overcrowded, and living here has become very expensive. The authorities are seriously considering the advisability of ordering all refugees to seek a domicile in other parts of Serbia, so that living in Nish may be restored to something approaching its normal state, and the inhabitants of the town be rid of the overcrowding of their houses.

An Albanian Fight.

The *Odjek* reports that 3,000 Albanian insurgents, led by Hajji Jamil, were totally defeated in a battle against the Serbians. Essad Pasha held a Court at Durazzo, before which several insurgent leaders were tried. Eight of them were condemned to death, and were immediately hanged, and the remainder were sentenced to imprisonment. This severity has produced a great effect on the population.

Nish, July 24.

The Austrian Peace Proposals.

With respect to Austrian proposals to Serbia to conclude a separate peace, two declarations of the Serbian Prime Minister are explicit. In an interview with the correspondent of the *Novoe Vremya* M. Pashitch said: "Much is said about the dishonest intention of Serbia to conclude a separate peace with Austria. I beg you to deny this energetically in your paper." In another interview, with the correspondent of the *Petit Parisien*, M. Pashitch said: "Yes, it is true that Austria proposed a separate peace to Serbia. It was during the month of November last year for the first time, afterwards in April and in May of this year. To all of these proposals we replied that we remain faithful to our Allies."

Proposed Minister in America.

With the march of time Serbia's needs increase. In 1882 the Serbian Press was opposed to the opening of a Consulate in the United States of America, and at that time it was even thought that Italy and England being far distant, it was unnecessary to have a Serbian Legation in those countries; but to-day the Serbian Press advocates the appointment of a Minister Plenipotentiary for the United States of America. In support of this view it is said that there are one and a-half million Serbians, Croats, and Slovenes residing in the United States, employed in industrial and agricultural pursuits; and also that since the beginning of the war immense help has been received from the United States of America, including doctors, nurses, and sanitary requirements.

Precautions against Cholera.

It may now be said that we are almost entirely free of typhus, but hardly have we got rid of one epidemic when it behoves us to take every possible precaution to avoid another. Summer is on us, and with the increasing heat cholera is said to be developing in the near Austro-Hungarian regions—namely, in Bosnia, Slavonia, Syrmia, and Banat. Sanitary precautions in Servia are more necessary than ever, and especial attention has to be given to preventing the spread of the scourge through the army, the prisoners of war, or through the interned returning to Serbia from Austria and from Hungary.

The Roumanian civil and sanitary authorities have decided that the interned Serbians returning from Austria and Hungary shall undergo a quarantine in Roumania, for which special arrangements are being made. Further, the Serbian interned shall not traverse Roumania, but take a water route, by way of the Danube. The Serbian interned now returning from Austria-Hungary consist of women and children of all ages, and of men between eighteen and fifty years old.

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SERBO-BULGARIAN RELATIONS.

PRESS AMENITIES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Nish, July 24.

The *Politika* asserts it has reliable information from Sofia stating that the centre of the Bulgarian bands organisation has been transferred from Stroumitza to Kustendil. The bands are lodged in neighbouring villages. This change has been effected because it is thought in Bulgaria that the Serbians devote their entire attention to the Stroumitza district, and more especially because the Germans and Austrians desire such a change to enable them more easily to contribute to the operations and control them.

The Serbian Press frequently publishes notices of the movements of Bulgarian bands, and the tone of the irresponsible Serbian papers is one of continuous complaint and of accusations against the Bulgarian people and Government. In conversation one constantly hears bitter expressions concerning, and becomes cognisant of poignant aversion to, Bulgarians; while the semi-official Press pursues an erratic course, exposing the misdeeds of Bulgarians towards Serbia, and at the same time offering to Bulgaria the hand of peace and amity. The semi-official *Samouprava* published on eight consecutive days long articles upbraiding Bulgaria for its reprehensible conduct towards Serbia at various times, and mentioning at the same time their various good joint actions. This manner of proceeding does not appear, however, to have any good effect on the Bulgarians, and does not necessarily tend to bring a good understanding between the two countries any nearer.

In reply to retorts in the Bulgarian Press, the *Samouprava* writes on the 22nd of this month:—

Serbia is ready on her side to improve the relations with Bulgaria. We have made some serious complaints about the conduct of Bulgaria, but, however disagreeable this was to us, we could not avoid doing so, as we hoped that the bitter truth would heal the wounds. In this expectation, however, we have erred. Honest words on our side, in which we avoided using terms denoting a strong qualification of Bulgarian conduct, have produced opposite results to what we hoped to attain. The Bulgarian papers, instead of well considering what they write about Serbians and Serbia, and showing at least a little good-will in order to repair past errors of the Bulgarian Press, find it preferable to continue making accusations and attacking Serbian people and their Government, in so much so that we are compelled by facts of this kind to reply. Take one of many false statements. Among other things, the Bulgarian papers state that the Serbians in Durazzo have hanged a great number of Albanians, and that among the men executed there were many Bulgarians, but the whole world knows that the Serbians are not in Durazzo, and that Essad Pasha governs Durazzo.

M. Pashitch, Serbian Prime Minister, in an interview with a foreign correspondent, said:—

At the commencement of the war, and especially at the moment when the Turks attacked Russia, Serbia by means of an entente with Bulgaria, was ready to facilitate Bulgaria's entry into action. But Bulgaria did not accept any of the proffered conditions. On the contrary, she replied to Serbia's friendly proposals by an attack of Bulgarian bands. After the incidents of Valandova, who could venture to counsel Serbia to make concessions to Bulgaria?

Despite this speech of the Prime Minister and the opposition of the irresponsible Serbian Press, it would appear from the statements in the semi-official *Samouprava* and in the *Odjek*, a paper devoted to the Young Radicals in the Cabinet, that within certain bounds there might be prospects of an understanding being come to between Serbia and Bulgaria; hence the Serbian semi-official Press does not give up all hopes of its accomplishment. The *Odjek* states:—

In spite of the unfriendly behaviour of the Bulgarian Press, in spite of the unexpected conduct of the Bulgarian Government, which cause uneasiness to the true friends of Serbia and Bulgaria, nearly all political parties in Serbia were always, and always will be, sincere partisans of an understanding between Serbia and Bulgaria. All important, highly placed persons and all serious politicians agree that an upright and sincere alliance would be the only political combination to promote in the best manner the interests of both countries, and ensure to both a brilliant future. Mutual concessions dictated by a correct conception of the interests involved would promote this understanding. For this purpose Serbia has hitherto always shown goodwill, but Bulgaria does not respond in the least to the advances made. And whilst Serbia was prepared to consider any proposals which could ensure an honourable alliance, Bulgarian bands were formed on Bulgarian territory and crossed into our territory at Stroumitza and Valandova, perpetrating cruel deeds amongst our peaceful population, which awoke feelings of horror in the whole civilised world. Nevertheless, for the sake of the general Balkan and Slav interests, and in the interests of our Allies, *Serbia is to-day still ready* to come to an understanding with Bulgaria. But it is high time that this should be done with. Bulgaria should show herself worthy of her great task, and on her side should at least show herself disposed to be as conciliatory as Serbia is disposed to be. Unhappily, not only is there no good-will shown in Bulgaria, but she seeks also to make the conditions in Serbia worse than they are. The Bulgarian Prime Minister, in an interview with the correspondent of the *National Zeitung*, on July 7 of this year, said that the moment will soon be at hand when the neutral States will be obliged to enter into action, and Serbia's destiny is sealed. Serbia, after three wars, is exhausted, and so weak that it can no longer be counted on.

"PUNCH'S" TRIBUTE TO SERBIA.

This week Mr. *Punch* publishes the twenty-fifth of his series of "Unwritten Letters to the Kaiser," which is signed "Peter of Serbia." We quote the first and last paragraphs:—

Sir,—Between you and me there cannot, I suppose, be any comparison. You have great possessions; I am but a poor man. You are vigorous and age has not yet set its mark upon you; I am broken by sickness and am bowed down by years. You command the allegiance and the resources of a great and mighty Empire; I am the chief of a race of peasant folk living a life of toil and hardship in a corner of Europe. In every point of wealth, power, and comfort you seem to have the advantage so manifestly on your side that your superiority over me cannot be brought into controversy or doubt. Yet, when I reflect, I feel bound to tell you that, old and poor and broken as I am, I would not for all your riches and all your power and all the adulation of the parasites who surround you and acclaim your Olympian magnificence, change years and stations with you and be even as you are now.

. . . . . .

So far Serbia has been able to defend herself with success. She is determined to do her utmost in the future, because, poor as she is, and small as are her resources, she has a burning love for freedom and a bitter hatred of oppression. Germany and Austria may do their worst. They will find our people ready both to fight and to endure. Great material forces are against us, but we shall oppose them in proud reliance on the justice of our cause and on those great spiritual forces which have more than once turned weakness to strength and have beaten tyranny down into the dust.—Receive, Sir, this my salutation,

Peter of Serbia.

SERBS REPULSE AUSTRIANS.

Reuter's Nish correspondent telegraphs the following official statement, which has been issued there:—"On July 30, at 2.30 a.m., the enemy, with the aid of two pontoon boats, attempted a landing on the island of Skelanska, but were forced to retire by the fire of our infantry before they had time to reach half-way across the stretch of water which separates the island from the left bank of the Save."

SERBIA'S PRISONERS OF WAR.

Under date of the 3rd inst., Reuter's correspondent reports that the following semi-official statement has been issued at Nish:—

There has appeared in the foreign Press a mischievous article on the state of prisoners of war in Serbia, particularly Austro-Hungarian and Croatian officers, and an alleged letter from one of these officers was published.

We will not discuss or repeat the baseless accusations and falsehoods therein contained, but will confine ourselves to saying that, as every officer and representative of a foreign country and the foreign Press know, officer prisoners are placed in a barracks of which the special fitting up cost more than 100,000 fr., and which are situated on the outskirts of a town. Further, that each group of three officers has an orderly, that there are special German, Hungarian, Czech, and Croatian kitchens, that the officers make excursions in groups of one hundred for days at a time, that they have at their disposal studios, a recreation ground, an orchestra, and a choir, and that even the censorship of letters is conducted by Austro-Hungarian officers.

THE COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE OFFICE OF EGYPT

23, Sharia Soliman Pasha, Cairo.

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BULGARIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Sofia, July 13.

Funeral of the Exarch.

The funeral of the Exarch took place last week. The King and Queen were represented, and the Crown Prince Boris attended personally. The diplomatic body was fully represented, and on this melancholy occasion the representatives of the belligerent Powers came into contact and exchanged salutations. There were also present many high ecclesiastics, civic and military dignitaries, deputations from various municipalities and societies of all kinds, and a great crowd of the public. The streets, even in the poorest quarters of the city, were hung with black. The great services rendered by the late Exarch to the United Bulgarian Church were emphasized in all the speeches delivered on the occasion.

The British Legation here has addressed a letter to the Bulgarian Government, offering condolences on the great loss the country has sustained, and Dr. Radoslavoff has also received a telegram to the same effect from the (British) Foreign Office. Similar messages have been received from the Pope and the heads of other foreign churches.

The New British Representative.

Last Wednesday night the new British Chargé d'Affaires, Mr. O'Beirne, arrived here from Petrograd, having travelled by way of Bucharest. The morning after his arrival he was introduced to the Prime Minister, Dr. Radoslavoff, by Sir Henry Bax-Ironside, and he also signed his name in the Palace visitors' book.

Last Tuesday Sir Henry Bax-Ironside, the departing British Minister, was received in farewell audience by King Ferdinand, and Lady Bax-Ironside was received by Queen Eleonore. On Friday Sir Henry and Lady Bax-Ironside left for London, travelling viâ Nish and Salonika. They were seen off at the station by the Staff of the British Legation, the Ministers of the Entente and neutral Powers, and representatives of the Palace and the Government.

The Political Situation.

The negotiations between the Entente Powers and this country are still at a standstill, the former not having replied to the Bulgarian Note of June 15. The Germans are very active here, and they are working with feverish energy at Constantinople, and exercising great pressure to bring about an agreement between the two countries for the rectification of the Turco-Bulgarian frontier and the cession of the Turkish portion of the Dedeagatch railway to Bulgaria. So far nothing has been achieved in this direction, and competent political circles here are very pessimistic regarding the prospects of success for these negotiations. I gather that the postponement of the Entente's reply is to some extent due to the existence of these other negotiations, and that the reply will not be delivered until their result is known.

The Casino Outrage Trial.

On Saturday the Court Martial concluded the trial of the anarchist band which last February perpetrated the bomb outrage at the Casino. The leader of the gang, Vikenti Pop Anastoff, and the man, Itzo Santoff, who threw the bomb, were sentenced to death by hanging; four others were condemned to various terms of imprisonment; while the seventh member, Todor Dobrinovitch, was acquitted, owing to lack of proof in the evidence against him. Further, the Court decided upon the prosecution of the wife of Vikenti, the lawyer Simeonoff—who refused to give evidence—and Dr. Gennadieff, with the view of finding out in what way they were connected with the band, and what was the measure of their responsibility for the crime.

The idea of the institution of proceedings against Dr. Gennadieff is seriously perturbing his political adherents, many of whom have already arrived here from the provinces. They all express great surprise at the resolution of the Court Martial, and declare their determination to resist all attempts to compromise Dr. Gennadieff. The Minister of Justice, M. Popoff, in discussing the subject with some friends, declared that reports that the prosecution of Dr. Gennadieff had been desired by the Government were absolutely without foundation.

Liberal Gathering.

Last night the annual gathering of the Liberal Party was held, and a banquet was given at the Casino. Dr. Radoslavoff presided, and the 450 guests present included the Cabinet Ministers, the Mayor of Sofia and many prominent members of the party.

THE STATE OF SYRIA.

(From Our Correspondent Lately at Beyrout.)

Cairo, July 21.

The Arab Nationalists.

News that filters through from Syria confirms the reports of a recrudescence of activity on the part of supporters of the "Arab movement" which was organised and led by the Reform Committee in Syria, and supported by the Decentralisation Party abroad. The Arab Nationalist leaders only dared raise their voice and formulate their claims when Turkey was distracted by the Balkan War and had to concentrate all its forces at the gates of the capital; and now, with the same position reproduced, Syria again depleted of troops, and with the chances of outside help even better, they thought the opportunity too good to be missed. The dismissal of the Vali of Beyrout and of the President of the Municipality, to whom he had shown favour, and who was one of the most prominent members of the Reform Committee, leads one to suppose that this high official's sympathy, if not his actual support, had been won over by the Arab Nationalist leaders. But a national movement, set on foot by a few intellectuals, and lacking the impetus given by the support of the mass of the population, is doomed to failure unless it is backed by military co-operation, as was proved by the case of the Young Turks. The fact that Djemal Pasha has lately shown himself less irreconcilable towards the Jews, and that there were some hopes of securing his favour for the Lebanese, may have led the Arab Nationalists to count on eventual military support, especially in view of the friendship said to exist between the General and Bekir Sami Bey.

However these things may be, Bekir Sami Bey has been replaced by Suleiman Nazif Bey, ex-Vali of Busreh and an influential member of the C.U.P. Nazif Bey is said to have been given instructions to repress the movement mercilessly. Several Moslem notables accused of complicity are reported to have been imprisoned, and it is even stated that a Moslem notable of Sidon, an ex-deputy of the Ottoman Chamber, has been hanged.

Lebanon Affairs.

The Christian Armenian Mutessarif of the Lebanon Ohannes Kouyoumjian Pasha, who has left for Constantinople overland on three months' leave, is said to have been replaced by Riza Pasha, commanding the troops in the Lebanon. This, together with the reported appointment of new members to the Administrative Council, and the re-election of only two of the old members, is an indication that the administration of this so-called province is to be run on purely Turkish lines, and we shall not be surprised to learn shortly that the Lebanese have at last been subjected to military service, when a new source of revenue may be created in the shape of the exoneration tax.

Some political significance attaches to the order which is said to have been given by the Commander of the French squadron in the Eastern Mediterranean to the commanders of the various units. The order requires that care should be exercised in ascertaining the nationality of vessels stopped, and that if the owners be Lebanese, they should be treated as French subjects.

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P.C.B.

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ROUMANIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, July 17.

Roumania and the Dardanelles.

Prince Hohenlohe-Langenburg, the new German Ambassador to the Porte, arrived on Thursday at Predeal and proceeded thence by motor to Sinaia. It had been reported that he would remain there for a time as the guest of Queen Marie, his sister-in-law, who had gone there the day before, but he only remained at Castle Pelesh a very short time, and proceeded, accompanied by Queen Marie, to Bucharest, where he was the guest of the King and Queen at Cotroceni. On Friday he had a long interview with Baron von dem Bussche-Haddenhaussen, the German Minister, and he left this afternoon for Constantinople, viâ Sofia.

The Prince was also received by M. Bratiano, and is said to have had long consultations with the King. Probably he has not been able to see many persons, otherwise he would have been in a position to note how very "pro-Entente" the general public as a rule is. Doubtless the question of permitting the passage of munitions to Turkey has been mentioned; but it is recognized by every Roumanian of any sense that the opening of the Dardanelles is of vital economic importance to the country, and any step tending to retard that event might have serious consequences. Not only is the opening necessary for Roumania to dispose of her crops, this year unusually plentiful, but she is in serious want of coals and other commodities, which, except in small quantities, can only reach her viâ the Dardanelles.

A Mysterious Explosion.

On Monday night there occurred at Cernavoda a terrific explosion on board a lighter loaded with 540 tons of petroleum, intended for the Serbian Government, and another lighter lying alongside, having on board 250 tons of benzine, also destined for the Serbian Government. The petroleum drums blown into the Danube floated blazing down the river for some kilometres, but, thanks to there being but little wind, the shipping escaped damage. The crews of both lighters were blown to pieces.

The cause of the fire is unknown, but there is a story about a mysterious airship having been seen crossing over Roumania and flying so low that (although it was night) persons could distinguish that there was one man only on the machine, who was seen to throw something as he passed over the lighters! The official inquiry instituted gives no credence to this story, but attributes the explosion either to natural causes or to one or other of the crews having broken the regulations relating to smoking.

One lighter was still burning yesterday, in spite of all attempts to extinguish the flames. The loss is reckoned at about half a million francs.

Summer Exodus.

For about eight days now Bucharest has been suffering all the trials of a real Roumanian summer, with tropical heat such has not been experienced for some years. In spite of the dubious political situation, which had hitherto kept back most of those who make a regular point of visiting one or other of Roumania's many summer resorts, there is now a general exodus, and during the last few days the Gara de Nord has presented a scene intensely interesting to those who are not acting a part. As most of the summer resorts only provide rooms with little but the barest furniture, the goods and chattels taken by the various departing parties are varied and often comic.

Bucharest's upper four hundred is now conspicuous by its absence, and the Chaussée is almost deserted; but those of the middle-classes who remain try to make life bearable by keeping indoors all day and patronizing the open-air cafés and cinema shows at night. The latter especially seem to do good business, and are crowded till midnight. In fact, Bucharest in its present broiling state does not seem to go to bed much before 3 a.m.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE EASTERNS OF THE WEST.*

Anyone who has travelled by the desert pathways of the East, where the nomad Arab lives and moves and has his being, will forgive us for noticing in this paper a book, by the author of "The Veil," which deals solely with the West. More readily still will they forgive us if anything we write induces them to read Miss E. S. Stevens's latest and most charming book on the nomads of the New Forest, because in it they will find something of the broad, clean freedom of their former travels.

We approached the work with mixed feelings. Miss Stevens, as author of "The Veil" and other books on the East, was one thing; the same writer as author of a novel dealing with gypsy life in our own country might be quite another. And books of this description can only be written by specialists. But from the moment that the low, husky voice of Mary James advised "Allward" to lie still, and we read the description of his surroundings, we knew that all was well: this was not the book of a writer who had travelled in search of "copy"; it was the work of one who knew.

Miss Stevens begins her story with the awakening to consciousness of her hero, a man of genius and position, who, in sudden and uncontrollable desire for the peace and simplicity of the forest, had jumped from his car as it passed through, and was found unconscious by the gypsies. A mistake in his identity seems to offer him an opportunity of escape from the chains of convention and ambition which had formerly galled him; he decides to remain with the nomads. Miss Stevens has treated her subject admirably. We have seldom read a book wherein divergent types of character are so faithfully portrayed. As we have said, only a specialist can write attractively of such peoples as the gypsies. Lack of intimate knowledge destroys interest; over-emphasis of the good and the bad that is in them leads to results even more deplorable. The author of "Allward" has combined her knowledge with the restraint of genius, and while her characters live, they are at no time permitted to masquerade. And the reader who follows the story of these wanderers of England can hardly fail to be struck with the similarity of temperament which binds their mixed race with the Eastern peoples from which they once sprang. In all quarters of the East we are familiar with the low brown tents which from time to time dot the face of the desert as their owners call a brief halt in their travels. We have seen the small column of smoke rise straight to the blue of the heavens from the camp fire, as, content with the companionship of a silent traveller, we have gazed unblinkingly into its glow. Here in England, albeit the wind-blown smoke is more fragrant, the surroundings necessarily more confined, we have found the soul of the people the same.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Nationalism and War in the Near East. By a Diplomatist. Edited by Lord Courtney of Penwith. (Published for the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace by the Clarendon Press, Oxford. 12s. 6d. net.)

Serbia: Her People, History, and Aspirations. By Woislav M. Petrovitch, Attaché to the Royal Serbian Legation to the Court of St. James's. (Harrap. 3s. 6d.)

THE BALKAN PROBLEM.

Sir Arthur Evans, the well-known authority on the Southern Slavs, has prepared, and Messrs. Sifton, Praed, and Co. have published, for the Balkan Committee, a diagrammatic map of Slav territories east of the Adriatic, which is of extreme usefulness. Two salient characteristics of the region covered by the map—namely, from the Adriatic as far north as Trieste and as far south as Scutari, and eastwards to the Drave, Danube, and Morava—are:—(1) The terrible complexity and admixture of nationalities and religion, and (2) the railway construction problems from the Adriatic to Belgrade and Nish. Regarding the former, even a cursory glance at the map shows that, if a pole were erected in the centre of a district inhabited by, let us say, a Mohammedan population, the shadow thrown in the morning would reach a district inhabited by Roman Catholics, and at sunset one populated by Orthodox Slavs. The intricacy of the whole Balkan problem thus becomes evident, and Sir Arthur's map should be studied by many of our notorious theorists, who declaim merrily and blandly on the "nationality" solution of the Balkan problem. They would, with the map as a friend and adviser, hesitate before indulging in rhetorical generalities.

* "Allward." By E. S. Stevens. (London: Mills and Boon. 6s.)

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1915. August	1915. July		1333. Ramadan	5675. Ab.
6	24	Friday	25	26
7	25	Saturday.....	26	27
8	26	**Sunday**	27	28
9	27	Monday	28	29
10	28	Tuesday	29	30 Ellul
11	29	Wednesday	30 Shawwal	1
12	30	Thursday	1	2

Sunday is the anniversary of the wedding, in 1889, of Princess Militza of Montenegro to H.I.H. the Grand Duke Peter Nicolaievitch of Russia.

Wednesday is the birthday of H.R.H. Prince Christopher, youngest brother of H.M. the King of the Hellenes.

Thursday will be the anniversary of the wedding, in 1883, of H.M. the King of Serbia to the late Princess Zorka of Montenegro.

To-day, being 25 Ramadan, is the birthday of T.I.H. Kadrie Sultana, sister to Fatima Sultana, and also of Saliha Sultana, daughter of H.I.H. Vahid-ed-Din Effendi and niece to the Sultan of Turkey.

The engagement is announced (says the *Egyptian Gazette*) of Prince Ismail Daoud, a cavalry lieutenant in the Egyptian Army, and Princess Samiha, daughter of the Sultan. Ismail Bey is the son of Prince Mohamed Daoud Pasha and Princess Sanieh, niece of the Sultan. He left the Military School in 1914 and served in the Sudan, where he became exceedingly popular with his superior officers and all with whom he came in contact. He is only 23 years of age.

The Egyptian War Office announces that his Highness the Sultan has conferred the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Nile upon his Excellency El Ferik Sir F. R. Wingate Pasha, G.C.B., G.C.V.O., K.C.M.G., D.S.O., Sirdar and Governor-General of the Sudan.

Prince Alexander of Battenberg is staying at Ramleh, at the Summer Palace.

A telegram from Constantinople, viâ Berlin, states that the Sultan has completely recovered from his illness.

Mme. Defrance, the wife of the French Consul-General, Cairo, was the victim of an accident while driving at Port Said on July 19. She sustained slight injuries, but has now practically recovered.

Arrivals at Alexandria from Europe on July 20 included Sir James Porter, K.C.B., M.D., the distinguished medical officer who has been called back to service in the Navy since the beginning of the war and will, the *Egyptian Gazette* understands, have charge of all the medical arrangements on the transports between Alexandria and the Dardanelles. He served as a doctor in the Egyptian War (1882) and the Sudan (1884 to 1885) and became Surgeon-General in 1907.

Mrs. C. M. Marling, wife of the British Minister at Teheran, gave birth to twin daughters on Sunday last.

Judge van Horne, of the Mixed Court of Appeal, and Mrs. van Horne left Egypt for Europe on July 27, viâ Port Said.

Judge N. G. Davidson and Mrs. Davidson left Khartoum on July 15 for England, where they will pass the remaining part of the summer.

Judge G. W. Williamson, Chief Registrar of Khartoum Province, left Khartoum on July 15 on leave.

Our Correspondent in Serbia writes (July 24):—Lady Paget, who has entirely recovered her health, has arrived at Uskub, accompanied by her husband, Sir Ralph Paget.

Mr. and Mrs. Abbas Ali Baig have left for North Wales, and will be away from home until the middle of September.

Miss Ethel McCaul has been invested by the Serbian Government with the Serbian Red Cross decoration for services rendered in connection with the organization of relief to the Serbian sick and wounded in the present war.

The Distinguished Service Order has been conferred on Captain C. Riding, formerly of the Egyptian Army, for gallantry and devotion to duty in connection with the operations at the Dardanelles.

The *Egyptian Mail* (July 20) announces:—The Rev. Father Nash, Army Chaplain of the 2nd Class, ranking as a Lieutenant-Colonel, has arrived in Egypt to assume the position of Senior Roman Catholic Chaplain to the Forces out here. Father Nash has come directly from France, where he has been doing good work for over seven months with the British Expeditionary Force. He fills the place of Monsignor Keatinge, who, it will be remembered, left Cairo as long ago as last July and has not been permanently replaced until now.

Major Alec Gardiner, Royal Engineers (formerly reported missing and now reported killed in action before Givenchy, on December 20), was the elder son of Lieutenant-Colonel R. Gardiner, R.E. (retired), and of Mrs. Gardiner, of 28, Barkston Gardens, S.W., and was born at Ulwar Rajputana, India, in June, 1873. After leaving Woolwich he was gazetted to the Royal Engineers on July 24, 1891, being then under eighteen years of age. Having completed the usual courses at Chatham, he was ordered to India, and, after a short period in the Military Works Department, joined the Railway Branch of the Government of India, in which he continued to serve up to the outbreak of the present war, with a short interval of war service at Suakim. (British and Egyptian medals.) In August, 1914, Major Gardiner was officiating Agent (Chief Administrative Officer) of the Oudh and Rohilkhund State Railway, and was Lieutenant-Colonel Commanding that railway's Volunteer Rifle Corps. He placed his services at the disposal of the Military Department, and was ordered to England, but was intercepted in the Mediterranean and sent straight to the front, where he was appointed a field engineer.

An engagement is announced between Edward Cyril Bowden-Smith, Egyptian Civil Service, second son of the Rev. F. H. and Mrs. Bowden-Smith, of Careys, Brockenhurst, Hants, and May Gladys, youngest daughter of the late Colonel Sir Alexander and Lady Moncrieff, of 21, Kensington Park Gardens, and Bandirran, Perth, Scotland.

On July 26, at Mombasa, British East Africa, the marriage took place of Dr. Alexander Macrae, of Sheikh Othman, Aden, with Louie, daughter of the late Mr. R. B. Bryce, of Greystone, Prestwick. The Bishop of Mombasa officiated.

The Times announces that a fresh name has to be added to those devoted English men and women who have given their lives in the cause of Serbia. The Hon. Richard Cecil Frederick Chichester, who died on July 31 at Nish, of typhoid fever, was the youngest son of Lord Templemore, and was in his twenty-sixth year. He went out to Serbia last November as acting honorary secretary to the first hospital unit of the Serbian Relief Fund, of which his cousin, Lady Paget, was the administrator. During the desperate situation created by the outbreak of typhus in the town of Skoplje he showed great capacity for organization, and contributed materially to the success of the unit in stamping out the epidemic. Later he was planning a scheme of relief for the civil population of Southern Serbia. His relations with the whole staff, and, above all, with the Serbian authorities, were of the most cordial kind; and he had been granted honorary rank as captain in the Serbian Army.

El Miralai Elderton Bey, Deputy-Assistant Financial Secretary, Sudan Government, has returned to Khartoum from the Dardanelles and Egypt.

Captain Ralph Micklem, Royal Engineers, who has been wounded while on service with the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, was formerly attached to the Egyptian Army. He was born in 1884, and, joining the Royal Engineers in 1912, was promoted to his present rank eighteen months ago.

Lieutenant Richard Bowen Woosnam, 2nd Worcester Regiment, who is reported killed in action in the Gallipoli Peninsula, was formerly Game Warden in East Africa. He served through the South African War, but resigned his commission at the end of the war. In 1905 he accompanied Colonel Bailward on a journey from the Persian Gulf through Western Persia to Armenia, and on to the Black Sea. Two years later he accompanied Colonel Bailward on a second journey to the Caspian Sea and the Elburz Mountains. He rejoined the Army a few months ago.

In addition to the casualties in the Smyrna Contingent which we mentioned last week, we learn from a correspondent that Mr. Vivian H. Hadkinson, also of Smyrna, and also belonging to the 7th Service Battalion Rifle Brigade, was wounded on July 8 at Hooge, near Ypres. He is now in hospital slowly recovering from wounds, which were caused by shrapnel. We hope he may soon be fit for active service again.

Mr. McKinnon, who for some years resided at Alexandria, has been killed in action. He held a commission at the time in a Scottish regiment.

Miss Lillian Davies, daughter of Mr. Walter Davies, the well-known Cairo contractor, is making her début as leading lady at the Garrick Theatre in the "Girl in the Taxi."

The death at the front is announced of M. Edmond Barany, an employee in the Alexandria Municipality. The deceased was seriously wounded in Artois, and after some weeks in hospital died as a result of his wounds.

Mr. John Edelmann, of Cairo, is now in an officers' training corps in England.

Our Bucharest Correspondent writes (July 17):—

The Baroness von dem Bussche-Haddenhaussen, wife of the German Minister at Bucharest, has arrived with her children. After being received in audience by the Queen, the Baroness proceeded to Curtea de Argesh to pay her respects to Queen Elisabeth.

Herr von Kahlenberg, who was formerly attached to the Austrian Legation here, has just been appointed Councillor.

Herr von Rheinheben has been appointed Second Secretary to the German Legation.

The Baroness von Neurath, wife of the German Councillor at Constantinople, has been staying a few days at the German Legation here whilst *en route* for Constantinople.

M. C. Nano, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has returned from leave and resumed his duties.

M. Arditti, Italian Consul-General at Roustchuk, accompanied by his daughter, is taking the waters at Slanic (Moldavia).

The death took place on July 20, at the American Hospital, Assiut, of Mr. R. P. Keene. Mr. Keene was on the Censorship of Telegraphs, and only recently went to Assiut. He was well-known in Tanta and the Delta generally, and was formerly headmaster of the school at Shebin-el-Kom, and for some time Assistant English Master at the School of Arts and Crafts in Boulak. He had spent nine or ten years of his life in Egypt, and was about forty years of age.

A British hospital with 200 beds, sent out by the Wounded Allies' Relief Committee of London, has been set up at Podgoritza, says a Cettinje telegram. The authorities and people gave the hospital staff a splendid reception.

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APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, etc.

The *Sudan Times* announces the following promotions, etc., in the Egyptian Army :—The following officer is granted the temporary rank of Miralai :—El Kaimakam R G. Anderson Bey, Assistant Adjutant-General, Recruiting Department.

The following officers are granted the temporary rank of Kaimakam :—El Bimbashi P. B. Stafford, 2nd Battalion; El Bimbashi A. G. Cummins, M.B., Medical Corps.

El Bimbashi J. A. Bosley, Sudan Government, has been struck off the Egyptian Army.

Captain John H. M. Mee, the Duke of Edinburgh's (Wiltshire Regiment), has been attached to the Egyptian Army as a Special Service Officer. This officer is granted the temporary rank of Bimbashi, and attached to the 11th Sudanese for duty.

A Cyprus correspondent writes :—Only three Government officials have been granted leave this summer, all for reasons of health, viz. :—Mr. Bowring, the Treasurer; Mr. C. Wodehouse, Commissioner of Larnaca; and Mr. Fred Ongley, Registrar-General, who is now in London.

In a message dated July 30, which has been delayed in transmission, Reuter's Sofia correspondent says :—Bulgaria will henceforward be represented in Switzerland by M. Tocheff, Bulgarian Minister at Vienna, who has been duly accredited to the Federal Council

ROLL OF HONOUR.

British Subjects from Turkey in H.M.'s Forces.

ASHE, Lance-Corp. R., R.E.
ATKINSON, Bombardier G. M., 266th Battery, 85th Brigade, R.F.A., Colchester.
ATKINSON, Gunner T., "A" Co., Royal Field Artillery.
BAKER, Lieut. A. Warden, 7th Royal Scots Fusiliers.
BARRON, Sergeant J. B., First Canadian Contingent (formerly of the St. George's Boys' School, Jerusalem).
BINNS, Rifleman Edward, 8th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
BINNS, Bombardier Harold H. (49,567), Battery Office, 34th Reserve Battery, R.F.A., 6b Reserve Brigade, Piershill Barracks, Edinburgh.
BINNS, Lieut. C. E., R.M. (Interpreter to Mediterranean Forces).
BOLTON, Alfred, Naval Brigade.
BOND, Private H. C., 7th (Reserve) City of London Regt.
BOND, Gladwyn J. T., Inns of Court O.T.C.
BOND, Trooper S. (1779), Royal Horse Guards.
BOND, Corporal R., Royal Field Artillery, Durlston House, Park Road, Swanage.
BORRELL, Rifleman Alfred, 8th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
BOWMAN, Private Henry J., R.A.M.C., Duke of York's Barracks, Chelsea.
BROOKS, Corporal G., Royal Field Artillery, Swanage.
BURN, E. R., 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
CASTELL, Rifleman Henry, 8th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
CAUCHI, Act. Corporal Henry (6113), 19th Service Battalion, C. Company, Royal Fusiliers, Epsom, Surrey.
CLIFTON, Capt. Ernest H., Durham Light Infantry.
COLES, Dr. D. A., R.A.M.C. (formerly of the English Hospital, Haifa).
COLLEY, Trooper Isaac E., Royal Horse Guards.
CRAWFORD, Private James, 7th (Reserve) City of London Regiment.
CUMBERBATCH, Lieut. A. Noël, 9th East Yorkshire Regiment, Fulford Barracks, York.
CUMBERBATCH, 2nd Lieut. H. D., 9th Batt. the Buffs.
CUMBERBATCH, Lieut. and Adjutant R. C., 15th Batt. Rifle Brigade.
CUMING, Bombardier A. C., 262nd Battery, R.F.A., 84th Brigade, Colchester.
DAVIDSON, Bombardier C. T., 266th Battery, 85th Brigade, R.F.A., Colchester.
ELLIOTT, Eric C., 2nd Lieut., Essex Regiment, 11th Battalion.
ELLIOTT, Flight Sub-Lieut. Clifford W., R.N.A.S.
EPPSTEIN, Lieut. W. R., Durham Light Infantry.
FAULKNER, Lieut. M., Admiralty House, Malta.
FROMANT, Private F., Grenadier Guards.
GALLIA, Rifleman M., 7th (S) Batt. Rifle Brigade.
GOODACRE, Miss C., Red Cross, Shoreham.
GOUT, Lieut. Charles L., 4th (R) King's Own Yorkshire L.I., Drill Hall, Bank Street, Wakefield.
GOUT, Rifleman Evelyn, 8th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
GOUT, Rifleman Richard, 8th Service Batt, Rifle Brigade.
HADKINSON, Rifleman Vivian H., "A" Co., 7th Batt. Rifle Brigade, Queen's El Ward, Bed 40, Graylingwell War Hospital, Chichester.
HIGGS, Private J., 6th Dragoon Guards.
HOLTON, Corporal Alfred, Royal Naval Division, Divisional Engineers.
HOLTON, Trooper John, B. Squadron, Essex Yeomanry.
HOYLAND, 2nd Lieut., H.A.D. (Interpreter to the Mediterranean Forces).
IRELAND, Private D. J. (3346), 15th County of London Regiment.
JACKSON, Rifleman Edward, 8th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
KERR, Miss E., Army Nursing Corps, France.
KEYSER, Lieut. A. G., 8th Batt. King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry.
KEYSER, 2nd Lieut. R. N., 10th Batt. East Lancashire Regiment.
KEYSER, 2nd Lieut. Henry, 2/10th Batt. Middlesex Regiment.
KEYSER, 2nd Lieut. J. C., 2/9th Batt. (D.C.O.) Middlesex Regiment.
LA FONTAINE, Rifleman Fred., 8th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
LA FONTAINE, Sergeant Hugh, 7th (Res.) City of London Regiment.
LA FONTAINE, Sub-Lieut. J. S., R.N.V.R., Hawke Battalion.
LANDER, 2nd Lieut. Arthur.
LE BAILLY, Lieutenant R. F., R.N.V.R., Recruiting Officer for Royal Naval Air Service, Brook Green Road, Hammersmith.
LORIMER, Private D., Army Service Corps, Aldershot.
MACKINNON, Private Eric, 9th Royal Scots Highlanders.
MACKINNON, Dr. J. M., Captain E.A.M.S., British East Africa.
MACKINNON, Patrick, Sapper, Divisional Engineers, 1st Canadian Contingent.
MACKRAY, E. D., Dardanelles Expeditionary Force.
MICHEU, Bombardier C. G., Royal Field Artillery.
MOORE, Miss K. M., Royal Red Cross, Serbia.
MORRISON, J., 2/4th Seaforth Highlanders.
MORTON, Private Stanley, 2nd Sportsman's Battalion.
MOSS, 2nd Lieut., Public Schools Battalion.
MUMFORD, Pat, Army Service Corps, Richmond Park, Surrey.
MUMFORD, Driver P. F., A.S.C., Osterly Park.
MUNRO, 2nd Lieut. J. G., 4th Scottish Rifles, Fort Matilda, Greenock.
NOWILL, Corporal Sidney, 7th (Res.) City of London Regiment.
PARKER, Trooper G., Royal Horse Guards.
PATERSON, Lieut. Alexander, R.A.M.C., 3rd Batt. Black Watch, Tain, N.B.
PEACOCK, Sapper Frank, R.E.
PENGELLEY, Sapper Walter, R.E.
POYNTER, Lieutenant H. E., Army Service Corps.
RAMSAY, Corporal F. R. F., 14th Service Batt. Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.
REES, Trooper R. (1709), Squadron D (in Egypt), Herts Yeomanry, c.o. G.P.O., Southampton.
ROBINSON, Lance-Corporal J. E., Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment (formerly of the C.M.S. College, Jerusalem).
RICE, Rifleman Cecil, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
ROUTH, 2nd Lieut. C., 3rd/8th (D.C.O.) Middlesex Regiment.
SACKVILLE-WEST, 2nd Lieut. Hon. B., R.N.V.R.
SEAGER, Lieut. John Owen, B. Co., Public Schools Batt., 16th Middlesex Regiment, Woldingham.
SHAW, 2nd Lieut. T., R.E.
STOCK, Lieut. H. W., Royal Marines. (Serving abroad.)
SUNDERLAND, Interpreter (at the front).
THOMPSON, Lieut. Harold H., R.N.V.R.
THOMPSON, Commander W. A., R.N.V.R., H.M.S. "Egmont."
THWAITES, Dr. H., R.A.M.C., Wareham.
TRENTER, Trooper T., Household Cavalry.
VAN LENNEP, Private E., 2nd Sportsman's Battalion.
VAN MILLINGEN, Private R. G. C., 3rd Batt. London Scottish.
VEDOVA, Rifleman Eghbert, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
VEDOVA, Rifleman Lionel, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
VERB, Lieut.-Commander Harry, R.N.
WARREN, Act.-Corporal R. M., 7th (S) Batt. Rifle Brigade, Guadeloupe Barracks, Bordon Camp, Hants.
WHEATLEY, Miss, Sister Q.A.I.M.N.S.R., No. 3 General Hospital, British Expeditionary Force.
WHEELER, Captain P. F. C. d'Erf, 1st Dorset Regiment.
WHITTALL, Captain G., 1st Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry.
WHITTALL, 2nd Lieut. Arthur, 7th (Res.) City of London Regiment.
WHITTALL, Lieut. Hugh, Royal Marines. (Serving abroad.)
WHITTALL, Private Kenneth, 10th Batt. Royal Fusiliers, Colchester.
WHITTALL, Private Roland, 10th Batt. Royal Fusiliers, Colchester.
WHITTALL, Rifleman Walter, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
WRATISLAW, Lieutenant J. C., 8th Leicestershire Regiment, No. 9 Camp, Perham Down, near Andover, Hants.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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

BIRTHS.

CASE.—On July 18, at Tanta, Egypt, the wife (née Nora Milner Allen) of Cecil B. Case, A.M.I.C.E., of a son.

SPARROW.—On July 28, at 89, Whitworth Road, South Norwood, the wife of Clayton Stallard Sparrow, of Cairo, Egypt, of a daughter.

MARLING.—On Sunday, August 1, at the British Legation, Teheran, Persia, the wife of Mr. Charles Marling, of twin daughters.

DEATH.

CONSTANTINIDI, MAURICE STUART.—Late of the Irrigation Department, Egypt, and eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. C. Constantinidi, 73, Newlands Park, Sydenham (formerly of Cyprus). Killed during the landing at the Dardanelles in April last while serving with the Royal Dublin Fusiliers as an interpreter. Aged twenty-four years.

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THE NEAR EAST.

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 6, 1915.

THE WAR AND THE BALKANS.

The anniversary of the outbreak of hostilities in Europe offers a convenient opportunity for stocktaking in the Balkans. War has not violated the frontiers of all the States; but none has escaped its influence, and for every one, whether belligerent or neutral, there will be a disposition at this time to inquire into the position in which the close of the first year of the great struggle finds it. Much regarding the actual conditions in each country is hidden from outside observers and, indeed, from the people themselves. There are some Government secrets which it would be of particular interest to have revealed. Without the knowledge which they would give us, we are handicapped in arriving at the frame of mind in which the position is viewed officially. But from the information accessible to the general public we are able to form a fairly clear opinion of what is likely to be the verdict of history in regard to the situation in which the several Balkan States find themselves at the beginning of August, 1915. Of all those States none is more easily read by the contemporary historian than Serbia. She has long since placed all her cards on the table, and awaits judgment without fear or affectation. Before the outbreak of war the only country in Europe which appears to have formed a correct estimate of Serbia's potentialities was Austria-Hungary. It was the realization by the Government of the Dual Monarchy of what two successful wars had achieved for the Serbian people that brought about the Armageddon. Other European questions were closely bound up with the capacity of a strong Serbia to thwart Austro-German designs; but both in Vienna and Berlin there would have been a readiness to postpone those issues if it had been possible to deal with the Serbians alone. Germany and Austria-Hungary did not realize the close connection between all these questions until they had taken up a position from which retreat was impossible. Accordingly they cried Havoc, and let slip the dogs of war. By the irony of fate one of the first things they demonstrated to an unobservant Europe was the strength of Serbia, of which they alone had had any inkling. The Serbians have been saved by the efforts of their Allies, but their own prowess won the day for them within the limits of the task which they were set. They have provided a splendid example of national unity and devotion, and have proved themselves the formidable foes which Austria-Hungary feared to see them become. If their statesmanship has not been equal to their military valour, we must look for an explanation in the history of the Balkans. The end of the first year of war finds Serbia with her military reputation established, but unable to adopt the far-sighted views in her dealings with her Balkan neighbours which her own interests and those of the Peninsula as a whole would prompt.

Lack of statesmanship is the rock on which all the Balkan ships of state contrive to split. But while other Governments through shortsightedness sacrifice the future for the present, it has been left to the Turks to sacrifice both present and future without the least prospect of compensation at any time. When the Great Powers went to war the Triple Entente guaranteed the Porte the integrity of Turkish territory as a return for the maintenance of neutrality. Before two months had passed this guarantee was brushed aside and Turkey picked a quarrel with Russia and Great Britain. No attempt has ever been made by the Porte to explain its action in the light of the undertaking given to it by the Entente Powers. It was incensed, we know, by the unfortunate way in which the British Government took possession of two men-of-war building in British yards for the Turkish Navy. But that act, the consequences of which were neutralized by the guarantee of territorial integrity, did not justify a declaration of war; nor was there the least foundation of truth in the ostensible cause of the outbreak of hostilities, the menace to Turkish interests. The rewards promised by Germany to the Porte in return for its military co-operation will, without doubt, have been numerous; but not one would have stood the scrutiny of enlightened statesmanship. Compensation in Europe could only have been obtained at the expense of Bulgaria, a country at that time on friendly terms with Turkey; the question of the Ægean Islands could only have been settled favourably to Turkey at the expense of Italy, a country actually in alliance with Germany. If German promises concerned Egypt and the Persian Gulf as well, we can only wonder at the simplemindedness of the Turkish Government in imagining that the nation which aimed at the hegemony of the world would accept as a final solution of the world's affairs the substitution of Turkish for British rule in those spheres. Thanks to the fighting qualities of their army, the thoroughness of German methods of warfare and the mistakes of the British authorities, the Turks have put up a splendid fight at the Dardanelles, and have withstood the Allies' attacks for more than three months. Elsewhere, in Egypt, Mesopotamia, and the Caucasus, disaster has overtaken all their military efforts, and the Porte is probably aware for how long a time defeat can yet be staved off from the Dardanelles. That it should still possess the confidence with which it entered upon the war is out of the question. Germany has rendered it valuable assistance; but as Turkey's need increases, German help, both in men and munitions, diminishes.

Between the two extremes of Serbia and Turkey stand the neutral States of the Balkans. If a final judgment cannot be passed upon them, it is because their present attitude of neutrality is liable to be changed at any moment. We are, however, able to appreciate what the maintenance of neutrality for twelve months has meant for each country. It has meant in the first place, if war is subsequently declared, the curtailment of the campaign by so many months and the corresponding increase of the national resources. Until the event belies us, we may refuse to contemplate the possibility of Roumania, Greece, or Bulgaria joining the Central Powers. For each one the alternative has been and will remain neutrality or co-operation with the Triple Entente. Different considerations have swayed the different countries this way and that. For Roumania alone the issue appeared to be altogether straightforward. Her kinsfolk under Hungarian rule look to her for liberation, and she can only free them by force of arms. The opportunity now presenting itself to the Roumanians is never likely to recur; but the Bucharest Government still hesitates to commit itself. It prefers to see the country divided against itself and to risk its own reputation. Military considerations are known to be strong, and in the face of the Russian withdrawal from Galicia may be all-powerful. But, if that be the case, the Cabinet has been amiss in not taking the other leaders of the people into its confidence. The Roumanian Government has strained the loyalty of the nation and the patience of its friends abroad. Bulgaria's neutrality, on the other hand, has the merit of being consistent. She has declared herself for sale, and in the absence of any firm offer is prepared to grant options to either party. So far only the Central Powers and Turkey have accepted an option, but this fact does not deter Bulgaria from negotiations with their enemies. Her final choice between the belligerents will soon have to be made; for even if she has no occasion to fight, her equivocal attitude must be changed for a more benevolent neutrality. With Greece our review closes. Her national policy is determined by personal considerations. If she is inclined to congratulate herself on keeping out of the war, she must know that, as far as her reputation for statesmanship is concerned, she has lost ground in the Balkans and in Europe; not because she has refused to fight, but because she does not know her own mind.

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AT KARS IN 1855.

Through the kindness of Mr. Arthur Baker we are permitted to reproduce the following extracts from letters which were written by one of his forebears who, under General Williams, took part in the glorious defence of Kars. They describe the grand assault made by the Russians on September 29, 1855—an assault which was repulsed with a loss of over 6,000 men to the enemy force. The defending force numbered about 15,000 men, the attacking force about 50,000. The city fell, it will be remembered, on November 18, the garrison being worn out by sickness and want of food, and it is pleasant to-day to recall the handsome tribute paid by the Russian General to General Williams and his heroic men. "You have," he said, "made yourself a name in history, and posterity will stand amazed at the endurance, the courage, and the discipline which this siege has called forth in the remains of an army. Let us arrange a capitulation that will satisfy the demands of war, without disgracing humanity." The writer of the letters, it will be noted, pays a tribute to the fighting qualities of the enemy; so that each side evidently appreciated the courage of the other. It is also interesting to note what is written (in the second letter) about the untrustworthiness of the Turkish officers; while the incident of the "party of Cossacks" robbing—but apparently not killing—the writer's servant shows how superior, even in those days, was the much-maligned Cossack to the civilized and much-vaunted Uhlan of to-day. But undoubtedly the greatest interest of the letters lies in the fact that they help us to realize more clearly the change that has come over the scene, not only in regard to methods of warfare, but also in the grouping of Allies, since they were written.

Both letters are dated from Kars, the first September 30, 1855, and the second October 9, 1855.

I.

I send you the account of the attack on our position yesterday. The enemy were reported to be advancing at four o'clock a.m., and at half-past four we opened fire upon the head of the columns as soon as they became visible. The attack on the Sackmash front was composed of three columns, the first directed on Sackmash Tabia, the second on Yeuksek Tabia, the third on the breastwork called the Rennison lines. The attack commenced with all the three columns simultaneously. Column No. 1 succeeded in turning the left of the breastwork attached to Sackmash Tabia, and was thus enabled to attack the redoubt both in front and rear, while three guns, being put in position behind the breastwork on the right, kept up an incessant fire on Yeuksek Tabia, with the view of keeping down the fire which might have annoyed the rear attack of Sackmash. Column No. 2, favoured by the nature of the ground and the darkness, carried the small breastwork B, turned the flank of Yeuksek Tabia, and stormed the salient to the right rear; but the first attack, not being in sufficient force, was repulsed by a musketry fire, and, a gun being got in position in the angle, a column which was forming among some tents in rear was dispersed by a heavy fire of grape. Column No. 3 stormed the Rennison lines, but, being coolly received by the riflemen of the Guard, they were at once repulsed and the column nearly destroyed. All further attempts to attack this point were prevented by the artillery fire along the line from C to E.

Our right being thus disembarrassed, General Knietz led four companies of the Foreign Legion against the point B, occupied now in force by the enemy, who were warmly engaged with Yeuksek Tabia. The position was carried with the bayonet and the enemy driven out with loss.

The fighting was now confined to Sackmash Tabia, all attempts to storm by advancing under cover of the right flank were defeated by the fire from B and C, and, finally, the column there engaged was driven from its position by a company of rifles; and a battalion coming up with support, being intercepted by our reserves, had to retreat across our rear from A to F under a heavy fire at Chakmak Tabia. It encountered the two guns that arm the breastwork and its garrison, and was so warmly received that the whole dispersed. There now only remained the column in front of Sackmash, which, after heavy losses, still obstinately tried to carry the redoubt from the left flank, and was powerfully supported by a regiment of Chasseurs, who had effected a lodgment behind some rifle pits in its front. These were turned and the enemy in part dislodged by an attack from B, and the garrison of Sackmash, making a sudden sortie, attacked the enemy on its flank with great vigour. The column wavered and broke, and was pursued by our troops to the road at the foot of the position with great loss. All the batteries being now disengaged, a heavy fire opened on the retreating enemy, all attempts at re-formation were prevented, and the affair thus ended in the total defeat of the enemy at every point.

While these events occurred in our front, the English Tabias in our rear were attacked by two columns, and the garrison, being only composed of about 460 men for the whole line, were overwhelmed by the masses of the enemy, and retired to the new work in the rear of the lines. There they made good their ground. Reinforcements arrived from the Carras Dagh, and a heavy fire from Fort Lake and Arab Tabia having seriously annoyed the enemy, they were at length driven with the bayonet from the positions they had carried, and retreated towards Chakmak under the fire of the whole line.

The engagement lasted from 4.30 to 11.30 a.m., a period of seven hours, during which the fire was incessant. The enemy left on the field about 6,000 dead and about 12,000 muskets and rifles. Our loss in killed and wounded does not amount to 1,200 in all.

II.

I write these few lines to inform you I am quite well after the battle of September 19, which lasted for seven and a-half hours. The Russians left on the field upwards of 6,000 dead; our loss in killed and wounded does not amount to 1,200. I was in the battery in the midst of the firing. The officer who I am with was struck on the leg by a spent grape shot. My trousers was ripped across the instep by a musket ball, which just grazed my boot, but luckily did me no harm, which I am very thankful for. I am sorry to say that I lost all my clothes. My servant packed them all in my saddle-bags, and in taking them down to the town for safety he was met by a party of Cossacks, who came round in our rear. They knocked him down and took everything from him. Since the battle I have been up every night keeping watch in the redoubt, expecting every moment a fresh attack of the enemy. I am now more like an officer than an interpreter, for the officer who I am with is rather poorly, so that General Williams, who was very pleased with the way in which I behaved myself in the last action, has given me a post to defend and to receive his orders, so that I may send the troops to any point where they may be wanted, for there is no dependence to be put on any of the Turkish officers. I am likewise aide-de-camp to General George Knietz, an old Hungarian General who speaks English.

In the redoubt where I was during the battle the Russian rifles turned our flank, and several leaped the ditch and scaled the rampart. Three fell dead close to my feet. The officer leading them charged the officer who I am with, but one of our soldiers asked him, "Is that a Russ?" He answered "Yes," when the soldier discharged his musket and he fell dead in the ditch. The total loss of the enemy is supposed to be about 14,000 or 15,000 killed and wounded. They did not fight like men, but like demons. The action commenced at 4.30 a.m. I and Major Teesdale had just returned from our patrol, which we make every night. I had dismounted close to my tent when an officer came to report that the enemy was close upon us. I directly mounted and rode off to the redoubt. I had hardly mounted when the first gun was fired, and the whole hillside was filled with the cries of the Russians and our Turks, the Russians crying "Hurra Boga!" and our troops crying "Allah! Allah!" Our men received them with a volley of musketry and grape. In one spot, where there is a flanking line of works named Rennison Works, they left 850 dead, besides the wounded which they carried off. The Turkish Commander-in-Chief has promised me a medal and also a nishan of the Order of Medjidieh, which I think will be something to boast of in after-time. I suspect I shall stop in Kars all the winter with one of the officers. The General and the rest of the officers will return to Erzeroom till spring, as soon as the enemy raises the siege, which I think will be in a few days, as he is sending off his heavy baggage as fast as he can. . . . I received your letter dated May 22 on September 9. I do not know how it was delayed so long. Excuse me not writing before.

So accept this from your affectionate son,

J. R. RENNISON.

Excuse this scrawl, as it is very cold where I am. This is written in a tent some 8,000 ft. above the level of the sea. The mountains around us are all covered with snow. I have got some Russian relics, which I will send home as soon as I am able.

WHITE HORSE WHISKY.
GREAT AGE AND BOUQUET.
By Appointment to

H.M. KING GEORGE.

H.M. KING OF SPAIN

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

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

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

THE FUTURE OF CYPRUS.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—May I venture to trespass upon the valuable space in your columns to correct a misconception which appears to exist with regard to our newly annexed Island of Cyprus, now again become British after a little more than seven hundred years have elapsed since Richard Cœur de Lion set foot upon its shores? I am astonished to see that there are a few persons actually advocating that Cyprus should be ceded to Greece, and, as any such suggestion can only be made by those who are ignorant of local conditions, and have never visited the island, I feel it my duty, as one who has an intimate acquaintance with Cyprus, to raise my voice in protest against any proposition of the kind.

Those who raise this feeble cry maintain that Cyprus is a purely Greek island, whereas this is not in reality the case. Far removed from the Ægean, and situated at the extreme end of the Mediterranean, Cyprus has always been linked to Asia rather than to Europe, and its destinies have been bound up with those of Syria or Egypt, and not with those of Greece and the Archipelago. In ancient times the power holding Egypt has almost invariably held Cyprus also, and our protectorate over the former and annexation of the latter is a striking example of how history repeats itself.

Cyprus cannot be regarded as a true example of an Hellenic island. It is far less Greek than Rhodes, which Italy holds, and bears no analogy to Corfu, which we relinquished, including as it does a large Moslem element among its population, some 60,000 souls, who are steadfast in their loyalty to Britain. Indeed, no sooner was the island annexed than their leaders, in a memorial to the Home Government, expressed their satisfaction at the change of status and desired an assurance of the permanence of British rule. Great Britain is the greatest Mohammedan power in the world. In view of the magnificent loyalty of her Moslem subjects, she cannot even contemplate the abandonment of those of Cyprus, who have as much right as any other section of their co-religionists to claim the protection of the great Empire of which they form an integral part. Such an action on her part would be incompatible with her position as a champion and upholder of Islam.

The other element of the population of Cyprus, who belong to the Orthodox Church, are an industrious and law-abiding people content with British rule, and any agitation for union with Greece is fomented by self-seeking demagogues towards whom our tolerant Government has adopted a far too lenient attitude.

Apart from these considerations, Cyprus from its very position must always remain British. Its situation over against Cilicia, commanding Alexandretta, and in close proximity to the Syrian coast, gives it a strategic value which cannot be too highly estimated, now that the Turkish Empire is upon the verge of disruption and many of its Asiatic provinces likely to be divided among the powers of Europe.

Cyprus has been called the key to the Levant, just as Heligoland was the key to the open sea-board of Germany. Surely we have paid too dearly for our unconsidered cession of the one island, to repeat the mistake!—I am, etc.,

VIATOR.

July 16, 1915.

FOR ARMENIAN SUFFERERS.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—The following telegram, signed by Ayvadian, Archbishop of Van and Aram, Governor of Van, reached me on the 27th ult.: "Besides Van, the provinces of Chatakh, Moks, Sparkert, Mamertank and Khizan are saved; the rest are ruined and devastated. Men, women, and children have been massacred. Twenty thousand people are homeless. Famine and infectious diseases prevail. Many volunteers are sick and wounded. Notwithstanding assistance from the Russian Government and from Armenians in the Caucasus, there is great want of doctors, drugs, ambulances, provisions. The situation in Bitlis, Moush, Diarbekir is most terrible. We beg urgently for immediate help."

In another appeal, issued at Tiflis, the Governor of Van mentions that 8,000 people are down with typhus and dysentery on and beside the lake of Van, and that they have not even enough bread, let alone all other necessaries of life. Our Hon. Treasurer at once cabled the sum of £400 to our Consul-General at Moscow for relief of these sufferers. Our fund amounts to a little over £2,000, of which £1,400 has been cabled out for relief; the rest has been, and is being, spent in drugs to send to Tiflis. Our resources are nearly exhausted. Will the generous British public enable adequate help to be sent?

Viscountess Bryce is President of the Armenian Red Cross and Refugee Fund, which counts among its Vice-Presidents Lady Henry Somerset, Lady Frederick Cavendish, Viscount Bryce, and many others. The Fund was organised by the Armenian Society, and no deductions are made from contributions for working expenses.

I shall be thankful to receive and acknowledge any sums sent me in response to this appeal.—I am, sir, yours faithfully,

EMILY J. ROBINSON,
Hon. Secretary, Armenian Red Cross and Refugee Fund.
35A, Elsham Road, Kensington, W.

PATRIOTIC BRITONS ABROAD: GIFT TO THE NAVY.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

A movement to unite British subjects resident in foreign countries and enable them to take their part in the defence of the Empire was announced in the Press shortly before Christmas.

This movement originated among a number of patriotic British subjects resident outside the Empire, who were stirred by a feeling of intense loyalty to the motherland and a desire to help her in her time of need. It was felt by many of them that it was not fair that the whole cost of the war should be borne by the inhabitants of Great Britain and her Overseas Dominions, and that British subjects in foreign lands should take their part.

This feeling was soon translated into action, and a league known as the Patriotic League of Britons Overseas was the result. His Majesty the King is Patron of the League, and an influential Central Committee, with Lord Selborne as chairman, has undertaken the necessary organisation.

Large numbers of Britons who were resident abroad at the outbreak of the war have come home to serve with the colours. Many had, perforce, to remain abroad, and it was considered that the most appropriate contribution they could make towards the fighting forces of the Empire would be a gift to the Royal Navy. Never before has the value of our sea supremacy been so fully recognised as it is to-day, never before has such an opportunity occurred for our fellow subjects abroad to show their appreciation of the protection which the British Navy affords them.

Public meetings have been held in every part of the world to advocate the proposal. It is too early as yet to forecast the ultimate result of the appeal. It is, however, very satisfactory to be able to report that no less than 105 branches of the League have been established within the short space of six months—probably a record in organisation—and upwards of £35,000 has already been received.

After consultation with the Admiralty, it has been decided to purchase with this money immediately a squadron of ten large seaplanes of the latest and most approved type. The placing of the contract has been left to the Admiralty, and a cheque for £35,000 has been handed to the First Lord, who has acknowledged the gift in the following letter:—

Admiralty, Whitehall,
July 23, 1915.

My Dear Aldenham,—On behalf of the Board of Admiralty, I have to acknowledge, with our hearty thanks, the receipt of the cheque for £35,000 which you have sent me in the name of The Patriotic League of Britons Overseas.

This practical manifestation of the loyalty of the King's subjects outside his Dominions will equip the Royal Navy with a squadron of seaplanes of the latest type, to be named "Britons Overseas." In this manner the aim of the League will be realised and expression given to the spirit of helpful loyalty to the Empire which your report of progress shows to be shared by Britons all over the world.—Yours very truly,

ARTHUR JAMES BALFOUR.

It is the hope of the founders of this League that every British subject resident outside the Empire may be given an opportunity of helping the mother country at this crisis, and no doubt when the news of the progress of the League becomes widely known, many new branches will be formed.

The subscription lists for the seaplane fund will be kept open until further notice, and additions to the squadron will be made as funds permit. This fund is quite independent of the aeroplane fund which is being organised *within* the Empire by the Over-Seas Club, an association with which the League is working in close and friendly co-operation.

British subjects abroad who are anxious to further this movement are requested to put themselves in touch with Mr. W. Maxwell Lyte and Mr. Evelyn Wrench, Joint Hon. Secretaries of the League, General Buildings, Aldwych, London, W.C., who will be pleased to forward full particulars.—I am, etc.,

ALDENHAM,
Vice-Chairman and Hon Treasurer.

July 30, 1915.

Any newsagent or bookstall in the United Kingdom can supply copies of "THE NEAR EAST," which are on sale early on Friday morning. Should any difficulty be experienced in obtaining the paper, the Manager would be glad to receive a post card giving particulars, and he will take steps to rectify the matter.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

It is good news that the British Seamen's Hospital in Constantinople is not to be sacrificed, and I congratulate all those who have worked hard to achieve the satisfactory result. Another pleasing item of news that reaches me, by a very indirect route, from Constantinople is that the Turks most scrupulously respect our hospital ships. There have, of course, been some ugly tales about the way our wounded have been treated in the Gallipoli Peninsula; but these things are, I imagine, the rare exception, and if traced to the source would probably be found to be the work of Kurds—or Teutons. On the whole, the real Turk appears not to have disgraced himself, though the company in which he finds himself to-day certainly does disgrace him.

***

The appointment of Hakki Pasha as Turkish Ambassador at Berlin reminds me of a remark made about him by a friend who has known him for many years. It was when Hakki was over here, in connection, I think, with the negotiations carried on between this country, Turkey, and Germany regarding the so-called Baghdad Railway and the Persian Gulf region, and my friend had to see Hakki frequently at his hotel. Meeting him one day on his way to the great man, I remarked that he appeared to be in no hurry. "No," he replied, "I am not. Nor is Hakki. He doesn't mind how long the negotiations drag on. In fact, the only difficulty is to get him to attend to business at all. You see, he is drawing fifteen pounds a day for expenses, and he is quite enjoying his stay in London." "But," I ventured to ask, "is he actually drawing that sum, or is it what he is supposed to receive?" "Well, he is still here!" said my friend, and smiled.

***

Hakki, by the way, might very well pass for a German as far as outer appearances go. Bearded, broad-featured, spectacled, rather arrogant-looking, he looks far more like a rather-too-prosperous Hamburg merchant than a real Turk. As a statesman he has not a brilliant record. He was Grand Vizier when the Turco-Italian War broke out, and probably he was more surprised than anyone else by that event; for he had been boasting to his intimates that he held the Italians in the hollow of his hand, and he was convinced that they did not mean business. The Italian ultimatum was handed to him as he was playing bridge at his club, and it took him some time to realise that it was not "a joke." Afterwards he blamed the Germans chiefly for the war—therein showing greater perspicacity than usual. Now he goes to Berlin as the representative of his country's interests.

***

I cannot claim to be a philatelist myself, though I did at one time very nearly yield to the fascination of collecting in earnest. But I know that many readers of THE NEAR EAST are keenly interested in the hobby, and for their benefit I have pleasure in reproducing the following extract from a letter, written from Constantinople on July 8 and kindly forwarded to me by a valued correspondent:—

> As the 10- and 25-piastre stamps have been used up, the Post Office authorities have recently surcharged the 100- and 200-piastre stamps. The latter, which bears the Sultan's portrait, has been surcharged for 25 piastres, and has also received the superscription "El Ghazi." The stocks of both of these denominations only amounted to a few thousands, and they were quickly bought up by speculators. It seems likely that very few will reach the stamp dealers in London or Paris excepting through Berlin or Vienna. I have already seen some in the shop windows of dealers, marked 30 piastres.

This will probably prove tantalizing reading to ardent philatelists in this country. But I hope they will resist the temptation to try dealing with the enemy.

***

My note about the transliteration of the name Suk-es-Sheyukh has led a correspondent to write to the editor, who has passed the letter on to me. I have read it with much interest, and wish I could print it just as it is written; but, unfortunately, the writer has in places introduced Arabic lettering, which cannot be reproduced here. Omitting the Arabic, however, his letter runs:—

> I apologise to "Corsair" for venturing to differ from the "official communiqué" quoted by him on page 360 of your issue of July 30 as giving the most satisfactory spelling of the name of the village recently captured by our forces on the Euphrates. The "proper" spelling is "Sooq-ush-shu-yookh." It is just as easy, or uneasy, for "the man in the street" to write and pronounce sooq-ush-shúyookh, which has the virtue of being correct, as it is for him to write and pronounce "Suk-es-sheyukh" or "sook-esh-shay'ookh," both of which are incorrect. Suk = a goad; sook = a corner (of an angle); sooq = a bazaar or a market-place of shops. Shaikh (not sheikh) = an old man; shuyookh is the plural of shaikh.—Yours, etc., SHOOKH.

I hasten to assure the writer of this friendly criticism that there is no need whatever for him to offer any apologies. It is a very real pleasure to me to receive such communications, and I am sincerely grateful for them. But as to the English rendering of this particular name I am afraid we must just agree to differ.

***

The transliteration of Arabic words—and, for that matter, the rendering of hundreds of names of places in the Near and Middle East—is an extremely difficult matter. If only "Shookh" could hear the forcible way in which certain editors, who shall be nameless, express themselves on the subject, he would be surprised—and perhaps shocked! Without the introduction of a lot of diacritical signs and accents, it seems to me it is a hopeless job to make the average reader, who has never been in the East, get anywhere near the correct pronunciation of many Arabic and Turkish names and words. And I am tolerably certain that the introduction of such signs will never "catch on" with the "man in the street," to whom "Shookh" refers. For serious students it may, and probably will, do so eventually. In fact, I believe the R.G.S. and other bodies are even now tackling the question seriously, and, of course, there are already a good many systems of the kind more or less familiar to everyone who has ever studied Arabic at all. The trouble is that there are so many of them, instead of one standard system.

***

Without attempting to go into this question at length, I may illustrate some of the difficulties attending it by giving the results of a comparison I have just been making, after reading "Shookh's" letter. He says that suk = a goad; sook = a corner; and sook = a market-place. On turning to Catafago's English-Arabic Dictionary I find that he gives only *mihmaz* as the Arabic for "goad"; *zawiyat* for "corner"; and *suk* for "market or market-place; while Steingass, in *his* English-Arabic Dictionary, gives *minhaz* for "goad"; *zawiyat* and *qurnat* for "corner"; and *sauj* for "a market." Again, Catafago gives us *shayk* and *shayukh* for the words we usually (though quite wrongly, I admit) write "sheikh" and "sheyukh"; while Steingass gives *saih* and *suyuh* for the same words. I have not ventured to ask the printer to reproduce the diacritical marks and accents even of Catafago, far less those of Steingass!

***

I may return to this subject on some other occasion, but for the present I must content myself with pointing out that, however incorrect it may be from the scholar's viewpoint, the spelling "Sook-esh-shay'ookh" has the merit of tempting the "man in the street" to make some attempt to pronounce it; while the substitution of the "q" for the "k" in "sook" would probably alarm him, and lead him to ask what on earth the q was doing without the support of its customary u. But I am not sure that "shuyookh" is not a better rendering than "shayookh." I heard the name pronounced both ways by the local Arabs, and could never be quite sure whether the sound was an "a" or a "u." And, by the way, it may be worth while to add that I never once heard any Arab in that part use the word "zawiyat" for "a corner" or "angle"; sometimes it was "qurnat," but much more often "rookhn," if my memory serves me aright.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Dardanelles.

Dr. Walter Leaf contributes to the (July) *Quarterly Review* an historical study, "The Dardanelles," which is of much interest. Comparing the present war with the Trojan war, he remarks that the "Turks and Germans are fighting for the same object as Trojans and Lycians . . . to keep the ships of the west from commerce with the Black Sea." The King of Troy, we are reminded, "was able to close the Straits to ships if he chose," and to convert his fortress, so to say, into an exchange:—

That was the source of his wealth and power. But it was a power intolerable to the enterprising Greeks, just as it is intolerable for us that all the world should be cut off from the rich granaries of Russia and the Danube plains. The Achaians fought, and we are fighting, to insist that this all-important waterway shall not be closed against the needs of the human race.

The Black Sea trade has been important to the well-being of mankind from the very earliest ages. The shores of the great inland sea are to us, as they were already in pre-historic days, the birthplace of raw materials of the highest importance. Though the oil of Baku must not be forgotten, it is as one of the great cereal areas of the world that we think of the plains that surround the northern and north-western shores. From Sulima, Galatz, Braila, and the other ports of the Danube, from Odessa and Nikolaieff, from Varna, Burgas, and Kustendje, come vast quantities of wheat, maize, barley, and oats. It is by cutting off these supplies that Turkey struck her worst blow at the west before she had fired a single shot. The only outlet for these immense supplies is through the Dardanelles; and the power which is able to close the Straits can throttle at once an important part of the food of the world.

Balkan Ambition.

The *Morning Post* (August 3) published an interesting despatch from its correspondent at Budapest, who quotes from *Az Est* concerning an interview given to its Sofia correspondent, Dr. Alex, by M. Radoslavoff, the Bulgarian Premier. The journal remarks that Bulgaria's intention of joining in the war is now plain, and continues:—

In any case, M. Radoslavoff is resolved to realize the national aspirations of the Bulgarians, with whom or against whom he does not care. The winning over of Bulgaria or the losing of her help will be the greatest diplomatic success or blunder of the century. A Roumanian statesman said a few days ago that the Balkan situation will be all ripe in August, and that by that time Roumania and Bulgaria will have decided as to what course to follow. The crisis is at its height, and it remains for European diplomacy to show who will win in this most interesting combat.

The *Morning Post* correspondent adheres to the opinion that Bulgaria recognizes that her ambition can only be realized by an understanding with the Entente Powers, and says that her intervention has only been delayed by the Austro-German successes in Russia.

Great efforts are being made in Sofia to reconcile the two Ghenadieff factions, and the Government being behind this movement, it is clear that M. Radoslavoff would like to see M. Ghenadieff reinstated. All these minor events and sayings of M. Radoslavoff and a thousand other seemingly trifling details are, to my mind, most important, for they carry in themselves the seeds of great issues, and may yet decide the future of the Dardanelles and Constantinople and lead to Balkan unity.

Our Prospective Allies.

Commenting upon Mr. Asquith's recent reference in the House of Commons to the possibility of financial advances being necessary for the support of further allies, "A Diplomatist," writing in the *World*, concludes that the Prime Minister could only refer to one or other of the Balkan States. He regards the delay on the part of these States as being due to the disinclination of the "two parties to the bargaining to express their views in concrete form," but points out that this is hardly the time for long-drawn-out negotiation:—

The point which is of crucial importance is whether in this give-and-take business the interests of all the nations concerned are readjustable. There is no reason whatever why they should not be. Greece could look for very extensive compensation in Asia Minor, as well as in those parts of Epirus which she does not already hold. If Serbia has to make concessions to Macedonia, there is always Bosnia-Herzegovina. Roumania has but few interests in Macedonia, since the existence of the Kutzo-Vlachs has never been made a pretext for territorial aggression. Her interests lie almost exclusively in Transylvania and the Bukovina, and if she could be assured of the possession of Czernowitz, the problem, so far as she is concerned, would be adjusted. There only remains Bulgaria. Her interests lie solely in Macedonia, and not in Thrace, although even there the Entente Powers would have no objection presumably to her progress.

The writer considers that our policy in respect to the Balkan peoples needs to be more exactly defined, and thinks that it may be so with the return of Sir Edward Grey to the Foreign Office.

Bulgarian Opinion.

L'Echo de Bulgarie (7/20 July), in a leading article, entitled "Mentalité Dangereuse," is much concerned at the attitude of Greece and Serbia towards the Allies. The paper says that the Greeks, who are frequently lauded in the French Press for their sympathies with the Allies, have now revealed their true policy in their attitude towards Russia in her bid for Constantinople. In summing up the first portion of his article the writer says:—

La Russie, qui aspire à Constantinople, et l'Italie, qui garde le Dodécanèse et veut s'étendre sur la rive opposée de l'Adriatique, ne sont pas les seules à recevoir des menaces ou des imprécations; l'Angleterre, dont la flotte cherche a refréner la contrebande de guerre dans les îles et les côtes du Levant, n'est pas plus ménagée. Reste la France, mais son tour viendra aussi et l'on trouvera bien des motifs pour lui faire la leçon.

In returning to the question of the activities of our fleet, in its next issue, the same paper says:—

La police rigoureuse que la flotte britannique exerce dans la Méditerranée pour enrayer la contrebande du guerre continue de soulever en Grèce une très vive agitation. Les journaux d'Athènes font un vacarme assourdissant contre ce qu'ils appellent une atteinte à la liberté du commerce et le blocus des côtes helléniques. Pour se décider à exercer une surveillance sévère sur les eaux grecques et disperser ainsi leurs efforts, les Anglais ont eu, sans donte, d'excellentes raisons, et les cris qui partent d'Athènes ne sont nullement les protestations de l'innocence.

The paper points out that, although Bulgarian commerce by way of Dedeagatch is sensibly affected by our naval measures, it is accepted as an act necessary to war, and is not regarded as unfriendly to the nation.

Germany and Constantinople.

The *Manchester Guardian* (July 30) devoted a leading article to the consideration of Germany's next move, dealing with it in connection with Enver Pasha's alleged promise to his troops that Germany was shortly undertaking a campaign against Turkey. After enumerating the alternative attacks that may be contemplated by Germany should she be able to release a large body of men from Russia, the *Guardian* continues:—

In Athens, whence comes the story about Enver Pasha, they think that it is Serbia that would feel the first shock, and it is not impossible that they are right. If the Turks are becoming, or should at any time become, really short of munitions, the Germans might well attempt to crush Serbia in a rapid campaign in order to break their way through to Thrace and save Constantinople.

This would mean crossing Bulgarian territory, but the Germans might be prepared to leave to chance the difficulties in that connection until it became imperative to demand a passage for her troops.

As yet these are but speculations, and they will remain such as long as Russia maintains her stubborn fight, but if things went really ill with Turkey and well with the German campaign against Russia, another attack on Serbia would be not unlikely.

That some such intention on the part of the authorities is suspected in Germany is evident from the following paragraph quoted from a despatch of Mr. Stanley Naylor, special correspondent in Serbia to the *Daily Chronicle* (August 4), who recounts the opinion of a young German airman who was forced to descend in Serbian territory:—"I assure you we Germans would not have left Belgrade as easily to the Serbians as the Austrians did; and when operations break out with Serbia afresh it will be found that our first line of defence is entirely German. Already German troops are massed up in readiness across the Danube, as some of you have been able to see through your binoculars. The Austrians are to be entrusted with no more vital work."

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

THE NEAR EAST reported last week that Dr. Stoyanoff, of the Bulgarian Ministry of Finance, had left Sofia for a *tour de finance* via Budapest and Vienna to Berlin. According to the *Koelnische Zeitung* (says a Central News message from Amsterdam), an important group of Austro-German banks under the presidency of the Disconto Gesellschaft has obtained an option upon the first issue of 250,000,000 frs. of the Bulgarian 500,000,000 frs. loan. My personal impression is that the *Koelnische Zeitung* is trying a gigantic game of bluff—as per usual. Bulgaria contracted a loan in Germany last July for 500,000,000 lewas. This was before the war broke out. The Diskonto Gesellschaft was one of the contracting banks, and through it and its partners a sum of 120,000,000 lewas, the first *tranche* of the loan, was duly paid. Since then there have been difficulties in getting the German banks to fulfil their part of the loan bargain. Dr. Stoyanoff, if, as it is alleged, he is travelling to Berlin and Vienna with a financial object in view, is, to all intents and purposes, bent on exacting from the defaulting banks the further instalments of the loan long since fallen due, so that, to speak of the Diskonto Gesellschaft having obtained an option upon the first issue of 250,000,000 frs. is a blatant distortion of facts. The bank is merely being asked either to pay up, as per its agreement, or to cancel it. On the other hand, the *Koelnische Zeitung*, in trying to paint Bulgaria as about to contract a loan with our enemies, intentionally aims at harming Bulgaria in our eyes. This she cannot do, because we have complete faith in King Ferdinand's people. Besides, the Cologne paper's assertion by no means implies that it is truthful—on the contrary. But should German banks really see their way, in the climax of their financial glory, to hand over 250,000,000 frs. to Bulgaria, be sure that it will be done in such a way that Bulgaria never sees a penny of the money, but, nevertheless, owes the whole sum to her altruistic bankers. It will not have been the first time that Germany has acted thus faithlessly.

***

Take Turkey, for instance. Our Athens Correspondent last week reported at length the issue of, roughly, £T6,000,000 in bank notes, covered in its entirety by gold deposited in the Reichsbank. I have gone to some pains to examine this wonderful financial operation, due to the genius of Djavid Bey, and though the full details cannot be published at the present time, the following will serve to show how the deal was worked:—Turkey, being in need of war funds, attempted to issue bank notes guaranteed by the surplus of certain tithes collected by the Ottoman Debt. This scheme fell through, and then Djavid Bey had one of his luminous inspirations. Travelling to Berlin and Vienna, he obtained a loan of £T6,000,000 in gold, which was deposited (so it is said) in the Reichsbank and accredited to the Ottoman Debt Administration. Thereupon Djavid returned to Constantinople, and banknotes to the value of £T6,000,000 were issued, guaranteed by the Ottoman Public Debt Administration. Naturally, the British and French delegates of the bondholders objected to this guarantee being given, but for political reasons, at a time when Italy had not as yet thrown in her lot with us, they were not sufficiently backed by their Governments. So the scheme was carried out, and the Ottoman Debt's guarantee was given—how could it be otherwise when only the Austrian, the German, the Turkish, and the Italian delegates were present to vote in Constantinople, and the first three were only tools in the hands of Berlin? This brings us to the consideration of the scheme as such. Turkey issues bank-notes to the tune of £T6,000,000, covered by gold deposited in the Reichsbank, and guaranteed by the Foreign Bondholders. In all probability there is no such gold, only a credit in favour of Turkey, but even if the gold were really there it will have been used up long before the war is over. So that the banknotes will have become worthless, and will have to be met—theoretically, anyway—by the Public Debt Administration, and in reality by Turkey, the catspaw of German financiers. In other words, a scandalous swindle, and an illegal manipulation of an international organisation.

***

But the Germans are, unfortunately, capable of many things that cannot be countenanced in civilised countries. I have referred to the *Koelnische Zeitung's* insinuating remarks concerning Bulgaria, and my attention has now been called to a paragraph which appeared on July 23 in the *Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung* of Berlin, the *official* paper of the Prussian Government. The paragraph says:—"In their financial report, No. 339, of July 5, 1915, written in French, Messrs. A. Ruffer and Sons, an English firm of bankers, devote the following paragraph to the Balkans:—'Quant aux Roumains et Bulgares, ils feront d'abord leurs récoltes les vendront et ne feront probablement rien. Peuples dont la moitié slave et l'autre moitié ne se lave pas, a dit un boursier.'" The German paper's comment is that "it will be of interest to the Roumanians and Bulgars to hear how they are regarded by the English."

***

I cannot let the above insinuating paragraph be circulated in Roumania and Bulgaria without making some comment. The German paper calls the firm in question "Ruffer and Sons," deliberately omitting the German diæresis on the "u" so as to make it appear English. The firm is Rüffer and Sons, bankers and merchants, of Lombard Street, and, I have been given to understand, they are of Swiss origin. I have also been given to understand that the sentence in question (which certainly cannot be taken as an expression of British opinion) was contained in a private report circulated among the bank's clients, and that whosoever gave the information to the German Press was guilty of a gross breach of faith. This notwithstanding, the firm stands by its statement, and "hopes that it will do some good."

***

I do not share their optimism. In a time of great diplomatic tension and political uncertainty, semi-humorous statements such as those issued by Messrs. Rüffer and Sons are entirely out of place and can do no good. They give the enemy, ever on the look-out for possible statements which can be so turned and twisted as to discredit Great Britain in neutral countries, an opportunity for acting in deliberate bad faith. In this particular case, moreover, I can state definitely, for the benefit of the German Foreign Office gramophone, that the opinion of Messrs. Rüffer and Sons, as expressed, is the opinion of that firm alone. I do not think that any "British-born" firm would at the present moment have committed itself to any such impolitic utterance, of advantage only to our enemies if they came to hear of it. As for the *Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung*, its procedure is beneath our contempt.

***

News from Constantinople during the past week is most conflicting—and certainly not hopeful. A Sofia telegram says that the Galata Bridge has been blown up. There is, of course, no confirmation of this report. Another message from the same source says that advices from Constantinople state that another large fire broke out there on July 26, eighteen houses near the German Embassy and the German Hospital being destroyed. The German Hospital was threatened. It is estimated that upwards of 1,500 houses have now been destroyed by fire.

***

These Constantinople fires are one of the curses of the country, as I have already pointed out, and are a source of continual anxiety to insurance companies. The list we published a few weeks ago of the companies who suffered as a result of the last conflagration showed that British companies were not heavy losers. Let us hope that the same will be true of the fire alluded to above. Even so, however, Constantinople is not out of the wood yet, and many happenings are likely to take place unless we get through the Dardanelles or before we get to the Porte. It will be most necessary for steps to be taken, and at all costs, for the prevention of incendiarism, pillage, looting, and crimes pending the arrival of the allied army. A destroyed Constantinople, in spite of its filth and dirt, would be a calamity to be mourned over.

***

Other news from Turkey—not from Turkish sources—says that the Russians have sunk further coal transport vessels in the Black Sea. They have, moreover, given Zunguldak another bombardment. This was most necessary. It would appear that after the recent bombardment of the place steps were immediately taken to reconstitute the harbour, mine, and transport arrangements, and with such success that the supplying of Constantinople with coal was merrily renewed. This has now been stopped again—not temporarily, I hope, but permanently. For it is essential to our success in the Dardanelles that Constantinople should receive no coal (and no ammunition) supplies. As regards ammunition, the *Morning Post* correspondent in Rome announces that news has reached the Italian capital that Turkey has only one month's stock of ammunition. It is, therefore, believed in Rome that the Allies will take the Dardanelles in a relatively short time if Bulgaria and Roumania act energetically against contraband.

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Oil News states, with what authority I do not know, that a movement is on foot for the disposal of the properties or undertaking of the Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields, Limited, to one of the important Roumanian oil companies. The names of both the Astra Romana (Royal Dutch and Shell control) and the Romano-Americana (Standard Oil control) are mentioned in this connection.

COMMENTATOR.

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Abyssinia in 1914.

The following information is from a U.S. Consular report (Consul-General John Q. Wood, Adis Ababa) for the year 1914 :—

Abyssinians and Foreigners

The Abyssinians are generally poor and their wants are few. Only in a few towns is there any demand for such articles as shoes, underwear, and furniture. The universal demand, however, is for cotton goods. The land provides sufficient food material for the people, and such alimentary articles as are imported are to supply the wants of the foreigners who have come to Abyssinia in the interests of trade. Most of these are Greeks, Armenians, Syrians, Indians, and Arabs. They are the shopkeepers. Although there are some English and French branch houses in the capital, the managers are selected from one of the above-named nationalities. There are probably 400 French citizens engaged in the construction of the French-Ethiopian Railroad, living in the different towns along the line, and the Italians may number 100. In all, however, there are not over 2,000 foreigners in the kingdom, and the large percentage of these are in Adis Ababa, Hawash, Dire Dawa, and Harrar, all towns along the railroad, with the exception of Harrar, which is located 35 miles south of Dire Dawa.

The Abyssinians may be separated into four groups, the Gallas in the south and south-west, the Shoans in the centre, the Tigres in the north, and the Danklis in the east. The Gallas comprise one-half of the entire population, and are a pastoral and agricultural people. The Shoans number 1,500,000 and furnish the ruling class. Everyone is a soldier, and the present ruler depends upon them to maintain his sovereignty. The Tigrians are a lighter coloured people and show their Semitic descent. They formerly furnished the rulers of Ethiopia. The Danklis are Mohammedans, and on account of the inaccessibility of their country preserve a sort of independence, merely paying an annual sum to the Emperor as a tribute.

French-Abyssinian Railway.

The development of trade with Abyssinia received its first impulse with the commencement of the railroad project of the French to connect Jibuti with Adis Ababa. This was directly due to the encouragement of Menelik II., who gave a concession for the construction of this road. He foresaw the advantage to his country in the development of its natural resources. He also encouraged foreigners to build houses in the capital by granting free tracts of land. The British, French, Russian, Italian, and German Governments, taking advantage of this offer, erected fine houses for their diplomatic representatives. In 1896, the date of the treaty of peace with Italy, by the terms of which was recognised the absolute independence of the Ethiopian Empire (Abyssinia), the French Government established the colonial administration of its Somaliland possession at Jibuti, then an insignificant port with about 5,000 inhabitants. Cable connections were made with Perim. The Messageries Maritimes made it a port of call and established an agency there with a coal depot. A regular postal service was established with Abyssinia.

In 1897 work was begun on the French-Abyssinian railroad, and after many vicissitudes, necessitating the aid of a subsidy by the French Government, the first section of the road reached the town of Dire Dawa, a distance of 187 miles, in the year 1903; then followed a period of inactivity due to political and financial difficulties. The old company was liquidated and a new one, entirely French, entitled La Compagnie du Chemin de Fer Franco-Ethiopian de Jibuti à Adis Ababa began in 1909 the second section of the road, completing the same on December 31, 1913, a further distance of 144 miles. From this point, called Hawash, to Adis Ababa, there remains 156 miles, and over half the distance had been completed by the last of July, 1914. Since then construction work has been pushed forward slowly, so that on March 1, 1915, the line would be within 25 miles of Adis Ababa. This railroad, when fully equipped, will represent an investment of £4,000,000.

Aden as a Trade Centre.

For years Aden has been the strategic centre for the trade of Abyssinia. The principal commercial houses in Aden had agents in the most important towns of Abyssinia for the purchase of Abyssinian products and the sale of foreign goods. This has been a most lucrative business for a few firms. Aden became the centre for the sale of Abyssinian coffee, hides, and skins, which constituted two-thirds of the total Abyssinian exports. The French colonial administration has been active to encourage the erection of banks, buildings, business blocks, hotels, and private houses. Attractive municipal buildings have been constructed, and an attractive governor's residence has been completed. Jibuti has now a population of over 20,000, including about 800 Europeans, 150 of whom are French, and it has an efficient city administration.

Shipping.

In normal times regular service is maintained between Jibuti and Marseilles, Naples, Trieste, Odessa, and Hamburg by the following companies :—Compagnie des Messageries Maritimes, Marittima Italiana, Lloyd Autrichien, Compagnie Russe de Navigation et de Commerce, and the Hamburg-American Line.

There are occasional arrivals of British and Dutch steamers. In 1912 there were 374 steamships arriving at the port, with a total tonnage of 756,721, compared with 379 of 692,188 tons in 1911. The total freight landed in 1912 amounted to 69,775 tons, compared with 78,242 tons in 1911; the amount loaded was 44,706 tons in 1912, compared with 42,880 tons in 1911. The excess of tonnage landed at the port in 1911 over that in 1912 was due to the larger tonnage of construction material for the railroad in 1911. There was an increase in freight tonnage in 1913 over that of 1912 due to the activity of railroad extension in Abyssinia. In 1912 only 25 per cent. of the inward freight came in French bottoms, while over 80 per cent. of the outward freight cleared under the French flag. This is explained by the fact that most of the Abyssinian exports are shipped to Aden by a French subsidised line that maintains a bi-weekly service between those ports.

Since August 1, 1914, there has been a most pronounced decrease in the Abyssinian trade due to inability of the Abyssinians to sell their products; consequently they are not purchasing cotton goods. Furthermore, railroad construction was curtailed, throwing out of employment many labourers. The shopkeepers, practically all foreigners, report that business has not been so unsatisfactory for many years. The cessation of regular shipping facilities, the banking difficulties in financing shipments, and the departure for European countries of several important business men, have temporarily interfered with the steady development of Abyssinian trade.

Trade Routes.

The principal artery of Abyssinian trade is the French-Ethiopian Railroad. It, however, runs through an unproductive country, and it seems quite impossible for this venture to be remunerative, at least for many years. At Dire Dawa the French have established repair shops for this railroad; they have opened schools for the children of foreigners as well as their own. An attractive hotel, several cafés, stores, modern houses, a branch of the Bank of Abyssinia, and clean streets indicate the influence of European methods. Here is established the first Abyssinian Custom House. Dire Dawa was for several years the terminus of the railroad, and all of the caravans for Adis Ababa started here. Only thirty-five miles to the south is situated the city of Harrar, with a population of 50,000. It is an important trade centre. It is the most important centre in Abyssinia for the cultivation of coffee, which is largely exported to the United States viâ Jibuti and Aden. Harrar has a branch of the Bank of Abyssinia, and is the residence of British, Italian, German, and Turkish Consuls. During 1914 the first Chamber of Commerce for Abyssinia was established by the leading merchants of Harrar.

Gambella, in the western part of the country, 361 miles from Adis Ababa, is the terminus of a line that begins at Port Sudan on the Red Sea. From this port goods are transported by rail to Khartoum, thence by steamer during the months of June to September up the Nile, then east on the River Sobat to Gambella, a total distance of 880 miles by water. To the north are the two towns of Gallabat and Roseires, situated near the Abyssinian-Sudan boundary. The latter town is connected with Sennar, on the Blue Nile, by a weekly service from June to December. The former is thirteen days' journey to the terminus of the railroad line running to Khartoum, ten hours by train.

Through Massowah, in the Italian Province of Eritrea, on the Red Sea, and Assab, another small port, the Italians have built up a considerable trade in the northern part of Abyssinia. A short railroad line runs from the port of Massowah beyond the town of Asmara, and from this point caravans transport goods across the Abyssinian boundary.

Caravan routes also extend from Mogadishu, in the Italian Somaliland, to the south-eastern part of Abyssinia, and there is also considerable trade by caravan between British East Africa and the southern provinces of Abyssinia.

Cotton Sheeting.

Unbleached American cotton sheeting represents the largest item in the trade—almost 70 per cent. of the cotton imports. This business has been for many years largely monopolized by Aden houses that handle American cotton sheeting. A large New York exporting firm has had one of its branches in Aden for at least twenty-five years with an American citizen at its head. It has done a large trade with Aden importers, who have branches scattered throughout Abyssinia. With the changed conditions due to the development of the port of Jibuti following the construction of the French-Abyssinian railroad and the opening up of Abyssinia to foreigners, a large number of small traders settled in the towns and in Jibuti. They have made business connections with other merchants than those who controlled this trade.

The Indian traders in Abyssinia naturally favour Indian and British goods. Among the articles listed in one of their stores located in Adis Ababa there were counted 138 articles —75 from Great Britain, 29 from Germany, 12 from Austria, 8 from Belgium, 5 from Switzerland, 4 from France, and 5 from all other countries. This particular trader sold British, Indian, and Belgian cottons. Another Indian trader sold an Austrian sheeting—a good imitation of the best American brand with the same camel trade-mark.

During the Balkan War Austrian mills were caught with large supplies on their hands that they disposed of in Africa at prices below cost of production. One Austrian house operated in Abyssinia, giving long credits to importers. This house was strongly financed by Austrian banks and has been able to get a good start in the strong competition for this valuable trade. Their sales, however, did not keep up in 1914, and it is doubtful if they succeed in recovering what must necessarily be lost on account of the war. The Austrian Lloyd Steamship Company greatly assisted this trade by making Jibuti a port of call in its regular monthly service from Trieste to the Orient.

With the removal of Austrian and Belgian cottons from Abyssinia, American trade should be greatly benefited unless shipping facilities are cut off. The lack of American ships is one of the weakest factors in the contest for markets in Africa and India. The United States purchase large quantities of Indian and African goods and could sell double the amount if there were direct shipping connections. American cotton sheetings are the best in the market, but there are no interested parties to push their sale in this country. All of the shopkeepers in Abyssinia are under the protection of some other country than the United States. They will sell American goods only when they can make more profit. British interests have the Indian merchants and the Arabs of Aden to assist them Armenian and Syrian agents in Abyssinia buy from their countrymen, who

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are largely engaged in the export business in Manchester.

Trade via Gambela.

In the western part of the country the Sudan Government has been particularly active in making Gambela a trade centre. A British report gives 15 per cent. of the cotton trade to America at this point, with the Italian goods most in demand, but of inferior quality. Here Manchester sheetings are not in favour as yet. In 1912 a British consular report stated that most of the cotton stuffs entering Abyssinia from the south were of American and Italian manufacture. For 1910 it is stated by a good authority on this subject that 50 per cent. of the Abugedid (American sheeting is the name common among the trade) came from Manchester, and 30 per cent. from the United States. In 1911 the British Consul at Adis Ababa stated that 30 per cent. came from Manchester and 50 per cent. from the United States. In 1912 large quantities of Italian sheetings were imported on account of being shut off from the Turkish market. In the early part of 1913 it was reported that American cotton sheetings made up 60 per cent. of the imports into Jibuti, with only 20 per cent. from Manchester. Later in the year large importations of Austrian and Belgian cottons brought the American percentage down to 40 per cent. It would appear that in spite of the vicissitudes of the trade American sheetings have held their own. Their value for the entire country amounts to about £200,000 yearly. Practically all the other cotton goods imported into Abyssinia come from Manchester, which has catered to this trade, supplying all the cotton shawls (the outer garment worn by men and women), head bands, girdles, blankets, and yarns.

Abyssinia and the United States.

In explaining the reason for the success of American sheetings in this market, great stress should be laid upon the presence in Aden of a genuine American house that has handled a standard grade of cotton sheeting for many years, which is most favourably known in Abyssinia for its unchangeable quality and exact measurements and weight. Honesty has been the best policy in the maintenance of the American trade in this country. It has been brought to the attention of the consulate that other American cottons have been introduced during the last few years that do not measure up to the high American standard. This is most unfortunate, as it will inevitably destroy the strong position enjoyed among not only the retailers, but the consumers, who are scattered all over this vast country. In every market place one is sure to find American sheetings, which are used for tents as well as for clothing. American manufacturers should be concerned not so much in increasing their sales of sheetings as in conserving what markets have already been won. Too many American firms competing against each other to share this trade would inevitably bring about the sale of a lower grade of goods. It would be well to have one American house in every strategic centre for the distribution of American products, and this house could carry a large line of non-competing articles. It may be a debatable question whether Aden is most conveniently located for this trade in Abyssinia; in the writer's opinion it is not. Jibuti is the natural gateway to this country, and the trade can be more effectively controlled from this point, especially in view of the railroad and telegraphic connections available, and the excellent shipping and cable facilities with Europe and banking accommodations.

(To be continued.)

DELICIOUS COFFEE.
RED WHITE & BLUE
For Breakfast & after Dinner.
Wholesale, of Hanson's, London, England.

Navigation and Commerce on the Lower Danube in 1914.

From Our Bucharest Correspondent.

On account of the European War, trade on the Lower Danube dropped in 1914 as compared with the previous year. The war almost completely paralysed Roumania's markets. Her international traffic being dependent on the liberty of navigation through the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles, the entry of Turkey into war last autumn cut off her lines of communication both with the East and West. At present there are only the routes via Salonica and Dedeagatch open, but they only offer Roumania a very restricted means of pursuing her trade with the outer world.

Shipping.

In 1914, the number of vessels passing up and down the Danube was registered as 718 vessels, of approximately 1,356,000 tons, against 936 vessels (1,656,090 tons) in 1913. In comparison with 1911, a normal year as regards navigation, the restriction of the number of vessels passing the mouth of the Danube is over 50 per cent., as in that year (1911), 1,532 vessels, of a tonnage of 2,710,000 passed up and down the river.

From 1912 the navigation has diminished considerably on account of, first, the Italo-Turkish and then the Balkan war, followed by mobilisation in this country in 1914, and the present conflagration.

Of the vessels going and coming last year 37 were sailing vessels, reckoned at 4,080 tons, and the remainder (1,349,846 tons), were steamers. As regards the size of the latter: the largest was an Austrian boat of 4,043 tons, followed by a German of 3,684 tons; ten Greek steamers totalled 38,688 tons; nine British 33,637 tons; three Hungarian 11,355 tons; five Roumanian 17,875 tons; and one Russian 3,675 tons.

The number of vessels, according to nationality, which passed up and down the river in 1914, together with total tonnage, was as follows :—

British.....	187	steamers of	461,810 tons
Greek	157	,,	333,030 ,,
Italian.....	69	,,	96,958 ,,
Russian	68	,,	60,395 ,,
Austrian.....	46	,,	106,178 ,,
Roumanian	40	,,	71,919 ,,
Hungarian.....	36	,,	55,449 ,,
Cttoman.....	34	,,	4,719 ,,
Belgian	26	,,	46,786 ,,
German	21	,,	59,630 ,,
French	14	,,	26,173 ,,
Swedish	6	,,	13,235 ,,
Bulgarian	6	,,	2,829 ,,
Danish.....	4	,,	7,539 ,,
Dutch	2	,,	5,250 ,,
Norwegian.....	2	,,	4,140 ,,

As regards previous years, though the numbers are decreased, the actual amount of tonnage is increased.

Of the above, 270 of 601,534 tons loaded part cargo at Sulina and part outside; the rest loaded up-river at Braila and Galatz, with a smaller quantity at Tulcinea.

The vessels belonging to lines running regularly to the Danube were 124, of 177,196 tons, as below :—

"Cie Russe".....	Russian..	44	Odessa—Galatz
Lloyd Antrichien..	Austrian..	23	Const'ple—Braila
Cie Maritime Italienne	Italian....	23	,, ,,
Hungary - Levant Line	Hangari'n	21	,, —Galatz
Freyssinet Co.	French ..	13	Marseilles—Braila

The taxes paid by the above to the European Commission of the Danube amounted to 1,881,136 frs.

Trade.

The grain exported in 1914 amounted to 25¼ million hectolitres, against 33 millions in 1913, 37 millions in 1912, and 59 in 1911. The majority of this grain was exported to Holland, Belgium, Great Britain, Germany, France, and Italy. Smaller portions went to Denmark, Austria, Spain, Greece, Hungary, Norway, Turkey, Algiers, and Tunis.

Industrial produce exported through the mouth of the Danube included flour, bran, benzine, petroleum, mineral oils, rice, sugar, and timber. Flour amounted to 24,702 tons, of which 9,335 tons went to Turkey, 3,360 tons to Greece, 3,086 tons to Germany, more than 1,000 tons to Egypt, and 2,110 tons to Great Britain.

Timber ran to 278,256 metres of planking and 2,100 tons of oak. Egypt is Roumania's best customer for construction timber, taking annually about 60,000 metres; Turkey holds the second place with 57,000; then Italy (49,000), Greece (39,000), Holland (29,000), France (22,000), etc. Oak is bought exclusively by France and Belgium.

The live animal trade comprised : Oxen, 4,297, and 100 sheep. Italy took about half the cattle, the rest going to Great Britain. Until quite recently England only purchased live animals in insignificant quantities in Roumania.

As regards imports, the only figures to hand concern coal and petroleum. Of the former 244,923 tons were imported, which came almost entirely from Great Britain. The small balance came from Germany and Russia. As compared with 1913, the quantity imported from Great Britain was about 70,000 tons less than in former years.

It is strange to hear of petroleum being imported into Roumania, herself such a large producer. Nevertheless, 4,580 tons of the finest quality of lampant was exported from Russia to Roumania.

Lighter Companies.

Some useful statistics have been collected and published by M. C. J. Baicoïano, from which it is possible to estimate the number of lighter companies and their fleets. The largest company trading on the Lower Danube is the Austrian Society, known as the Donaudampfshiffsgesellschaft, which has always been subventioned by the Austrian Government, and is to-day, properly speaking, a State concern. The company possesses 134 passenger and goods steamers and tugs, and 854 lighters, of a total capacity of 436,264 tons, and valued at nominally 90 million francs.

The Russian Navigation Company, subventioned by the Russian Government to the extent of 315,000 roubles per annum, is the second on the list, with a fleet of twelve tugs and 120 lighters, of which latter eighteen are petroleum tanks.

The Roumanian Navigation Company (Navigatiune Fluviala Romana) possesses a park, valued at 15 million francs, eleven tugs, thirteen passenger steamers, and 108 lighters, representing 80,000 tons, and fourteen tanks. This is a State enterprise.

In 1913 there was founded by private enterprise the "Soc. Romana Dunariana," with a a capital 7½ million francs. The property of various private owners was merged into it; it thus possesses four grain elevators, sixty-six lighters, and four tugs.

The Hungarian Navigation Company was created, although the above-mentioned Austrian company already existed, with a capital of 12 million francs. Subventioned by the Hungarian Government, it has fourteen passenger steamers, thirty-four tugs, and 250 lighters, totalling 120,000 tons.

Apart from the above, there are on the Lower Danube 603 lighters, of a tonnage of 486,995 tons, belonging to 320 private owners.

The Roumanian flag is the most usual on the Lower Danube, both as regards tugs and lighters. In 1911 the total entries and departures at Lower Danubian ports was 12,364 Roumanian, as against 9,099 Austrian, 3,805 Greek, 3,023 Russian, 4,866 Hungarian, 1,642 Turkish, and 1,270 Bulgarian.

In normal times the Austrian and Hungarian passenger steamers ply daily from port to port on the Lower Danube, going as far down as Galatz, whilst the Roumanian passenger steamers ply between the principal stations on the Roumanian banks, and between Braila, Galatz, and Sulina. The Russian steamers trade between Galatz and the ports of Reni, Kelia, and Ismail, on the Russian branch of the river.

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Trade Notes.

Egypt.

Tenders are invited by the South Division, State Buildings, Cairo, for water and sanitary installations at the Director's house, Assiut Secondary School. Conditions of tender may be obtained against payment of 65 milliemes, August 10.

Gibraltar.

In the annual Colonial report on Gibraltar it is stated that trade in that Colony rapidly recovered after the temporary set-back caused by the outbreak of war. The total revenue for 1914 was only £7,949 less than the estimate. The position at the beginning of August, 1914, was one of some difficulty. Spain, on which the Colony had hitherto relied for food supplies, had placed an embargo on the export of such commodities. There was an immediate rush to withdraw deposits from the Government Savings Bank and from the Savings Bank of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank. The Bank Note Ordinance was therefore enacted, and the issue of currency notes of values ranging from 2s. to £50 restored public confidence. Arrangements were made for procuring food supplies from Portugal and other sources, and a Committee was formed to deal with the question of market prices and control the operations of speculators. In only a few instances did the Committee recommend the fixing of maximum prices, and then only as a temporary measure. The various measures rendered necessary by the war, the ceaseless patrol of the Straits, the examination of all ships passing through the Straits, the arrangements for the removal of contraband, the internment of enemy reservists, and the institution of a Prize Court at Gibraltar have severely taxed the local naval and military establishments. At the same time the work of the civilian officials has also, as was natural, been largely increased, especially in the case of the Port, Police, Customs, and Law Departments. From all sections of the community the Government received loyal and enthusiastic assistance, and though military law was of necessity declared, it was not found necessary to suspend the Courts or interfere with the civil administration. A movement to raise a local Volunteer Defence Force was initiated by private enterprise, and a corps has subsequently been embodied under an Ordinance enacted during the present year.

Somaliland.

The Board of Trade have received, through the Colonial Office, copy of Proclamations, dated March 20 and May 24, 1915, which prohibit the exportation of various articles to certain destinations from the Somaliland Protectorate, as follows:—

(A)—To all destinations, other than the United Kingdom, British Possessions and British Protectorates:—

The list of articles included under this heading is the same as that shown under heading (B) of the Notice for Cyprus, except that "cresol (saponified)" is not included in the Somaliland list.

The following additional articles are, however, included under this heading by the Proclamation of May 24.—Raw wool, wool tops, and noils and woollen and worsted yarns; tin, chloride of tin, tin ore; castor oil; paraffin wax; copper iodide; lubricants; hides of cattle, buffaloes, and horses; skins of calves, pigs, sheep, goats and deer; leather, undressed or dressed, suitable for saddlery, harness, military boots, or military clothing; ammonia and its salts, whether simple or compound; ammonia liquor; urea, aniline and their compounds; and tanning substances of all kinds, including extracts for use in tanning.

(B)—To all foreign ports in Europe and on the Mediterranean and Black Seas, other than those of France, Russia (except Baltic ports), Belgium, Spain and Portugal:—

The list of articles included under this heading is the same as that given under

CAWNPORE WOOLLEN MILLS CO., Ltd.
— CAWNPORE, INDIA. —

Everything in Pure Wool.
MANUFACTURERS OF
"LALIMLI" WOOL WEAR
Flannels, Serges, Blankets, Tweeds, Broadcloths, Coatings, Hosiery, Rugs, Puttees, Uniforms, &c., &c. . . . .
CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT

The ELGIN MILLS Co. Ltd.
CAWNPORE, INDIA.
Spinners, Weavers, Bleachers, Dyers, and makers of every description of Cotton Goods such as TENTS, DURRIES (Cotton Carpets), and other Floor Coverings, Dusters, Towels, Bed & Table Linen, &c., &c.
Contractors to various Government Departments for Uniforms, Tents, Camp Equipment, &c.

COOPER, ALLEN & Co., Ltd.,
CAWNPORE, INDIA.
Army Boot and Equipment Manufacturers.
CONTRACTORS TO THE INDIAN, EGYPTIAN AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS.
THE LARGEST CONCERN OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD.

The NORTH-WEST TANNERY CO., Ltd.,
CAWNPORE, INDIA.
Tanners and Curriers, Leather Goods Manufacturers.
Saddlery and Harness of every description.
Travelling Requisites, Bags, Trunks, &c.
CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

New Egerton Woollen Mills Co.,Ltd.
DHARIWAL, PUNJAB, INDIA.
Sole Manufacturers of the Famous . .
Dhariwal
Long Life Wool Wear
Costume and Suiting Materials, Blankets, Rugs, Lohis, Hosiery, Puttees, Uniforms, Liveries, &c., &c.
CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

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heading (C) of the Notice for Cyprus, except that the following articles are excluded from the Somaliland list:—Railway material, both fixed and rolling stock; rosin; and seeds, clover and grass.

The following item is, however, amended, as indicated in italics, by the Proclamation of May 24:—

Foodstuffs and feeding stuffs, and the raw materials thereof, including all *animal and* vegetable oils *and fats* (other than linseed oil, boiled and unboiled, unmixed with other oil and not including essential oils) and *all* (instead of "the following") oleaginous nuts, seeds and products, *including* (instead of "viz.") castor beans, coconuts, copra, cotton-seed, ground nuts (arachides), linseed, palm kernels, rape seed, sesame seed, soya beans.

(C)—To ports in Denmark, the Netherlands and Sweden:—

Tinplates; including tin boxes and tin canisters for food packing.

All previous Notices and Proclamations respecting prohibited exports are cancelled.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

July 16.

The Asbestos Mining Company at Amiandos, Mount Troodos, has discharged, according to the local Press, 500 to 600 of its hands. The war must, doubtless, have weighed rather heavily upon the company, the bulk of whose business was, we understand, with Austria.

Several merchants are now arranging to import wheat from Egypt. The price of wheat here remains very high, and villagers keep back their stocks as much as they can in the expectation of still higher prices being realised. It is hoped that this action on the part of the merchants will tend to lower them, and thus also bring down the present extravagant price of bread.

The following are to-day's prices in Nicosia of some of the principal articles of consumption. They are, in some instances, higher at other district towns. (A kile=bushel; 1 oke =2¾ lbs.)

Wheat	per kile, 8/-
Barley	per kile, 2/9
Oats	per kile, 1/9
Potatoes	per oke, 1½d. to 1¼d.
Broad beans	per oke, 2½d. to 2¾d.
Linseed	per oke, 3½d. to 3¼d.
Cotton seed	per oke, 2d.
Sugar	per oke, 7½d. to 7¾d

The carob crop is estimated as likely to be considerably larger than last year. The olive yield, on the other hand, is expected to be less.

ROUMANIAN TRANSPORT PROHIBITION

Reuter's Agency reports that the report from Bucharest, that orders have been issued to all frontier stations to conduct the strictest examination of all goods vans from Austria and Germany en route for Turkey, and to prevent the passage through Roumanian territory of arms or munitions, is officially confirmed by the Roumanian Legation in Paris. Some exceedingly clever attempts have already been made, and for this reason the Roumanian Government has asked the Allied Powers to lend experienced Customs examiners and detectives to assist in enforcing the prohibition of the transit of war material.

PROHIBITED EXPORTS.

A supplement to the *Board of Trade Journal* gives a complete list of the prohibitions of export introduced in the United Kingdom, the Allied countries, and neutral European countries. The latter include Bulgaria, Greece, and Roumania, and the Allied countries include Serbia, Russia, Italy, and France. To be complete the list should have included the Empire—Dominions, Colonies, and Protectorates.

Near East Markets.

SPECIAL REPORT.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Sofia. July 13.

Nine-tenths of the harvest are already gathered and last week the thrashing of the grain commenced. Within ten days there will be new flour from this year's crops on the market.

The Times Bucharest correspondent, under date of July 26, reports that the harvest has been completed almost everywhere in the country and is very abundant. As a result, the Government will probably remove the embargo on grain exports, which has existed since the beginning of the war, and as the Dardanelles are closed some three million tons will go to Germany.

MALTA'S WHEAT SUPPLY.

The Times Malta correspondent, under date July 23, reports that complaints having been made by local merchants regarding the prohibition of the export of wheat and flour from England, Lord Methuen has issued an official intimation that, as a result of inquiries made by the Malta Government, his Majesty's Government explains that it considers it desirable to maintain the general prohibition, but that there is no intention to interfere with the normal supply of Malta, and that no further delay is likely to arise in granting the necessary licences.

SUDAN COFFEE IMPORTS.

(From a Correspondent.)

The gum season having come practically to an end, attention is now being devoted in the Sudan to the large importations of coffee. Coffee is imported almost entirely from Abyssinia, the greater part of the supply coming in through the frontier port of Gambela. Egypt, India, and other countries, however, also contribute to the supply. To what extent the trade in this one article has grown in years past may be seen from a glance at some recent figures. In 1908 the total trade in coffee from all parts amounted to £E37,763; in 1909 it had increased to £E45,247; by 1911 to £E55,364; by 1912 to £E64,532; and by 1913 to £E67,545. Of this last-mentioned amount more than £E40,000 came from Abyssinia. This season's supply of coffee has already commenced to arrive in the Sudan, two steamers from Gambela, each loaded with several thousand cantars, having been received, with the result that the market price has fallen considerably. Abyssinian coffee is of a delicious flavour, and realises ordinarily about P.T.70 per 100 lb. Quite a substantial trade in the article is carried on through Gallabat, which port rivals that of Gambela in regard to imports.

BULGARIAN CROPS.

Reuter's agency reports from Sofia as follows:—

Bulgaria, being a pre-eminently agricultural country, it is only natural that at the present moment she should be chiefly preoccupied with the question of the disposal of her crops, which were excellent this year, being estimated at seventy million tons, to which must be added forty million tons of the reserves from last year. In normal times the export of grain took up nine months of the year, three hundred wagon loads being got off daily, two-thirds of the whole going to Varna and Burgas on the Black Sea. Neither of these ports is now available, owing to the closing of the Dardanelles, so that only two routes are open, *viâ* the Danube, utmost capacity eighty wagons daily, and *viâ* Dedeagatch, thirty wagons daily. But these routes are also dependent, one on Roumania and the other on Turkey.

In view of the serious situation to which the export of grain is thus exposed, certain Bulgarian economists have drawn up and handed to the Prime Minister a memorandum, suggesting various urgent measures which the Government is recommended to adopt. These proposals provide for the opening of credits upon warrant by the banks and the issue of a loan of £2,000,000 to provide, for this purpose, the organisation of a syndicate to prevent speculations and contend with possible depreciation in prices; and the conclusion of special conventions with neighbouring States permitting an increased export, up to 150 wagons daily, and free trade in cereals. It is argued that these, and other measures, would, if the difficulties in the way can be overcome, bring much gold to Bulgaria, a circumstance which would result in a fall in the rate of exchange, now as high as 35 per cent., and a corresponding increase in Treasury receipts.

PRODUCE REPORT.

London, August 5.

Currants.

Owing to the holidays the market has been very quiet this week, but spot prices were well maintained. The unfavourable reports from Greece, of damages caused to the fruit, and the prospects of a shorter crop this year had the effect of an advance in the price of fruit to arrive although no business was done in the latter, either this or last week. Provincial is quoted 26s. to 27s., Patras 29s. to 33s., Vostizza 34s. to 40s. Zante 28s. to 31s., Smalls 28s. 6d. to 35s.

The Liverpool market has also been very quiet this week, and no change in prices to report.

Sultanas.

There is a moderate demand for all grades, and this with an apparent shortage of stocks caused prices to advance again.

In Liverpool there is also a shortage of stock and a further advance in prices.

Dates.

There has been only a small demand, and late prices are well maintained.

Onions.

Egyptians are in better demand, but prices are still low. Some "heavy weights" perfectly sound, changed hands at 5s. 6d. per cwt.

Seeds.

Linseed has been quiet and easier. London-Calcutta spot is offered at 54s. 2d. afloat, and July-August quoted 54s. 2d., August-September sold at 54s. 3d. Rapeseed continues quiet, but is held for full rates. Cawnpore brown, pure, July-August quoted 51s., Guzerat ditto 56s. Cottonseed is firm but with little business doing. London-Egyptian spot £9 15s., and August shipment £9 17s. 6d. per ton.

EGYPTIAN COTTON.

Liverpool, August 5.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report:—Egyptian Spot.—Owing to the holidays this has been a short week. There has been only a moderate inquiry, but quite fair business has been done at hardening prices. Quotations were raised 10 points. Sales are estimated at 2,000 bales against 3,600 last week.

Manchester Market.—The cotton trade generally finds itself in a much better condition than could have been imagined even by the greatest optimist. We think that trade as a whole is quite as good as it might have been, even if there had been no war. Some markets have been closed, but other outlets have opened up. No doubt a quite fair general business is going on, and prices are fully maintained.

DATES.

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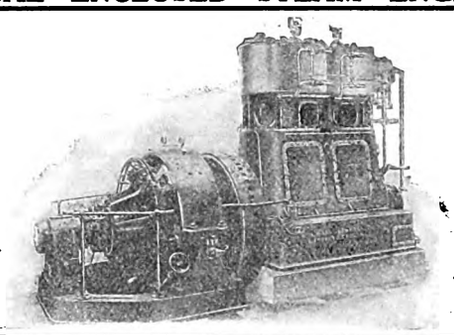

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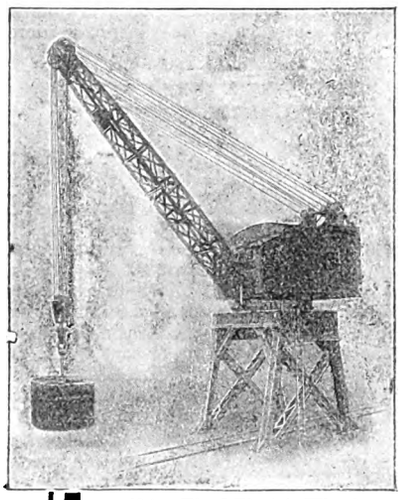

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Engineering Notes.

A Timely Wood-Working Machine.

To-day labour-saving machines are fully appreciated, and more so when such machines can turn out perfect work even when handled by unskilled labour. Such good properties can justly be claimed by the "Diagonal and Universal Wood-working Machine," the invention of a man hailing from the Near East. This machine, since its first appearance, has drawn more than ordinary attention, and has been described by competent journals as a machine that will effect an important influence in the wood-working industry.

Principal Features.

The novel and chief feature of this machine is that the untrained operator can produce at the first attempt a perfect joint at the precise angle he requires, without the usual risk of over- or under-treating his work, which so often results in rendering the material useless. The required angle is adjusted on the machine to a fraction of a degree by a special patent angle-adjuster. The machine consists of two tables and two spindles, in a horizontal position, the one under the other. On the top is a fixed table, served by the circular saw only, for cross-cutting and for cutting angles intended for joints of flat objects. Under this table is the upper spindle, at the extremity of which the circular saw only is worked. Immediately under and parallel with the fixed table is the second spindle, the principal use of which is to make mortices and grooves for tenons, which are necessary in order to make firm and strong joints. The second or lower table is hinged at the extreme end of a slide, so that in canting it describes a quarter circle, and travels backwards and forwards with the movement of the slide. This table can also be raised or lowered as required, and is served by both spindles; by the higher or circular saw spindle the interior or secret angles and panels are cut. By the second spindle the mortices and grooves are made. This spindle, being parallel to the saw-spindle, will cut a vertical groove along the angle produced by the circular saw, thus the grooves for the tenons are always true and the angle will not be strained. Co-ordinate double angles may also be cut in one operation. Another great feature of this machine is the ease and rapidity with which it can be transformed and used as fret saw, boring, grooving or routing, slot morticing or recessing, moulding, dovetailing, carving, tenoning, and turning. The lower table being constructed to describe a quarter circle, any of the above processes, except turning, may be operated at any angle. Altogether, its capacities are so various that it would appear that artistic craftsmanship has met with one more powerful competitor, seeing that the work of hand, in this instance, is not merely imitated but improved on by mechanical means.

Compound Angles and Adjustment of Angles.

The inventor of this machine, after having worked and experimented over five years, has invented the Angle-Adjuster, and produced angle tables, by means of which the worker, however inexperienced, cannot help producing accurate work. The angle-tables will indicate the exact angle at which he has to work, and the adjuster will regulate the machine, so as to produce the angle at the degrees indicated by the angle-tables. The Angle-Adjuster (an instrument in the form of two bars hinged together at one end, and with a movable smaller adjusting bar connecting the so-formed two legs), is the basis of infallible accuracy in the production of joints at the proper angle. It is placed on the protractor (another instrument of semi-circular form) in a position specially prepared, so that the inner line of one of the bars rests on the zero, while the centre of the hinge finds the centre of the protractor; the second bar is then drawn out to the required degree, and the bars are then fixed by screwing a bolt, which is attached to the end of the movable connecting bar, and which slides in a slot in one of the hinged bars. The adjuster is then lifted from the protractor and placed on the machine, one bar flat against the saw, while against the other bar the fence is brought flat and fixed in that position; thus the machine becomes set at the required degree. In the same way the hinged table is fixed, so as to form the required angle with the saw or any other tool. The adjuster will further find and transfer to the machine the angle of any object without the assistance of the protractor. It is thus clearly shown that the machine can work at any angle between zero and 90 degrees, and that the angle can be found at once. The prosecution of the experiments having thus far been completely successful, the inventor was encouraged to face the problem of determining the angles when dealing with angles not bearing the standard degrees. We all know that three pieces of equal length will join if cut at 30 degrees, four pieces at 45 degrees, five at 54 and so on, with the standard joints for producing flat objects or enclosures with parallel sides; but if it is needed to form joints other than those bearing the standard degrees for the formation of objects of raised or hollow centres, or pyramid shaped, the joiner in such cases has to consider the exterior as well as the interior angle, an operation absolutely impossible to perform without great loss of time and material. Persistent study has resulted in producing diagrams indicating the variations of angles, and these were reduced ultimately to tables, which are supplied only with the machine. Table A indicates what the interior angle should be to every variation of the exterior angle. Table B indicates at what angle an object departed from its level will present against a level surface. By reference to thse tables any object of straight lines can be made, even a sphere with a great number of flat surfaces.

Decorative Stamped Metal.

Decorative stamped metal for ceilings and walls is now so generally appreciated that it is being widely used for that purpose in practically every part of the world. While its undoubtedly superior sanitary qualities are sufficient in themselves to recommend its use, it also possesses the advantage over plaster (or other kinds of finish for the interiors of dwellings, stores, churches, halls, theatres, and similar buildings) of being moderate in price, practically fire-proof, attractive in appearance, easy to apply, and absolutely unaffected by changes in temperature, dampness, or the attack of insects. At one time the metal supplied for the covering of walls and ceilings and similar purposes was extremely plain, but during recent years its increasing popularity and steadily expanding use have encouraged the manufacturers to go to the expense of engaging artists of great reputation whose designs have been faithfully reproduced. Notwithstanding the greatly increased attractiveness of this metal sheathing, the employment of special machinery and dies for stamping the designs has enabled the manufacturers to place their products on the market at a lower price than ever before. The designs are so arranged that they are interchangeable, which results in a perfect fit and appearance of completeness that make them extremely attractive wherever they are used. There are Greek and Roman designs suitable for every interior where classic styles are most suitable for church interiors and many other places Gothic and Romanesque designs are available. There are also some excellent artistic designs of Louis XIV., Louis XV., Empire, etc , which have a beautiful effect for interiors. Architects in the Near East ought to introduce the use of decorative stamped metals. For, apart from their artistic effect, they are very suitable for semi-tropical climates.

Bucharest-Craiova Line.

The construction of the new line from Bucharest to Craiova is shortly to be commenced (says our Bucharest correspondent). The new line not only shortens the journey between the two towns, but passes through a rich grain-growing country. It is expected that the line will be opened to traffic in about eighteen months.

The Constantza Pipe Line.

The construction of the pipe line from Baicoi to Constantza, begun some time ago, has had to be left in suspense on account of the war and its attendant difficulties (says our Bucharest correspondent). The State Railway direction, not having the necessary funds placed at its disposal by the Government, has received from six of the largest petroleum companies—the "Steaua," "Romana Americana," "Creditul Petrolifer," "Aquila Romana," and "Columbia"—a joint offer of 2,750,000frs. in order that the undertaking may be completed. The offer has been accepted and work has re-commenced. It is hoped that the line will be completed by the end of this year. The sum advanced by the companies will be paid back within five years, and bears interest at the rate of 5 per cent.

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Six Months' Trade in Egypt.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, July 21.

The June Customs returns just published show that the diminution in trade continued during that month. The falling off in imports was £E754,238, and in exports £E473,588, as compared with June, 1914. The total decrease during the past six months is, therefore, £E5,895,026 and £E2,052,373 respectively, the imports during the period amounting to £E8,073,419 and the exports to £E13,300,157, as compared with £E13,968,445 and £E15,352,530 a year ago.

The following table shows the share taken by the principal countries, and the progress made by them during the six months under review :—

Country.	Imports.		Exports.	
	Total for six months.	Difference 1914-1915.	Total for six months.	Difference 1914-1915.
	£E.	£E.	£E.	£E.
Great Britain	3,730,081	− 708,414	6,592,156	+ 594,003
British Possessions	900,213	+ 57,835	263,185	+ 197,661
Germany	21,700	− 994,335	—	− 2,076,461
America	579,979	+ 344,030	2,078,036	+ 289,979
Brazil	240,800	+ 88,581	—	—
Chili	219,137	+ 156,971	—	—
Austria	4,750	− 922,904	—	− 848,223
Belgium	18,406	− 591,118	—	− 57,152
Bulgaria	33,697	− 34,006	5,052	+ 3,187
Denmark	4,332	+ 2,807	2,659	+ 2.157
Spain	30,850	− 17,032	297,381	+ 46,905
France	383,624	− 835,805	731,115	− 547,263
Greece	531,336	+ 205,999	239,048	+ 208,394
Holland	56,660	− 18,583	12,396	− 56,816
Italy	643,793	− 244,217	815,259	+ 299,078
Morocco	—	—	145,529	+ 144,758
Montenegro	—	—	9,121	+ 8,816
Japan	33,126	− 9,138	219,779	− 58,925
Rumania	3,795	− 512,817	3,717	− 6,325
Russia	28,962	− 329,138	475,500	− 777,615
Serbia	3,048	+ 1,169	7,760	+ 7,760
Sweden	62,146	− 23,022	13,427	+ 5,132
Switzerland	84,407	− 8,093	1,230,908	+ 850,228
Turkey	105,538	− 981,513	3,797	− 313,844

It is interesting to note under imports that the enemy countries have each lost trade to about the same extent, *i.e.*, nigh on £E1,000,000 per head, and that a very small part of the diminution in the share falling to Great Britain is compensated for by the improvement made by the British Possessions. The latter have increased their sales of, amongst other things, coffee, rice, cotton thread, and sacks. The whole of the increases in the imports from Brazil and Chili was due to coffee and chemical manures respectively. For obvious reasons our Allies have lost leeway considerably. This is due partly to embargo on exports from those countries and also to the local economic situation. The marked reduction in imports from Roumania is accounted for by the closing of the Dardanelles, the United States filling the consequent gap in the oil supply. Under exports the enemy countries show a falling off of over £E3,000,000. The Empire has more than held its own, and has increased its share by £E791,664, or over 10 per cent. America, too, has purchased more. The increase in the exports to Greece and Switzerland, in the first instance by over 600 per cent., and in the second by over 200 per cent., is decidedly suspicious, and there exists no doubt whatever that the former has been importing for Turkey viâ Dedeagatch, and that the other has been acting as transit house for her northern neighbour. The increase in the trade done with Morocco, on the other hand, is a most satisfactory feature, for it has consisted entirely of sugar, which has commanded a very high price there.

Turning to categories, the decrease in imports is mainly represented by cereals, £E1,154,622; cotton goods and textiles, £E1,332,644; construction wood, £E606,359; and machinery and worked iron and steel, £E1,435,114. It is to be noted that the only important increases have been in frozen meat, £E226,094; coffee, £E79,344; and beer, £E35,552. The increases in exports during the six months are :—Eggs, £E154,535; cereals, £E241,541; sugar cane, £E355,475; cotton-seed oil, £E64,928; benzine, £E62,460; natural wool, £E54,752; and gold and silver bar, £E401,956. Cotton, however, swamps whatever improvement may have been made by other products, and with a diminution of £E3,359,455 in value of the quantity exported—which is as a matter of fact 288,853 cantars more than that exported during the first half of last year—it is responsible for the final decrease on the half-year's working.

Cigarettes show a falling off of over 88 tons, or £E70,684, Germany and Austria being responsible for almost the entire amount. It is, however, curious to note that Holland, Denmark, and Switzerland all increased their purchases. Specie movements during the half-year have been very slack, as might well be expected. Only £E295,882 was imported, as against £E1,078,871 in 1914—practically all this was new silver and nickel coins for the Egyptian Treasury. Specie exports amounted to £E86,678, as compared with £E5,558,983 in the previous year. This diminution was, of course, due to the fact that no gold had been imported the previous autumn for moving the cotton crop.

The Sudan trade table shows that Egypt purchased from the Sudan to the value of £E2,203,394 during the six months, and that she sold to that province goods valued at £E391,302. The principal articles imported from the Sudan were :—Livestock, £E30,336 (over 20,000 head); cereals, £E69,432; gum, £E10,435; cotton, £E53,841; whilst the exports in the opposite direction were :—Refined sugar, £101,382; cotton tissues, £E93,527; flour, £E9,300; and common soap, £E11,926.

ROUMANIAN OIL NEWS.

Austria-Hungary is taking 90 to 100 tank wagons of oil products—say 1,100 to 1,200 tons—from Roumania every twenty-four hours, those consignments crossing the frontier at Predeal and consisting principally of illuminating oil (says *Oil News*).

The Anglo-Continental Oil Co., Limited, which has an issued capital of something over £24,000, has, through its Roumanian representative, Mr. Arthur V. Morris, requested the Roumanian Government to permit it to establish a secondary office in Bucharest. The company owns the "Speranza" petroleum refinery at Ploesti, and has leases of oil lands in Prahova and Dambevitza.

The liquidators' report of the First Roumanian Drilling Co. (Prima Societate de Foraj) has been approved by a general meeting of the company. The balance-sheet to December 31, 1914, was adopted, and the liquidators' remuneration, 3,500 fr., directed to be paid out of the 13,880 fr. profit of the 1914 period, the balance, 10,380 fr., being carried forward.

EGYPTIAN STATE ACCOUNTS DURING MAY.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, July 27.

The State accounts for the month of May, published last evening, show that the revenue at the end of that month amounted to £E2,308,090 and the expenditure to £E3,407,501, as compared with £E2,560,420 and £E3,965,038 respectively at the same date in 1914. The total decrease in revenue for the two first months of the new financial year is £E252,330 and the reduction introduced in the expenditure £E557,537.

The principal decreases during the month were Customs by £E48,661, tobacco dues by £E56,056, port dues by £E23,257, railway receipts by £E32,445, and legal fees by £E15,019. On the other hand, direct taxes increased by £E166,849, land tax being entirely responsible for this, investment of funds by £E39,627, rent of Government land by £E5,742, domains receipts by £E3,988, and sales of land by £E8,515.

On the expenditure side the chief reductions were :—Ministry of Finance Central Administration, £E80,969; Ministry of Education, £E12,155; Irrigation Service, £E70,904; Railways, £E59,307; War Office, £E20,714.

It is interesting to note that the excess of expenditure over revenue, which at the end of April was more than it was the previous year, had been considerably reduced by the end of May—that is to say, by comparison with what it was on May 31, 1914. At that date the excess was £E1,404,618, whereas at the close of the account under review it was only £E1,099,411. In other words, the accounts recovered no less than £E346,131 in May. This, it is satisfactory to note, was due not only to reduction in expenditure, but also to a net increase in revenue collected of £E43,897, as compared with May, 1914.

SUDAN SHIPPING.

(From a Correspondent.)

Reference was made in these columns recently to the falling off of shipping entering Port Sudan, and it was pointed out that the last twelve months' returns were certain to show a heavy decline both in regard to the number of vessels and the gross tonnage. Statistics have just been received which abundantly justify the gloomy forecast. Between the year 1913 and that of 1914 an encouraging advance in the Protectorate's shipping had been noted. Thus, while between July 1 and December 31 of that year the number of vessels entering the port was 115 (of these 89 were British), representing a gross tonnage of 407,737 tons, by the end of June, 1914, the number of vessels had increased to 145 (of which 111 were British), while the gross tonnage amounted to 605,666, thus showing an advance of nearly 50 per cent. From July 1 to December 31, 1914, however, the decline commenced to manifest itself, the heaviest being, of course, within the last five months—August to December—of that year. From the above mentioned total of 145 vessels there was a fall to 92, and from a gross tonnage of 605,666 tons a relapse to 293,481. British vessels declined from 111 to 82, and "other vessels" from 35 to 10. The returns for the first half of 1915 were—as might have been anticipated—even more unsatisfactory. The total number of vessels entering the port fell to 71—and all but one of these were British. The gross tonnage declined to 210,615 tons.

If we glance back before the year 1913 we see that the international tonnage of vessels visiting Port Sudan had, over a period of seven years, made remarkable progress, as the following figures will prove :—

Year.	British.	Foreign.	Total.
1907	248,833	63,937	312,770
1908	269,626	64,625	334,251
1909	293,507	90,185	383,692
1910	350,455	81,109	431,564
1911	489,499	211,611	701,110
1912	527,198	173,115	700,313
1913 (to Nov. 30th only)	485,377	188,454	673,831

The main cause of the present depression in Sudan shipping could not have been anticipated this time last year. Notwithstanding the grievous disappointment experienced, none can doubt that Port Sudan will emerge from its present troubles in due time and realise the high hopes that have always been held of its economic importance.

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SERBIAN WAR CREDIT.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Belgrade, July 24.

The Skuptchina has voted a War Credit of 250,000,000 fr.

COMPANY NOTES.

National Bank of Roumania.

At a special meeting of shareholders, held on February 28, the following resolutions were adopted:—(1) The ratification of the decision of the Board on August 13 to issue 5 lei banknotes to a maximum value of 25,000,000 lei; (2) the approval of the Convention of September 24, 1914, whereby the bank granted the Government a loan of 100,000,000 lei; and (3) the approval of the Convention of January 2, 1915, whereby the bank granted the Government a loan of 200,000,000 lei.

Societe du "Yaourt" d'Orient.

Pursuant to Section 188 of the Companies (Consolidation) Act, 1908, a meeting of the creditors of the above-named company will be held at 16, Regent Street, Pall Mall, London, S.W., on Saturday, August 14, at ten o'clock in the forenoon. Any person claiming to be a creditor, and desiring to be present, should at once inform the liquidator, Mr. James MacConnell at his address, 16, Regent Street, London, S.W.

COMPANY RESULTS, &c.

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields.—Gemsah production for the week, 390 tons (last week, 199 tons). Hurgada production for the week, 228 tons (last week, 233 tons).

Anglo-Roumanian Petroleum.—Production of crude oil for week ending July 24, 373 tons.

Banque Egyptienne de Commerce (in liquidation).—The meeting of shareholders will be held in Cairo on August 9.

Corporation of Western Egypt.—Confirmatory meeting of liquidation proposal, August 11, at the Company's offices in London.

Egyptian Delta Light Railroad.—Receipts for the ten days ended July 10 amounted to £E4,470, against £E5,732 for the corresponding period of 1914.

Suez Canal.—Receipts for the 28th ult. amounted to 290,000fr., against 280,000fr. for the corresponding days last year.

ANGLO-PERSIAN OIL CO.

July 28.

On July 28, Commander Bellairs asked the Prime Minister in the House whether he was aware that the Anglo-Persian Oil Company ordered seven tank steamers before the end of the last financial year, 1914-15, and that these steamers would cost over a million sterling and take two years to build; and, in view of the pledge given by the then First Lord of the Admiralty, on July 7, 1914, that the £2,200,000 authorised by Parliament would be exclusively employed in developing the oilfield in Persia, whether he could state the circumstances under which this expenditure had been authorised on steamers without Parliament being informed, seeing that the Anglo-Persian Oil Company had no other funds.

Dr. Macnamara (Parliamentary Secretary to the Admiralty): I would refer the hon. and gallant member to a statement made by the late First Lord of the Admiralty on June 15, 1914, in reply to a question. In that reply the general heads of expenditure intended to be covered by the Government participation in the share capital of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company were explained. The portion of the contemplated expenditure by the company on tank vessels, which will be defrayed out of Government shares, has reference to the special type of vessels designed mainly for the transport of oil to suitable deep-water loading berths. The balance of the expenditure on tank vessels will be financed by the company otherwise than from the Government capital. The company is, of course, entitled to own and employ tank vessels to whatever extent may be commercially necessary and profitable. I am informed that the aggregate expenditure on both descriptions of tank vessels will fall far short of the figure named in the question, the contract having been placed on far more favourable terms than the hon. and gallant member has evidently assumed.

Commander Bellairs: Is it not the case that whatever way the company raise money, by mortgage or otherwise, the interest, loss, and depreciation will have to fall on the Admiralty contribution? Was not an absolute pledge given that the expenditure would be confined to developing the oilfield in Persia, and for such tank steamers as were required the Admiralty would own or charter them?

Dr. Macnamara: The hon. and gallant member is confusing two things. The Admiralty money is spent on the oilfield, but the company were free to buy and own tank steamers.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

According to a Cairo telegram, a military court has fined Nestor Gianaolis, the cigarette manufacturers, £500, and their manager £100, for trading with the enemy.

The first instalment of the 40,000 tons of coal ordered in Austria-Hungary has arrived in Roumania (writes our Correspondent, under date July 17). The rest is expected shortly.

The Skuptchina has passed a law facilitating the expropriation of property in Serbia held by enemy foreigners (says our Belgrade Correspondent).

A new telegraph line has just been completed between Bucharest and Sofia (says our Bucharest correspondent). So great is the amount of telegraphic correspondence between the two capitals that a third line will probably be constructed.

Mr. Spiro Capato, of Khartoum, is in England on a business trip.

Messrs. R. J. Moss and Co., in their report dated Alexandria, July 23, state that the freight market is quiet, and cargo scarce. Spot rates for parcels of cotton-seed for London or Hull, 25s. per ton of 20 cwt. In the coal market local prices are a bit higher, owing to paucity of coal in stock. Stocks ashore and aboard steamers in port discharging, 12,500 tons. It is reported that a considerable quantity has been bought for July shipment from the United Kingdom.

SUDSLAVISCHE BANK.

Head Office: 9, KARAGEORGE STREET, BELGRADE, SERVIA.

Branches: USKUB and MONASTIR, SERVIA.

BANKING, COMMISSION AND GENERAL AGENCY

Servian Municipal and Industrial Loans negotiated.

CONTRACTORS TO THE SERVIAN GOVERNMENT FOR THE SUPPLY OF ARMY EQUIPMENT AND RAILWAY MATERIAL.

SHIPBROKERS AND FORWARDING AGENTS.

Economical, Financial, and Commercial Information furnished. British Manufacturers and Contractors desiring to do business with Servia invited to communicate. Correspondence in English, French, and German.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE	Mean Price. July 27.	Min. Price. Mar. 20.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	—	89½xd
Do. 4½% do. Bonds, 1907	82	—	—
Do. 4½% do. Bonds, 1909	80	—	66
City of Alexandria 5%, 1909	99	—	90½
City of Constantinople 4% Bnds	96	—	—
Egypt. Gov. 3% Guar. Loan	93½	87½	87½
Egyptian 4% Unified Debt	98	85	85
Do. Pref. Bd. 5%, 1890	88	78	78
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82½	73½	78⅝
Do. 4½% State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	80½	75	75½
Greek 5%, 1881	57	52	57½
Do. 5%, 1884	56	52	56½
Do. 4% Monopoly, 1887	49	45	48
Do. 4% Rentes, 1889	45	40	43½
Do. 5%, 1890	56	52	55
Do. 5% Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	—	51½
Do. 4% Rails. Loan, 1902	77	—	68
Do. 5% Nat. Ln., 1907	94	—	92
Do. 5% Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	—	77
Montenegro 5% Loan	82½	—	—
Persian 5% Loan (1911)	91	—	80
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £60p.	92	—	85
Servian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—xd
Turkish Guar. 4% Loan, 1855	103	97	—
Do. 4%, 1891	94½	—	83
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	—	73½
Do. 4% Loan, 1902	82½	—	—
Do. 4% Unified	79	—	54
Do. 4% Loan, 1908	65⅝	—	49
Do. 4%, 1909	69	—	47⅛
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	—	2⅝
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	—	6½
Do. 3½% Bonds Red.	80	—	73
Do. 3½% Guar. Bonds Red.	83	—	75
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	—	9½
Bank of Abyssinia	½	—	—
Bank of Athens	£2	—	1½
Bank of Roumania	8½	—	—
Eastern Bank	5	—	82/6
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅝	—	6
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	—	—
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅞	—	3½
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	—	4½
National Bank of Egypt	13½	—	10½
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½% C.P.	8	—	no m. 6
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8½	—	6½
Do. do. 5% Debs., Red.	98	—	95
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½% Debs., Ser. I.	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88½	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17½	—	13
Do. do. 6% Cum. Pref.	22	—	13½
Do. do. 4% 1st Deb.	87	—	57
Do. do. 5% 2nd Deb.	101	—	69
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	—	—
Pirœus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	90	—	—
Do. do. 3% Bonds	61	—	—
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1⅛	—	⅝
Do. 5% 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	—	95
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	¼	—	—
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	—	2
Do. Do. Def.	¼	—	—
Béhéra Co.	8¼	—	7
Do. Pref.	4½	—	3½xd
Daira Sanieh	2/2	—	2/6
Do. Def.	⅞	—	20/-
Egyptian Agr. 5% 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	9/-	—	6/-
Do. Gov. 4% Irr. Tst.	98	—	90
Do and Foreign Trust	5/-	—	⅝
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	—	1
" " Founders	¼	—	—
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—	—
Do. 5% Debs. Red.	—	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	9⅜	—	7⅛
Do. 4½% 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	—	87½xd
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	—	¼
Sidi Salem Co.	⅛	—	⅛
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	—	½
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	—	-/9
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	—	10⅞
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt	97	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	—	—
Egyptian Hotels	1½	—	—
Do. 4½% 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—	—
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅛	—	1⅛
Do. do. 5% Debs. Red.	99½	—	95
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	1⅛	—	13/9
Do. 5% 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	96	—	95
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	—	9/-
Do. do. Prefs.	3½	—	3xd
Do. do. 4½% 1st Mt.	90	—	85
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (fr. 500)	£179½	—	£—
Upper Egypt Hotels	2½	—	—

OIL.	Price on July 30.	Aug. 4.
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	⅜	5/7½
Anglo-Persian	22/1½	1½xd
Cyprus Oil Trust	2/3	2/3
European Oilfields	4/9	—
Roumanian	20/-	14/-

PARIS BOURSE.

	Jan. 4.	Aug. 4.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane	—	414
Canal de Suez	4050	3980
Credit Foncier Egyptien	639	555
Turkish Unified 4%	61.50	59.25
Egyptian Unified 4%	87.75	88.70
Serbian, 1895	—	61

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 223.—Vol. IX. FRIDAY, AUGUST 13, 1915.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Sixteen weeks have elapsed since the Allied forces landed on Gallipoli Peninsula. The configuration of the country and the unexpected strength of the enemy's positions soon showed that the task of forcing the Narrows would be as formidable from the land side as by sea. Thanks to the valour and grit of the British and French troops, supported by their respective fleets, the work of wearing down the Turkish resistance and driving back the defenders yard by yard has been carried on by a force which would never have been called upon to face such an undertaking, if the magnitude of it had been realized at the outset. But after the success of the landing operations there could be no withdrawal, and for four months the Peninsula has witnessed as grim a struggle as has been taking place at any point in the vast theatre of the European war. The news published this week justifies the hope that at last preparations commensurate with the stupendous character of the enterprise have been completed, and that the Allies are now in a position to see the thing through within a reasonable period of time.

From Sir Ian Hamilton's reports of the operations at the Dardanelles we learn little more than that as a result of fighting at several points substantial progress has been made. In the Anzac zone, the first report continues, a footing on the Chunuk Bair portion of Sari Bair has been gained, and "elsewhere a fresh landing was successfully effected and considerable progress made." An official *communiqué* from the Turkish headquarters is more explicit than the British statement. New forces, it states, were landed at two points north of Ari Burnu, which lies to the north of Gaba Tepe, the original landing place of the Australasian contingents, and a third force at Karachali, north of the Gulf of Saros. The Dardanelles, it is true, is a minor theatre of war, but the importance attaching to the forcing of the Straits has made it essential that the Allies should put an end as soon as possible to the condition of stalemate which the strength of the enemy's positions and the impossibility of deploying more troops in a restricted area have brought about. The landing at the head of the Gulf is a significant development of the Allies' strategy. Karachali is only five miles from Choja-cheshme, which, with Kavak, five miles beyond, commands the approach to Gallipoli. By stopping the land avenues of supplies and reinforcements for the Turkish troops on the Peninsula, while their communication by water is rendered precarious by the activities of British submarines in the Sea of Marmora, the Allies are striking a serious blow at the enemy's capacity for a prolonged resistance. Experience in the south of the Peninsula, however, warns us that troops may be landed and yet be prevented for a long time from carrying out their main object. For this reason, as well as owing to the geography of the Peninsula, there can be no question for the present of the Turkish positions being turned by the landing of a fresh force virtually in their rear. But if the forces at Karachali succeed in working their way to the neck of the Peninsula, the operations at the Dardanelles will rapidly assume a very different complexion.

Simultaneously with the renewal of "liveliness" on Gallipoli Peninsula, the Allies are taking steps to clear up the situation in the Balkans. The negotiations with Bulgaria have been advanced a stage by the delivery of the Allies' answer to the Bulgarian Note of July 14. Although the terms of this reply are kept secret, the resolve of the Quadruple Entente to bring matters to a head among the Balkan States is shown by the fact that collective *démarches* have also been made to the Serbian and Greek Governments. According to the Serbian official statement "the communication, of an entirely friendly nature, is made with a view to dissolve causes of misunderstanding between the Balkan States, and to establish an accord between them in order to hasten the end of the war." As Bulgaria, Serbia, and Greece have made no secret of the "causes of misunderstanding" between them, it is not difficult to imagine the lines which these communications from the Allied Powers will follow. The questions at issue are the readiness of Serbia and Greece to make certain concessions: if not actually all those which Bulgaria demands, at least those to which she may be held to be entitled. If the Allied Powers are merely taking the first step in negotiations which ought to have been begun a year ago, they will be told that circumstances over which the respective Governments have no control prevent Serbia and Greece from making any concessions at all. There the matter will rest until the Entente Powers decide

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to cut the Gordian knot by recommending to the Serbian and Greek Governments, in a manner which precludes refusal, the course of action that they are expected to adopt, and to the Bulgarian Government the territorial readjustment which will conform for all practical purposes with the principle of nationality.

Neither the present nor any future *démarches* at Nish and Athens need imply that the whole of Bulgaria's aspirations will be realized. The action of the Entente Powers will be determined by the interests of the Balkan Peninsula as a whole, for the steps which they are taking only incidentally have reference to the operations at the Dardanelles. If the war were to come to an end to-morrow, the Balkan question would remain a menace to the peace of Europe. It is true that a settlement of the question is calculated to have an immediate effect on the course of the struggle at Gallipoli; but if the Turkish resistance suddenly collapsed and there were no question of Bulgaria or Roumania taking any part in the war, the Allied Powers would still have on their hands for adjustment the "causes of misunderstanding between the Balkan States." Everything, therefore, points to the wisdom of settling by the agency of *force majeure* a question which is not susceptible of amicable arrangement on the initiative of the parties concerned. At the same time, it cannot be ignored that the present indeterminate situation is derogatory to the diplomacy and prestige of the Allies.

It is one of the anomalies of the situation in the Balkans that the adoption of a strong attitude by the Entente Powers would be welcomed by the countries concerned, and would not be regarded as an unjustifiable encroachment upon their independence. In regard to Serbia there is reason to suppose that only the hostility of a military clique prevents the Government from falling into line with the wishes of the Entente Powers. Greece, again, has its antagonism between a Cabinet which represents a minority of the electorate and the bulk of the people who are ready to trust to the statesmanship of M. Venizelos. The intentions of the Allied Powers, we may feel confident, are that justice should be done to Bulgaria. Her present demands not unnaturally represent the maximum she aspires to; but there is room for a compromise which will still conform with the principle of nationalities without imposing too great a sacrifice on Serbia or Greece. When the three countries—there would appear to be little difficulty in adjusting the differences between Bulgaria and Roumania—are confronted with a solution which will not only exercise an important influence on the war, but promises to eliminate all causes of misunderstanding in the future, they can be relied upon to accept it, if not eagerly, at least with resignation. Its imposition from without precludes the possibility of capital being made by political opponents out of the settlement; and by the time the whole settlement arising out of the war has to be carried into effect each Balkan State will find itself too busy with its new possessions and a new set of conditions to lament the alienation of some small strip of territory to its neighbour.

An explanation of the two versions given of the course of the negotiations between Turkey and Bulgaria is provided by a further despatch from the correspondent of *The Times* in the Balkans. When, as the result of protracted negotiations, the Turkish Government determined to make the concessions demanded by Bulgaria, a protocol was signed embodying a preliminary arrangement. But with the discussion of details difficulties presented themselves. Among these may be mentioned the question of the construction of a new railway from Adrianople to join the Kirk Kilisse branch and the Bulgarian demand for the possession of a zone of three kilometres round the station at Karagatch. On the other hand, the Turks have been encouraged by the Russian reverses to demand political obligations, which Bulgaria refuses. The negotiations, therefore, remain at a standstill, and coming events may prevent them from being renewed except under very different conditions.

If it be true that the fall of Warsaw has encouraged the Turks to raise their terms in their negotiations with Bulgaria, they appear to be the only people who have allowed themselves to be impressed to any considerable extent by events in Poland. The superiority of Germany's preparations for war is admitted, and she is now reaping to the full the advantages which she had hoped to enjoy at a much earlier period of the war. But in the absence of any signal defeat of the Russian armies it is recognized that the German Emperor's claim to have crushed our Allies has not yet been made good. In Roumania and the other Balkan States there has been little tendency to regard the fall of Warsaw as even marking the close of a chapter in the history of the war. The masterly manner in which the Russian retreat is being conducted in the face of superior numbers and an almost overwhelming supply of guns and munitions makes the evacuation of the Polish capital only another incident in the long withdrawal from the Dunajec. That chapter can only be said to be closed when the Germans have placed another Sedan to their credit, or the Russians reach a line which will play the part of the Marne in the retreat of their western Allies from Mons.

The supply of rolling stock promises to be the deciding factor in the amount of grain that will find its way into Germany and Austria-Hungary this year from Roumania. The Bucharest Government has decided to permit the exportation of wheat as soon as an amount of maize purchased after last year's harvest by the German Government but still detained in Roumania has been sent across the frontier. As Germany refuses to send wagons into Roumania, and the latter will not allow her own wagons to go beyond the frontier, the work of transporting the maize is proceeding slowly. On account of the delay arising at the frontier it is expected that the total export of grain into or through Hungary this year will be of small dimensions. There is, therefore, still an opportunity for the Allied Governments to assist Roumania in the disposal of her harvest, which can return to its main channel of export as soon as the Dardanelles are opened.

Another Turkish battleship, the Hairredin Barbarossa, has fallen a victim to a British submarine. Her disappearance has little effect on the naval situation for the purposes of this war, as the Turkish Navy is not likely to play any great part when once the Dardanelles have been forced. The loss of the vessel, however, may serve to remind the Turkish Government of the time not very long ago when it rejected the offer of a guarantee of the integrity of Turkish territory in return for neutrality. In those days the Turkish Navy vied with the Greek fleet for superiority. It had to forgo temporarily the acquisition of two first-class ships building in Great Britain; but their places would have been filled at the end of the war, and Turkey would have been at no disadvantage in regard to her rival owing to the British seizure of the ships. As things are to-day, in spite of the meteoric careers of the Goeben and Breslau, the Turkish Navy stands little chance of surviving the war.

Very little news of Persia finds its way into the Press, but it would be unwise to infer from this that Persia is entirely tranquil. We publish elsewhere an article by a very well-informed correspondent, which shows how far from the reality any such optimistic picture would be; and what our correspondent writes is unhappily confirmed from other trustworthy sources. German *agents-provocateurs* are extraordinarily active in the Shah's dominions; and though the responsible Government, we are glad to believe, is alive to the dangers of the situation, and sincerely desirous of maintaining its present correct attitude, there can be no assurance that the mischief makers will not succeed in their congenial task until they are all laid by the heels.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Cairo, August 2.

The Bomb Outrage Inquiry.

The inquiry into the recent attempt on the life of the Sultan continues, but as yet it has produced no further development; the Prime Minister is taking a very active part in the investigation, and perquisitions and arrests are the order of the day. The evidence against Helbawi, as at least an accomplice, is accumulating, but the police are still searching for the men who accompanied him to the photographers.

Receiver for Estate of Ex-Khedive's Companion.

This week General Maxwell, by proclamation, appointed a receiver of the property in Egypt of Mohammed Pasha Kamel Yeghen. The latter is a wealthy landowner, and a member of the Legislative Assembly. He posed always as a supporter of the Government, and endeavoured to form what was to be called a Government party in the Chamber. Cairo still remembers the sensation which was caused by his holding a meeting of members on his dahabia on the Nile, and the accusations of playing a double game that were levelled at him. Evidently those charges were not ill-founded; for he is one of the ex-Khedive's most devoted companions in exile, and is repeatedly journeying to Berlin and Vienna from Switzerland on his behalf. It is because of these journeys that a receiver has been appointed so as to stop the remittance of funds from his estates in Egypt. Yeghen Pasha was never a person of any political weight in this country, though undoubtedly he was in with the ex-Khedive, who was pleased to use him, as he was wealthy and did not mind spending money when it brought him into favour at Court.

The Ministry of Finance.

This past week the Ministry of Finance has lost the services of one of its most capable officials—Mr. Henry Higgs, C.B., who came out to Egypt three years ago to advise on various points, and for whom the post of Inspector-General was created. Mr. Higgs has done invaluable work during his stay in this country. His deep knowledge of economics, and of many other scientific branches which financial experts do not often study, has stood him in good stead, and the Egyptian Government has derived incalculable benefit from his experience and advice. He has sat on numerous departmental and general commissions, the most recent being the Budget Economies Commission, and has presided over several others, notably the Supplies Commission, which has had to look after the provisioning of Egypt since the outbreak of the war. As a result of his recommendations many reforms have been introduced, and it is understood that he has had a prominent hand in sketching the lines on which the future fiscal policy of the country will be based. Mr. Higgs will resume his post as Chief Clerk to the Treasury at the expiration of his leave. The Anglo-Egyptian financial authorities are sure to feel his loss very acutely, but they will derive some compensation from his return to London; for that will mean that henceforward there will be some one at the Treasury who thoroughly understands the intricacies of Egyptian finance, and, while sympathising with the man on the spot, is able materially to assist in the solution of the problems that are bound to arise in the near future.

The Ministry of Finance is also losing the services of H.E. Auguste Adib Pasha, who has ably filled the post of Director-General of Accounts, and who, on the expiration of his leave this autumn, will retire after having completed thirty-five years' loyal service. Mr. T. B. Etherington-Smith is at present acting as Director-General, but as yet nothing is known as to who is to fill the two high posts now vacant. It is quite possible that the Inspector-Generalship will be abolished, and that a rearrangement of the Accounts Department will be made, so as to allow of more importance being given to the auditory section.

By the bye, nothing more has been heard of the report of the Budget Economies Commission which was presented some months back, and to which the Government attached so much importance. Very great interest is evinced in the conclusions and recommendations of the Commission, and it is to be hoped that so valuable a document, drawn up by such prominent men, will not be left to languish in the dusty archives of the Ministry of Finance.

The Mecca Pilgrimage.

As the conditions in the Hejaz have not improved, and communication between Egypt and the Holy Places is even more difficult than it was last year at this period, the Egyptian Government, on the advice of the Grand Mufti, has issued a circular, similar to the one published last September, pointing out that the pilgrimage will this year be fraught with many almost insurmountable difficulties, and advising those who contemplated performing this religious obligation to postpone it for the time being. The Government does not prohibit its subjects from proceeding on the pilgrimage—it cannot do so without a *fetwa* from the Mufti, and the Koran does not permit the latter to accord this dispensation—but each person who wishes to visit Mecca and Medina must make a substantial deposit, so as to cover the expenses of repatriation if and when that becomes possible. It is exceedingly doubtful whether anyone will proceed on the pilgrimage this year, as apart from the question of the heavy deposit required, there is no direct means of conveyance to Jedda, and the only route open is by *Sambuk* from Kosseir or Suakim.

Egyptian Students' Absurd Petitions.

The examination period has come to a close, and, as usual, the Ministry of Education has been the recipient of countless letters, telegrams, and petitions from unsuccessful candidates praying that another examination may be held before the new scholastic year opens, so that they may be given another chance, and may not be forced to lose seniority through their first failure. This year one notes with surprise that some of the vernacular organs have supported these students by publishing articles urging the Government to grant their requests. Evidently the object of examinations is still not understood in this country—the championing of the petitions of the organs in question would seem to point to that—and the Egyptians continue to labour under the delusion that it is the duty of the examiners to pass the examinees, not for the latter to be able to pass any test the former choose to set them within the limits of the syllabus! The Egyptians have yet to learn that examinations are held as a test of knowledge, and that diplomas are granted as a guarantee that the holder is versed in the subject or subjects referred to. Apart from the heavy extra expense attaching to the holding of fresh examinations whenever students saw fit to ask to be re-examined—and the series would never end once the principle was admitted—the effect of acquiescing in the requests that are annually proffered after the examination lists are out would be so to "popularize," so to say, the certificates in question that their value would be reduced to vanishing point, since the possession of one of those certificates would be

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no guarantee that the holder had attained a certain standard of proficiency. Instead of encouraging them in a train of thought, which is as stupid as it is detrimental to their studies, the local Press should impress this aspect of the question on the students who have solicited, and for some incomprehensible reason have obtained, their sympathy.

PORT SAID NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Port Said, August 4.

Port Said for the past three months has been crowded with Anglo-Egyptians from Cairo and the provinces, who have been prevented from taking "home leave" this year by stoppage of leave, by difficulties of travel, and, above all, by the necessity for economy. In many cases the wives and families are living here and the husbands run down for a few days' fresh air and sea bathing as opportunity affords. Many officers of regiments stationed near by, others sent down wounded from the Dardanelles, and some of them from transports afford a liberal leavening of khaki to the civilian visitors.

The Eastern Exchange and Casino Hotels have every room taken, and the former has opened an annexe near by for the overflow. The Savoy Hotel, which was closed shortly after the outbreak of war, the proprietor being a German, has recently re-opened under Italian management, and is rapidly filling up. Many flats have been taken by summer visitors, and it is impossible to hire a bathing box on the beach at any figure.

Sea bathing is the principal attraction, and large crowds may be seen daily enjoying a gambol in the surf. A cheery feature is to be found in the bathing parties of British troops from transports in harbour. The men are marched down through the streets to the water several hundred strong, and for an hour or two are to be seen swimming and splashing to their heart's content. Then they swing back to the ship, whistling the latest "rag," singing merrily, and waving cheery replies to the many salutes from fair ones on balconies and verandahs.

A number of troops have recently been brought down from "Somewhere up-country" for a short stay, and are accommodated in rush huts on the beach. These are mostly men who have suffered from the severe summer heat of the interior, and from their appearance the sea breezes and bathing appear to have a remarkably good effect on them.

THE GERMAN HOSPITAL, ALEXANDRIA.

The *Nottingham Daily Express* quotes the following letter written to Sir Arthur Markham, M.P., from Giza, Egypt, by Mr. H. Anstruther Mackay:—"I see it reported that Sir A. Markham has found yet another complaint against the Government, in that the wounded from the Dardanelles were sent to the German Hospital in Alexandria. If Sir A. Markham is sincere, and not only trying to find some loophole through which to shoot at the only possible Government, it must be that he knows nothing about the German Hospital. It may be well to tell him that it is one of the largest, and by far the best-equipped, hospitals in this country, and in normal times is attended by all the English doctors in Alexandria. Lucky are those wounded soldiers whose good fortune it has been to be sent there. The military authorities have taken over the hospital."

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ALEXANDRIA SEAMEN'S HOME.

The Committee of the Alexandria Merchant Seamen's Home, in their annual report for the financial year ended March 31, 1915, state:—

No special reference need be made to the ordinary routine work of the Home during the summer months following the report up to the end of March, 1914; that period representing the usual slack season of all concerns in Egypt. The Committee records, however, with sincere appreciation, the labours of Rev. A. J. Oliphant, as acting manager of the Home, during the absence on leave in England of Mr. W. O. Endacott from early May to end September. During those and the intervening months Mr. Oliphant maintained the activities of the home with unfailing energy and conducted the domestic finances with gratifying results on all points.

Since the outbreak of the Great War, in August, 1914, the Committee have no concerts, Christmas or New Year treats to record, no efforts of the kind having been attempted. The entire resources of the Home have been occupied to the fullest extent in coping with the ordinary demands made upon them by merchant seamen, the additional requirements of the military authorities for boarders, and the daily and at times almost overwhelmingly numerous applications for rest and refreshment by soldiers employed on and about the quays on transport work. As far as the somewhat limited accommodation and equipment has permitted, the Home, in common with other institutions and members of the British communities all the world over, has performed, and is still performing, an eminently useful and important part in the strenuous times now existent.

THE ISLAMIC SOCIETY.

Indian, Egyptian, and other members of the Islamic community of London assembled with their friends on Saturday last at the Hotel Cecil to bid farewell to Mr. Chaudhrie Abdul Haq. Mr. Haq has been honorary secretary of the Islamic Society for some time past, while studying law in England, and now, having been admitted to the Dublin Bar, is returning to India to practise his profession. Dr. John Pollen was the urbane and genial chairman, and on behalf of the Society decorated Mr. Haq with a garland of flowers. In the course of some remarks accompanying the gift, he said that the present was not the time for a political speech, but he would not be trespassing into politics by acknowledging the splendid way in which the members of the great community of which his friend, Mr. Haq, was a member, had responded to England's call in this disastrous war.

Mr. Edward Delgado, Mr. Horace Douglas, Mr. Syed Abdul Majid, and the O'Donnell of O'Donnell also made complimentary speeches, to which Mr. Haq replied.

A lengthy musical programme occupied the greater part of the evening, and was much enjoyed by the auditors. Among many very interesting items were the reading of some poems in her own language by an Armenian lady, who translated them into English, the recitation of "Al-Amin," by Dr. Pollen, and the singing of some Italian songs, and a hymn in praise of Mohammed, by Professor Inayat Khan's friends.

THE "CLEAN-FIGHTING" TURK.

In the course of a most interesting despatch describing the fighting on the Gallipoli Peninsula, one of Reuter's special correspondents at the Dardanelles pays a compliment to the Turks which, we have reason to believe, is well merited. He writes:—

He would be a faithless chronicler of this war who failed to do justice to the methods of the enemy. I have been struck by the unanimous tribute paid alike by the British and Australasian forces to the clean fighting of the foe.

His courage and humanity have gained for him a respect which the Germans might well covet. His stoicism when wounded is on a par with these characteristics.

The Turk is putting up a sturdy fight, and maintaining his traditions as a soldier with splendid spirit. He is sorry to be fighting the English, who have so often stood his friends, and is honestly puzzled at a policy which he has been taught to believe has for its sole purpose the betrayal of his country.

TURKS' EXAMPLE TO GERMANS.

The *Daily Express* says: "According to a letter to his former congregation in Edinburgh from the Rev. Dr. Ewing, now a chaplain with the Mediterranean Forces, the Turks are setting examples in humanity to their allies, the Huns.

"On the whole, he says, they are dealing very kindly with our wounded and prisoners who fall into their hands. He has heard of many cases where they carefully dress injuries, give food and water to the wounded, and then leave them with a blanket in a place where they can be found by friends.

"As for the Turks who fall into British hands, nothing would persuade them to go back to their own lines. Many are ready to surrender whenever they can elude their German officers."

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THE STATE OF SYRIA.

(From An Occasional Correspondent.)

Alexandria, July 25.

A New Vali for Beyrout.

Further news regarding the development of the situation in Syria has reached me through the kindness of one of the latest arrivals from Beyrout, who travelled on board an American collier that conveys coal to the cruisers stationed there. The removal from office of Sami Bekir Bey, the popular Vali of Beyrout, has been confirmed, thus enabling the commander-in-chief to assume absolute control, to exercise his military powers more drastically, and to pursue a more vigorous military policy.

It must be remembered that Djemal Pasha and the Vali in question were rivals, and it is alleged that the great popularity the Vali enjoyed, coupled with the policy of co-operation with the leading notables of Beyrout which he had pursued, provoked the dissatisfaction of Djemal, who sought his removal from office. It is stated that a supporter and friend of the Pasha, in the person of Nazmi Bey, the ex-Vali of Baghdad, has been appointed to the Vilayet of Beyrout, where he has already arrived and assumed charge.

Unrest in the Lebanon.

A possibility which was at first considered to be remote and improbable is beginning to show serious signs of becoming a fact. The prevalence of unrest in the Lebanon is a significant circumstance. The general discontent of the Lebanese consequent upon the Government's insistence on obligatory military service is assuming alarming proportions. A Lebanese is determined to sacrifice all that is dear to him rather than submit to an unjust demand; and there appears to be, therefore, considerable likelihood that the tension between the population of Mount Lebanon and their rulers may lead to lamentable results, the more so as there are persistent reports of Turkish threats to bring about a massacre similar to the famous one of 1860. It is understood that the Lebanese have sent a message to the French Government saying: "Simply arm us and we will settle with the Turks." In point of fact, it appears to be somewhat strange that, engaged, as they are, in a stern struggle with the Turks, the Allies do not seek to engage him in another part of his empire, and thus create a diversion in their favour.

The Maronite Patriarch.

A trustworthy informant tells me that the Maronite Patriarch has again been summoned to Damascus on the pretext of conferring with the military authorities upon the situation in the Lebanon, but really with a view to his arrest and confinement there. The Patriarch has hitherto succeeded in evading the unpleasant invitation. The Lebanese have advised his Beatitude that, come what may, he should never comply with the Government's orders, and have informed him that they are ready to defend him and their country to the last.

The Dardanelles and Syria.

The comparatively tranquil state which Syria was lately enjoying has been disturbed, and conscription, requisition, and commandeering have again been resumed. In order to replenish their reserves, the Turks have again ordered general conscription, which embraces all men between the ages of 18 and 47. Meanwhile requisitioning with its attendant evils has again been resumed with feverish activity. The Turks have not confined their commandeering to carriages and horses only; they have lately, it is said, discovered the important *rôle* that a donkey can play in war time, and donkeys have, therefore, been added to the requisition list, and a general registration is feverishly proceeding. The methods of donkey registration are amusing. They are divided into two classes—those on active service and reservists—viz., *Brinji* and *Ikinji*. The impression of donkeys' hoofs are taken, so that proprietors may not be able to conceal them in future.

Depression in the Lebanon.

Mount Lebanon is at this time of the year usually overcrowded with visitors, upon whom a great part of the inhabitants depend for their living. This summer, however, the mountain is in a desolate and pitiable condition. Hotels and private residences are closed, and there are no signs of life. A gloomy impression prevails everywhere. The Government is even prohibiting the transport of wheat from the interior to the coast.

The prolonged inactivity of the Allies and the lack of attention hitherto conspicuously displayed towards the inhabitants is the cause of extreme disquietude and uneasiness among the people. Depressed and exasperated by many privations, the Syrians yet realize the tremendous task on which the Allies are engaged. But this, it is maintained, need not prevent them from sparing a couple of warships to convey arms to the anxious people. The Allies have waited too long, and it is generally held that the time has arrived when effective action should be embarked upon.

UNREST IN THE HEJAZ.

(From a Correspondent.)

Alexandria, July 19.

Unrest prevails in the Hejaz, where Turks and Arabs are apparently struggling for predominance, the Arabs refusing to respect the ascendancy of their rulers. The neighbourhood of Mecca has lately been the scene of some slight skirmishes between Government troops and the Arabs. It appears that while *en route* to Mecca the Governor-General and his military escort were attacked when a little way from Mecca. The engagement resulted in the death of two Turkish officers and a large number of Turkish soldiers.

The Sherif of Mecca is reported to be disgusted with Turkey's conduct in the present war, and his anger is shown by the strained relations that exist between him and the Governor-General. The Arabs are naturally strict adherents and supporters of their Sherif, and in reality they recognize no master but him. Thus the position of the Turks in the Holy Land is becoming more and more untenable, and they may finally be compelled to evacuate the country and seek safety elsewhere.

The Arabs' abhorrence of the Germans is great. A party of fifty Germans, with a couple of guns, attempted to reach Jeddah, but the Arabs at once attacked the unwelcome visitors. The son of the Sherif, however, came to the rescue, and succeeded in restoring peace for the time being.

PARCELS TO GALLIPOLI.

Several letters complaining of the non-delivery of parcels forwarded to members of our forces at the Dardanelles have been published in *The Times* recently. The subject certainly appears to call for prompt investigation. Thus "Captain, R.F.A.," writes:—"I have just returned, wounded, from the Dardanelles after a number of weeks' fighting there, and my object in writing to you is to vent a grievance regarding the manner in which the postal authorities of the British Mediterranean Expeditionary Force carry out their work. During the entire period of time I was out I did not receive a single parcel, although each week my tobacconist sent me cigarettes from home and my wife forwarded parcels of cakes, etc., on an average twice a week. Letters were delivered regularly, and newspapers never failed to turn up, but, as I have already said, not one parcel. Mine was by no means an isolated case, as on all hands the complaints from officers and men on the non-appearance of their parcels were constant and very bitter."

Another correspondent writes from Wimbledon:—"I have been sending parcels every week by parcel post for the last eight weeks, and my son writes, under date of July 24, that not one single parcel has reached him. I have also sent large quantities of cigarettes and tobacco to his men with a like result. . . . The sooner someone is made personally responsible for this wilful mismanagement the better it will be for our soldiers."

"C. A. M." has been more fortunate than either of these correspondents. He writes: "I have a son, a 2nd lieutenant, also in the R.F.A., who has been in the Dardanelles from the start; he, too, has had numerous parcels sent to him regularly, frequently up to the limit of 11 lbs. in weight, and never registered; but of these not one has miscarried, and only one has been looted! Occasionally some parcels have been delayed, but on the whole they have arrived with wonderful regularity, and my son has repeatedly expressed his admiration of the parcel postal service. In his battery at least there is nothing to complain of."

"Captain, R.F.A.," gives the following advice to relatives and friends sending parcels to soldiers fighting in the Peninsula:—"(1) Keep parcels as small as possible. (2) If parcels can be reduced in size to the limits of letter post, always register them. (3) Observe carefully that there are no outside advertisements on the parcels showing that the contents probably consist of tobacco, confections, or food. In conclusion, let me urge all those who have relatives or friends fighting against the Turks to write frequently to their 'men' and to keep on sending small personal gifts, especially of sweets, thirst-quenchers, and cigarettes. If those at home could only witness the delight and joy of all ranks when the postman turns up—all too seldom—with a well-filled bag they would grudge no sacrifice of time or money in order to provide that pleasure as frequently as possible to these splendid chaps who are putting up such a gallant fight in the Gallipoli Peninsula."

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BULGARIAN LETTERS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Sofia, July 20.

A Bulgarian View of the Situation.

The Ministerial *Narodni Prava* has published in a leading article the following important statement regarding the situation, which has produced a great sensation throughout the country:—

The Bulgarian Government is constantly reminding those whom it is necessary to remind that the dispute left by the war of 1912 is by no means settled, and that the Bulgarian nation will on no account permit any further violation of the principle of nationalities in the Balkan peninsula or the abandoning of a million Bulgarians to a foreign yoke. . . . Feelings are over-excited, the atmosphere is obscured, and the future is not brightened by any ray of peace and tranquillity. The sparks flying from the gigantic European conflagration cannot, it appears, be extinguished in the Balkans, and the more so because on August 9, 1913, an enormous amount of highly inflammable material was piled on the Balkan Peninsula.

Events are developing in accordance with an ineluctable destiny, and do not depend upon our desires. The Bulgarian nation rallied to the cry, "Union of all Bulgarians." The nation awaits with perfect coolness the moment when it will cry, "Give me my own." The people are gathering in an excellent harvest; the grain stores of the villages and towns will be replenished; the nation will have no fear for its food supply, it will not ask for alms. It will do its duty to itself, to its future, to the supreme national tasks pointed out by the great apostles of Bulgarian regeneration—Boteff, Levsky, Karadjata—one Bulgaria for all Bulgarians. Bulgaria is prepared for all events. She will *not* embark upon adventure, but she will demand her own.

The effect produced in the country by this publication is very marked. Already the mayors of many villages in the Tirnova district have sent a collective telegram to the Prime Minister, assuring him that, having gathered in their crops, they are now ready to respond to the call of the Government for the realization of the national ideal—the union of the Bulgarian people.

Prince Hohenlohe's Visit.

Last Saturday Prince Hohenlohe arrived here from Bucharest, by special train, on his way to take up the post of German Ambassador in Constantinople. He was met at Podvein, the Royal station, by General Savoff, representing the King, by M. Gratko Kosseff, Secretary-General of the Foreign Ministry, and by the German, Austrian, and Turkish Ministers. At 5 p.m. he was received by King Ferdinand, who was accompanied by Queen Eleonore and the Crown Prince Boris. The audience lasted two hours, and at half-past eight the Prince dined privately with the Royal family at Vranya, the King's summer residence. On Sunday an entertainment in his honour was given at the German Legation, at which Dr. Radoslavoff and M. Tontcheff were present. He left on Sunday night for Constantinople.

Commenting on this visit, to-day's *Duma* says:—

It seems that Prince Hohenlohe has not been quite satisfied with the results he attained at Sofia, as it became necessary to meet the Vice-President of the Chamber and to announce through him how great is the German sympathy for Bulgaria. Prince Buelow acted in the same way at Rome, when he discovered that he was not achieving much success in responsible quarters. The statement of the *Mir*, that the Prince expressed a desire to see Bulgaria's attitude defined early, before the Austro-German troops reach the Bulgarian frontier, is true.

Sofia, July 27.

The Political Situation.

There has been no change in the political situation this week. The Entente still delays its reply to the last Bulgarian Note of June 15. Last Friday Baron Wangenheim arrived here on his way from Constantinople to Berlin. He visited M. Tontcheff, the Minister of Finance, and Dr. Radoslavoff, the Prime Minister, and was received in audience by King Ferdinand. It is reported that in conversation with Bulgarian Germanophils the Baron said that the German armies would be in Paris by October 1; that Germany and Austria have delivered an ultimatum to Roumania, demanding the free transit of munitions sent from Germany to Turkey, and giving her till August 10 to define her position; and that should Bulgaria range herself on the side of the Entente, Germany will immediately withdraw her troops from Russia and dispatch them to this country!

Turkey and Bulgaria.

The Turco-Bulgarian negotiations regarding the frontier, which were at a deadlock, were pushed forward after the arrival of Prince Hohenlohe in Constantinople, and according to trustworthy information an agreement was last week signed at Constantinople. By this agreement Turkey cedes to Bulgaria all that portion of the Dedeagatch railway line in Turkish territory, including the stations at, and the towns of Ourli, Demotika, and Kuleli Bourgas, only a strip of three kilometres in the neighbourhood of Kara-agatch station remaining open for discussion. From the best Government source I learn that in connection with this concession Bulgaria is left free to act *vis-à-vis* Turkey and the Central Powers.

Casino Outrage—Prisoners Executed.

The sentence of death passed by the Court-Martial upon Vikenti Pop Anastasoff and Itzo Santoff was confirmed by the Military High Court of Cassation, and last Thursday it was submitted to the King, who confirmed it the following day. The sentence was carried out yesterday in the courtyard of the Central Prison. Two gypsies acted as hangmen, and the military and civil authorities were represented. A crowd of several thousand people gathered outside the building, and about 500 of the public were admitted. Amongst the latter was General Boyadjieff, the former Minister for War, and the father of Lieutenant Boyadjieff, who was one of the victims of the bomb outrage. After the execution the crowd outside and inside the prison struggled hard to obtain pieces of the ropes used, possession of which is supposed to bring good luck and health to the owners!

BULGARIA AND THE ENTENTE.

Mr. P. M. Mattheeff writes from Sofia (July 19):—Enclosed is an article from an authoritative Roumanian Bucharest paper. It gives the point of view on the Bulgarian situation of a Roumanian statesman. The statement is clear and frank; it has attracted considerable attention here in Sofia. The references to Constantinople are, however, unfounded. The Bulgarians have never aspired to the possession of Constantinople; they consider it far beyond their capabilities.

My own opinion on the subject is—the Entente Powers have never taken up Bulgaria seriously; they have trifled too long, and now, whatever they decide to do, they have to fight against the influence of the recent uncontested events on the battlefield. Far too much care has been taken of Serbian susceptibilities, and not enough appreciation of Bulgarian wrongs, with the result—the present impasse.

It is a pity. Great Britain's intentions have invariably been the best for the consolidation of the Balkan nations. All Bulgarians know this; but Great Britain has proved herself repeatedly weak in action, yielding her principles for the sake of the interests of allies or for avoiding small personal trouble. Once only did she put her foot down and grandly helped Bulgaria out of the greatest danger. The occasion was the final settlement of the Union of East Roumalia to Bulgaria. The indomitable courage of Sir Wm. White, Ambassador in Constantinople, exalted Great Britain's reputation and saved Bulgaria. The situation then was very complicated, but good will and strong resolve carried the day. The present situation is, of course, far more serious, and necessarily demands stronger good will and greater resolve to solve it; but what do we witness—trifling with matters of life and death, with the existence or the suppression of States! The diagnosis of the disease has been made; there can be question of one instrument only, the lancet. But the interested Allies cannot agree as to the hour for the operation, and the gangrene is setting in! If Serbia is a hero in Great Britain to-day, so was Bulgaria two years ago and for

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the world at large. Bulgaria succumbed before shameful odds, and has grievously suffered and is still smarting. Is it not time for someone else to make the necessary sacrifice that will enable Bulgaria again to draw the sword for justice and civilization? No Government in Bulgaria could think of calling a mobilization of the country's forces without something substantial in hand. The Bulgarian demands are not preposterous, as are those of Roumania, Serbia, Greece, or Italy. They are such as have been recognised by international conferences and treaties.

[ENCLOSURE.]

Translation from a Roumanian paper, the organ of Marghiloman, a prominent leader of the Roumanian Conservatives:—

The European War found Bulgaria smarting from severe wounds subsequent to the second Balkan War and the Bucharest Treaty. Her faith in Russia's protection measured out equally to the Balkan States for the sake of Slavdom and Christianity met with a bitter disappointment. The Bulgarians were praised and encouraged until they vanquished the Turks and reached Chatalja. No sooner, however, was the question of Constantinople raised, and that of the realisation of her ideal, than Bulgaria was abandoned, and Russia stopped at no means in order the more to humiliate her. Russia encouraged Roumania and pushed her across the Danube, although she was considered as the natural enemy of the Southern Slavs. In this manner Russia gave a flagrant proof that she was, above all, interested in the Serbians to be used against Austria.

Such were the conditions under which Bulgaria laboured when the European War broke out; this is why the case of Russia and her Allies has failed to move Bulgaria, although represented as that of civilization and the small nations. Bulgaria has not concealed her animosity towards Serbia, and has shown it indirectly towards Russia. The Bulgarians have met with coolness the cause of international justice and civilization so loudly proclaimed by the Entente. The geographical position of Bulgaria is in the road of Russian expansion, and her unhappy recent experience forced upon her a policy specially her own; this policy dictated distrust of Russia and the acquisition of Macedonia. This guiding policy necessarily, not to speak of sympathy or inclination, has led Bulgaria to the side of the Central Powers.

Russian influence, very strong up till 1912, has been followed by deep distrust, not to say hatred, Russia now being accused of unjust, partial treatment of Bulgaria in favour of Serbia for the purpose of imposing the deepest humiliation upon a nation which had but just covered itself with glory.

The sympathy of Bulgaria towards the Central Powers has not led her to active operations; her neutrality is explained rather by her great sufferings and the dark dealings of Russia than by her disinterestedness as to the results of the present war.

Bulgarian neutrality has, however, been benevolent towards the Austro-Germans, from whose victories Bulgaria expects the correction of the injustice of 1913, and the acquisition of Macedonia. The endeavours of the Entente Powers to draw Bulgaria into action against Turkey have been without effect; the Bulgarian Government has, so far, given one and the same answer: In the first place, Macedonia, "de jure" and "de facto." The Midia-Enos line, the only acquisition which would fall to Bulgaria should the Entente triumph, is insufficient temptation, because it would virtually be a renouncement of Macedonia. The acquisition of Constantinople alone can draw the Bulgarians into action against Turkey, but such an acquisition is bound to be followed by a permanent danger from Russia, and this precludes their proposing it even as of a second-class importance.

The above considerations explain why the Bulgarians have not changed their disposition during one whole year of war, notwithstanding the constant endeavours of the Entente Powers to win them over. They have not wished, and do not wish, to profit by the difficulties in which the Turks have been placed—isolated and attacked as they are by sea and by land by great armies. All the Bulgarians demand of the Turks is a rectification of the frontier. They contributed to the fall of Venizelos, and by their enigmatical and threatening attitude stopped the Greeks from operating against Turkey. They have always been, and are today, the greatest impediment to inconsiderate Roumanian intervention.

The entrance of Italy into the war on the side of the Entente, with the understanding that Italy should take the place of Austria-Hungary in the Balkans, and this with the consent of Russia, further confirmed Bulgaria in the line of conduct she had adopted. It also opened new prospects for her diplomacy.

Were Austria to accept or to take no notice of the Serbian and Greek occupation of Albania, both Greeks and Serbians could be induced to give up Macedonia to Bulgaria. In this manner a new equilibrium would be created in the Balkans, but with the help and under the control of Austria. The Balkan League, so much desired by Russia against Austria, would thus have been realised as soon as Austria had resolved to sacrifice Albania. This league may not develop into an alliance, but it will exist, in fact, as the result of the established harmony in the Balkans, but under the influence and guidance of Austria.

This is why the events themselves impose the revision of the decisions of the London Conference and the Bucharest peace, which is not in the interest of the Entente Powers, and, in particular, of that of Russia and Italy. The events themselves and the economical and national interests of the Balkan nations positively demand such a solution. A rapid and full triumph of the Entente Powers can alone give a new direction to the affairs in the Balkans, and the conduct of their nations.

LONDON TO PORT SAID.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

In normal times the Overland route to the East is so well known as to be about as interesting as a run through a London tube. At the present time, however, although the familiar Marseilles route has been reopened, the journey is not without thrills, in particular as far as the run to Paris is concerned.

Traversing the Garden of England, through interminable lanes of hops, one catches glimpses of women haymaking in the fields, while at many points men in khaki are busy loading fodder into trucks. The train is full of silent, thoughtful officers returning to the front after a brief spell at home. Some little delay at Folkestone for passport examination, and then one drops out into the Straits, leaving the Old Country in its ring of clouds.

The passage to Boulogne is, to say the least, extremely interesting, but that, perhaps, is the most that should be said! Boulogne these days is to all intents and purposes a British town. It reminds one forcibly of a large military centre in England. Many of the big five-story buildings are now used as hospitals; khaki cars drop down the old pavé streets with harassed staff officers; Red Cross cars are seen everywhere; while "Tommy" abounds in all stages of development.

The run to Paris takes about five and a-half hours. This is also a journey crammed with excitement, for here is seen a striking blend of khaki and the light blue of our Allies' uniforms. Of the train-loads of men, material, and munitions, and the parks and encampments passed on the way, much could be written that would go far to lighten the load that appears to have settled on the hearts of some of our home critics—but prudence forbids. The run from Boulogne to Paris takes about two hours longer than the normal time.

From Paris to Marseilles all is easy going. After a comfortable dinner at the Lyons Station one drops into the 8.5 p.m., has a whisky and soda in the *wagon-lit* while the attendant is converting the seat into a cosy bed, and sleeps soundly until Avignon is reached at about seven the following morning. A breakfast car is here attached, and fragrant coffee and dainty rolls command attention while the train slips through the hilly, poplar Rhône Provinces.

Marseilles is practically a hospital town, and the many maimed soldiers afford a sad reminder of the horrors in progress a few hundred miles north. The Indian camp not far away affords a remarkable picture of the friendly Eastern invasion of Western soil. A number of German prisoners—Hamburg dockers for the most part—are employed on the quays at Marseilles working out cargoes.

There is something reassuring in the sight of a big P. and O. liner in dock with the Blue Peter flying, and breezy officers superintending the Eastern mail. The familiar black and chocolate lines afford ample evidence, if any were needed, of Britain's command of the sea. With mails aboard, the steamer swings out into the Gulf of Lyons, and interest in the fading French coast is diverted by the lunch bugle.

Malta these days is a seething hive of industry. Armies of workmen are busy refitting and effecting repairs to every variety of Government craft. The French Navy is also much in evidence there, and as our boat leaves the port after a short stay the French tars line the rails of their vessels and give us hearty cheers.

Many strange stories were adrift in Malta, some of which bore a resemblance to truth. Of these may be mentioned one concerning the recent escape of one of our largest transports—a well-known Atlantic steamer—from being struck by an enemy torpedo. It is said that the torpedo, which was discharged by a submarine, passed about twenty yards from the crowded troopship, and it was only by clever manœuvring that disaster was avoided.

Thanks to our Silent Fleet, the passage through the Mediterranean was as uneventful as in normal times, and four and a-half days after leaving Marseilles the lights of Damietta and Port Said were blinking us a cheery welcome to the East.

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VOLUME VII.

— OF —

THE NEAR EAST

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IN STRICKEN SERBIA.

We published a short time ago (June 18 and July 2) some extracts from letters written by Dr. Lauwens of the Wounded Allies' Relief Hospital in Serbia. The following passages are extracted from further letters of Dr. Lauwens, and serve to give some idea of life and conditions at Kragujevatz.

Dr. Lauwens is a distinguished Belgian surgeon. His presence with a British mission in Serbia is an interesting illustration of the readiness to combine in any way to help on the good cause that animates the Allies the world over.

KRAGUJEVATZ, June 4.

We have been at work here for a fortnight, and already 200 patients have passed through our hospitals. . . . Here we see little or nothing connected with the army. True, I have seen some howitzer batteries and pontoon sections drawn by bullocks, but that is all. We do not know whither they were bound, but even if we did, we should not be allowed to write about it.

The epidemics are dying out rapidly, and if the typhoid (*not* exanthematic typhus) and cholera do not make their appearance, the hospitals for infectious diseases will be able to close their doors in a few weeks.

June 12.

The heat is terrible. For the exanthematic typhus this is a good thing, and the number of cases is further and further reduced.

On June 9 we had a visit from Austrian aeroplanes. They aimed at the Palace of the Crown Prince and the Arsenal, but only succeeded in killing some peasants. . . . One of the enemy aeroplanes was brought down by one of the French aviators serving with the Serbian army. Its two occupants were killed, and the machine itself caught fire.

We have just made acquaintance with a curious custom of the country. The landlord of our house, who lives in one wing, yesterday lost a son, and last night, at 3 a.m., we were aroused from our sleep by loud lamentations, uttered by "mourners," who, I believe, are hired; and this went on till morning. Now they are preparing for the funeral—they are expeditious in this country.

July 5.

The work of the hospital becomes less each day, but in all the Serbian hospitals preparations are being made for the reception of numbers of wounded. . . For the past ten days we have had torrential rains, and as a result the river Lipitza has overflowed, flooded the lower part of the town, swept away several bridges and foot-bridges, and damaged the railway line. . . . Since yesterday evening the river has fallen five metres.

We have just taken part in a sad ceremony, the funeral of one of the nurses of the Stobart Mission, who died of fever. She came here two months ago, and had been ill about three weeks. Eight other nurses of the same mission are down with the same illness. . . . Four nurses and we two doctors represented our mission, and besides the entire staff of the Stobart Mission, there were present representatives of the Russian and Scotch missions, the Serbian military authorities, the French, English, Russian, and Italian military Attachés, and many of the inhabitants of Kragujevatz. The procession was headed by the band of the King's Guard; the hearse was surrounded by Serbian soldiers, wearing on their backs strips of white stuff, which, I suppose, were "mourning bands"; next came the clergyman of the Mission, and then the various delegations. It was an interesting thing to note that a Protestant service was held in the Orthodox Cathedral. Afterwards we proceeded to the cemetery, where the last prayers were offered, but no address was given. We left feeling very sad.

Yesterday Kragujevatz was the scene of a congress of Serbian surgeons. I attended the meetings and the reception at the residence of the Crown Prince, and found it all very interesting.

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LA GRÈVE DES SERBES.

Under the above heading the *Journal de Genève* (July 30) deals with the attitude of Serbia at the present crisis. After referring to the months of inaction which have followed the last Austrian retreat from Serbia, and to the wonderful results which attended the efforts of French and British doctors and nurses, when the little country was stricken with disease, the article continues:—

Les Serbes sont inquiets et mécontents. Pour s'assurer le concours des Bulgares, la Quadruple Entente a promis à ceux-ci les territoires macédoniens conquis en 1912 et 1913. Les Roumains réclament, d'autre part, comme prix d'une intervention de plus en plus éventuelle, le banat de Temesvar, en grande partie peuplé de Serbes actuellement sujets hongrois. L'Italie est entrée en campagne avec le projet déclaré de s'approprier les côtes dalmates et peut-être même croates, dont la population est en majorité serbe. Tous ces projets ont mis en défiance le cabinet de Belgrade. La victoire même va-t-elle le dépouiller de certains territoires qu'il possède pour les avoir arrachés aux Turcs et aux Bulgares par des combats sanglants, tandis que d'autres territoires qu'il considère comme faisant partie de son héritage légitime lui échapperaient à jamais? La Serbie sera-t-elle l'éternelle sacrifiée? Elle se met en défiance et fait la sourde oreille aux demandes répétées qui lui viennent de ses alliés. Si cette grève d'un nouveau genre se perpétuait, elle aurait ses inconvénients et ses périls, non seulement pour la Quadruple-Entente, mais pour la Serbie elle-même.

DIPLOMACY IN THE BALKANS.

The *New Statesman* (July 31) devoted a long article to the consideration of the Balkan deadlock and its effect upon the war as a whole. The chief military importance of Greece's intervention is shown to have passed when our troops once became firmly established in Gallipoli; the value of assistance from Bulgaria or Roumania would still be high. In searching for diplomatic methods which would settle the question of Balkan neutrality once and for all, the paper says:—

There are some of our counsellors who urge that we could solve everything by exchanging the negotiatory for the imperative mood, and peremptorily ordering each of the other Balkan States to give Bulgaria what she desires. The plan is simple—too simple. One need not point out the natural objections to it. Yet its advocates have at the back of their heads two sound ideas. One is that the spoliation of Bulgaria under the Treaty of Bucharest must be undone in principle, if the disunion and consequent paralysis of the Balkan States is to end. The other is that Balkan statesmen sometimes prefer the orders of Great Powers to their requests, because obeying the former entails less personal responsibility on them than complying with the latter. . . A diplomatist who should know just when to solicit and when to command might sway all the Balkan capitals, but such diplomatists are born, not made, and they are not born very often.

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THE SITUATION IN PERSIA.

(From a Correspondent.)

The Wolff Agency telegraphed from Stockholm, under date of July 11:—"A Russian diplomatist, in speaking of the situation in Persia to the *Novoye Vremya*, declared that the Government will probably be confided to Mustaufi-el-Mamalik. This appointment would prove that the anti-Russian tendencies were increasing, and that it would not be easy to overcome them." If this news be true, as seems quite likely in this instance, the young Shah will have his fourth Ministry in less than a year—the Cabinets of Mustaufi-el-Mamalik, of Mushir-ed-Dowleh, of Prince Ain-ed-Dowleh, and of Mustaufi-el-Mamalik.

It really seems that the dangers of the situation brought about by the war are not appreciated in Teheran. Under the pretext of profiting by the chance of the European conflagration, to free Persia from the fetters that bind her, certain deputies, constituting a kind of Committee of Public Safety, attack Great Britain and Russia, and advocate war on the Turco-German side. It would be impossible more lightheartedly to bring about the final break-up of Persia, while pretending to save it from that fate.

It is certainly easy enough for the Germans to dangle before the eyes of the Persians the prospect of the end of the Anglo-Russian control in Persia, and to promise them the help of Turco-German armies for the deliverance of the country. Persian journalists in the pay of official and semi-official agents of Germany proclaim openly that the day of vengeance has come, and that the country ought to take advantage of the weakness of the Anglo-Russians (!), to rise *en masse*, and to induce the Persian tribesmen to co-operate with the Turkish Army and to clear the land of its hereditary enemies. From Constantinople a bureau, subsidized by Germany, is flooding Persia with pamphlets containing gross attacks on Russia, Great Britain, and—France! Under such titles as "What is Our Duty?" and "Who are the Barbarians?" these productions openly urge the Persians to take up arms.

What does Germany hope to gain by egging Persia on to fight? Does she really imagine that the Persian Army is capable of co-operating to any good purpose with her and the Turks? Or rather, does she not hope by working there to throw the country into a state of ferment, as she is working elsewhere without rest or respite, to add to the embarrassments of the British and the Russians? In any case it is Persia and Persia alone who stands to suffer and to pay!

But it is not to be believed that the oligarchy which rules at Teheran can allow itself to be hoodwinked so easily, that it should be so little concerned about the unfortunate position of Persia as, by its manœuvres, to push the country on to its ruin; for amongst these men there are certainly some ardent and sincere patriots. German gold, however, is an irresistible argument to those unscrupulous men who, under the guise of purest patriotism, exploit the noblest feelings of their fellow-countrymen and incite them to attack Great Britain and Russia. And it is this band of irresponsibles who to-day give its laws to Persia! The Wolff Agency is quite right in saying that anti-Russian tendencies are on the increase, and that it will not be easy to counteract them. Clearly, the Wolff Agency is paid to know!

The Persian Government so long ago as last November proclaimed its neutrality, and has done everything in its power to maintain a correct attitude. Its task is all the more difficult because it has to struggle against the feeling of the people, who, ignoring facts, and stirred up by the paid agents of Germany, loudly proclaim their hatred of Russia.

This sentiment is not difficult to explain. Many Persians will tell you that Persia has suffered too much at the hands of Russia not to feel a deep-seated hatred against her. But even if the feeling be legitimate, we may still ask whether it is good policy to show it so violently, and whether it be within the bounds of possibility to give it a concrete form by declaring war on Russia; and to that query the Persian Government, rightly mindful of its duties and responsibilities, can only answer bluntly, "No." For it has neither money, nor munitions, nor an army—nor any chance of obtaining them. And thus it comes about that sooner than yield to the behests of the Teheran oligarchy one Cabinet after another prefers to retire from office.

But this course, which may appear to a Persian Minister as a solution of the difficulty, is one only for himself, not for the nation. Each Cabinet that comes into office finds itself faced by the same situation, the same difficulties, the same lack of money, munitions, and troops; and after a longer or shorter time it has to make way for another Cabinet. This will go on until the day when, having spent its strength in struggling against the German emissaries, the Government will no longer be in a state to oppose any rising of the people. Then, probably as the result of some trivial occurrence, the fateful cry *alea jacta est* will reverberate across the destinies of Persia.

But, it will be asked, what is the remedy for a state of affairs that seems so hopeless?

The solution we recommend is certainly a radical one; but when a matter so important as the existence of a nation is at stake there is no liberty of choice. We ask that the Shah, exercising his constitutional prerogative, should dissolve the Parliament, proclaim a state of siege throughout the country, and call to power those men whose principles, experience, and wisdom would be a source of strength and stability to the Empire and the Throne. These men might, imitating the example that has been set in Europe, lay aside for the time being their political differences and the personal rivalries that poison their political life, and, taking as their single motto "*Salus patriæ suprema lex*," unite their endeavours and bend all their energies to bringing the Persian ship of state, already leaking in many places, safe to port. These men are: The Ain-ed-Dowleh, Mustaufi-ed-Dowleh, Saad-ed-Dowleh, Mushir-ed-Dowleh, Mutamin-el-Mulk, Vossukh-ed-Dowleh, Firman Firma, Samsam-es-Saltaneh, Siphadar-Azam; and we should not fear to add to this list the popular leaders, such as the Taghizadeh, Hussein Gholi Khan Nawab. The spirit of pure patriotism which animates these men is a guarantee of their desire to work, under the responsibility of power, for the welfare of their country, and to save it from the cataclysm that threatens us. And if, inspired by patriotism, they agreed to act in harmony and to unite in order to rule the country and save it from its enemies, external and internal, they would have deserved well of their fatherland.

We are convinced that Great Britain, who has done so much for the establishment of a constitutional régime in Persia, would be glad to help the Shah in the perilous situation in which he finds himself with his people, by advising him to form a Cabinet as above set out; and that she would be willing to assist such a Government financially, *with the sole object of enabling it to govern in the true interests of the country.*

It is fortunate that Great Britain is now represented at Teheran by a man of marked ability and worth. Mr. Marling has a perfect grasp of the situation, and his knowledge of Persian affairs affords a further cause for hoping for an era of reason and of sane policy.

Jamsheed.

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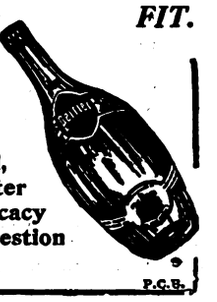

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P.C.B.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

It has been decided, I see, to accept volunteers from Turk's Island for service at the Front. Presumably they will be sent to the Gallipoli Peninsula—if only they arrive in time!

***

Sir A. Mond's recent address on our neglect of the sciences has reminded a correspondent of a fine specimen of a sword which he came across in his wanderings in the East. "It was," he writes, "in the outskirts of Damascus, in a private house into which my guide took me; and there I saw the finest example of an inlaid Damascene blade that I ever set eyes upon. It bore the following inscription:—

Science taught me to make thee.
With thee I conquered. With thee I hold.

The names of the owner and the maker, together with the usual prayer and date, were added, but I have not my notes by me, and cannot remember them." We might do worse than borrow yet another hint from the East, it seems. Our soldiers are too busy wielding their swords—or the modern equivalents thereof—to bother about any "inscriptions." But what about those of us who cannot, for one reason or another, get to the Front?

***

The mails from the Near East continue to arrive in a rather erratic fashion, as regular readers of THE NEAR EAST have no doubt observed for themselves by comparing the dates of the various Correspondents' letters. But, for some reason I cannot quite make out, Bulgaria and Roumania seem to be even more behind in this respect than their geographical position would lead one to expect. This must be my excuse for referring to a successful celebration that took place in Sofia nearly a month ago. On Sunday, July 18, I learn from a letter received on Monday, the Bulgarian capital presented an appearance that would certainly have led any Londoner who had been suddenly dropped down there to imagine that he had arrived on the local "Queen Alexandra's Day." For the streets were alive with pretty girls carrying baskets of roses, which they were selling as fast as possible to the passers-by, and nearly everyone was wearing one of the beautiful flowers. Then in the evening there was a procession of motor-cars, carriages, and vehicles of all kinds, decorated with roses, which passed along the principal streets, between crowds of interested spectators. This was followed by a distribution of prizes amongst the participants in the procession; and, finally, at the Municipal Gardens, there was a *bal champêtre*. The whole was organised by a society that was formed a year or so ago, if I remember aright, for the purpose of carrying on a campaign against that dreadful disease, tuberculosis, and I am glad to learn that the proceeds of the rose sale amounted to 15,000 *leva*.

***

The interesting alien who succeeded in persuading Darlington to elect him as its Parliamentary representative—I am sorry I cannot recall any of his aliases at the moment of writing, but he had so many of them—was, I learn, last year "interested in some oil business in Roumania." I hope this report has not been set about with a subtle idea of making trouble between this country and Roumania. The Roumanians, I feel sure, are no more anxious to claim him for their own than is—Darlington.

***

Some time ago I received a letter from a correspondent who is now serving with our Forces on the Gallipoli Peninsula. It was headed, "Anzac Cove," and I sought in vain on every map and in every gazetteer for the name, of which my correspondent vouchsafed no explanation. A few weeks ago, when Sir Ian Hamilton's despatch was published, I found the name marked on the excellent map that appeared in the *Morning Post*. Unless I am much mistaken, the cove to which it is attached is also known as "Jove's Cove," but that is by the way. I was satisfied, and in my innocence concluded that the name was a Turkish one. Now, of course, I learn, from the message sent last week by one of Reuter's special correspondents, that I was wrong again. He writes:—

> You may search any map in vain for the name "Anzac," yet it is a word bound to prove imperishable in the annals of the British Empire.
>
> The name needs explaining; it is arrived at by piecing together the initial letters of Australian-New Zealand Army Corps. Let every Englishman add it to his memory of the undying glories of his race. The Australian and New Zealand Divisions landed here, and dug themselves into an environment quite without parallel in the whole story of military achievement.

As to the map, the correspondent is wrong. But as to the glorious exploit of the Australians and New Zealanders he is well within the mark.

After all, too, I learn from the same correspondent that my mistake in taking the name for a Turkish one was at least excusable. For he writes: "A captured Turkish officer has just pointed out a quaint coincidence about the word 'Anzac.' The name, he says, is actually a Turkish word signifying 'only just.' Having regard to the conditions under which our gallant overseas divisions effected their landing and made good their footing upon this precarious bluff, the applicability of the word is somewhat striking."

***

If a report published in one of our great London dailies is to be relied upon, it has been left to Enver Pasha of all people to make public new and glorious achievements on the part of our troops at the Dardanelles. It appears that the curiosity of the Turks in Constantinople was excited by the fact that the British guns and bayonets continued to execute the functions of wounding and killing Turkish soldiers long after the owners of these weapons had been driven into the sea. A report has now been published by Enver which throws light upon the subject and speaks highly for the tenacity and endurance of our sorely-tried troops. It will be remembered that the Pasha issued an order that the British were to be driven into the sea, and, later, a report that this had been done. Enver now explains that the British had as a fact been driven into the sea very much, but, thanks to their aquatic training, they invariably swam ashore again and took up their old positions. Rule Britannia!

***

Ever since that disappointing young man, the Mpret, alias Prince Wilhelm of Wied, fled from tumultuous Albania to the more peaceful scenes of the War in Western Europe, the Land of the Shkypetars has been in a state of simmer; and none of us, I imagine, expected to come across the heading "Peaceful Albania" over a news paragraph for a good many months to come. But in point of fact such a heading did actually appear in the *Morning Post* of Monday. And, what is more, the telegram that it headed quite justified it. The *Post's* Berne correspondent it was who sent the message, and he stated that "a subject of a neutral State, who has just arrived from Albania, where he has lived long, says that never has that country been so peaceful as now." The miracle has been wrought, it seems, by policing the country with Austrian Croats captured by the Serbians at the beginning of the war. These men have taken the oath of allegiance to Serbia, and clearly they are proving themselves not only loyal, but singularly useful subjects also.

***

A quaint story of a criminal trying to persuade himself—or perhaps he only tried to persuade the magistrate!—that he was doing his country a service when he was, in fact, merely carrying on his profession of burgling is reported from Khartoum. For some months that city had suffered from a series of thefts, more or less serious, and at last these were traced to an individual named Abdul Aziz Mohammed, who in due course made his appearance before a magistrate. He then pointed out that he had confined his unwelcome visits to unmarried people, whose houses he was accustomed to enter during their absence; and pleaded that he had removed their property, not for his own gain or benefit, but as a punishment to them for avoiding the blessed state of matrimony. Unfortunately for him, the magistrate failed to recognise the excellence of his intentions, or to appreciate the originality of his plea, and he was fined 150 piastres and sent to prison for four years. The fate of his novel experiment in the way of a matrimonial agency is hardly likely to encourage imitation.

***

Apropos of the Turks' attempts to stir up the Senussi against the Italians, it may be of interest to quote what Mr. Wyman Bury writes, in "Arabia Infelix," about the founder of the sect. Referring to Sheikh Idris, he says that he is the great-grandson of a Moor, a native of Fez, who bore the family name of Idrisi, and adds:—

> The great-grandfather studied theology at Mecca, where he formed a new *tarikah*, or sub-sect of orthodox Sunni. He had two prominent pupils at Mecca towards the close of the eighteenth century: one was the original Senussi, and founder of that sect, and the other Hassan-ibn-Murgân, who established the Murgâni doctrine in the Sudan.

Apparently the great-grandfather had the knack of teaching men to think for themselves. And that, in view of all the circumstances, is upon the whole an unfavourable omen for the success of the Turks' plans. If the present Senussi acts, I feel fairly confident he will do so in his interests, not in those of the Turco-German combine.

CORSAIR.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

STORM-DRIVEN SERBIA.*

These are stirring, warlike times in which we are living, so let me tell you a long-forgotten tale. It happened centuries ago, and the scene was laid to the south of the Rhine, just beyond the spot where, careering out of the Lake of Constance, the river rushes over the falls which bear its name, and enters the region of plains and woods that belong, geographically speaking, to the so-called Black Forest. Here, on a hill overlooking the most picturesque river on the Continent, stood a feudal castle, the *Stammschloss* of the Hapsburgs, a family as old in years as the Hohenzollern are young in heraldry. Rudolph was the name of the Hapsburg count who founded the dynasty. He left the Rhine for the Danube, and, with passing excursions, mostly unfortunate, to the east and to the west, the fortunes of his imperial descendants have been linked up with the great river of Eastern Europe.

The body of the arrogant Rudolph was still warm in its grave when, in the central vales of the Alps, the people rose to a man against the despotic feudalism of the Hapsburgs. An army was sent to quell them. Read history, and you will see how, in the vales and gorges of the Central Alps, the flower of Austrian chivalry was annihilated by the peasantry whose dells were invaded by "punitive" armies. The birth of Switzerland was the outcome of the campaign.

It is a far cry from those days to the present, and from the Lake of Lucerne to the Save and the Drina; but a certain degree of similarity bridges over the gulf between yesterday and to-day, between Sempach and the Jardar, and never was this brought more forcibly to the reviewer's notice than when reading M. Petrovitch's history of Serbia. We can pass over the chronicles of the early days when the Slavs first appeared in the Balkans; we can pass over their struggles with and against the Emperors of Byzantium and the Osmanli Turk; we can pass over the tyranny and malevolent acts of the long-lived Hapsburg dynasty, for ever bent on crushing the small nationalities within or just beyond the pale of its orb. Nevertheless, and in spite even of these omissions, we come face to face in the twentieth century with another inglorious defeat of the Hapsburg house in the vales and gorges of a mountainous country inhabited by liberty-loving peasants. The lesson learnt in Central Europe was forgotten. Again we see an Austrian army, hundreds of thousands strong, slowly penetrate from the plains into the hostile hills; they advance, secure in their ignorance, invincible in their pride. Suddenly the scene changes: the hills become alive with hostile forces; death and destruction are hurled down on the arrogant "punitive" host of the Hapsburgs, and they break and run, leaving behind in those cursed hills their baggage and wounded, the whips with which they had intended to scourge the insolent peasants and their fame as soldiers and fighters. Merely a repetition of history, you will say; but it is a wonderful one: the young Hapsburg dynasty was rapped across the knuckles near the shores of Lake Lucerne; the old, exhausted, dying dynasty of the Hapsburgs, having learnt no wisdom and forgotten the lessons of youth, receives a stunning blow—perhaps even its death-blow—in the hills to the east of the Drina. . .

M. Petrovitch, in the book under review, has given us a valuable compendium of Serbian history, and one that ought to be read extensively. He has wisely glossed over much that is controversial, realising that by overstating his own case (I refer principally to the unfortunate feud between the Serbs and the Bulgars) he would harm rather than do it good. However, not on that account does he deny himself the right to state the Serbian case, and only once, I think, does he forget the wisdom of being cautious in his criticisms. I refer to his remarks anent Bulgarian atrocities. It is so easy in war to commit acts that are, to call them by a euphemism, reprehensible, that the careful historian dare not accuse one belligerent of "atrocities" unless he can prove a clean sheet in favour of the other belligerent. Besides, in this, the eleventh hour of events in the Balkans, such a public reference to a debatable subject by an attaché to the Royal Serbian Legation to the Court of St. James might well have been omitted—nay, even censored. And, in defence of the Bulgars—without wishing, however, to impugn the good faith of any other people—I must be allowed to state that among no Balkan people can Turks and Moslems live with greater security and freedom from persecution than in Bulgaria.

With the above reservation, the book under review is deserving of praise. So very little is known in these islands of the chequered history of the Serbian people, of their intensely democratic nationality continuously fighting for liberty, now against some unworthy prince, now against the enemy from without. The wave of the East overwhelmed the Balkan Peninsula and swept through the plains of Hungary and up the Danube to the very walls of Vienna; it then receded, little by little, before the advancing wave from the West. It held Serbia in its clutches, but never was it able to extinguish the Slav nationality. Just as in Spain we have the mythical Pelayo escaping from the Arab invasion into the hills and fastnesses of Asturias, where was born the new Spain which eventually drove the last Moor from Malaga across the Straits, so in Serbia of yore the Haiduks and Uskoks "withdrew into the least accessible recesses of the mountains and became practically outlaws. . . . They formed a nucleus round which Serbia was once more to grow into a political body." The result was inevitable: the new-born Serbia joined the invasion from the West, formed its vanguard, and from its geographical position was a strategic key of no mean importance. Eventually the Turk was driven through Macedonia back into Thrace, in a corner of which he still holds on to the last shred of his European Empire. If there were such a thing as finality in political movements, the Serb would now have been able peacefully to till his plots, sheathing the sword and wielding spade and hoe; but there is no such finality, and Serbia was no longer a useful buffer State between the Austro-Hungarian pot-pourri and the Osmanli Turk. So Austria, the immediate Power behind the brave Serb, coveted his trade routes along the Morava and Vardar, leading to Sofia and Constantinople on the one hand, and to Salonika on the other. To such an extent did the autocratic grasping Hapsburg, from time immemorial the arch-foe of all national movements, covet his small neighbour's heritage, that he was even willing to hurl the whole of Europe into war, regardless of its bloody consequences, if by doing so he could conquer and enthrall New Serbia. Hence, no sooner had the Serb freed her land from the Turk, than she was ruthlessly attacked from behind, and thus was born the great European War of 1914, to Serbia's participation in which M. Petrovitch devotes the concluding chapter of the historical section of his book.

C. R.

* "Serbia: Her People, History and Aspirations." By Woislav M. Petrovitch. (Harrap. 3s. 6d. net.)

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

Subscribers to "THE NEAR EAST" who have left the Ottoman Dominions since the war will oblige by notifying the Manager of their new address as early as possible, so that the supply of the paper should not be unduly interrupted.

"THE NEAR EAST" has largely increased its circulation in the United Kingdom since the war, and the Management is convinced that there are many people still who would be glad to know of its existence. Specimen copies will be forwarded post free if the names and addresses of friends are sent to the Manager, at 16-17, Devonshire Square, E.C

NEAR EAST BOOK NOTES.

Messrs. Hachette have published "L'Alliance Balkanique," by Iv. E. Gueshoff. If only because M. Gueshoff was formerly Prime Minister of Bulgaria, the book is sure to be in great demand. As a matter of fact, however, it is of considerable interest and value on its own merits.

Messrs. Sidgwick and Jackson have published, for the Folk-lore Society, "Roumanian Bird and Beast Stories," translated by M. Gaster. The price is 10s. 6d. net.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

L'Alliance Balkanique. Par Iv. E. Guéchoff. (Hachette. 3 fr. 50.)

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JOHN LANE: THE BODLEY HEAD, W

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1915. August 13	1915. July 31	Friday	1333. Shawwal 2	5675. Ellul 3
14	August 1	Saturday.....	3	4
15	2	Sunday	4	5
16	3	Monday	5	6
17	4	Tuesday	6	7
18	5	Wednesday	7	8
19	6	Thursday	8	9

Wednesday is the birthday of H.I.M. the Emperor Franz Josef of Austria, King of Hungary.

Wednesday is the birthday of H.R.H. Prince Nicholas, second son of King Ferdinand of Roumania, who was born at Castle Pelesh in 1903.

Lord Kitchener, accompanied by Lieutenant-Colonel O. A. G. FitzGerald, arrived at Windsor Castle on Monday, and left the following day.

A correspondent informs us that Djemal Pasha is now occupying the Bishop's House, at Jerusalem. The Cathedral and the Library were untouched at the end of April.

H.E. the Bulgarian Minister called at the Foreign Office on Wednesday.

H.E. the Roumanian Minister and H.E. the Serbian Minister were amongst the callers at the Foreign Office on Monday.

A Reuter's telegram reports the return to Athens on Wednesday of Mr. Venizelos. It is officially announced that the Greek Parliament will meet on Monday next.

The Turkish Minister at The Hague has left, to visit Berlin and Vienna.

Canon A. S. Hichens, of St. George's, Jerusalem, is now serving as Chaplain to the Forces at the Dardanelles.

Dr. Dearmer wishes to thank all the friends who have written him such kind letters of sympathy.

Miss Violet Asquith is making satisfactory though slow progress. She is now able to go out for drives, and as soon as her condition permits she will leave town.

Mrs. MacDougall, of Lunga, sincerely thanks the many friends who have expressed their sympathy with her in her great sorrow. She is unable to answer their letters at present, but hopes to do so soon.

Mr. Hugh E. C. Whittall has been appointed Lieutenant in the R.N.V.R. for service abroad, and has left England.

Dr. H. Thwaites, of the Jerusalem and the East Mission Fund, who joined the R.A.M.C. last year, is at present serving in France.

Mr. Gandon, who before the outbreak of the war with Turkey was manager of the Smyrna Gas Company, has arrived in London from Athens.

On Monday, at Coventry, the wife of Dr. E. W. G. Masterman, gave birth to a daughter. Dr. Masterman is head of the work carried on in Jerusalem by the London Society for Promoting Christianity amongst the Jews, and is also a prominent and active member of the Palestine Exploration Fund and a well-known writer on Palestinian archæology. He is at present in charge of the Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital.

The marriage of Captain James Pryce Lloyd Mostyn, Norfolk Regiment, and Miss Alix Inigo-Jones, younger daughter of the late Major-General Inigo-Jones, of Kelston Park, Somerset, took place quietly at Cairo on August 6.

An engagement is announced between Lieutenant Robin C. Carver, attached Royal Flying Corps, of Benha, Egypt, youngest son of the late Mr. H. C. Carver, of High Meadow, Wilmslow, and Rose Caroline, third daughter of the late Charles Henry Ashton and of Mrs. Ashton, The Grange, Ellesmere.

An engagement is announced between Thomas Symonds Tomlinson, Resident Magistrate at Zanzibar, and Diana, only daughter of Mr. P. J. and Mrs. Hibbert, of Hampsfield, Grange-over-Sands, and granddaughter of the late Right Hon. Sir John Hibbert, K.C.B. The marriage will take place quietly in September at Lindale in Cartmel.

To Rifleman M. Gallia, 7th (Service) Battalion Rifle Brigade, falls the honour of being (we understand) the first of our countrymen from Smyrna to be distinguished by mention in Battalion Orders for gallantry, when working with a party of bomb-throwers on the 31st ult. in an attack near Ypres.

We regret to learn that Acting-Corporal Ralph M. Warren, of the same Battalion, has been killed in action, having fallen while leading his section in an assault on the enemy's position on the 30th ult. He, with the majority of the Smyrna contingent of volunteers, joined the Rifle Brigade in October, and, after being in various camps in this country, was sent to the front about the middle of May. He was taking his second spell in the first-line trenches at the time he met his death. The late Mr. R. M. Warren was the sixth son of Mr. Amos Warren, for many years Telegraph Superintendent of the Ottoman Railway Company, Smyrna, and was himself Assistant Storekeeper to the same company until he resigned his post and came to England to join H.M. Forces.

Rifleman V. H. Hadkinson, another Smyrna member of the 7th Battalion Rifle Brigade, who, as reported last week was wounded at Hooge on July 8, and is now in Graylingwell War Hospital, Chichester, is, we are glad to learn, now able to be about again. Though still suffering from a bullet in the chest, he has offered himself for service at the Dardanelles.

Lieutenant F. Fisher, 13th Batt. King's Royal Rifles, who before he joined H.M. forces was on the staff of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, has been promoted captain.

Second Lieutenant H. N. Lyster, another member of the I.O.B. staff, has been transferred from the 4/3rd City of London (Royal) Fusiliers) T.F. to the Coldstream Guards.

Mr. H. C. Green, another member of the London staff of the I.O.B., who has been serving as a gunner, H.A.C. 2nd B. Batt R.H.A., has been granted a commission as 2nd Lieutenant R.F.A.

Second Lieutenant C. J. Moss, who is serving with his regiment (the Suffolks) at the Dardanelles, is yet another member of the Ottoman Bank staff.

Another member of the staff of the I.O.B., Mr. G. Hughes-Roberts, who joined the 1/12th County of London (the Rangers) as a private, has been missing for some two months. No news of him can be obtained, but two hundred men of the Rangers were taken prisoners at the same time, and it is hoped that he is amongst the number.

Mr. Cedric Séfi, the younger son of Mr. Alexander Séfi, has joined the Artists' Rifles O.T.C.

Under date of August 8, Reuter's Paris correspondent reports:—

"General Bailloud, temporary Commander-in-Chief of the French forces at the Dardanelles, has issued an order of the day in which he states that Lieutenant-General Hunter-Weston, commanding a British Army Corps, has informed his troops that illness compels him to leave them and has expressed his gratitude to all the British Army Corps and the French troops and their commanders. General Bailloud expresses the hope that the General will soon return to help in the completion of the joint task in which he has already played such a glorious part."

Lieutenant-General Hunter-Weston, who was originally in command of the 11th Brigade of the Third Corps on the Western front, commands in the Dardanelles the 29th Division, composed almost wholly of Regulars.

Major Acerby, Commissaire of Haute Uele District, Belgian Congo, with headquarters at Niangara, and Dr. Simonini, of the same station, arrived at Khartoum from Rejaf on July 17. Both are Italian reserve officers, who were employed by the Belgian Government. On behalf of the Governor-General, Major Pearson met them at the steamer and drove with them over the town, showing them the various places of interest. They left the following morning for Cairo on their way to Italy.

Louis Paulhan, the well-known aviator, who went to Serbia as a lieutenant, has, says the *Petit Parisien*, been promoted captain for having brought down an Austrian aeroplane, after an exciting pursuit, and for having dropped bombs on the enemy's hangars at night, causing the explosion of a large petrol depôt.

Colonel Neville Manders, Army Medical Service, who was killed in the Dardanelles on August 8 or 9, was the youngest son of Major Thomas Manders, 6th Dragoon Guards, and was born at Marlborough, Wilts, in 1859. He was educated at Marlborough, and after qualifying as F.R.C.P. and M.R.C.S. entered the Army Medical Service in 1884. He served in the Suakin Campaign of 1885 (medal with clasp and Khedive's Star), in the Burmese Expedition of 1887-89, in which he was severely wounded (medal with two clasps). In December, 1913, Colonel Manders was appointed Deputy-Director of the Medical Service in Egypt, a position which he retained until last January, when as A.D.M.S. he was, by special request, attached to the Headquarters Staff of the Australian and New Zealand Forces.

The British Red Cross Hospital to Montenegro, which is under the direction of Dr. Clemow, formerly Physician to the British Embassy at Constantinople, has just received a very welcome consignment of blankets, clothing, drugs, etc., sent from London by the Red Cross.

Amongst the closest friends of the Roumanians of Austria-Hungary (writes our Bucharest Correspondent) must be reckoned the Abbot Zavoral, the Father Superior of the Convent at Strahov, near Prague, who has been an untiring worker among the Rouman soldiers under arms in Transylvania. Feeling the need of a knowledge of the Roumanian language, he has actually managed to learn it in his few moments of liberty away from the wounded, and that so well that he is able to read aloud to them in their national tongue.

The Bishop of London, as president, and Lady Whitehead and Mrs. Masterman, as members of the Executive Committee of the Serbian Relief Fund, are making an appeal on behalf of the Children's Branch of the fund which has been formed with the object of founding in Serbia a British orphanage for the children of Serbian soldiers who have fallen in the war. They wish the orphanage to be "a free gift from the children of Britain to the children of Serbia, as a thank-offering for Serbia's heroic defence of the common cause, and as a permanent proof of British sympathy with a young and vigorous Slav nation in its fight for freedom and unity." Leaflets and collecting cards will be sent on application to the Secretary, Children's Branch, Serbian Relief Fund, 55, Berners Street, London, W. Cheques should be made payable to Sir Edward Boyle, the hon. treasurer, at the same address.

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After a period of service as aide-de-camp to Lieut.-General Sir J. G. Maxwell in Egypt, the Marquis of Anglesey has gone to the Dardanelles. The Marquis is a lieutenant in the famous "Blues." The Marchioness is staying with her mother, the Duchess of Rutland.

Judge Fleming and Mrs. Fleming left Khartoum for Cairo on July 29 on their way to this country, where they will pass the remaining part of the summer.

Recent departures from the Sudan on leave include Mr. Hewins, Kaimakam Thomson Bey, and Mr. and Mrs. Dennet.

An engagement is announced between Captain Edward Maitland Hutchinson, Royal Field Artillery, attached Egyptian Army, fourth son of Lieutenant-Colonel J. B. Hutchinson, C.S.I., Indian Army, and Mrs. Hutchinson, of Jhandra Ghat, Camberley, and Phyllis Maud, fourth daughter of Andrew and Mrs. Motion, of Upton House, Warwickshire.

Mr. F. C. Parsons, I.C.S., retired, who left Madras last year, is now in Serbia, where he is administrator of the second British hospital. Before leaving England Mr. Parsons was offered a commission in the Territorials, but, as he had made all his arrangements to go to Serbia, he was unable to accept it.

The British Farmers' Red Cross Fund has lately remitted £10,000 for hospital work in the Dardanelles. Offers of help should be addressed to the Fund at Room 5, Tower Bridge Flour Mills, Bermondsey, S.E.

As the result of two entertainments given on "Serbian Day" in Southampton a sum of close upon £30 was added to the flag sales.

An interesting war trophy sent over to New Zealand from the Dardanelles is one of the pontoons carried over the desert by the Turkish soldiers and launched on the Suez Canal during the enemy's unsuccessful effort to cross. The Minister for Defence has decided that since the Nelson (a South Island) company of the Expeditionary Force captured the pontoon, it is to be presented to that town.

The proprietors of the *Egyptian Gazette* have recently presented to the War Office in England a new 20-h.p. "Ford" motor-car for the use of the army in Egypt.

Mr. Sydney Moseley, formerly editor of the *Egyptian Mail*, is now acting as Central News correspondent with the Dardanelles Expeditionary Force.

Professor Israel, who recently operated on the Sultan of Turkey, in an interview published in the *Berliner Tageblatt*, says that when he arrived in Constantinople on June 16 he found the Sultan in a very bad condition. The professor took a week to consider whether he would venture on an operation, not only on medical, but also on political grounds, for, in the event of the operation being unsuccessful, "a change on the Throne at the present moment would have great significance for Turkey." As, however, the Sultan could have lived only for a very short time if not operated upon, and in view of the great pain which his Majesty was enduring, Professor Israel decided to operate, and succeeded in removing from the bladder two large stones, with the result that the Sultan's cure may now be considered complete. The professor said there were no visible signs of the war in Constantinople, save in the movements of innumerable trains with troops going to the front or returning with a stream of wounded and in the crowding of the hospitals.

A Syrian correspondent writes :—The new Vali of Beyrout is Azmy Bey, ex-Vali of Konia, who is said to be quite different in character and principles to his predecessor.

The *Egyptian Gazette* is informed by a refugee from Beyrout, a student of the Syrian Protestant College, that Dr. Howard Bliss, the headmaster, left Beyrout for Constantinople some time ago by land with the object of discussing with the Ottoman authorities at the Sublime Porte certain matters connected with his institution. It is believed that he will ask for permission to transform the college into a University on the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary, which will be celebrated next year. Most of those foreign students who are either unable or unwilling to leave Beyrout under the present circumstances (according to the *Gazette's* informant) have been transferred from the college to a temporary summer school established at Shueir, Lebanon.

A correspondent writes :—

Mr. J. B. Barron, who has lately been gazetted to the 3rd Battalion Worcestershire Regiment, is well known to all Jerusalem readers of THE NEAR EAST, having been for seven years a master at St. George's Boys' School, under Bishop Blyth. Mr. Barron was in Canada at the beginning of the war, and, like so many others, threw up a good post and enlisted in the Divisional Mounted Troops of the First Contingent. He was attached to the Cyclist Company, acting as despatch rider and scout. He was all through the battles of Neuve Chapelle, Ypres, Festubert, Aubers Ridge, etc. He gained his sergeant's stripe for a piece of work successfully carried through, and he was thanked by the General of his Division; and ten days later, for other service in the field, he was offered a commission in the Regular forces. Mr. Barron has had many singular escapes : once, whilst riding along a road exposed to the enemy's fire, his cycle was smashed under him by the bursting of a shell and he himself was blown fifty feet away into a ditch; his cap has been shot off his head, and his cigarette out of his hand; at Ypres he was in the famous 10th (Canadian) Division which fought back to back, repulsing the Germans on two sides, and after fighting many hours through the gas he was finally rendered unconscious by it, escaping by some miracle the worst effect of the poison; his last remembrance of this is rolling into a ditch and feeling the air sweet about him, while the gas passed over him like a heavy yellow cloud. On another occasion, whilst he was in charge of a detachment guarding an important bridge head, a high explosive shell burst on the roof of the guard-house, crashing through the room above into a lower room, where he and two men were sitting. All escaped unhurt, but the base of the shell, weighing 7 lbs., broke the rungs of the chair on which Mr. Barron had been sitting, and lay between his feet. Two days later he was in the garden of the same place when a shell blew away the wall behind him, half burying him under bricks and debris, and his cycle, which was just by him, was blown over the wall into another garden and hung exactly balanced on a clothes-wire, where it was found twisted and riddled beyond further use.

Mr. Barron's many Jerusalem friends will be glad to hear through THE NEAR EAST of his safety and success; a commission won on the field for conspicuous services rendered is the modern equivalent to winning one's spurs on the battlefield.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The charge for Announcements under this Heading is 2s. for three lines and 1s. per line afterwards. Minimum charge, 3s. All announcements must be authenticated with the name and address of sender.

BIRTHS.

DE SMIDT.—On August 6, at the Directorate, Delta Barrage, Egypt, the wife of Leonard F. P. de Smidt, Irrigation Dept., P.W.D., of a daughter.

MASTERMAN.—On August 9, at Coventry, to Dr. and Mrs. E. W. G. Masterman, of Jerusalem—a daughter.

MARRIAGE.

MACLAREN—SEAMAN.—On August 4, at St. Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow, by the Very Rev. Provost Deane, D.D., assisted by the Rev. Claude O'Flaherty, M.B., Ch.B., Charles Walter de Bois Maclaren, of the Levant Consular Service, and Armadale, Rosneath, to Dorothy Catherine, only daughter of W. J. Beattie Seaman, late of Aldingbourne House, Chichester.

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 13, 1915.

THE BULGARIAN NEGOTIATIONS

If the Bulgarian Government is not altogether devoid of the sense of humour, it must be enjoying the position in which the force of circumstances has placed it. Last year Bulgaria was the whipped pariah of the Balkans, shunned by its neighbours and without anyone whom it felt it could regard as a real friend among the Great Powers. The only policy before it seemed to be to decide as soon as possible which of its enemies would ultimately prove the least hostile or the least capable of indulging its supposed hostility and to use it in a scheme for revenge. On the one hand there was Russia's unpardonable crime in appearing to favour Serbia's claims at Bulgaria's expense; on the other hand, Germany, in the person of the German Emperor, had claimed personal responsibility for the terms of the Treaty of Bucharest, which consolidated the wrongs and humiliation suffered by Bulgaria at the hands of her former allies. So complete was her political ostracism in Europe that it seemed as if from dire necessity she would have to make common cause with her traditional enemy the Turks. Negotiations between Constantinople and Sofia were carried on in a spirit that reflected little of the bitter animosity that had previously actuated Turks and Bulgarians in their relations with one another, and although no obligations were entered into on either side, it is certain that Turkey alone of the Near Eastern States had reason to suppose herself immune from the danger of attack by Bulgaria. In this condition of affairs in the Balkans Germany was quick to see her opportunity. Bulgaria was encouraged to forget that the Emperor William had taken credit to himself for the harsh terms imposed upon her at Bucharest, and to dwell on the "treachery" of Russia, which in reality consisted solely in holding that Bulgaria was in the wrong in her quarrel with Serbia. An Austro-German loan, in spite of the usurious terms on which it was concluded, sufficed to satisfy the Bulgarian Government in its warped frame of mind that the friendship it was looking for was to be had from the Central Powers. With the outbreak of the European War everything pointed to Bulgarian sympathies being with Germany and Austria-Hungary, and if the struggle had not resolved itself into one for the independence of nations and the liberty of Europe, there can be little doubt that official Bulgaria would have been whole-heartedly on the Germanic side. Fortunately for Bulgaria, the nature of the quarrel enabled her to adopt an attitude of neutrality. She was not called upon to translate her sympathies into active co-operation; but she was given time to carry out an orientation of the fundamental principles at stake in the great upheaval of the nations.

We shall not do the Bulgarian Government the injustice of supposing that it took any length of time to make up its mind regarding the relative justice of the causes which were being fought for on the Continental battlefields. If for a moment it had wavered in its belief in the Triple Entente, it must have committed Bulgaria to co-operation with Germany and Austria-Hungary. For more than half a year Bulgaria was practically ignored by the Entente Powers. Throughout this period Germany was leaving nothing undone to influence Bulgarian opinion in her favour. The Bulgarian Government was shrewd enough to profit by the occasion, and proceeded to obtain as much as it could from the Central Powers and their Ally. From the former, instalments of the original loan have been secured, while Turkey has been forced to agree to a surrender of territory which a year ago would have been regarded as out of the question. In the meantime, the diplomacy of the Triple or Quadruple Entente has come to appreciate the potentialities of Bulgaria as a friendly State. Instead of being ignored, the Bulgarian Government suddenly finds itself the recipient of ardent solicitations. It is true that they come from the quarter to which Bulgaria's sympathies are now wholly inclined, but the Bulgarians would be more than human if they did anything to hasten the understanding which in their hearts they have long desired. They have learnt their lesson in the strictest school of international callousness; they are smarting under the sense of injured pride as well as under very definite grievances. It is useless to ask them to recognise their own shortcomings in the past. Those shortcomings are brushed aside as the mistakes of individuals, and the good intentions of the nation are cited as the factor that ought alone to determine Bulgaria's destiny. To-day the Bulgarian Government has the satisfaction of seeing this point of view no longer ignored by the Entente Powers. Court is being paid to it, almost as if it had the issue of the war in its hands; to such an extreme does reaction from the former attitude of indifference proceed. It is to be hoped, however, that the native shrewdness of the Bulgarians will prevent them from sacrificing their own interests for the sake of a diplomatic triumph. From the Turks, who thought to qualify for the rôle of their only friend, they have wrung an agreement for a substantial rectification of the Thracian frontier. They have need, therefore, to be careful not to be led into the belief that they can necessarily obtain from those who are their real friends all they may desire.

The warning will not be altogether out of place if we have to take at their face value the statements of responsible Ministers and the fulminations of the inspired Press. Bulgaria has been dealt with far too cynically in the past to have any scruples against offering herself to the bidder who seems the more likely to "make good." The offers that reach her from Germany are not likely to fall short of her wildest dreams. They will not only be attractive, but will seem to throw into an unfavourable light the cautious overtures of the Quadruple Entente. But Bulgaria must decide for herself upon the relative chances which the rival claimants have of carrying their promises into effect. On this point it is well that the Entente Powers should not cherish any illusions. Not only has Germany been preaching her invincibility to Bulgarian ears for twelve months, but she has been substantiating her claims in a remarkable manner in Galicia and Poland. The Allies, therefore, enter upon their task of persuading Bulgaria under numerous disadvantages. They have the striking manifestations of Germany's military strength, and they must also contend with the ineptitudes of their own diplomacy in the past. Indifference to Bulgaria's case has of necessity implied encouragement of Serbia and Greece in a belief in the unchallengeable justice of their contentions. Neither of these countries is likely to change its belief except under compulsion—with a very clear indication of the dangers attaching to recalcitrancy. The demands made by Bulgaria upon Serbia and Greece entail the surrender of territory in Macedonia to which both countries offer the stoutest resistance. By the opening of negotiations at the three capitals concerned the Entente Powers indicate that they have at last appreciated the crux of the position. The course of these negotiations is rightly kept secret. As we have never wavered in the belief that the Balkan States can be brought to realize that the interests of the Peninsula as a whole require an understanding and a working agreement between them, we feel confident that the differences now dividing the countries are susceptible of settlement. The obstacles are mainly of German construction, and will have to be overcome by the judicious employment of courage and strength. For reasons that need not be recapitulated here Great Britain must take a leading part in these negotiations. At Sofia the ground has been carefully prepared by recent diplomatic changes. The Bulgarian Government, therefore, while entitled to its gratification over the turn which the course of affairs has taken, will not be slow to recognize that statesmanship rather than pique must interpret the true interests of the country.

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EIGHTEEN MONTHS AGO.

(*December* 30, 1913.)

A DIARY OF TRAVEL.—III.

By Mary A. Poynter.

From Cairo to Port Said, across the land of Goshen, our train sped for two hours or more through a green, luxuriant landscape basking under a warm January sun. The Nile is far-spreading as well as far-flowing, and its touch is all the magic the responsive soil of Egypt seems to need. But the desert is grasping, and as soon as the little hills are met with and irrigation becomes difficult, palm tree and green field leave off, save in patches, yellow sand and bare rock taking their places.

Port Said, apart, a town unto itself, sits at the corner of the south-eastern Mediterranean and at the head of the Suez Canal, for the special purpose, it seemed to us, of keeping travellers waiting, and holding up ships for hours outside its harbour if a storm chances to be in progress in the Mediterranean. This rather severe arraignment, we understand, is applicable to Port Said only on rare occasions; its real mission is to open the gate politely to all ships Eastward bound (after they have been weighed and not found wanting), and to administer to the needs of and keep the Canal in ship-shape order from the Gulf of Suez to the Mediterranean.

If a sand-storm had not seen fit to blow up and down and roundabout at Port Said the day and two nights we were detained there, the town, with its broad-arcaded street or streets, reminiscent of India, its curious mixture of East and West and North and South, would have appealed to us more vividly and kindly. With the sand-storm there came a fall in temperature—and there is nothing so penetrating as the cold in a place that ought to be hot! It is a curious thing, too, to experience a raging, blinding storm, without rain or snow, and with a sun shining blandly in the sky all the while. Wind and sand are a combination to make the hardiest seek for shelter.

A voice at our door very early on this January morning announced that our ship was in harbour, after many hours tossing on the high seas outside, and that we were expected to go on board immediately. While it was still dark we followed our porter and the luggage to the Custom House and down to the quay with many a shiver and with coat collars held high. At sunrise the wind dropped altogether, and we were able to go on deck and take account of our surroundings, of what manner of a boat and harbour we were in. The morning was altogether reassuring. The Arab coolies were just finishing the coaling of our steamer to the accompaniment of that wild, rhythmic chant, dear to their souls when they have some work to accomplish in unison. This chant seems to consist of a phrase of questioning, ending, after a second's interval, with a phrase of response. They have no set expressions, but improvise as their task proceeds, as for example, should their employer come in sight, the words of the chant might take this form: "The master is coming, let us work hard!" the response being: "And perhaps he will give us more wages, he will give us more wages!" These picturesque workers are not without a sense of humour as well, and it is said that, conscious of the interest they provoke, when travellers stop to listen to their chanting they have been known to change the words of their refrain and to coin some fresh phrases apropos of the looks and the peculiarities of the people watching them.

Port Said for the moment in the morning light looked quite impressive rising out of its sea and desert surroundings. Then the town, the rather imposing offices of the Canal Company, the tall lighthouse at the entrance of the harbour, the salt mounds on the shore, lost their interest for us in the growing interest of that narrow little lane of water before us which was to be our ship's pathway for a hundred miles or so.

At a snail's pace—a ship's snail's pace—we fell into line and crept forward, taking our turn with the many other boats that were in the harbour awaiting permission to enter the Canal. Slow as our progress seemed, it did not take us long to be free of the port and out in the desert, through which the Suez Canal has hewed and hollowed its way. We looked for the mirages that travellers often speak of seeing as they journey through the Canal, but no deceptive domed city or oasis with palms was seen that day to vary the desert's monotony. The storm of the night before had dispelled all mists, all illusions. The pelican, in groups of many dozens, stood alone in his wilderness.

It takes usually something like seventeen hours to sail through the Suez Canal, a goodly part of these seventeen hours being consumed at "sidings"—broader places where boats going in opposite directions may pass each other. The Canal is so narrow one must "tie up" while the other passes. Watching great ships pass thus at close range and speculating upon the mystery of when our boat was to "tie up" and when to be signalled the right of way kept us interested until nightfall. One or two towns—Ismailia of to-day and the ruins of ancient Pelusium—are passed, and the Canal also crosses the old caravan route between Egypt and Syria, and then come the Bitter Lakes, through which steamers are allowed to increase their speed. But the latter half of the journey through the Canal was accomplished at night, and the town of Suez reached and passed so early in the morning that few passengers were astir to see the place tradition assigns as being the scene of the passage of the Children of Israel and the overwhelming of Pharaoh's hosts by the Red Sea. At times wild monsoon winds still blow and drive back the waves and play strange freaks with the waters of this usually placid sea.

When we came on deck we were hardly out of the Suez Gulf part of the Red Sea, but already the flat African desert coast on the right had taken on a background of mountains and on the left, as the steamer proceeded, the mountains of the Sinai Peninsula became more and more clearly defined, Sinai itself, the Mountain of the Law, being distinguishable in the distance at one time from the rest of the range. As the day advanced these mountains, seemingly devoid of vegetation, grew richer and warmer with colour. At sunset time the whole Sinai range was aglow with a deep rose light, which, together with the silver of the full moon rising directly behind, made a picture as unforgettable as it would have been impossible to catch with the brush.

Strabo, or some other time-honoured authority, says that the Red Sea owes its name to the colour of the people who dwelt along its shores—and a reddish-brown folk they are to this day, these Sabaeans. The spawn of certain fish during one or two months of the year lend the waters a reddish tinge in places, so much so that enthusiastic people may misconstrue this into being the true colour of the deep. In reality the Red Sea is a dark blue when it is not a grey-blue, or a blue-green, or storm-colour, as the case may be.

After a day out the Red Sea broadens, and the land on both sides disappears, unless one chances to be on a coasting steamer that calls at all sorts of interesting ports on both Eastern and Western shores. There were those with us who could tell of calling at Port Sudan, on the African side, the port of the greater Sudan beyond. They could also tell of calling at Jeddah, on the Arabian shore, but none save the old Mohammedan *hajjis* in the steerage could tell of that strange pilgrimage city of Mecca, lying among the mountains sixty miles inland, of which this same Jeddah is the port. Mecca is a ready word to come to the lips; indeed, it comes so familiarly, and many of us have seen so many picturesque pilgrims setting out Meccaward, that it seems as if it were a haunt open to the visitations of the multitude rather than to the followers of Mohammed only. We sometimes talk most of what we know least about, which is, perhaps, safe enough if one does not talk harshly.

The ordinary track of the steamers lies down through the middle of the Red Sea, but has to be travelled with caution, as the great coral reefs have a way of cropping out in mid-sea as well as along the shores. It takes several days to traverse its length, and there are some islands lower down, waterless, volcanic, and otherwise, upon which the lights were put out during the Turco-Italian war, and which made navigation at night a little unsafe as well as difficult. The lighthouses on these islands now have their lamps trimmed and burning, and ships steam merrily on by night as well as by day. Here one also has the experience of passing out of the temperate zone into the tropics, and the obliging captain will make an effort to point out the Southern Cross, dimly visible low down the horizon, if the light of the full moon does not eclipse the shining of the lesser stars.

The lower part of the Arabian coast bordering on the Red Sea, and known as the Yemen, is perhaps best known as the seat of continual uprising by Arab sheikhs against the Turkish Government or any government that undertakes to dictate to them. The Queen of Sheba's country, the land behind the mountains of the Yemen, long since passed out of the hands of this inquiring queen, is little known to the world at large to-day. One venturesome explorer made an effort recently to reach its capital, but was turned back by the natives with more haste than politeness. Yet word filters through that behind those forbidding mountains there are springs and green pastures and the remains of a once-prosperous kingdom.

Much has been written and more said about the heat and some other things of Aden; probably all has been true, and what I am going to write is true also. We came into the port of Aden about midday, taking a pilot on board and dodging various islands that put up jagged and picturesque peaks, seemingly to help the British Government in its work of fortifying this, the earliest of its Victorian acquisitions. We sailed out of the Red Sea through the Straits of Bab-el-Mandeb in the night, before leaving Africa, that no longer dark continent, quite behind us.

Travellers speak of Aden as being "just around the corner" on the Arabian side, but it takes some hours to "round" this "corner" and cast anchor at the rocky point where India, faintly suggested by Port Said, may be said to

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begin. Not that the little town with its strip of desert behind is peopled largely with the natives of India, or that this absolutely waste place so far as vegetation is concerned joins shores, or, rather, lands, with India proper. Even the smell of the place—a mixture of dust, spice, camel, and tobacco—is of the wild Arabia, from whence it came.

The India part of Arabia is that, though long days distant from that land, it is administratively a part of the Bombay Presidency, that it is soldiered in part by Anglo-Indian troops, and that here the Indian bungalow—that comfortable house consisting of a broad, overhanging roof and deep verandahs, first makes its appearance. And the ubiquitous, uncompromising sola topee of India (from whence it has journeyed to Egypt and the Sudan) commences here to be seen on every head, save that of the native—feminine as well as masculine—that goes out in the sunshine.

If India comes here to meet the West, so it would seem that all Somaliland, left behind us as we supposed in Africa, sets out thus far Indiaward. Its representatives swarm on land and swarm in little boats about the ship, their shiny, lithe black bodies bending at all angles, yet never angular, as they offer their various wares—baskets, tobacco, and ostrich feathers—for sale. It is somewhat difficult to describe the dress of these Somalis, as there is so little of it—just a bit of cloth draped about the loins. Perhaps they wear strings of beads at home; I did not see any worn here. Their black countenances are usually very open, with broad smiles, showing a full outfit of very white teeth, the whole being set off with a great bushy, upstanding shock of tow-coloured hair. One's curiosity concerning this latter incongruity is instantly excited, and we were told the Somali lad has ways and means of his own for making many crinkly black hairs white or dust-coloured. We saw one head in the process of "bleaching," literally plastered with some white substance that looked like lime.

We went on shore prepared for great heat, but found a pleasant, coolish breeze blowing and everybody awake and about in a surprising fashion, considering what we had been led to expect. In spite of its being a desert spot, man looked well-fed and his camel prosperous, the latter's degree of prosperity being indicated by the amount of plumpness of his hump. Nice little bullocks, the sacred India kind, also with humps, though not large ones, were leisurely drawing loaded two-wheeled carts where their partly naked drivers directed. For the first time we saw the camel harnessed (he is an old friend of ours) and drawing very small carts filled with water about the streets. From his supercilious height he simply looked bored—not vexed—at being put between shafts.

Before setting forth to visit "the tanks" we went into the stores of Messrs. Cowasjee, Dinshaw and Co. (everybody knows these gentlemen), where I believe one can buy anything from a hair-pin to a ship; a white mouse to a hunting leopard. We went to inspect two of these leopards, and pretty, sleek, gentle spotted pussies they looked, fast asleep in one corner of the broad verandah. We were asked if we would like to pet them (being fond of pussies), but we hastened to assure the man in charge that it would be a shame to waken them!

Motor-cars are a fresh importation in Aden, and are much appreciated by the natives of "rank and fashion." The half-dozen or more were in such demand that afternoon that our little party of six had to climb into ordinary tikka gharries—two-seated sort of nondescript vehicles. Having only an hour and a-half allowed us (according to steamer time, which is never lenient to passengers) to drive to the "tanks" and back, our driver whipped up his little span briskly and over the smooth English roads we rattled, but none too fast for the little Somali lads, who kept up with us nearly all the way, shouting: "No faddah! No muddah! No sister! No bruddah! Backsheesh! Backsheesh!" It would seem from this that the population of all Somaliland must be composed of orphans. Our road to the "tanks" lay through the old town—built in the centre of a crater, which is, needless to say, extinct. Its Arab population graced the streets, may I say—they certainly gave it what grace it had—and the town also housed the men and animals of the Camel Corps. These were in their quarters when we passed. Almost everything else was out of doors. But not an Arab beggar did we see! They are much too proud to ask for pennies. Their pride shows in every glance, every movement. What lady of high degree can drape a shawl about her shoulders, letting it come almost to the ground, and carry it, too, with the grace of one of these dark-skinned men of the desert? One passed us, mounted high on a sleek, long-paced, running camel. The rider and his mount looked like carven silhouettes against the sky; they seemed to move almost without movement and with the silence of night, not of day.

An old Indian ex-soldier showed us all we could see in ten minutes of the famous tanks of Aden. These were originally built by the Persians, so some authorities say, in a great cleft in the mountain, and are kept in repair to this time. They consist of a number of huge tanks, or basins, built with cement in the natural rock, the first one high up in the mountain chasm, and the others below in a descending scale to catch the water as it may overflow from the one directly above. Alas! it does not often overflow. If this land was dry in old Persian times, it is still drier to-day. The rainfall each year is now too slight to be counted upon to quench the thirst of man and beast, to say nothing of thirsty vegetation. The only trees we saw in Aden town were a dusty banyan tree and a pepul tree growing, or trying to grow, by one of the upper tanks. The water that supports life in Aden now is drawn from the sea and condensed into fitness for drinking.

Mr. Cowasjee, being, among other things, the agent of our ship's company, gave us the use of his boat to and from the shore, and came on board to bid us farewell ere our ship set sail. We had a pleasant little visit with this Parsee among Parsees, though my eyes and thought would wander a bit from the man and his faultless English to his spotless white dress, white trousers—broad and flowing—a long white coat of curious cut and tied in front instead of being buttoned, and lastly, to his shiny, brimless hat of "more than Oriental splendour."'

As the time came for the boat to weigh anchor the prices of the wares for sale began to go down. The man with the ostrich feathers had to be almost forcibly put off the boat by the stewards. The Somali boys in the little boats below throw up a skilful line to a would-be purchaser, and one gets a brightly tinted, quaintly woven basket at a reasonable price after much bargaining. It is not that one really wants the basket either; it is the picturesque experience that one seeks, the flashing smiles on the black faces below, the naughty little whimper with which the seller tries to make you believe your shilling has been lost on its way down in the basket, then the quick change back to smiles again when he sees you do not believe him. Well, man must earn his living some way, and small wonder that the native people prefer to live upon the fat of the ship rather than upon the fat of the land—which is thin even to leanness.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

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

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

THE IMPERIAL MARITIME LEAGUE.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—The Imperial Maritime League from the very commencement of its recruiting campaign realised that working below the surface there was a strong pro-German and anti-British propaganda being carried on, and that sooner or later this would develop into an open organised movement to stop the war in the interest of Germany. The League has therefore utilised its campaign to exert quietly and steadily a counteracting influence. The following resolution for signatures was drawn up, and has been extensively signed:—

> We, the undersigned, desire to place on record our unswerving determination to use all the possible means at our disposal to support the Governments of the Allied peoples in carrying on the war until peace has been restored by the unconditional surrender of the enemy, and thus for all time crush the arrogant military despotism of the German Empire, with which she is now seeking to dominate the world.

A resolution identical with this form has also been put at over 2,000 of the League's meetings. This has been passed practically unanimously, there having been so far only three dissentients to the resolution.

Now that the League's forecast has proved correct, it is anxious to have this phase of its work more widely known, and we would ask all patriotic people to sign the petition and to induce their friends to do so. All who have the time to organise a house-to-house canvass in their own neighbourhood would be doing a patriotic service.

This letter will be sent to the oversea Press in order that the movement may be an empire and not merely a national one.

Forms can be obtained on application from the Honorary Secretary, Imperial Maritime League, 2, Westminster Palace Gardens, Victoria Street, London, S.W.

I am, etc.,

WILLOUGHBY DE BROKE.

2, Westminster Palace Gardens, Westminster, London, S.W.,
August 12, 1915.

Any newsagent or bookstall in the United Kingdom can supply copies of "THE NEAR EAST," which are on sale early on Friday morning. Should any difficulty be experienced in obtaining the paper, the Manager would be glad to receive a post card giving particulars, and he will take steps to rectify the matter.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Fate of the Balkans.

In a leading article under the above heading *The Times* (August 6) dealt very fully with the part German diplomacy formerly played in the Balkan States, and the object by which it has always been inspired up to the present.

After the victories of the Balkan League, Germany and Austria strove, unfortunately with success, to sow discord between the Allies, and prompted the Bulgarian attack upon Serbia and Greece. The unjust Treaty of Bucharest, which, as the late King Carol telegraphed to the German Emperor, was to be, "thanks to you, definitive," was concluded under German auspices.

The same policy, that of blinding the Balkan peoples to their true interests and preventing their expansion by fomenting internal dissensions, is actively in force at the present time, and *The Times* points out that it has already deprived Greece of an opportunity such as will probably never recur. The paper considers, however, that diplomatic short-sightedness on the part of the statesmen of the Triple Entente is responsible for a certain measure of Germany's success in Balkan affairs. "Their first duty should have been to guarantee to the Balkan States that, on the day of victory, those States should receive, as nearly as possible, all the territories inhabited by people of their own blood. There can be no true peace in the Balkans until a settlement is attained."

We quote below the concluding paragraphs of the article:—

If the Bulgarians desire, as they are entitled, to attain their ethnographical boundaries after the war, just as Serbia is entitled to realize the aspirations of all her Southern Slav kindred to political unity, and Roumania to liberate the Rumanes of Austria-Hungary, there is but one course open to the Balkan peoples. Their vital interests command them to side with the Powers that are engaged in repelling German aggression. It is for the diplomacy of the Allies so to deal with Balkan Governments as to bring their action into harmony with the aspirations of their peoples. The fate of the Balkans is at stake.

The Outlook in the Balkans.

In the course of a leading article, the *Manchester Guardian* (August 9) deals with the situation in the Balkans in the light of the recent German advance in Poland. The paper leans to the opinion that, granted moderate security in the west, and threatened with serious danger at the Narrows, Germany would undoubtedly attempt to link up her armies with the Turkish forces. As matters stand, however, it is shown that any attempt to do this would almost certainly result in immediate war with Roumania, and Bulgaria's attitude is too doubtful to be trifled with. In the meanwhile the *Guardian* sees no reason why the Entente should not succeed in obtaining an agreement with all the Balkan States upon general terms.

We believe that the enunciation by all the Entente Powers of a formula of policy in which the recognition of the principle of nationality in territorial rearrangements and of the freedom of the Straits should be the principal term might have an excellent effect. What the Balkan neutrals are saying is that they do not seem to have much to gain from the triumph of either side. If Germany wins, the Balkan States would at best be mere satellites of the great Middle Germanic Empire from Hamburg to the Persian Gulf. They all see that. They add, however, that the result would be much the same if Russia beat Germany. The best answer to that argument might be the enunciation of a policy of general application which would show that the policy of the Allies is not one of self-aggrandisement, but liberationist in the truest sense.

Lifting the Deadlock.

Almost alone among the papers of London, the *Evening Standard* (August 5), in an article under the above heading, is hopeful that the desire of M. Gounaris to be able to point to some results achieved by his five months' tenure as Prime Minister of Greece may lead to a fruitful result of the negotiations proceeding between the Allies and Greece. The paper continues:—

It must, however, be remembered that the main difficulty to be overcome is presented not by Greece, but by Serbia. We think we are justified in saying that now that Serbia is about to get much more than the window in the Adriatic, whose refusal impelled her to hold Macedonian territory east of the Vardar, public opinion in this country, while sympathising deeply with her unhappy situation and appreciating her great gallantry, anticipates a reasonable accommodation between her and her other Balkan neighbours.

The Mesopotamian Expedition.

A writer in a recent number of the *Broad Arrow* (July 31) contributes a short but admirable article on the above expedition. He shows how the success which has attended this campaign emphasizes our inexhaustible resources of Empire, and draws an interesting comparison between our methods of strategy on the Tigris and Euphrates and those employed during the Nile and other great campaigns of the world. We quote the paragraph with which the writer concludes his article after a brief résumé of the expedition up to the end of May:—

Meanwhile our men became adepts in handling hundreds of the peculiar long and thin native boats, each holding ten men, and two when linked together holding a machine gun. River steamers were brought up and assisted to maintain communications to Amarah, which was reached on June 3. On the whole, the aid of aeroplanes made this the most interesting as well as effective expedition up these mighty historic streams since the fall of Belshazzar himself; and it is a pity that the preoccupations of our people in more terrible zones have prevented them from doing full justice to a perfectly marvellous enterprise.

Look to the East.

The supreme importance of the operations at the Dardanelles in their bearing upon the war as a whole forms the keynote of the *Observer's* (August 8) weekly notes on the situation. The writer prefaces his remarks with the following allusion to the connection between affairs in Russia on the one hand and the Dardanelles on the other:—

All Europe is more than ever overshadowed for the moment by the great military drama in the East, where the fortunes of our own troops and their French comrades in the outlying fight at the Dardanelles must always be regarded as inseparable from the ordeal of Russia. It must be steadily regarded as the key to the surest and fullest recovery in that region. Even before the Polish capital was abandoned by the Grand Duke we had tightened our grip on Gallipoli. We shall have to discuss the connection between these two facts.

In its subsequent review of activities, the *Observer* notes that we are at last getting at the real meaning of terms, and that no one any longer pretends to regard the Dardanelles expedition as a secondary undertaking. The *Observer* considers the attitude of Roumania to be the most unreasonable of Bulgaria's neighbours, and expresses itself as "infinitely anxious" that the Serbians should enter with a willing heart into the adjustments which are absolutely indispensable to the making of a greater Serbia. In regard to Greece, the writer's opinions are an echo of those expressed in our leading article last week:—

As for Greece, statesmanship disappeared with M. Venizelos, and the consequences of the eyeless policy of his successors may soon be past repairing. The pro-German Court and the Government of its choice have relieved the Allies from all obligation. Roumania, Bulgaria, and Serbia by themselves would constitute a Balkan League incomparably stronger than the last and capable of ensuring an equally splendid and solid expansion for each of its members.

Articles to Note.

"The Dardanelles Campaign" (illustrated), in the *Sphere* (August 7).

"The Indestructible Bulgarians," by H. M. Wallis, in the *Daily News* (August 10).

"Through Constantinople," by H. B. Boyd-Carpenter, in the *Morning Advertiser* (August 7).

"Across Galata Bridge," in the *Nation* (August 7).

"Calais or Constantinople?", by A. H. Trapmann, in the *Sunday Pictorial* (August 8).

"The Anzacs" and "A Night on Anzac," by H. V. Nevinson, in the *Manchester Guardian* (August 5 and 7).

"In the Dardanelles," by a French Surgeon, in the *Evening Standard* (August 5).

"The World-Wide War" (v.), by "L. H. C.," in the *Liverpool Courier* (August 6).

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DIRECTORY

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(*Continued on page 420.*)

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

The rumoured cession to Bulgaria by Turkey of the land lying to the west of the Maritza, consequently putting the former in possession of the entire railway line to Dedeagatch, is not a *fait accompli*, as was feared last week. *The Times* correspondent in the Balkan Peninsula admits that a protocol to the effect has been signed between the two countries, but states that it may be regarded as "practically devoid of political importance." On August 4 "no change had occurred in the relations between Bulgaria and Turkey, and the negotiations were apparently at a standstill." We reproduce the full message on another page. It proves conclusively that the negotiations between Turkey and Bulgaria on the subject of the Dedeagatch-Sofia line date from prior to the war; that on Bulgaria's part they were due solely to economic considerations, and were without any political significance. The only question that arises is: What is the *quid pro quo* to be? Either this has not been determined or, if so, it has been kept secret. Which is it? Until we know that, and until the negotiations between the two countries have been brought to a conclusion, no one can criticise Bulgaria for wishing to free Dedeagatch from its existing economic disadvantages.

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The article by Mr. Albert Ball which appeared in the current issue of the *Quarterly Review* on German methods in Italy is so characteristic of German methods in the Balkans (and even in Austria!) that we have quoted lengthy extracts therefrom on another page. There are German institutions similar to the Banca Commerciale in Serbia (generally run by Austrian banks with German backing), in Bulgaria, Roumania, and above all in Turkey. The Berlin consortium, at whose head stands the ubiquitous Deutsche Bank, is beyond a doubt the most powerful and influential financial group on the Continent, a gigantic wire-pulling institution with willing, paid tools in all the countries where they operate. Shipping companies, coal companies, oilfields, railway lines owe them allegiance; importing houses are in their debt, and liquidate it by importing German goods from industrial firms allied to the banks; politicians, newspaper proprietors, and the aristocracy are likewise in their debt, and liquidate it by adding to the power and prestige of the branch firms locally established, even when contrary to the interests of their own country. The hold which the German banks have thus obtained in foreign countries is tremendous, so great in fact that they influence, and practically control, the national economic and political life of the victim State. Nor is this power likely to be obliterated when once peace has been signed, unless the Allies make up their minds to wage as ruthless a financial war against the Huns as they are doing to-day in the naval and military spheres.

***

The first step in the desired direction is, as I have always pointed out, the creation (as regards the Near East) of an Anglo-Balkan Bank. Far be it from me to suggest that this bank should work on German lines, *i.e.*, by means of bribery and corruption, but it will, nevertheless, have to look after British interests, and further them by all legitimate means. It will also have to be in a position to keep a careful watch on German financial doings and report them to headquarters, where they can be attended to and counteracted wherever necessary or possible. In this way the nefarious influence of the German suborning banks would gradually be restricted, though it will doubtless take years of hard work to unmask, in the countries concerned, all the tortuous doings and subterranean tunnels of the German mole-banks. Nevertheless, it must be done, and the Near Eastern countries themselves will only be too glad of our assistance in helping them to get rid of Germany's pernicious influence based on financial crookedness.

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Herr Stinnes, of Constantinople coal fame, is again to the front in connection with the sale of eleven ships, in all probability of German origin, to a United States ring of buyers. These ships have been bought by the American group at British, Scandinavian, and Mediterranean ports, and the exact nationality of the vessels previous to their sale "is not stated." One might think, almost, that they were enemy ships eluding the grasp of the law. The whole transaction is peculiarly a German one. Apparently the vessels were originally bought by a Danish coal merchant with funds provided by Herr Stinnes, and have now been sold again to the American group. Considering that Herr Stinnes is one of the tools (or used to be, because now he is, in all probability, one of the leaders) of the great German financial consortium referred to in a previous paragraph, I must be excused if I imagine that the whole deal has been successfully engineered by the group in question, who are, of course, allied with the big German shipping companies, and doubtless acting on their behalf. I wonder, in view of the above successful transaction, what new rôle will be reserved for Herr Stinnes in Germany's financial developments after the war. It is a name, a suspicious name, to be borne in mind.

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Our Sofia Correspondent chronicles a welcome change in the attitude of the Agrarians to the Government. Hitherto they have been the staunch supporters of neutrality, but now that they have to realise their crops, and cannot do so owing to the fact that the Dardanelles are still closed, they are beginning to decry neutrality, and to urge the Government to aid the Entente Powers in their Dardanelles task. It is to be hoped that our representatives on the spot have noticed this change, and are acting accordingly.

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It is not only in Bulgaria, however, that agriculturists are feeling the effects of the situation in the Dardanelles. In Roumania, a much larger grain-producing country, the lack of sea-borne traffic is sowing discontent among the peasantry, and a rising of the peasantry is feared unless something is done to hasten the opening of the Straits. This "something" is that Roumania, in the same way as Bulgaria, must aid the Entente Powers in their struggle for the Straits. The sooner these are opened, the quicker will the two countries be able to dispose of their crops. This is logic, and the fact that in both countries the farmers, etc., are beginning to realise it, shows that the Governments dare not hesitate much longer.

The arrival in the Mersey last week of a vessel flying the Persian flag seems to have caused some surprise among those to whom the Persian mercantile flag is an unknown quantity. Apparently, the International Code Signal book gives this flag as being green, white and red, in horizontal stripes, from which regulation the Limmi, the vessel in question, departed to the indignation of those who had to classify her. Besides, her log was an interesting one. Her port is Bundar Abbas, she belongs to the Compagnie Perso-Ottomane de Navigation à Vapeur, and she arrived in the Mersey from the Greek Islands with a cargo of ore, flying an unrecorded flag. I am sure that the status of the boat was as great a puzzler to the authorities at Liverpool as the Orient question is to our most enlightened statesmen.

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On another page we publish an official notice of the Bulgarian Government inviting tenders for the construction of four railway lines. These are:—(1) From Radomir, through Dupnitza to Jumaja, with a branch line; (2) from Dupnitza to Bovovdal; (3) from Plevna to Lovetch; and (4) from Gabrovo to Sevlijevo. THE NEAR EAST's Special Correspondent in the Balkans, writing in our Engineering Supplement last summer (June 19), gave the following particulars concerning the lines in question:—(1) This is the "first immediate section of a line intending eventually to link up Strumnitza with Sofia. From Dupnitza it follows the course of the Dzermveno River, one of the affluents of the Struma, to its union with the latter, and then follows the Struma Valley to Jumaja." The branch line (2) from Dupnitza was not mentioned in the despatch referred to, and is only a small item. (3) It is intended to construct a line running north from Plevna to Philippopolis, via Lovetch, Trojan, and Karlovo. The first section, it would appear, is that from Plevna to Lovetch. "The district between Lovetch, Sevlijevo and Gabrovo is the Manchester of Bulgaria," wrote our Correspondent, "and it is intended to link up the three towns by rail." This explains (4) which two of the towns mentioned above are to be connected by rail. At present, Gabrovo is linked up with Tirnovo, but Sevlijevo has no railway communication. The next step will doubtless be to connect Sevlijevo with Lovetch, and then continue the line southward to Karlovo and Philippopolis.

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The following further particulars from our Special Correspondent in the Balkans, concerning railway construction in Bulgaria, will be of interest to those who contemplate sending in a tender:—"The usual procedure followed in Bulgaria is by the publication of an open tender, the work generally going to the lowest bidder. Government payments are regular, in instalments. Practically all the rails are of British make, but the rolling stock, as a rule, is supplied by Continental firms. Any big British firm of contractors willing to make one (or several) of the lines to be built would not only find a welcome (in Bulgaria), but would be able to do a profitable piece of work. . . We should not lose sight of the possibilities offered to British firms in connection with railway construction in Bulgaria." Unfortunately, this is not a happy moment in which to invite tenders from British engineering firms up to their ears in Government work.

COMMENTATOR.

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German Financial Methods.

The current issue of the *Quarterly Review* contains an article by Mr. Albert Ball on Germany's financial methods in Italy, which is so applicable to practically all Near Eastern countries that we reproduce the following extracts:—

German financiers who work in foreign countries do not conform to any type we know. Having been carefully trained in the language, history, physiography, and industries of the country they are destined to occupy, and having learned the most approved methods of finance and of organisation, they are then sent out by one of the powerful industrial banks to a district which has been carefully studied and prepared for their arrival. They go there with all the proper introductions and the financial backing of those who sent them, and they proceed to found a financial institution, probably an industrial bank, to which they at once give a name which suggests a local origin, or, at any rate, avoids all suspicion of German influence. Thus we have a Banca Romana at Bukarest, a Creditna Bank at Sofia, a Banca Commerciale Italiana at Milan, and, what is even more mystifying, a Banca Russa at Genoa. All these banks are of German origin, but do not betray it in their names; and the same procedure is followed in Austria, Switzerland, Belgium, Russia, or any other country to which German capital is attracted.

Local Banks.

Having founded the bank, our German financiers see to it that the control and management remain in their hands, and that Germans are appointed to the responsible posts on the staff; but otherwise, to the best of their abilities, they will endeavour to secure local notabilities as shareholders or even directors. This is useful in obtaining further capital and desirable business connections, and, above all, it goes a long way to give the enterprise the local or national appearance which the name usually implies. In the course of time the preponderating German influence will no doubt be suspected. If it creates difficulties, it is quite easy for the parent bank to transfer the German interest in the undertaking, which we will suppose to be in Russia, to a bank, Belgian in name, but equally under German control; and the preponderating influence will then appear to be Belgian. The procedure is sometimes varied by creating a pseudo-international trust, subscribed to by financial institutions apparently foreign, but really under the control of the parent bank. In extreme cases German financiers have been known to go so far as to part with the whole of their shareholding, except the amount necessary for the qualification of the directors, retaining, however, the control and management for which they had made themselves indispensable. They can even then be of considerable use to the Fatherland.

In Italy the main agency for German economic penetration has been the Banca Commerciale Italiana. . . . In the early days of the Triple Alliance Crispi endeavoured, with the approval of Bismarck, to induce German bankers to support the market for Italian bonds, which were at the time attacked on the Paris Bourse. The support was given grudgingly, and it was intimated to Crispi that, if German bankers were to interest themselves in Italian securities there should be some institution founded which would enable them to keep in touch with the financial condition and development of the country. This led in 1894 to the formation of the Banca Commerciale Italiana, with the very modest capital of £200,000, subscribed to the extent of 74 per cent. by German and Austrian and the balance by Swiss and Italian bankers. Certainly, when Crispi encouraged the formation of the bank he did not foresee that in twenty years it would have a capital of £6,240,000, and that, working with other institutions under German management, such as, e.g., the Credito Italiano, it would dominate the economic situation.

The bank has recently informed the public that of the present capital of £6,240,000 63 per cent. is owned by Italians, and that the German-Austrian holding has been reduced to 2½ per cent., the balance being in the hands of investors described as Swiss and French. There is a board of thirty-three directors, which, before the agitation made itself felt,* consisted of fifteen Italians and eighteen foreigners. . . . The real work had to be done by the resident managing directors, and until the last few months Italians have as far as possible been excluded from these posts. It is no secret that the real work has been done by three extremely competent men—Herr Joel, who has been on the management from the start, Herr Weil, and Herr Toepliz—and their names appear and reappear in the annals of the bank and of the subsidiary companies which it has founded. . . . The association of Italian directors, as the character of the individuals selected throughout has shown, was for the purpose of attracting the Italian investing public and obtaining political influence. In the course of time and with the extension of the company's operations that influence has become so great as to be dangerous not only in the world of industry, but in that of politics, of the Press, and of administration.

Shipping Control.

The first object of the Banca Commerciale was to acquire the control of the shipping companies which represent the all-important factor in the organisation of foreign trade. By obtaining 45,000 shares as security for a loan, which could not be repaid, to the Navigazione Generale Italiana, the bank acquired practical control of that company; and the chief rival, the Lloyd Italiano, was also brought within the net of its influence. Gradually all the important shipping companies came under the bank's management. The bank then turned its attention to the steel and iron, naval construction, and armament companies, the bulk of which it formed into a trust under its control. As an instance of the power of the bank, and as showing its close relations with German and Italian industry, we may mention that in 1913, when Germany was dumping iron on the Italian market, the bank acted as an intermediary between the German and the Italian Iron Trusts, and brought about an agreement under which the Germans were guaranteed a fixed but limited annual import of 40,000 tons, the result of which was to add 33 per cent. to the price of German iron.

Industrial Control.

The bank, in its recent statement of defence, claims to have identified itself with the vigorous development of chemical, mining, textile and electricity companies. By electricity companies the bank means companies for producing electrical power. In the matter of electrical machinery and appliances the bank has always seen that its clients and the companies under its control should get such goods from Germany; and the A.E.G., the Brown Boveri and the Siemens, the three well-known German producers of these goods, who are always strongly recommended by the bank, between them export annually to Italy goods of an average value of £8,000,000 sterling. In this connection we may note that Dr. Helferich, who has since become Finance Minister of Germany, but who at the time was manager of the Deutsche Bank, which has been always represented on the board of the Banca Commerciale, in discussing the advantages of the investment of German capital abroad, stated the first object to be the encouragement of the German export trade. He added as a further advantage that of financial mobilisation in time of war. The meaning of this phrase has been variously construed, but perhaps it explains the statement that only 2½ per cent. of the capital of the bank is now German-Austrian. If the statement is true, it shows that, with an infinitesimal expenditure of capital, German management could still control the fate of a large number of Italian companies whose total capitalisation amounts to about £40,000,000 sterling. The bank, following German models, has established, or has combined with other financiers to establish, financial institutions in foreign countries. It has created the Societa Commerciale d'Oriente, of which Herr Joel was the first president. It combined with Austrian financiers to found the Banca d'Albania.

Next to the Banca Commerciale Italiana, the Credito Italiano, which until quite recently has also been under German control, has been the most important organ for German economic penetration. Ezio M. Gray notes as a fact, which we trust is only a fortuitous coincidence, that in March last, just before the coming into force of the Legge Salandra against "espionage," several of the managers of the Credito Italiano left the country, among them being the manager of the Roman branch, who was director of no less than twenty-seven industrial companies. Whatever doubts there may be as to these gentlemen, there are none as to the manager of the Civitavecchia branch, who was also the local German consul. We have an official announcement, dated April 16, 1915, that he was divested of his consular functions and escorted to the frontier.

* Dr. Preziosi's recent campaign against the bank.

DIRECTORY—*continued from page 418.*

SILLEY, Bernard, 37, Ellscombe Road, Charlton, S.E.
SILLEY, E. C., 37, Ellscombe Road, Charlton, S.E.
SILLEY, Mrs. Alfred C., Miss Alice, and Miss Beryl, Dedeagatch, Bulgaria.
SILLEY, Mr. and Mrs. C. C., 70, Kingsdown Avenue, Ealing, W.
SILLEY, Mr. and Mrs. Walter and family, care of Imperial Ottoman Bank, Limassol, Cyprus.
SIMMONS, Albert, 84, Worple Road, Wimbledon, S.W.
SIMMONS, George H., c/o Imperial Ottoman Bank, Larnaca, Cyprus.
SKRIMSHIRE, C. E., Sand Haven, Weston-super-Mare.
SMITH, A. H., c/o Mrs. Gwilt, Hillsboro,' Landrindod.
SMITH, F. W., "Heathcote," Bexley, Kent.
SMITH-LYTE, Mr. and Mrs. William, 30, Westbourne Terrace, Hyde Park, W. Tele., Paddington 7191.
SOFIANO, Mrs. Alexander, and sons, Rue Nikis, No. 11, Athens.
SPROWSON, Mr. and Mrs. William, and family, The Ferns, Harrow-on-the-Hill.
STELIANIDI, Mr. and Mrs. L. N., and family, Hôtel Métropole, Athens.
STRONG, Miss K. M., Thorpe Hall, Peterborough.
STREATER, Mr. and Mrs. Frank, British Consulate, Dedeagatch, Bulgaria.
STOCK, Mrs. H. W., and family, 13, Norland Sq., Holland Park, W. Tel.: Park 3770.
SUMMERS, Misses L. and M., Old Phaleron, Greece.
SWAN, Mr. and Mrs. T. Angus, 12, Ramshill Road, Scarborough.
SWAN, Mrs. Charles, 43, Lythoe Road, Finchley Road, N.W.
SYERS, Mrs. W. Norman, and family, 24, Osborne Road, Birkby, Huddersfield.
TALBOT, Miss, The Homestead, Basingstoke.
TALBOT, P. M. G., The Old Rectory, Scole, Norfolk.
THEWLIS, Frank, 33, Randolph Crescent, Maida Vale.
THOMPSON, William A., Glenmore, Avenue Road, Falmouth.
THOMPSON, Mrs Harold, Glenmore, Avenue Road, Falmouth.
THOMSON, Mrs., 124, King Henry's Road, South Hampstead, N.W.
THOMPSON, Miss C., c.o. Dr. Thompson, The Quay, Bideford.
THOMSON, Miss Gladys, 124, King Henry's Road, South Hampstead, N.W.
THOMSON, J. Crabtree, Cairo.
TRISTRAM, Mr. and Mrs. U. B., and family, 84, Worple Road, Wimbledon, S.W.
TUBINI, Mrs. T., 84, Worple Road, Wimbledon.
TUCKER, Thomas C., and family, 18, Odos Kehaya, New Phaleron, Greece.
TUCKER, Thomas J. V. Ferid, c/o A. H. Brace, Esq., 46, Goldshill Road, Handsworth.
VIDOVICH, Nicholas, and daughter, Hotel Centrale, Rue du Stade, No. 22. Athens.
WATT, Mr. and Mrs. A. B., Grand Hotel, Larnaca, Cyprus.
WEEKLY, E., C.M.G., Norfolk Hotel, Kensington.
WEALE, W., Foreign Office S.W.
WEALE, Miss Mary, 10, Upton Road, Slough.
WEALE, Miss Norah, Lydgate House, Hunstanton.
WERNDEL, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. G., Grand Hotel Bulgarie, Sofia.
WHEATLEY, Miss N., "Falklands," Birkdale.
WHITEHOUSE, Rev. Canon F. C., and family, 6, St. Andrew's Square, Surbiton.
WHITTALL, Hugh E. C., Royal Societies' Club, 63, St. James's Street, S.W.
WHITTALL, Reginald, and family, 60, Scarsdale Villas, Kensington, W.
WHITTALL, W. H. J., 1, Princes Square, Bayswater, W.
WHITTALL, Lady, Moda Cottage, Esher
WHITTALL, Kenny, 62, Princes Square
WHITTALL, Edwin, and family, 16, North Road, Surbiton.
WHITTALL, Miss Enid, 84, Worple Road, Wimbledon
WHITTALL, Miss Lucy, 60, Scarsdale Villas, South Kensington, S.W.
WHITTALL, Mrs. Jack, Hotel Minerva, Athens
WILKINSON, J. W., and family, Chios, Greece.
WOODS, Mrs. Harold, Baynton House, Westbury, Wilts.
WOODS, Harold, Continental Hotel, Cairo.

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Abyssinia in 1914.

II.—Trade and Finance.

We reproduced last week some extracts from an able review of the situation in Abyssinia in 1914, from the pen of the U.S. Consul at Adis Ababa. The following are further extracts:—

The export trade has been increasing gradually each year. It has been due to the efforts of the foreign traders in the principal centres of trade; the Abyssinians themselves are not merchants, and were the commerce of the country dependent upon their exertions there would be but little trade. A few foreign firms control most of the export business; they have a working agreement concerning prices, thus placing the Abyssinians in a helpless position to secure the best returns for their native products. These firms carry large supplies of cotton goods, exchanging them at a good profit for the Abyssinian articles of export. They also have an understanding that no intruders will be welcome and any new firms contemplating this field must be prepared to contest every point with competitors who employ methods and means that might be questionable from the standpoint of the best business ethics.

Bank of Abyssinia.

The only banking institution in Abyssinia is the Bank of Abyssinia, chartered under the Egyptian laws, with a capital of £500,000, one-fourth of which is paid up. It is controlled by the National Bank of Egypt, and its present governor, a Scotch-Canadian and British subject, is an appointee of the governor of the latter banking institution, thus showing the intimate connection between the two banks. The principal place of business is the capital, Adis Ababa. Agencies have been established at Dari Dawa and Harrar along the railroad line; at Gore in the west, where is located the important trading market for goods passing up the Nile, then by rail to Port Sudan on the Red Sea; and at Dessie in the north-east, which has a trade outlet at the port of Assab in Eritrea on the Red Sea. At these places the Abyssinian Government has its customs officials.

The Abyssinian Government has a mint at the capital, but at present it is not in operation. Its coinage of Menelik dollars and piastres are accepted in all parts of the Kingdom, but the Maria Theresa thaler, of the same value as the Menelik dollar, is more popular. The thaler's value changes with the price of silver. The piastre is much in demand in small trading, and although the intrinsic value is only one-sixteenth of an Abyssinian dollar, at times it is necessary to pay one dollar for fourteen piastres on account of their scarcity. In some parts of the country bars of salt are still used as the medium of exchange, and blank cartridges are used everywhere for small specie. All of the Maria Theresa thalers are imported from Austria, while at present piastres are minted in France. Abyssinian banknotes were to be put in circulation the latter part of 1914. On account of the expense in procuring cash from the Bank of Abyssinia, several important firms import Maria Theresa thalers for their own account.

Banque de l'Indo-China.

In Jibuti the official money is French. The 5-franc piece and small coins are used, but the Indian rupee is preferred among the indigenous population. The notes issued by the Banque de l'Indo-China are also legal tender. A branch of this bank is located here in a fine building. Its principal activities are the financing of building and industrial enterprises in the French colony, acting as the financial agent of the colonial administration, and assisting in the successful financing of the French-Ethiopan Railroad. Most of the labourers along the construction line are paid off in these bank notes, and money changers travelling on the railroad do a thriving business at every station in taking up these notes in exchange for the Abyssinian silver currency, usually the Maria Theresa thaler.

There is no officially published tariff schedule for customs duties, but the authorities are governed by a list that approximately imposes a tax of between 8 per cent. and 10 per cent. ad valorem on all imports and 10 per cent. on all exports. At Dire Dawa, on the railroad line to Adis Ababa from Jibuti, is located the first customs station. The officials here are Abyssinian, as well as practically all others in the customs service, except at Gambella, in the western part of Abyssinia. Here the collection of duties has been intrusted to the British Sudan Government, which has leased a strip of land from the Abyssinian Government for a term of years. Two Britishers are stationed there and a British consul. The Sudan Government has constructed warehouses for the storage of goods awaiting shipment by steamer to Khartum. All goods entering Abyssinia from the Sudan, in transit, pay no duty, as it is collected at Port Sudan for the Abyssinian Government. European goods re-exported to Abyssinia within six months from the Sudan have a rebate of 7 per cent. of the Sudan duties, but they must pay 8 per cent. at Gambella. Sudan products pay 6 per cent., 5 per cent. for Abyssinian duty, and 1 per cent. as an export duty, and vice versa for Abyssinian products. However, if such goods pass in transit to Port Sudan en route to Europe, 5 per cent. is refunded. The 10 per cent. export duty on all Abyssinian products is collected before the goods reach Gambella.

The administration of the customs is under the jurisdiction of the minister of commerce. He, as well as the other seven ministers, receives no fixed salary. The incumbent is the president of the council of ministers.

The Abyssinian Government maintains a postal and telegraphic service by way of Jibuti with all European States through treaty arrangement with the French Government. It also accepted the international arrangement of Rome, May 26, 1906, regarding insured letters and boxes. The director of the service is a Frenchman. It is also possible to telephone from Adis Ababa in Jibuti, in the French Somaliland, and to the principal towns in Abyssinia. There is a telegraphic service to European countries over the Italian owned and operated line between Adis Ababa and the Italian colony of Eritrea.

The French-Ethiopian Railroad has paralleled its line with a well-constructed telegraph and telephone system, which will doubtless be used by the Abyssinian Government, as its own line is constantly out of repair and gives unsatisfactory service.

Industries.

There are practically no industries in the entire country. For several years the Government has been attempting to establish a cartridge factory in the capital under the supervision of a British subject. In 1914 the factory was completed. An electric plant has been installed under the direction of the same person at a small place nineteen miles distant from Adis Ababa, which furnishes 175 horsepower, sufficient to run the cartridge factory and provide power to light the city. The entire equipment was ordered in England, but in the factory there were noted several American machines, estimated to be worth £1,000. The power of the electric plant is capable of being increased to 1,000 horse-power by the construction of an inexpensive dam across the Akaki River. Although the city of Adis Ababa has no street lights, it will soon be forced to adopt progressive ideas when the railroad reaches it. Other municipal improvements must necessarily follow.

A few small saw and flour mills are located near the capital, the output of which is limited. In the western part of the country a sugar plantation of 500 acres is under cultivation by British interests; also near Gambella over 100,000 rubber trees have been planted. Up to the present all of the rubber collected comes from the wild rubber vines in the west and south, with the centre of trade at Gore, the market place for the trade that has its outlet at Gambella. A concession for gold mining was given to an Italian firm a few years ago in the district near Gambella. American mining machinery for washing was imported at a heavy expense. The venture proved a failure. There is, however, gold that can be worked profitably. Silver, coal, and iron have been found, but as yet nothing can be predicated as to their commercial value.

Abyssinia is unique in that it is not saddled with a public debt. This is due to the fact that the late Emperor Menelik II. turned down all propositions to loan him funds with which to construct public works, buildings, and other necessary improvements so as to make the country attractive for Europeans. He encouraged them to spend their own money in buildings in the capital, and was ready to grant certain concessions. But few of the concessions have materialized into any benefit to the country or the concessionaires. This has been due largely to the fact that the latter have been persons without any financial backing. They hoped to exploit their concessions by interesting foreign capital. The one exception is the French-Abyssinian Railroad, but even that has had many vicissitudes, and had it not been for the assistance of the French Government the line probably would have waited for many years.

Treaty with America.

The new treaty with the United States, which was ratified last year, has three advantages over the 1903 treaty, viz.—(1) American citizens do not now subject themselves to the jurisdiction of the Abyssinian courts, but are tried by their own consular courts; (2) American citizens have the use of telegraph, post, and all means of transportation upon the same terms not only of all citizens of other Powers, but of the subjects of the Ethiopian Empire; (3) the treaty is automatic, in that it will continue for terms of ten years unless notice is given of intention to terminate it one year before the expiration of any term. The treaty has the most-favoured-nation clause regarding customs duties, imports, and jurisdiction; grants the right to travel and transact business to American citizens, insures their person and property, and establishes the rules for reciprocally receiving diplomatic and consular representatives.

No definite statistics are available of the value of the trade of the United States with Abyssinia, but approximate figures can be given. It can be stated with assurance that the United States purchases indirectly more Abyssinian products than any other country. Coffee and skins reach the United States through Aden, hides by way of European ports, ivory by London—in all estimated at £160,000. The sales of American sheeting should exceed this sum. Besides, American sewing machines are sold that are classified as coming from Egypt, because the agent of the Singer Co., who has the district of Abyssinia, is located at Cairo. American carts have been used in hauling goods from and to the end of the railroad line. In the cartridge factory £1,000 worth of American machinery was installed in 1912 and 1913. Considerable canned fruits from California are sold, and a miscellaneous assortment of articles have reached Adis Ababa from American houses that do a mail order business. The goods are shipped to their agents in London, thence by parcel post to Abyssinia. This business could be greatly increased if there were a parcel post arrangement direct with Abyssinia viâ Jibuti.

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Persia in 1913-14.

H.M. Consul-General at Ispahan reports :—

The year 1913-14 (ending March 20) shows only slight improvement on the previous year in the matter of trade conditions in that region. Prices of grain and other foodstuffs remained high and only the smaller Government pensions were paid. Money was slightly easier in mercantile and banking circles, chiefly owing to rather less insecurity than usual on some of the main trade routes, notably those from Ispahan to Ahwaz and Teheran respectively.

Exports appear to have been considerably reduced—both to places abroad and to other towns in Persia. Money to a large extent was locked up in opium, which had been bought at high speculative prices and could only be realised at a loss.

A certain amount of insecurity in the town and environs resulted in the continuation of the sense of unrest prevailing previously. Except on the two routes mentioned above robbers and rumours of robbers on the roads continued to make the regular arrival and departure of caravans an impossibility.

The import trade of the district is fully exploited by European merchant firms, with established offices or representatives in Ispahan. It is only occasionally, and among the minor imports (*e.g.*, bicycles, stationery, enamelled ironware, medicines, etc.), that some small opportunity may offer for an independent importer.

Cutlery and leather goods of United Kingdom manufacture are much appreciated, but the Persian buyer is seldom willing to pay higher prices for superior quality of goods. Moreover, the enormous rise since 1908 in the price of cereals and other prime necessaries of life continues greatly to cripple the purchasing power of the province for imported articles.

Illustrated catalogues in English have occasionally led to small orders for British goods; but it may be taken as a general rule that a personal representative to push these on the spot is a *sine quâ non*. When a native of the country is employed in this capacity, strict previous inquiry may prevent subsequent disappointment.

In the backward condition of the country, and with the inadequate means of transport available, there is at present no demand for elaborate machinery, electrical apparatus, and all the luxurious and complicated by-products of an advanced civilization, catalogues of which frequently reach the British Consulate-General. The occasional purchase of a motor-car, oil-engine, bicycle or iron bedstead must not be construed to mean that there is any regular demand for these goods.

Cotton Piece-Goods Market.

H.M. Consul-General at Ispahan writes that, owing to over-importation, the prices of cotton piece-goods during the year ended March 20, 1914, fell 5 to 8 per cent., the market being very dull and money so extremely tight that it became a matter of the greatest difficulty for sellers to recover even the smallest amounts from purchasers. Demand was distinctly below the normal, especially as certain districts formerly supplied from Ispahan (such as Sultanabad, Gulpaigan and Khonsar) began to obtain their piece-goods from Hamadan; and whereas in former years a good demand existed every spring for narrow Mexicans for the village of Dehkurd and the district of Chahar-Mahal (Bakhtiari land), during 1913-14 very few drapers from outlying districts came into Ispahan to make their purchases and the Dehkurd demand was chiefly met direct by Shuster merchants through their agents on the spot. Only grey shirtings, owing to scanty stocks, formed an exception and realised good prices. Perhaps one-fourth of the normal amount of business was transacted between March and June, and yet in this first quarter the market, although far from being bright, was comparatively better than during the remainder of the year. In

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the second quarter it became daily worse and in the summer was totally paralyzed.

The September, or post-Ramazan, market was cheerful by comparison, except for white shirtings, both demand and prices of which were out of proportion to the rates ruling in Lancashire and stocks in Ispahan. It may be noted that the great rise in the price of raw cotton in America and Europe had practically no effect upon the Ispahan market. A fair business was even done in woollens and mixtures at satisfactory prices. Mexicans, too, showed improvement.

In the autumn the usual demand was absolutely lacking. Money being by this time a great rarity, local importers of Jewish goods viâ Hamadan and Kermanshah were making forced sales at very low prices in order to meet their acceptances, thus spoiling the market altogether. In December the market revived slightly, and rash persons predicted the setting-in of a better demand for the Persian new year season, but these hopes were not realised. Not only was business at a complete standstill during the penitential months of Muharram and Safar, when, except for the purchase of material for mourning garments, little is doing at the best of times, but great depression prevailed on the eve of No Ruz (March 21, 1914), and the year closed in an atmosphere of complete gloom and despondency. It should be remembered, however, that great scarcity of food and the abnormally high prices of commodities prevailing at the time played a conspicuous part in demoralising the piece-goods market, as naturally the poorer classes of the community, that is to say the majority of the population, being on the verge of starvation, could not be expected to give much thought to the renewal of their wardrobes.

Several caravans of Russian piece-goods arrived from the north during the summer, the total imports for the year being estimated at 3,000 bales, valued at something like £55,000. Russian goods competed during 1913-14 more successfully than before with British goods, several local merchants having imported direct from Russia in small lots. The total imports of Russian piece-goods amounted to about one-seventh of those from the United Kingdom and elsewhere.

PARCELS FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

In view of the exceptional conditions of transit, involving several transhipments and exposure to great heat, it is necessary that parcels for the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force should be very carefully packed. The following recommendations are made as the result of the experience of the Army Post Office :—

Small parcels are found to arrive in better condition than large parcels. If a large consignment has to be sent it is better to send two or three small parcels than one large one.

All parcels should be as nearly round as possible, and should be well padded with shavings, crumpled paper or similar protective material.

The outer covering should consist of strong linen, calico or canvas, or other textile material, and should be securely sewn up.

As an alternative parcels may be packed in boxes made of strong double corrugated cardboard or strawboard. It is undesirable to use wooden and metal boxes with square corners for the outer covering, since although such boxes usually form an adequate protection to the contents they are liable to damage other parcels in transit.

Parcels merely wrapped in paper or packed in thin cardboard boxes, such as shoe boxes, cannot be accepted.

No perishable articles may be sent; and anything likely to become soft or sticky, such as chocolate and sweets, should be packed in tins.

A PALACE OF INDUSTRY.

In the spring of 1917 a Palace of Industry —as it is to be called—will be opened as a permanent institution in London. The object in view is the holding of two fairs, every spring and autumn, in which will be exhibited the main industries of the Empire. The palace will be managed by an advisory council consisting of representatives of all the trade associations of the United Kingdom.

TRADE NOTES.

Egypt.

H.M. Consul at Cairo (Mr. A. D. Alban) reports that tenders are invited by the Egyptian State Railways and Telegraphs Administration for the supply of 15,000 khaki uniforms during the three years 1916-18, or, alternatively, 5,000 uniforms for 1916 only. Sealed tender, on the proper form, will be received, up to 10 a.m. on September 25, by the General Manager, Egyptian State Railways and Telegraphs, Cairo. Samples, in triplicate, of the cloth and brass buttons it is proposed to supply, must be sent to the Superintendent of Stores, Egyptian State Railways and Telegraphs, Cairo, not later than September 18, otherwise the tender may not be considered. Copies of the specification and form of tender may be obtained from the office of Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, London, S. W., on payment of 2s. A copy of the specification and form of tender may be inspected by United Kingdom manufacturers of khaki uniforms at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade.

Bulgaria.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of telegraphic information to the effect that the re-exportation of rice from Bulgaria has been prohibited; that the exportation and re-exportation of manila rope and twine, hops and chlorate of potash have also been prohibited; and that the Bulgarian Government have authorized the exportation of native-made Segres sheep and goat skins from Bulgaria, as also of hay and straw, the produce of the 1914 harvest.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of copy of an Order of the Resident General of the French Zone in Morocco, dated June 25, which authorizes the exportation of the undermentioned articles from the French Zone, as from July 1, so far as concerns consignments destined exclusively for French territory, the United Kingdom and Italy: Maize, up to 50,000 quintals; chick-peas, up to 60,000 quintals; sorghum, up to 10,000 quintals; and canary-grass, without limitation as to quantity.

The Board of Trade are also in receipt, through the same channel, of copy of a further Order of the Resident-General, dated June 21, which authorizes, under certain conditions, the coastwise carriage, from ports of the French Zone in Morocco to Tangier, of the undermentioned goods: Oxen, sheep, pigs, wheat, barley, flour and semolina, chick-peas, beans, maize, and native butter.

Greece.

One of the most remarkable and striking phases in the development of Greece (says *Commercial Intelligence*) has been the steady expansion of the Greek mercantile marine within the last twenty years. The number of vessels comprising the merchant fleet of Greece at the end of 1903 was 210 steamers, with a combined tonnage of 202,140 tons, and at the end of 1914, according to *Lloyd's Register*, it numbered 440 steamers, with a tonnage of approximately 900,000 tons—viz., four vessels of over 6,000 tons, fifteen vessels of over 4,000 tons, eighty-four vessels of over 3,000 tons, 134 vessels of over 2,000 tons, and 202 vessels of under 2,000 tons. The increase in shipping rates since the South African War has contributed largely to the development of Greek merchant shipping, and certainly has had an extraordinary influence on the economic, and particularly on the monetary, situation of the country. According to statistics published by a local journal eighty-five steamers of 219,450 gross tons were added to the Greek flag between July, 1913, and the end of December, 1914. The value of these steamers, reckoned at an average of £8 per ton gross, amounts to £1,755,600, and the total value of the Greek mercantile marine amounts to about £6,800,000. It is estimated that the earnings which the Greek mercantile marine will realise in 1915 as a result of the war will exceed £3,000,000.

ROUMANIAN CORN DEPOTS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, July 24.

For some little time past interested parties have discussed the question of depots for the new crops which will shortly be ready for reaping, and which promise to be excellent. The most sanguine put the quantity of wheat alone at 2½ million tons.

The ordinary depots are crowded to their utmost extent with the crops remaining over from last year and not exported on account of the political situation.

M. Bibicesco, the Governor of the National Bank, proposes the construction immediately of depots close to the stations on the frontiers by which grain is exported, or in the more important producing districts, where the grain could be stored until sold at profitable prices. If this were done the credit banks would consent to make advances on the grain stored, a warrant for the grain being sufficient guarantee. After the war advantageous prices could be obtained, and thus the speculation in sales forced "in extremis" would be done away with.

M. Bibicesco is of opinion that the State should undertake the construction of these depots, as time presses, and the State can guarantee rapid construction. The National Bank would be ready to advance 10 million francs for this purpose. In this way it would be possible to complete a work saving millions to the country, i.e., the difference between the price to be obtained by agriculturists to-day among the hundreds of offers and the price to be obtained if the producer is not forced to sell on account of having no place where to store his grain. The large dealers, who in normal times sell at current prices abroad for future delivery, are at present unable to do anything. "Prompt" sales are generally very rare.

Moreover, if the depots are constructed, farmers will not hurry to thresh their corn, but will stack it till the granaries are ready.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

A new West End office for the Italian State Railways has been opened in London. It is situated at the bottom of Waterloo Place and is a bureau for every kind of information likely to be required by the intending traveller in Italy. People who go to Egypt, Greece, and the East generally pass through Italy and will find a call at this office useful.

The seismological observatory at Hohenheim (Wurtemberg) registered on Sunday, says a message from Amsterdam, a violent earthquake, the centre of which is apparently in South Europe—possibly in Calabria or Albania.—Central News.

During the first five months of 1914 Spain expended 49,201,000 fr. on its protectorate in Morocco; during the like period in 1915 the expenditure was 64,568,000 fr.

The Roumanian Cabinet, it was announced by Reuter's Agency on August 7 from Paris, has voted a new credit of £4,000,000 for army purposes. This lacks confirmation.

According to a Cairo telegram, a military court has fined Nestor Gianaclis, the cigarette manufacturers, £500 and their manager £100 for trading with the enemy.

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SUEZ CANAL TRAFFIC.

In a White Paper issued on Monday are given the returns of the navigation through the Suez Canal for the year 1914 as compared with those of the two previous years 1912 and 1913. The net tonnage for the past year shows a decrease of 624,389 tons, as compared with that of 1913, and a decrease of 865,625 tons as compared with that of 1912. The reduction of the transit dues to 6.25f per ton from January 1, 1913, together with the reduction of tonnage, had the effect of reducing the gross receipts, which amounted in 1914 to 122,248,853 frs., as compared with 126,650,934 frs. in 1913 and 136,423,831 frs. in 1912. During the first seven months of 1914 the traffic through the canal was in excess of that for the same period of 1913. The receipts, however, fell after the outbreak of war, but the loss occasioned by the diminution of the mercantile traffic was partly compensated by an increased movement of military transports. The number of vessels which passed through the canal was 5,273 in 1912, 5,085 in 1913 and 4,802 in 1914, of which 3,335 in 1912, 2,951 in 1913 and 3,078 in 1914, carried the British flag. There has been an increase of 857,794 tons last year as compared with 1913 in the tonnage of British vessels, which amounted to 12,847,621 tons in 1912, 12,052,484 tons in 1913 and 12,910,278 tons in 1914. During the same period the tonnage of German vessels has decreased from 3,025,415 tons in 1912 and 3,352,287 tons in 1913, to 2,118,946 tons in 1914.

Merchant Vessels.

The percentage of British vessels and their net tonnage in 1914 was 64.1 and 66.5 respectively, as compared with 58 and 60.2 in 1913, and 62.1 and 63.4 in 1912. The percentage of German vessels and their net tonnage was 10 and 10.9 respectively, as compared with 15.3 and 16.7 in 1913, and 13 and 14.9 in 1912, while the percentage of net tonnage of the other maritime nations using the canal in 1914 remained practically stationary as compared with the preceding year. Of 3,314 merchant vessels and vessels in ballast, of a net tonnage of 12,907,216 tons, passing through the canal, 2,372 ships of a net tonnage of 9,516,439 tons, were British, being 71 per cent. of the number and 73.7 per cent. of the tonnage; 299, or 9 per cent., were German vessels, whose tonnage was 9.7 per cent. of the whole; Holland, France, Austria-Hungary, Russia, Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Italy combined furnishing a total of 20 per cent. of the vessels and 16.6 per cent. of the tonnage of the carrying trade to the East through the Suez Canal.

Ten Years' Tonnage.

In the ten years 1891-1900 the annual net tonnage ranged from 8,698,777 tons to 9,738,152 tons and the transit receipts from 83,422,101 frs. to 90,623,608 frs. The average of the net tonnage was 8.588,947 tons and of the transit receipts 80,006,013 frs.; while in 1914 the net tonnage amounted to 19,409,495 tons and the transit receipts to 122,248,853 frs. The mean net tonnage per vessel, which in 1881 was only 1,517 tons, rose from 2,067 tons in 1891 to 2,926 tons in 1901 and 3,608 tons in 1911, and to 4,042 tons in 1914. Fifty-seven steamers exceeding 150 metres (492 ft.) in length, or more than 18 metres (59 ft.) in breadth, with a draught of over 8 metres (26 ft. 3 ins.), passed through the canal in 1914. The mean duration of passage for all vessels navigating the canal was 16 hours 11 minutes in 1914, while the percentage of vessels navigating by night as well as by day amounted to 95.5 per cent. in 1914, as compared with 96.9 per cent. in 1913. The percentage of vessels drawing less than 27 ft. (8.23 metres) was 96 in 1914, as compared with 96 in 1913 and 97 in 1912, whilst that of vessels drawing more than 27 ft. was four in 1914, as compared with four in 1913 and three in 1912. Since January 21, 1915, the maximum draught allowed for vessels passing through the canal has been raised to 9.14 metres, or 30 ft. During 1914 363 vessels passed through the canal for the first time, 25 of which were warships and 114 belonging to shipping companies whose vessels regularly use the canal, and who furnished over 90,000 net tons to the traffic of the canal.

Carriage of Troops.

The number of troops carried through the canal during last year amounted to 228,720, as against 88,748 in 1913, being an increase of 139,972. There was an increase of 140,228 British, 5,488 Italian and 23 French, against a decrease of 3,581 Turkish, 1,355 Dutch, 560 Japanese, 259 German and 12 Spanish troops, as compared with 1913. The number of civilian passengers amounted to 155,183 in 1914, as against 169,641 in the preceding year, being a decrease of 14,458; while the number of pilgrims, emigrants and convicts was 7,869 in 1914, as compared with 23,846 in 1913, or a decrease of 15,977. In the year 1870, 26,758 civil and military passengers were carried through the canal; in 1880 the number rose to 98,900, in 1890 to 161,352, in 1900 to 202,203, and in 1914 to 391,773, as against 282,235 in 1913.

WAR ON GERMAN TRADE.

In connection with the campaign undertaken by the Board of Trade, on the advice of their Advisory Committee on Commercial Intelligence, to assist British manufacturers and merchants to secure trade formerly in the hands of German or Austro-Hungarian firms, the Board continue to receive a very large number of inquiries for the names of sellers or buyers of articles of which the sources of supply or markets have been interfered with by the war.

Special arrangements have been made in the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade for dealing with these inquiries, and the weekly list of articles (No. 33) which inquirers desire to purchase is ready, and may be obtained by United Kingdom manufacturers and exporters of British goods.

British firms interested as suppliers in any of the goods mentioned should communicate with the Director of the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

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Engineering Notes.

Bulgarian Railway Construction.

We publish in another column an official notice by the Bulgarian Government inviting tenders for the construction of four railway lines:—(1) From Radomir, viâ Dupnitza, to Zumaja, with (2) a branch line from Dupnitza to Bobordol, together 90.1 kilometres; (3) from Plevna to Lovetch, 52.5 kilometres; and (4) from Gabrovo to Sevljievo, 29.75 kilometres. Caution money for (1) and (2), 741,000 fr.; for (3), 320,000 fr.; and for (4), 160,000 frs. Specifications, plans, etc., can be obtained at the Direction Générale des Construction, 4, Rue Preslav, Sofia, for the sum of 80 fr. Date, August 30 (N.S.). Tenders to be addressed, for each line separately, to the Direction Générale des Construction.

Roumanian Milling Industry.

The milling industry in Roumania is a thriving and increasing one (writes our Bucharest correspondent), presenting a good opening for British investment in normal times. At present there are in the country 4,902 flour mills, of which 4,749 are in rural districts, 153 being in towns. Of the latter ninety-seven can grind one to six wagons (a wagon of ten tons) in twenty-four hours. They are all fitted with machinery for producing different grades of flour and meal; three of them can produce 200 tons in the twenty-four hours. The combined horse-power developed by 2,577 motor and steam mills is 87,000; 2,325 mills are worked by water or wind.

Cheap Oil.

Prices for raw oil have now reached such a low figure that sales can almost be effected at a loss (says *Engineering*), and the transport, storage and export difficulties are also very discouraging. At a recent meeting of the smaller petroleum producers—those who have not their own refineries—the unsatisfactory position was gone into and several propositions were put forward to alleviate the present situation. It was proposed to form a joint bureau for the sales and to approach the Government with a view to obtaining permission to export raw petroleum. Some reservoirs, it was urged, should also be placed at the disposal of the producers, without refineries, by the State, and credit facilities provided.

Samarkand Trams.

The U.S. Commercial Attaché at Petrograd reports that a Belgian syndicate, which has an important concession for street railway, lighting, and transportation of goods in Samarkand, a city of about 105,000 inhabitants, in Russian Turkestan, is unable to take advantage of its concession on account of financial difficulties due to the war. A representative of the concessionaires in Russia would be glad to get into touch with American capitalists with a view to selling out the concession or securing American partnership therein. The concession is for forty-five years and provides for a complete monopoly of the business of transporting passengers and freight and of electric lighting. It is understood that construction can begin any time, and that about $500,000 would be required for immediate construction purposes. The city will furnish free the land necessary for a central station.

Dongola Irrigation.

The *Sudan Times* states that the irrigation projects which are being carried out in Dongola Province include the cutting of a canal from Abu Fatma to Kereima. A length of four kilometres of this canal, which is three metres wide and two metres deep, has already been dug. It was expected that the canal would be completed about the 10th inst., after which work will begin on an embankment from Abu Fatma to Taba Gabeliya, fourteen miles east of Abu Fatma. Operations will then be transferred to Kerma, where several canals and embankments will be made. It is hoped that by the middle of September all these schemes will have been completed. The work is being done under the supervision of Bimbashi Halkett.

Young Egyptian Engineer.

A correspondent writes: Mr. Aziz Butros, of Sindibees, Kalioubieh, Egypt, who was awarded the degree of Bachelor of Engineering by Sheffield University, has, in addition, obtained the Associateship in Engineering. Dr. W. Ripper, Dean of the Faculty of Applied Science and Professor of Engineering, writes that the work of Mr. Butros "throughout the whole course has been in every way highly satisfactory, and his conduct has been exemplary."

THE DEDEAGATCH RAILWAY.

On August 2 the *Times* correspondent in the Balkan Peninsula sent the following message to his paper from Sofia:—

"The circumstances that a protocol has been signed, as already reported in the *Times*, transferring to Bulgaria the Turkish territory west of the river Maritza, and consequently putting her in possession of the entire railway line to Dedeagatch, may be regarded as practically devoid of political importance.

"Before the outbreak of the European war Bulgaria urged this concession on the part of Turkey as a modification of the treaty of Constantinople, and latterly the pressure put on Bulgaria by the Western Powers with regard to the passage of contraband through Dedeagatch, as well as Turkish interference with her traffic, furnished grounds for a further insistence. Eventually the Turkish Government, notwithstanding considerable opposition in Constantinople, determined to make the concession in the hope of thus establishing friendly relations with a well-armed neighbour whose attitude naturally is of great importance at the present juncture.

"Accordingly the protocol embodying a preliminary arrangement was signed after protracted negotiations. With the discussion of the details difficulties present themselves. The question of the construction of a new railway from Adrianople to join the Kirk Kilisse branch, and thus secure direct communication between Adrianople and Constantinople, the Bulgarian demand for the possession of a zone of three kilometres round the station at Karagatch and a further demand for territory west of the river Tundza have all supervened. This region, which had been offered by Turkey before the meeting of the Conference of Bucharest, in the hope of being allowed to participate in the deliberations, was subsequently refused to the Bulgarian delegates negotiating the Treaty of Constantinople. On the other hand, the Turks, elated by the reports of Russian reverses, are now increasing their terms and are stated to be insisting on political obligations which Bulgaria refuses.

"The German intervention in these negotiations has been of a somewhat gratuitous character. For some time past Germany has been alive to the danger of a Bulgarian advance on Constantinople, and has urged Turkey to make considerably larger concessions. This interference has caused much resentment, even in Young Turk coteries, and apparently led to the assassination of Colonel Leipzig. Whatever the result of the negotiations Bulgaria is resolved not to allow her hands to be tied."

On August 4 the same correspondent stated that "No change had occurred in the relations between Bulgaria and Turkey, and the negotiations were apparently at a standstill"

Last week the Bulgarian Legation in London made the following statement to a representative of Reuter's Agency:—

The Dedeagatch-Sofia Railway, while of the greatest importance to Bulgaria, has no economic value whatever to Turkey By the Treaty of Constantinople, Turkey undertook to grant Bulgaria absolutely free use of the line for ten years, but during the last three or four months Turkey has broken her engagements many times by stopping commercial communication. Bulgaria has repeatedly protested against the conduct of the Turkish authorities. There has been a struggle rather than negotiation between Bulgaria and Turkey on this matter, as was clearly shown when, a fortnight ago, the Bulgarian Government issued a decree stopping all traffic to Turkey.

For the railway concession Bulgaria would never fetter her freedom of action. It is affirmed that, so far as Bulgaria is concerned, the whole business has a purely economic interest, and that it is a matter of secondary importance to Bulgaria to know what hopes or expectations may have induced Turkey to satisfy the Bulgarian claims.

ROYAUME DE BULGARIE.

MINISTERE DES CHEMINS DE FER, POSTES et TELEGRAPHES

Direction Générale de la Construction des Chemins de fer et des Ports.

AVIS.

No. 5565.

Le 31 Août / 13 Septembre, 1915, à 10 heures du matin, il sera procédé au Palais de l'Assemblée Nationale à l'adjudication, sous pli cacheté, de la construction par entreprise générale à forfait des chemins de fer: "Radomir - Doubnitza - Gorna Djoumaya" et de son embranchement "Doubnitza-Bobov-dol" d'une longueur totale de 90.1 kilomètres, "Pleven-Lovetch," d'une longueur de 52.5 klms., et "Gabrovo-Sevlievo," d'une longueur de 29.75 klms.

Les cautionnements qui devront être déposés pour être admis à l'adjudication sont fixés conformément à la Loi sur les entreprises publiques comme suit: leva or 741,000 pour la ligne Radomir-Doubnitza-Gorna Djoumaya et son embranchement Doubnitza-Bobov-dol; leva or 320,000 pour le tronçon Pleven-Lovetch et leva or 160,000 pour celui de Gabrovo-Sevlievo.

Le cahier des charges, les plans et la collection des types pour chacune des lignes susmentionnées, se vendent à la Direction Générale des Constructions, 4, Rue Preslav, au prix de frs. or 80.

Les offres devront être conformes au modèle de soumission et porteront sur chaque ligne séparément et non sur les trois ensemble.

Les plis contenant les offres devront être remis jusqu'au 31 Août, 1915, 10 heures du matin, au plus tard et porteront l'inscription: "Offre pour la construction du chemin de fer..... ....." Les offres faites ap ès cette heure ne seront pas prises en considération.

La Direction
Générale des Constructions.

Sofia, le 9/22 Juillet, 1915.

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Near East Markets.

BULGARIA'S CROP EXPORTS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Sofia, July 27.

Now that the harvest is being collected, steps will have to be taken to ensure routes for its export. Statistics show that 250,000 tons of maize and 150,000 tons of barley are still held here from last year, as well as several thousand tons of hay and chaff. This year's crops are above the average, but the quantity which can be exported has not been determined, but the minimum is estimated at 750,000 tons of grain. If at present high prices these could be exported a considerable amount of money would enter the country.

The agrarians, being chiefly interested in exports, have approached the Government with a view to increased export facilities, but these, owing to the war, are impossible. The result is that the agrarians, up till now the staunchest adherents of the Government, are beginning to attack it for its policy of neutrality. They understand that as long as the Dardanelles are closed they will not be able to realise their crops, and that the sooner the Straits are opened the sooner will the harvest be exported. They are, therefore, urging that Bulgaria should aid the Entente Powers and drop her neutrality. The result is an atmosphere distinctly favourable to the Allies, of which advantage will doubtless be taken.

ROUMANIAN GRAIN EXPORTS.

Cabling on August 8 from Bucharest, the *Times* correspondent in the Balkan Peninsula said: "The question of the exportation of cereals to Germany and Austria-Hungary will apparently be settled in consequence of the decision of the Roumanian Government to permit the exportation of wheat as soon as an amount of maize purchased after last year's harvest by the German Government but still detained in this country has been sent beyond the frontier. Of this about 40,000 wagon loads were sold at high prices last year but still await exportation. Last autumn Germany offered as much as £200 a wagon for maize, but the price has now fallen to nearly a third of that figure.

"In any case, the quantity of cereals exported to Central Europe will not be large owing to the difficulty of providing railway wagons. Germany declines to send wagons into Roumania, and is prohibiting the passage of her own wagons over the frontier. The delay caused by loading and unloading at the frontier has reduced the export to small dimensions. The prohibition on the export of wheat and other cereals last year was necessitated by the prospective great rise in the price of bread.

"The all-important problem how to export this year's harvest, together with a considerable remnant of last year's, must remain unsolved till the opening of the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles. Obviously it is the interest of Roumania, whose principal outlets were the Danubian ports, to contribute to this result by all the means in her power. In this case her economic interests are identical with those of Bulgaria, to whom the open roadstead of Dedeagatch offers but slender consolation for the enforced idleness at Varna, Burgas, and the Danubian ports. The opening of the Straits will bring a sudden access of wealth to both countries and immediately decrease the agio of gold, which in Bulgaria is unprecedentedly high By encouraging Bulgaria to make a forward step in this direction Roumania will advance her own economic as well as her political interests."

The Exchange Telegraph reports from Paris that a message has been received from Rome to the effect that discontent prevails in Roumania among agriculturists in consequence of the forbidding of the export of corn, wheat, etc. Last year's unsold crop, plus this year's crop, amount to 600,000 wagons, representing £60,000,000.

The petroleum stock is also considerable. Poverty is great, and the country is threatened with a financial catastrophe. The only remedy would be the forcing of the Dardanelles, which would render exportation possible.

It is believed that M. Bratiano will in the end agree that Roumanian intervention, with a view to hasten the opening of the Dardanelles, is vital to the country's interests. Public feeling is greatly disturbed, and a general rising of the peasantry is feared which would be more redoubtable and disastrous than the uprising of 1907.

PRODUCE REPORT.

London, August 12.

Currants.

Owing to the confirmed reports that the new crop is much smaller than was expected, prices have advanced; the market, however, is quiet. The stock in London on July 31 was 4,239 tons, against 3,597 tons the same period last year.

The Liverpool market is also quiet, and only small business passed this past week in provincial at a slight advance.

Sultanas.

The market is very firm and dearer. The stock in London on July 31 was 2,395 tons, against 3,369 tons the same period last year.

The stock in Liverpool is very small, and is held with the expectation of higher prices.

There has been only a small demand this week, but prices for old, as well as new, crops are firmer.

Seeds.

Linseed is steady, with light offers, and late values are still obtainable, although buyers are not numerous. London-Calcutta spot, 54s. 3d., afloat ditto, Aug.-Sept. sold at 54s., and Sept.-Oct. quoted 55s. Rapeseed is steady, but quiet. Guzerat Aug.-Sept. 56s., and brown Cawnpore 52s. Cotton seed is firm, but a nominal market. Egyptian to London spot, ex lighter, offers at £9 16s. 3d., which price was paid a few days ago for this position. Rangoon beans are steady at £18 per ton. Canary seed remains quiet, with prices practically unchanged.

Oils.

Linseed oil is depressed, and further declined 5s. to 10s. Spot pipes £24, barrels and month £24 10s., Sept.-Dec. £25, and Jan.-April £26 5s. Cotton oil remains firm. Crude spot in pipes £28 15s., refined pale pipes £31, and barrels sweet £36 to £37 as to makes. Rape oil is dull, ordinary brown naked spot £35 to £36, English refined barrels £37 to £39.

Oilcakes.

Cotton cakes: There is only a limited quantity of Egyptian in stock, for which buyers are compelled to pay extreme prices of £7 8s. 9d. to £7 10s., while shippers ask £7 5s. for Nov.-April new crop shipment, to which, however, there is no response English makes quoted at £7 12s. 6d. to £7 15s. per ton. Linseed cake: There is little business passing, and that of a retail description, owing to the prices, which buyers consider prohibitive. Best London-made sells at £11 10s. to £11 12s. 6d. Fine seedy Calcutta for shipment is offered at £11 10s. per ton.

Locust Beans.

The scarcity continues, and what is offered commands full prices of £8 per ton for whole and £8 10s. for kibbled.

Gums.

The market is very quiet, only little business passing at more or less firm prices. Arabic, Turkey, sorts are quoted 40s. to 50s., East India, common to fine, 32s. to 38s.; Myrrh, good to fine, 96s. to 100s.; Tragacanth, first, 380s. to 580s., and low to good sorts 90s. to 130s.

SYRIAN OLIVE OIL.

Writing on May 31, the U.S. Consul-General at Beirut said that locusts have done much harm this year to the olive trees of Syria. This affects the new crop, and prices of olive oil are advancing. First quality now sells at 16 cents and second quality at 15 cents per pound. No third quality of oil is offered for sale, as it is used exclusively in soap manufacture, and soap manufacturers hesitate making soap, as the military authorities will commandeer the soap for the army.

COTTON MARKET.

Liverpool, August 12.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report:—

Egyptian Spot.—There has been an increased demand this week, and good business is reported. After several variations, quotations show an advance of ten points for the week. Sales are estimated at 3,600 bales.

Manchester Report.—This week has proved rather disappointing, and although there is business going through and individual firms here and there are quite satisfied, the general increase in cost of production, followed by a tendency to increase prices, is doubtless restricting business.

COTTON PROSPECTS.

The monthly cotton report of the Alexandria General Produce Association for August is as follows:—

Lower Egypt.—The temperature during July has been very favourable to the crop. Plants have made satisfactory progress, being stronger and better developed than for the same period last year. Flowering is general and in advance in comparison with the last crop, plants having more flowers and bolls. Leaf-worm has been seen in nearly all districts, but owing to steps taken the damage is very small. Boll-worm and pink boll-worm were also reported in all districts, chiefly in the Sharkieth province. Locusts have entirely disappeared. Water has been sufficient except in some parts at tails of canals.

Upper Egypt and Fayoum.—The temperature has been very favourable. Plants look very well and are strong and well developed. Flowering is well advanced, flowers and bolls being in excess of last year. Boll-worm and pink boll-worm reported from all districts. Locusts have not been seen. Water sufficient.

Reuter's Cairo correspondent, in a message dated July 26, says:—The cotton worm, which a few weeks ago manifested itself throughout the country widely and profusely, did no damage to the crop, owing to the favourable weather conditions and the energetic steps taken by all to combat in the past. There is now little fear of any damage being done by the next generation. With regard to the boll-worm, however, it is, of course, too early to make any statement, except that those cultivators who planted their cotton early will be the smallest sufferers from attack.

TOKAR COTTON CROPS.

The *Monthly Journal* of the Sudan Chamber of Commerce publishes the following report received from the National Bank of Egypt, Suakin Branch:—

Crops in cantars of 100 rotles.

1913.	1914.	1915.
112,000	68,000	200,000

consisting of:

1913.

1st class.	2nd class.	3rd class.
43·362	49,591	14,685

1914.

23,388	27,195	8,132

1915.

95,727	80,709	14,669

Prices:

Per cantar of 100 rotles 1st class cotton.

1913.

Highest.	Lowest.
PT. 123	PT. 81

1914.

PT. 103	PT. 66

1915.

PT. 71.5	PT. 50

Area Watered.

1913.	1914.	1915.
Feddans 56,000	32,000	80,000

Area Sown.

1913.	1914.	1915.
53,000	29,000	56,000

This year on about 18,500 feddans Durra and Dukhn were sown.

SUDAN COTTON.

At the meeting of the Council of the British Cotton Growing Association, held at Manchester on August 5, it was stated that the total crop from the Sudan this season will amount to over 24,000 bales, valued at about £300,000. The yields at the Experimental Stations on the Gezira Plain during the past season amounted to over 450 lbs. of lint cotton per acre, which is a very satisfactory result.

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COMPANY MEETING.

BIBI EIBAT OIL COMPANY.

Mr. Herbert Allen, presiding at the third ordinary general meeting of this company, held on Tuesday, August 10, at River Plate House, Finsbury Circus, E.C., said they were met to consider the accounts for the year ending March 31, 1915, in which were incorporated the results of the Russian company's operations for the year ending January 13, 1914. The latter showed a net profit of Rs. 150,000, which was applied to the payment of a dividend of 6 per cent. on the shares held by this company in the Russian company, and it was that dividend which was the principal source of this company's income for the year ending March 31, 1915. The equivalent of the Rs. 150,000 just mentioned, taken at what had hitherto been regarded as the normal rate of exchange, was £15,831, and, adding £10,760 received from other sources—principally interest on loans and dividends on investments—their total income for the year under review was £26,591. Their expenses all told were only £3,883, and, after making certain other deductions amounting to £500, there remained a gross profit or surplus of £22,208. The principal set-off against this was £7,000 for the debenture service—namely, £3,695 for interest and £3,305 for redemption—and there was a small loss of £219 on the sale of certain securities which it had been decided to realize. Next, they had considered it wise to earmark a sum of £2,500 for taxes, not knowing at the moment the precise amount that might be called for under this heading, and finally, after the various deductions which he had just mentioned, they were left with a balance to credit of profit and loss account of £15,330. Under the provisions of the articles of association £312 had to be applied to the redemption of income notes, and the balance remaining was £12,176, to which must be added the balance of £2,842 brought forward from the previous year, making together £15,018, which sum the directors, under all circumstances, recommended should be carried forward. He was afraid there must be some little feeling of disappointment that they were not recommending the application of some part of this balance to the payment of a dividend, and no one could regret this more than the directors, who were themselves amongst the largest shareholders. But the directors felt bound, from motives of the most common prudence, to husband the company's present resources to the uttermost in these very disturbing times, when coffers once depleted could scarcely be replenished at any cost. After referring at some length to the company's operations in 1914, to the great strike which took place in the summer of that year, to the price realized for the company's products, to the heavy royalty upon their output exacted by the Russian Government (under which the Government had taken no less than £800,000, whilst the shareholders had received only £130,000), and to the company's interests in the promising new oilfield at Novo Aldi, near Grosny, the Chairman dealt with the financial position of the company, which he regarded as the bright side of the picture. Their capital was very small; shares and debentures together were under £300,000 nominal; their floating liabilities were less than £3,000. Against this they had investments, loans, and cash amounting nominally to £115,000, in addition to their holding of the entire share capital (Rs. 2,500,000, or about £250,000) of the Russian company. Of these resources, something like £50,000 might be regarded as liquid and available for the purposes of their business. As to the future, he could only say that the restoration of but two or three of the wells now under repair would greatly alter the complexion of their affairs, and with their new deep well No. 11 also in production they should speedily be back to the output of 1912 or 1913 and in the enjoyment of reasonable prosperity. The only remaining consideration would then be a continuance of fair prices for their output, and if, in addition to this, they obtained the promised reduction of royalty, their prospects would be still further enhanced.

On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Arthur Herbert Wright, the report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

THE BULGARIAN LOAN.

According to Reuter's Agency, the Bulgarian Minister of Finance issued on August 6 the following statement:—

By the terms of the contract for a loan of £20,000,000 concluded with a syndicate of German and Austro-Hungarian banks, the financial group had to announce by August 1, 1915, whether it intended to realise its option regarding the first part of the loan—namely, £10,000,000.

Within the last few days the syndicate announced that it would fulfil its undertakings and take up its option. As the war, however, prevents any public issue, this is postponed for a year or longer after the conclusion of peace.

In the meanwhile the banks receive, against the result of this future issue, £4,800,000 of Treasury bonds to be deposited with them. The Bulgarian State will provide interest for this amount at the rate of 6½ per cent.—that is to say, 1 per cent. above the official German bank rate, plus ⅛ per cent. commission for each three months, which, added to the interest, gives a rate varying between 6½ per cent. and 7 per cent. The Treasury bonds will be paid for at the rate of 81 marks 25 pfennige for 100 frs.

The sum of £3,000,000 owing to the Banque de Paris et des Pays Bas will be paid out of the products of the issue resulting from this first option. As regards the sum of £1,200,000 owing to the Russo-Asiatic Bank, this amount is held at its disposition by the Disconto Gesellschaft, and will be handed over to it as soon as possible after the conclusion of peace.

The *Kolnische Zeitung* states that M. Stoyanoff, the Director of the Bulgarian Public Debt, after the successful conclusion of his negotiations with the banking group, has left Berlin.

AGRICULTURAL BANK OF BULGARIA

(BANQUE AGRICOLE DE BULGARIE).

PRIVILEGED CREDIT ESTABLISHMENT.

ESTABLISHED IN 1864.

CAPITAL (fully paid-up) - - Frs. 45,500,000
RESERVE FUNDS - - - ,, 14,500,000

Head Office: SOFIA.

85 Branches and 100 Agencies in all the principal centres of Bulgaria.
Banking and Stock Exchange Operations undertaken. Special Service for Debt Collection Transfers. Letters of Credit, etc.

NATIONAL BANK OF BULGARIA.

State Bank of Emission. Established 1879.

Head Office - - SOPHIA.

Branches at Sophia, Roustschouk, Varna, Philippopolis, Tirnovo, Burgas, Widin, Plevna, Sistov, Sliven, T.-Pazardjic, Shumla, Stara-Zagora, Gabrovo, Dede-Agatch, Xanthie, Gumuldjina, and 70 agencies.

Capital - 20,000,000 leva gold = £800,000. Reserve Funds - 10,500,000 leva gold = £420,000

EVERY KIND OF BANKING BUSINESS TRANSACTED.

Governor, CHR. TCHAKALOFF.

NATIONAL BANK OF GREECE.

ESTABLISHED IN 1841.

CAPITAL - Dr. 20,000,000. RESERVES - Dr. 13,500,000.

Head Office: ATHENS.

BRANCHES.

Aegion, Agrinion, Almyros, Amalias, Amphissa, Arta, Atalante, Calamata, Calavryta, Céphalonia, Chalkis, Corfu, Corinth, Cythère, Dimitzana, Gythium, Ithaque, Janina, Karditza, Kyparissia, Lamia, Larissa, Lévadia, Mégalopoli, Messina, Missolonghi, Naupacta, Nauplia, Patras, Paxos, Piræus, Poros, Pylos, Pyrgos, St. Maure, Salonika, Santorin, Sparta, Syra, Thèbes, Trikkala, Tripoli, Volo, Zante,

Every kind of Banking Business Transacted. **Correspondents in all Parts of the World.**
Cable Address—NATIONALBANK, ATHENS. Codes Used—LIEBER'S; A.B.C. (5th Edition).

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COMPANY NOTES.

Egyptian Delta Light Railways.

The directors, in their report for the year ended March 31, state:—

An aggregate of 997 kilometres (say 619.13 miles) were open and working at March 31, 1915, as follows:—Beherah Province, 263 kilometres; Gharbieh Province, 331 kilometres; Charkieh, Dakalieh, and Kalioubieh Provinces, 399 kilometres; Cairo Quarry Lines, 4 kilometres, or a total of 997 kilometres. An additional 2 kilometres of line were opened during the year, and 8 kilometres of the Cairo Quarry Lines were lifted, making a nett reduction of 6 kilometres. The loss on the lifting of this portion of the Cairo Quarry Lines has been borne by construction reserve, as provided for in the modified concession from the Government of Egypt. Immediately on the declaration of war all capital expenditure was stopped, with the exception of that which was absolutely necessary. The construction of the Sah-el-Hagar to Berimbal extension and other contemplated works are for the time being suspended. The gross receipts for the past two years were:—Year ended March 31, 1914, £255,927; March 31, 1915, £195,082. The number of passengers carried during the year was 5,604,766, as compared with 7,319,663 for the previous year.

The gross receipts under the head of coaching traffic were £121,436, as compared with £156,244 for the year ended March 31, 1914, a decrease of £34,808, the average per mile per week being £3 14s. 10d., as compared with £4 17s. 3d.

The number of passengers carried and the receipts from each class during the year were: —First class, 345,672 passengers (£16,533 6s. 7d.); third class, 5,259,094 passengers (£98,949 5s. 9d.); miscellaneous, £5,953 7s., or a total of 5,604,766 passengers (£121,435 19s. 4d.).

The gross receipts from goods traffic were £67,761, as compared with £91,559 for the year ended March 31, 1914, a decrease of £23,798, the tonnage lifted being 599,236 tons, as compared with 968,576, a decrease of 369,340 tons. The falling off in the receipts from the working of the railway is directly attributable to the war. The total expenditure under the head of working expenses was £141,068, as compared with £154,681 for the previous year. The ratio of actual expenses to gross earnings was 72.31 per cent., as compared with 60.44 per cent. for the year ended March 31, 1914. This increase of percentage is entirely due to the falling off in the gross earnings. The balance of £9,112 3s. 6d., which was reserved and carried to suspense account at March 31, 1914, has been used for the reduction of the gross expenses for the past year, and, further, that credit has been taken for an additional £7,094 12s. 1d. in order to reduce the expenditure for the year under review to 64 per cent. of the gross receipts in the terms of the new concession. This latter sum has been carried to suspense for incorporation in the revenue accounts of subsequent years, when the expenditure falls below the maximum fixed. The strictest economy is being exercised in all departments, and the working expenses have been reduced to the lowest figure consistent with the efficient working of the line. The balance carried to nett revenue account is £70,221 6s. 3d., which, with interest and dividends earned, amounting to £1,655 2s. 7d., the net profits from working the Helouan Line, £3,869 7s. 4d., and the balance brought forward from 1914 of £23,255 1s. 11d. gives a total of £99,000 18s. 1d. to be dealt with. After providing for interest on debentures and all fixed charges, a balance of £58,315 8s. 1d. remains. The board recommend the payment of a dividend of 2½ per cent. on the preference shares for the year ended March 31, 1915, which will absorb £26,019 10s., leaving a balance of £32,295 18s. 1d. to be carried forward. The transfer of the Helouan Railway and its dependencies to the Government of Egypt has not yet been carried into effect; meanwhile, this company has continued with advantage to work the line. H. E. Maurice Cattaui Pasha, Baron Jacques de Menasce, and Mr. W. Pelizaeus, members of the board in Egypt, and who are of German and Austrian nationality, have vacated their seats on the board. It is not proposed to fill these positions.

One of the directors, H. E. Scander Pasha Fahmy, retires by rotation, and, being eligible, offers himself for re-election.

Nile Valley Gold Mining Co.

In present circumstances the Treasury cannot be got to give its sanction to the projected fourth reconstruction of the Nile Valley Gold Mining Company as the Star of Egypt Mines, Ltd. But, for some mysterious reason, it has authorised the offer of £4,000 debentures to the shareholders of the old company. The special terms offered would be tempting (says the *Financial Times*) if one felt any confidence in the property.

Oriental Telephone Shares.

Mr. Justice Eve, in the Chancery Division, has granted an application by Mr. Harry James Oppenheim and others for the appointment of a receiver of £15,000 worth of plaintiff's shares in the Oriental Telephone and Electrical Company, Ltd., held by Mr. Henry Growing, who was the defendant to the proceedings and a former director of the company. His lordship also ordered that the receiver should collect the dividends payable on the shares pending the hearing of the action.

NEW COMPANY

Associated British Manufacturers (Near East), Ltd.

A private company has been registered at Somerset House with the above name, and with a capital of £10,000 in £1 shares. The objects are stated to be to carry on the business of sale and commission agents, representatives of contractors, merchants and manufacturers, general warehousemen, merchants, bankers, traders, and carriers, to import, export, buy, sell, barter, exchange, pledge, make advances upon or otherwise deal in goods, manufacturers, articles, and merchandise, etc. The number of directors is not less than eight nor more than fifteen. The subscribers are provisional directors. Every holder of at least 200 shares may appoint one director. Persons becoming members for first time more than three months after date of incorporation not to have such right unless otherwise resolved by the directors.

COMPANY RESULTS, &c.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN OILFIELDS.— Gemsah — Production for the week, 163 tons (last week 390 tons). Hurgada—Production for the week, 274 tons (last week 228 tons).

ANGLO-ROUMANIAN.—Production of crude oil for week ending July 31, 251 tons.

BRITISH BURMAH PETROLEUM.—A cablegram has been received from Burmah reporting that the total production of crude oil by this company and the Rangoon Oil Company, Limited, amounted to 59,162 barrels for the month of July.

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.—Receipts for the ten days ended July 21 amount to £E4,038, as against £E5,950 for the corresponding period of last year.

Annual ordinary general meeting will be held in Hall No. 43, Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., on August 30.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.—The Bank has transferred its London Office from 3 and 4, Lothbury, E.C., to 6 and 7, King William Street, London, E.C.

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.—The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal for the 9th inst. amounted to 210,000 frs., against 270,000 frs. for the corresponding day last year.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

NOTICE OF REMOVAL.

The National Bank of Egypt has TRANSFERRED its LONDON OFFICE from 3 and 4, Lothbury, E.C., to 6 and 7, KING WILLIAM STREET, London, E.C.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE	Mean Price. July 27.	Min. Price. Mar. 20.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	—	89½xd
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907	82	—	—
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909	80	—	66
City of Alexandria 5%, 1909	99	—	90½
City of Constantinople 4% Bnds	96	—	—
Egypt. Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan	93½	87⅞	87½
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	85	85
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	88	78	78
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82½	73½	78⅝
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	80½	75	75⅜
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	52	57½
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	52	56¼
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	45	48
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	40	43½
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	52	55
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	—	51⅜
Do. 4 % Rails. Loan, 1902	77	—	68
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	94	—	92
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	—	77
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	91	—	80
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913, 8o., £60p.	92	—	85
Servian 4 % Unified Bonds	67	—	—xd
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855	103	97	—
Do. 4 %, 1891	94½	—	83
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	—	73½
Do. 4 % Loan, 1902	82½	—	—
Do. 4 % Unified	79	—	54
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	65½	—	49
Do. 4 %, 1909	69	—	47⅛
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	—	2⅜
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	—	6½
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.	80	—	73
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red.	83	—	75
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	—	9½
Bank of Abyssinia	½	—	—
Bank of Athens	£2	—	1½
Bank of Roumania	8½	—	—
Eastern Bank	5	—	82/6
Imperial Bank of Persia	7½	—	6
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	—	—
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅞	—	3½
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	—	4¼
National Bank of Egypt	13¾	—	10⅜
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½% C.P.	8	—	no m.6
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8½	—	6¼
Do. do. 5 % Debs., Red.	98	—	95
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I.	89⅜	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88⅜	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17½	—	13
Do. do. 6% Cum. Pref.	22	—	13⅝
Do. do. 4 % 1st Deb.	87	—	57
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb.	101	—	69
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	—	—
Pirœus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	90	—	—
Do. do. 3 % Bonds	61	—	—
LAND.			
Abonkir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1⅛	—	⅝
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	—	95
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	¼	—	—
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	—	2
Do. Do. Def.	¼	—	—
Béhéra Co.	8¼	—	7
Do. Pref.	4½	—	3½xd
Daira Sanieh	2/2	—	2/6
Do. Def.	⅞	—	20/-
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	9/-	—	6/-
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tst.	98	—	90
Do and Foreign Trust	5/-	—	⅝
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	—	1
" " Founders	¼	—	—
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—	—
Do. 5 % Debs. Red.	—	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	9⅜	—	7⅛
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	—	87½xd
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	—	¼
Sidi Salem Co.	⅛	—	⅛
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1¼	—	⅛
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	—	-/9
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	—	10⅞
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt	97	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	—	—
Egyptian Hotels	1½	—	—
Do. 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—	—
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅛	—	1⅛
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	99½	—	95
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	⅛	—	13/9
Do. 5 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	96	—	95
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	—	9/-
Do. do. Prefs.	3⅜	—	3xd
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt.	90	—	85
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (fr. 500)	£179½	—	£—
Upper Egypt Hotels	2½	—	—

OIL.	Price on July 30.	Aug. 4.
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	⅝	5/7½
Anglo-Persian	22/1½	⅛xd
Cyprus Oil Trust	2/3	2/3
European Oilfields	4/9	—
Roumanian	20/-	14/-

PARIS BOURSE.

	Jan. 4.	Aug. 4.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane	—	414
Canal de Suez	4050	3980
Credit Foncier Egyptien	639	555
Turkish Unified 4%	61.50	59.25
Egyptian Unified 4%	87.75	88.70
Serbian, 1895	—	61

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 224.—Vol. IX. FRIDAY, AUGUST 20, 1915.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Near East to-day is attracting, if possible, more attention than it did during the Balkan wars. Now that the right moment for the intervention of Roumania and Bulgaria has passed, the Allied Governments and the British public are discovering the advantages that would accrue from the military co-operation of these countries with the Quadruple Entente. For months we have urged in these columns the necessity of taking the settlement of the Balkan question out of the hands of the Balkan Governments. But only a few weeks ago did the Allies address themselves with any show of determination to the task, and it is only as many days since the Press of Great Britain as a whole has counselled dictation to the countries concerned of the terms that alone will bring about the agreement required before the Balkan States can strike a blow in their own interests.

Even at this supreme crisis in the affairs of Europe British diplomacy clung to its traditional policy of *laissez faire*. Reluctance to take any steps that might seem to imply encroachment upon the independence of another State overruled all considerations for the interests of the Allies and of the Balkan countries themselves. The position would have been different if the Balkan Governments had shown any resentment at the prospect of outside interference with the affairs of the Peninsula. In point of fact, they have clamoured for it as loudly as their *amour propre* would allow them. But the Allies preferred to ignore their appeals, and allowed the golden opportunity for the abandonment of Balkan neutrality to pass when the Russians were making their advance across the Carpathians.

At the first sign of an attempt on the part of the Quadruple Entente to deal with the Balkan Question Bulgaria and Serbia, the two States who hold the key to any understanding in the Peninsula, have hastened to meet the Powers half-way. The declaration of Bulgaria's attitude, which the Premier has allowed to be published, is almost unique among official statements in the matter of candour. Bulgaria, he stated, is fully prepared and waiting to enter into the present war the moment absolute guarantees are given her that by so doing she will attain the realization of her national ideals. When the Entente Powers can give the assurance that the territory pledged to Bulgaria after the first Balkan War will be returned to her and her minor claims in Greek Macedonia and elsewhere realized, they will find the Bulgarians ready and waiting to fight for them; but the guarantees must be real and absolute. Dr. Radoslavoff continued that, as Bulgaria could not realize her aspirations by the force of her own arms, she had accepted frankly and openly the offers of both groups of Powers to negotiate to that end. The Entente had asked for her direct participation in the war with the full assistance of the whole Bulgarian Army. The Central Powers had only asked for a continuation of Bulgarian neutrality until the end of the war. "Candidly," he added, significantly, "this latter we are loth to grant. We might, indeed, concede the continuation of our neutrality for a lesser period, but whether we remain neutral or whether we fight, the end to be gained by us and the motives governing our decision remain always the same. We seek only to gain absolute guarantees for the realization of our national ideals. . . . We are prepared for any eventuality. . . . If we are asked to fight alone, we are ready. If we are asked to fight with a new Balkan alliance, our willingness remains the same, but also on the same condition. Give us back Serbian Macedonia is all we ask, and then we will fight in the way we can serve you best."

There is nothing in Dr. Radoslavoff's statement which has not been known for many months past to those who cared to make themselves acquainted with conditions in the Balkans, unless it be the tenour of the negotiations carried on at Sofia with the two groups of Powers. In spite of this fact, however, the diplomacy of the Allies clung to the belief that Bulgaria and Serbia might of their own initiative arrive at some understanding. It forgot that there was no incentive to either country to hasten an agreement. Serbia found herself freed from Austrian aggression, and did not feel the need, as she could hardly contemplate the possibility, of help from Bulgaria. The latter realized that Fate was playing into her hands. She was maintaining the neutrality which the Germans so ardently desired; if ultimately she had to declare herself on the side of the Entente, there was time enough for the step. It required an extraneous force to bring both countries to see that their own in-

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terests and the welfare of the Balkan Peninsula, with which their interests were inseparably linked, called for a permanent settlement of all questions outstanding between them.

The Serbian Government has issued no statement as categoric as the Bulgarian Premier's in regard to its willingness to accept the intervention of the Quadruple Entente. But when it is remembered that Serbia owes her very existence as an independent State to-day to her Allies, it is difficult to believe that she will interpose any insuperable obstacle to the fulfilment of their wishes. We may admit at once that the adjustment of the points at issue between Serbia and Bulgaria may require skilful handling. The more is the pity that it should have to be effected when every day's delay means the sacrifice of so many more lives on Gallipoli Peninsula. For this reason we hope that no attempt will be made now to determine the actual details of an agreement between the two countries. Bulgaria may press for this course to be pursued; but the interests of the Allies are in the scales against her. It should be enough that she receive the assurances of the Entente Powers that her aspirations will be realized in so far as they conform with the principle of nationality.

The apparent reasonableness of Serbia and Bulgaria coincides with the definite assumption by the Quadruple Entente of its responsibilities in the Balkans. It has also been preceded, however, by a concentration of Austro-German troops in the neighbourhood of Orsova, where they are in a position to threaten both Serbia and Roumania simultaneously. Germany has allowed it to be given out that this column is intended to force a passage through Serbia and Bulgaria for the succour of Turkey, who is no longer at pains to disguise the seriousness for her of the situation at the Dardanelles. An Austro-German concentration against Serbia has been announced once before; it was heralded by a very considerable flourish of trumpets, and, as we know, came to nothing. The position in the Balkans from the German point of view is highly precarious, and it would be entirely in keeping with Germany's tactics to try to intimidate the neutral States by elaborate threats regarding her intentions. For this reason it is quite possible that the reported concentration of troops at Orsova is little more than bluff intended to make good the failure of German diplomacy in the Balkans. On the other hand, the situation in the eastern theatre of the war might prompt Germany to risk the withdrawal of a force for operations in the Balkans in an endeavour to maintain her hold upon Turkey, and at the same time punish Serbia and possibly other Balkan States. It is a possible development which the latter cannot afford to ignore.

There can be little doubt as to the effect upon the Balkan States of any attempt on Germany's part to force a passage through to Turkey. Neutrality would be thrown to the winds, whether agreements had been ratified or not. Both Roumania and Bulgaria would realize that it was no longer a question of the attainment or non-attainment of their national aspirations, but that the maintenance of their independence was at stake. Before the Austro-German forces had penetrated far into Serbia the Balkan League would have been revived in spirit, if not in actual covenant, with Roumania as an additional factor. For this reason we could almost wish to see Germany attempting to send an army to Turkey's relief. But the mere menace, coming as it does in the wake of the Allies' representations, will perhaps suffice to put an end to the present unsatisfactory state of affairs in the Balkan Peninsula.

The domestic affairs of Greece bring her for the moment into the limelight, but it is noticeable that she occupies only a secondary position in any discussion of the Balkan question. M. Venizelos was right when he urged at the beginning of the year that Greece's opportunity had come, and, if not seized, might not return. When the Allied forces established themselves on Gallipoli Peninsula the potential usefulness of Greece had almost entirely disappeared. In the event of a revival of the Balkan League her co-operation would not be without value, but by herself she has no longer any military part to play in the war, and her capacity for driving bargains with the Allies has diminished proportionately.

The personality of M. Venizelos thus becomes the dominant note in the interest taken in current developments in Greece. The action of the Entente Powers in making representations to the Greek Government at the same time as it made them to the Serbian forced the former to bring an indeterminate situation to an end. Parliament was summoned to meet on August 16, and the Ministry was immediately forced into a trial of strength with the Venizelists on the question of the presidency of the Chamber. The Venizelist candidate was elected, and M. Gounaris resigned. At the time of writing M. Venizelos has been invited by King Constantine to form a Ministry, and has asked for four days in order to consider the position. Various reports are current regarding the terms on which M. Venizelos was entrusted with the formation of a new Cabinet. For the present we may reject them all, and await the course of events. Speculation is naturally rife in regard to the attitude which M. Venizelos, if established in power, will adopt towards Greece's participation in the war. One thing is certain, that he will take office unfettered by any views he may have expressed last January, and his policy will be determined by Greece's interests in relation to circumstances as he now finds them. If the value of Greek military support has been materially diminished since he was last in office, the further consideration supplied by the presence of German submarines in Ægean waters will have to be taken into account. The Allies have corrected the balance of naval power in that sea in Greece's favour, and we may be certain that she will not be anxious to run any risk of curtailing Greece's present preponderance over the Turkish Navy by exposing her fleet to submarine attack.

During the past week the Allied forces have continued to gain ground on the Gallipoli Peninsula. The advance need no longer be measured in yards, but can claim to be marked by positions of some little importance in this narrow theatre of war. It is too soon to determine the effects of the additional landings made on the Peninsula; but we may note that, however much the situation may seem to approach to stalemate, the infliction of serious losses almost daily upon the Turks continues to take place. Against the sinking of the Turkish battleship Hairredin Barbarossa by a British submarine has now to be set the loss of the transport Royal Edward, which was conveying nearly 1,400 officers and men as reinforcements for the 29th Division at the Dardanelles. A crew of 220 officers and men brought the ship's complement to nearly 1,600 men. The Royal Edward was sunk by a German submarine in the Ægean Sea on August 14, and only 600 of those on board were saved. It had been hoped that the fresh landings on Gallipoli implied that all the enemy's submarines in those waters had been accounted for. This is clearly not the case, and we must be prepared for fresh delays in the military operations while steps are being taken to deal with yet another submarine.

The despatches received from Vice-Admiral de Robeck and Sir Ian Hamilton, the first of which was published in the *London Gazette* on Monday and the second issued by the Press Bureau on Wednesday, have again given exceptional prominence to the Allies' operations against the Turks. The one received from the Admiral in command reports the landing of the Army on the Gallipoli Peninsula on April 25-26 and the great part taken by the senior service in helping the troops cling to the precarious positions they occupied in the face of a withering fire. The despatch reads like an Homeric epic of brave deeds and dauntless courage in the face of terrible odds, and, together with Sir Ian Hamilton's official account of the Army's *rôle* in those stirring days, published some time since, constitutes one of the most brilliant pages of martial history. More topical, however, because covering more recent operations, is

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Sir Ian Hamilton's despatch issued by the Press Bureau on Wednesday. The Commander-in-Chief reports that "in the southern zone the situation remained unchanged during the 14th and 15th," but that "in the northern zone the right flank of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps was heavily attacked during the night of August 14-15." Happily, however, "all attacks were repulsed." Of great interest is the statement that at "Suvla the troops on the left flank made a short advance," because it is the first time that Sir Ian Hamilton makes specific mention of the new landing place in the Anzac zone to the north of the Australians' and New Zealanders' position. The advance was made "to straighten the line," and, in spite of heavy gun and rifle fire from the enemy, the British troops gained some 500 yards. Obviously, therefore, the desired strategic object to the north of Ari Burnu was attained, and our new grip on the Peninsula has been strengthened.

The signing of the protocol between Turkey and Bulgaria providing for the transfer to the latter of the section of the Dedeagatch Railway running on Turkish soil and all territory west of the River Maritza has led to no definite results. Difficulties arose as soon as the details of the agreement came to be fixed, and now it is understood that the Bulgarian Government has recalled its delegates. If Bulgaria acts in accordance with the spirit of Dr. Radoslavoff's declaration, the conclusion of the convention with Turkey is likely to prove a work of supererogation. The change in the Turkish demeanour after the signing of the protocol, which ultimately led to the breaking off of the negotiations, may have supplied the Bulgarians with an additional argument in favour of taking their stand without further delay on the side of the Quadruple Entente.

News has been received of the death of the Sultan of Lahej as a result of a wound received in the recent Turkish attack upon his fortress. Early in July a Turkish force advanced into the hinterland of Aden. The Sultan of Lahej, a loyal chieftain, called upon the Resident at Aden for assistance. The force sent, even when strengthened immediately afterwards, proved unequal to dealing with the Turks, and fell back upon Aden. It was during these operations that the Sultan received his fatal wound.

Talk of a separate peace between Turkey and the Quadruple Entente is said to have been revived in Constantinople. We are not inclined to lay much stress on such rumours; but it is difficult to believe that the Turks will be able to hold out as long as their allies, the Germans. No one impugns the capacity of Turkish troops for fighting when their heart is in it; but with the elimination of the first line it must seem a strange business to the bulk of the reinforcements that causes them to be hurried into the firing line under foreign officers. As soon as Germany's contributions to the Turkish defence are exhausted the process of disillusionment, which must already have begun, will be rapid. The point to be borne in mind now, however, is that sooner or later a separate peace will have to be concluded with the Ottoman Empire, which will be altogether outside the terms of the settlement that have to be forced upon the Central Powers. That peace will have to go beyond the disposal of Turkey in Europe and the future of the Bosphorus and Dardanelles, the questions in which the whole of Europe has a particular interest. It must make provision for the adjustment of Turkey's internal affairs, and for this reason must be the subject of careful inquiry and consideration.

So long as the war lasts the domestic affairs of the Ottoman Empire are virtually a closed book to the outside world. It would be a great mistake to allow a hurried and incomplete settlement to follow the sudden collapse of Turkish resistance in Europe. Reports of the situation in Armenia are beginning to filter through to this country. That a grave state of affairs exists in that province may be inferred from the fact that the German Press has found it necessary to make an elaborate apologia for what has happened, and to seek to discount the reports that must eventually be published abroad. We may not believe all that is said of the doings of the Turks and Germans in Armenia. According to some accounts, the province has been denuded of its Armenian inhabitants. The unhappy population has either been massacred or deported, and the expulsion has been carried out in a manner that leaves little hope of the refugees surviving in the place to which they have been banished. The truth of these reports cannot be ascertained now. It must be a subject for investigation when the war is over, and it is on this ground that the Allies must be on their guard against any hasty peace with Turkey which will leave the question of the subject populations of the Ottoman Empire unsettled.

The Russian line continues to give way before the fierce and sustained attacks of the Austro-German forces. Kovno has fallen, and the advance of the enemy at this point can barely fail to affect the alignment of the whole Russian armies from Riga to Bukovina. But so long as these armies remain for the most part intact, and allow no serious penetration of the enemy between them, our belief in the ultimate capacity of our Allies to hold the German advance remains unshaken. As the Russians fall back they simplify the process of reinforcements, and each week finds them nearer the point when the German superiority in guns and munitions will be overtaken. But these are critical days in the east, and it must add to our disappointment that neither the Allies in the west nor the Italians have been able so far to distract the enemy's attention from his attack on the Russians.

The article upon the situation in Persia which we published last week has led a correspondent, signing himself "Freydoon," to send us for publication a letter, which will be found elsewhere. In the main he agrees with the writer of the article as to the state of affairs existing in Persia at the present time, but he differs from him to some extent regarding the causes that have brought about the admittedly dangerous and unsatisfactory situation; and as to the remedy suggested by "Jamsheed"—the formation of a Coalition Government—"Freydoon" will have nothing to do with it. Both writers, it will be observed, admit the existence of a strong anti-Russian feeling in Persia; but whereas "Jamsheed" is of opinion that there is a danger of this feeling being turned to advantage by the enemies of our Ally—and of ourselves—"Freydoon" is convinced "that not only the Government, but the whole nation, are determined to maintain their neutrality." We hope and believe that the latter view is correct; but with so much combustible material scattered about it is not possible to feel sure that no explosion can possibly take place. We should be glad, therefore, to see even more active steps taken to remove from Persian territory the Austro-German *agents-provocateurs* who are known still to be carrying on their baleful activities.

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NEWS FROM TURKEY.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Athens, August 2.*

Allies' Submarines' Exploits.

Constitution Day was celebrated in Constantinople on July 23. The streets were decorated, and salutes were fired at noon; but the occasion was not marked by the pomp and bluster of former years. It was expected that a general attack on the Allies at the Dardanelles would take place on this day; but the Germans counselled delay owing to unpreparedness, and Enver apparently yielded. In the meantime all available troops and munitions are being despatched from Constantinople to the Dardanelles. At Candilli the private houses that had been occupied by soldiers since November have now all been evacuated. The troops go by train as far as Uzun-Keupru, and munitions are sent by sailing craft to Gallipoli; but a British submarine appears to have sunk two lighters, one of which, it is said, contained wire rope for a net which is being laid at the Dardanelles to entrap the Allies' under-water craft. This submarine also destroyed some lighters alongside the gun wharf, damaged the Quay at Tophaneh, and blew up the steamer Bigha at the pier at Mudania.

The Breslau has been attacked again, and this time her damage is reported to be serious. In fact, some accounts say that she is unfit to go to sea again. She appears to have gone to Eregli, in the Black Sea, to escort some colliers, but was attacked by Russian submarines or torpedo boats; she has serious damage to her bottom, and has entered the floating dock at Stenia, and is now keeping company with the Goeben. Two Turkish torpedo boats appear to have sustained damage from a British submarine.

Coal and Oil Supplies.

In spite of Russian vigilance, steamers carrying coal succeed in reaching the coaling ports in the Black Sea, and are able to load there and return. Last week the Hamidieh escorted four steamers to the Black Sea, and two of them, the Kechan and Patmos have returned safely with their cargoes. There seems to be no prospect of starving Constantinople of coal, and as long as fuel for the mills is obtainable, bread will not be wanting, wheat being abundant and the grain crops this year excellent.

Petroleum also finds its way into Constantinople in small quantities from Roumania in sailing vessels, and the price is now about 60 piastres per tin. The imports of rice and sugar—two important articles in the dietary of the Turk—have apparently ceased, as the price of the former is now twelve piastres and of the latter ten piastres per oke, while sixteen piastres has to be paid for an oke of olive oil. Matches are almost unobtainable and are exceedingly expensive.

Young Turks' Disagreements.

There has been further dissension amongst the Young Turks, and three more members have left the governing clique. Djambulat, one of the most prominent of the Young Turk Party, and Ahmed Nissim are reported to have quarrelled with Enver, and to have left Constantinople. Djemal, who was Minister of Marine, has also fallen out with Enver, and though he was ordered to the Caucasus, he refused to go. Mahmud Moukhtar has been recalled from Berlin, and has been replaced by Hakki Pasha. It is fairly evident now that Colonel von Leipzig was assassinated by a Turkish officer. These and other incidents all tend to confirm the rumours of discontent amongst large numbers of Turks, who are becoming disillusioned; and a crushing defeat at the Dardanelles will, it is hoped, bring about an important change at Constantinople; though the Germans are clearly not going to capitulate without a great struggle.

More German soldiers arrived last week. There is a feverish activity in making munitions, and the works of the Bosphorus Steamship Company at Haskeuy, on the Golden Horn, have now also been converted into a factory for this purpose.

The Turks evidently fear an incursion of Russian submarines, for they are now preparing to place a net at the entrance of the Bosphorus, as they have done at the Dardanelles, and all available buoys from various places are being collected for this contrivance.

Turkish Casualties.

An estimate of the killed and wounded in the Dardanelles campaign is 120,000. Of this number 30,000 have been killed, 15,000 invalided, 45,000 are in hospital, and 30,000 have returned to their regiments. Wounded arrive daily in Constantinople.

Prince Youssouf Izzedin, after visiting the army at the Dardanelles, went to Adrianople to inspect the troops there.

Persecution of Greeks and Armenians.

The reports of the persecution of the Armenians and the Greeks are most appalling. The Armenians in Asia Minor are being forcibly converted to Islam, and those who refuse are massacred. The Greeks are being driven from their houses to find their way—if they are fortunate—to Mytilene and other Greek Islands, but those from the shores of the Marmora are expelled to Asia Minor, the women and children to find refuge wherever they can, while the men are forced to work on roads or otherwise for the military. The fate of these unfortunate people can be better imagined than described.

Mystery of Prisoners.

There is much mystery about the fate of the British prisoners taken at the Dardanelles, and no information on this subject is available. According to the British returns, about 7,000 officers and men are missing in the Gallipoli campaign, but the Turks in their official *communiqués* have only once claimed to have captured prisoners, and that was last week, when it was stated that a few prisoners had been taken.

The *Hilal* has a leading article on the treatment the enemy's wounded receive at the hands of the Turks, compared with the manner in which the Turks are treated by the English and French. The only object of this article is, as usual, to vilify the Allies; but it is interesting to learn from the *Hilal* that the Turkish soldiers are so well disposed to our men as to throw sweets, etc., into their trenches.

Smyrna Quiet.

There seems to be no change whatever in the situation at Smyrna.

Athens, August 7.

Turco-German "Incidents."

The past week appears to have been an uneventful one in Constantinople, and even the newspapers have been less abusive than usual. The most sensational bit of news is that Enver and a German officer quarrelled and came to blows. There appear to be continuous incidents of this kind between Turkish and German officers. Some forty German officers and two hundred artillery men arrived in Constantinople last week, and the new German Ambassador is said to have brought with him over thirty wagons of ammunition!

Incidents of the Fighting.

One night, the batteries at Scutari opened fire on an imaginary submarine in Constantinople harbour, and about fifteen shots were fired, some of which struck Keuprulu Han and other buildings in the vicinity of the Stamboul Railway Station.

A Turkish gunboat has struck one of their own mines and received serious damage, and the Barbarossa, which had been stationed at the Dardanelles, has now been sent to the bottom by a submarine of the Allies.

Thirteen wounded Australian soldiers have arrived in Constantinople, and have been taken to Kadikeui, and there is a continuous arrival of Turkish wounded. Owing to want of accommodation, the slightly wounded are kept in hospital for a few days only, and then sent into the interior.

The Great Fire.

The fire appears to have been one of the most disastrous that has occurred in Constantinople for some time. It broke out on the Monday afternoon at 3 o'clock and burnt until seven the following morning. The number of buildings destroyed is about 1,000, including fifteen large residential flats.

The settlement of losses arising out of these conflagrations is a matter which is causing considerable anxiety to British insurance agents, owing to their inability to pay the claims. A short time ago, one agent refused to pay a loss of £250, and was sued in the Turkish Court. He was condemned to pay, and in order to avoid a sequester being put upon his house he deposited the £250 in court. This money was subsequently seized by the Turkish Government, being enemy funds! Finally, he was obliged to make an arrangement to pay the claim by instalments. This is a proof that the fears entertained that agents' private property would be seized were not groundless.

To give another instance of the arbitrary methods of dealing with foreigners' property, there is a notice in the *Hilal* to the effect that if a certain Mr. Hilton Price, of Kutchuk Pancaldi, does not put in an appearance before July 25, the Court will proceed by default to sell his furniture to pay his rent of £48.

* Delayed in transmission.

Any newsagent or bookstall in the United Kingdom can supply copies of "The Near East," which are on sale early on Friday morning. Should any difficulty be experienced in obtaining the paper, the Manager would be glad to receive a post card giving particulars, and he will take steps to rectify the matter.

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NEWS OF SYRIA.

(From a Correspondent.)

Alexandria, August 3.

The Situation at Beyrout.

The U.S. collier Cæsar arrived last week at Alexandria from Beyrout with about 300 passengers, mostly Jews, of whom 150 are French subjects. Although the statements made by the refugees are of a somewhat conflicting nature, all agree on the following points: The economic distress is growing more acute every day, and is aggravated by the lack of proper means of transport. As already stated, the injudicious use of lignite has damaged the railway engines, and the train between Beyrout and Damascus is said to be running now only once a week, while the train between Aleppo and Rayak is performing the journey in not less than three days. On the other hand, the wholesale commandeering of horses, mules, and camels has deprived the country of such means of transport as might have supplemented the disorganised railway service to some extent.

All the reports agree as to the existence of a growing feeling of discontent, even among that section of the Moslem population, as in Nablus, which, on account of its strong sectarian feeling, was expected to remain unshakeably loyal to the Moslem Government, in spite of all its sins and errors. It is difficult, however, to believe that the feeling of discontent will translate itself into open revolt without some kind of organised outside assistance, and the reports of indiscriminate arrests and hangings should be received with caution. Accounts do agree about the fact that several members of the Arab Committee of Reform have been interrogated by the military authorities. The transfer to Aleppo of Bekir Sami Bey, who was on intimate terms with some of the protagonists of the Arab movement, lends a strong colour of verisimilitude to these reports.

The Allies and Syria.

Unfortunately, humanitarian considerations enter but little into great political decisions, especially in such a terrible and distracting war, and one could hardly presume to find fault with the Allies for not having come to the assistance of the Syrians, principally on humanitarian grounds, but for the fact that they have already committed themselves to such a policy to some extent by the frequent demonstrations of their warships and aeroplanes. No purpose could be served—indeed, it would be a positive disservice—by stirring up revolt among a helpless and disarmed population without guarded and careful preparation, strengthened by the conviction of timely co-operation. The cup of bitterness of the population is certainly overflowing. The misery into which the Turks have wantonly plunged them has destroyed every vestige of sympathy that some of the Moslems may have entertained for them at the outbreak of the war, and it needs very little prophetic vision to foresee a general and enthusiastic welcome of the Allies as liberators, should they land.

The exigencies of the political and military situation may bring about such a consummation at no distant date. The country, by all accounts, is practically denuded of troops—at least, of such as could offer any serious resistance. Until the middle or even the latter part of October the weather conditions are such as to allow of uninterrupted landing operations at any point of the exposed coast of Syria. In October the railway that is to connect Southern Palestine with the Sinai Peninsula is expected to be completed. There seems to be no doubt about the pushing of the work of construction under the able and energetic direction of Meissner Pasha. The importance which the German Press has lately been giving to the Suez Canal—a protagonist of German military thought having even discussed the comparative value to England of Calais and the Canal—warrants the belief that the Turco-German threat of a renewed attack in October may not be an idle one. How far, however, the Turks may be able to detach the necessary forces from the Dardanelles, should they not have been forced by then, and how far they may be able to solve the coal problem, are open questions.

In this connection may be mentioned the rumour of the cutting down by the Turks of olive trees for fuel purposes. If this be true, the harm done to the country will be almost irreparable, as most of the olive trees in Palestine are old—some even several hundred years of age.

The Syrian Protestant College.

It is interesting to note the self-assurance that has lately been characterising the actions of the Turkish authorities, a self-assurance certainly fed by German accounts of "glorious" victories and future dreams. Djemal Pasha does not seem to have been satisfied with imposing the compulsory teaching of Turkish upon the American College. He is reported actually to have required this to be the principal language of instruction. Also, as already reported, he demands the exemption of the non-Christian students from attendance at religious exercises. The president of the college, who has become an adept in Oriental diplomacy, is said to have met the order with truly Turkish suavity, and to have promised to lay the matter before the Board of Trustees. Thus, this radical change, if effected, could only come into force the next year, as the present academic year has expired. Meantime, the president is said to have proceeded by the U.S. cruiser Des Moines to Constantinople, to confer with the American Ambassador. It is said that if the Turkish demands be insisted upon the president will not open the college next autumn. One cannot well see how it can be otherwise, when the college is run with American money and by American teachers, to whom Turkish is worse than a dead language. The whole thing, however, seems so absurd that, with all our knowledge of Turkish aberrations, one can hardly lend it credence.

A Serio-Comic Incident.

An incident savouring deliciously of the serio-comic is reported by the last batch of refugees. The anniversary of the proclamation of the Constitution was celebrated at Beyrout with much festive display of colour and light. The Garden of Liberty (Oh, the bitter irony of the name; the anguish of the crushed Nationalist souls still freshly echoes therein!), the adjoining Seraglio, and the Barracks were brilliantly beflagged and illuminated, and conspicuous everywhere were the Turkish and German flags. But, alas! while martial music was alternating with patriotic speeches the inopportune visit of an Allied man-of-war to the harbour was announced, and presently the whirr of a hydroplane was heard overhead. Suddenly the scene of festive brilliance was turned into dark dismay, and even the lights in private houses were ordered at once to be put out. One can imagine the silent rage of the Teuton at this rather rude reminder of Britain's sea power, which, like a fatal serpent, has wound itself round his stiff neck and is slowly but relentlessly throttling him!

The aviator is said to have proceeded to the Lebanon and to have dropped some Egyptian newspapers at places beyond the prying eyes of the Turkish garrisons. The patriarchal residence at Bkerké is said to have received also a good portion of these heaven-sent but death-bearing gifts. *A propos*, the last rumour is that the aged Maronite Patriarch was waiting to get up sufficient strength to proceed to Sofar and meet Djemal Pasha there. This would be a compromise saving patriarchal dignity and prestige, as his Beatitude would not have left Lebanese soil to respond to the call of the Turkish General.

(From a Correspondent.)

Alexandria, August 2.

Beyrout's New Vali.

The new Vali of Beyrout hardly needs any introduction to your readers, for he is the illustrious Azmi, formerly Chief of Police at Constantinople, and lately Governor of Konia, Anatolia. The remarkable incident causing his removal from the former office is well remembered. It was the famous arrest of an alleged criminal on board a Russian steamer and his subsequent "mysterious" disappearance. This arrest, being a violation of the Capitulations, caused Azmi's dismissal. Dismissal in Turkey, however, is not a serious matter. In fact, it is generally advantageous, for the victim is quite generally promoted to a better post. In this instance Azmi was appointed Governor of Konia, and was afterwards transferred elsewhere. His presence at Beyrout at the present juncture is, therefore, not very desirable.

More German Influence.

The influence that German women have lately been exercising, in conjunction with their zealous husbands, in directing the destiny of the Turkish Empire, is becoming more and more conspicuous. Recent reports from Aleppo announce the transfer of its Vali, the ex-Minister Jelal Bey, to Angora. His removal from Aleppo is attributed to a small "disagreement" which the unlucky Governor has had with the wife of Colonel Liman Pasha, who is also stationed there.

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THE SUDAN HIGH COURT.

(From a Correspondent.)

It will be just seventeen years on the second of the coming month—September—since the battle of Omdurman settled for all time the political status of the Sudan and the condition of its people. The promise then held out to the latter regarding their future government and the kind of justice that they might thenceforth expect to receive, has been faithfully kept in all particulars. "No attempt will be made to govern your country from Cairo, still less from London. You must look to the Sirdar alone for justice and good government, and I do not doubt that you will have no cause for disappointment." Thus spoke Lord Cromer—the then British Agent in Egypt—when addressing an assembly of notables at Omdurman, on January 5, 1899. From that day to this the work of introducing into the Sudan a judicial system which should in all respects prove suitable to the requirements of the country has known no abatement; from year to year improvements and modifications of the laws—necessarily somewhat experimental in their earlier composition and enactment—have been introduced; the latest Ordinance, adopted and promulgated on May 15 last, was that establishing a High Court of Justice.

It may have seemed somewhat anomalous that the Government, having all along been cognisant of the serious defects caused by the paucity of judges, and of the resultant difficulties in carrying out the administration of justice speedily and satisfactorily, should have hesitated so long in removing this particular cause of reproach. As far back as September, 1906, we find Mr. E. Bonham Carter, C.M.G., then as now the Legal Secretary, writing in his annual report to the Government: "The main defect of the system at present is that the number of judges is insufficient." The anomaly becomes no less striking when it is remembered that to-day the number of judges remains precisely the same—namely, six—including even the Legal Secretary himself when, and if, he chooses to sit.

But while the new Ordinance will not in any way increase the numerical strength of the Sudan judiciary, it will greatly improve the hitherto highly unsatisfactory method of allowing an appeal to be from one judge to another sitting alone. For the first time since the handsome and commodious new law courts of Khartoum have been opened (1908), a full Court will shortly assemble to hear and decide the first of the large number of cases of appeal that are certain to be brought before it; for the Sudanese people are uncommonly litigious, revelling in disputes, often of the most trivial character, as the legal records issued by the Government abundantly prove, thereby reminding one of those lawyers who, as Burton declared in his "Anatomy of Melancholy," were so litigious and busy here on earth that "they would plead their clients' causes hereafter, some of them, in hell."

By the terms of Clause 6 of the new Sudan Ordinance establishing the Court of Appeal, the members of the Court are to consist of the Chief Justice (hitherto known as the Chief Judge) and such other judges as the Governor-General may from time to time appoint, not less than one-half of their number being barristers of the English or Irish Bars or members of the Faculty of Advocates in Scotland, of at least five years' standing. Provision is also made for the possible death, illness, or absence of the Chief Justice, the Governor-General having the power to appoint any fit or proper person of sufficient experience to be acting Chief Justice, or an acting judge of the High Court. Ordinarily, the members of the Court will consist of the Chief Justice and the judges of the High Court, who will sit together. The actual Appeal Court will be constituted by three or more members sitting together and presided over by the senior of them, but provisions may be made by rules of court for the hearing of specified classes of appeals and proceedings by fewer than three members of the Court of Appeal.

Provision has likewise been made for the possible disagreement of the judges in certain cases. There are three forms of procedure open to a divided court: (1) If there be a majority of one opinion, that opinion shall prevail. (2) If the members are equally divided in opinion, and the matter be a final appeal, the appeal shall be dismissed provided that with the consent of the Chief Justice the appeal instead of being dismissed shall be referred to one or more of the other judges of the High Court, and the appeal shall then be decided according to the opinion of the majority of the judges who have heard the appeal and of the judge or judges to whom it has been referred. (3) If the members are equally divided in their opinion and the matter is interlocutory or other than the determination of a final appeal, the opinion of the senior member of the Court shall prevail.

The powers of the Chief Justice are very wide; for it is he who has in his hands the general superintendence and control over the High Court of Justice, and who provides for the formation of the Courts of Appeal and the distribution of business in both the High Court and the Courts of original jurisdiction. At the same time that the High Court was established there was also called into being a subordinate court to be known as the Province Court for each one of the fourteen provinces, such court consisting of a province judge (except in the Province of Khartoum or in any other province where a branch of the High Court may have been established) and district judges, who may be of three grades.

The whole Ordinance consists of 47 clauses and numerous sections and sub-sections. As it stands, it is an undoubted improvement upon the old order of things, great trouble having been taken by its framers to carry out the recommendation of a former Master of the Rolls—Sir George Jessel—who once declared that "the use of a technicality in administering justice is to defeat it." Even as it has long stood with its unquestionable and unquestioned defects, the Sudanese judicial system has shown many improvements and advantages over that of Egypt, where the procedure of the courts always has been and is exceedingly slow. Those who have had any practical experience of litigation conducted in the two adjoining States can but admit that the judicial system adopted in the Sudan presents many points of superiority.

SUDAN OFFICIAL REPORTS.

(From a Correspondent.)

It will be learned with much regret that the Sudan Government has decided not to issue any Official Report for the year 1914. The resolution has no doubt been arrived at on account of the heavy expenses incurred for printing and publishing the two large volumes which now form the comprehensive record of the economic and social progress of our valuable African Protectorate. Commencing with a humble, and even obscure, few pages in the Annual Report on the Finances, Administration and Condition of Egypt, the Sudan gradually ranked as worthy of a separate and distinct report upon its own affairs. By the year 1906 this annual publication had already assumed substantial dimensions, consisting of over 750 pages of very closely printed text and tables. The volume threatening to become unwieldy on account of the large amount of new matter continually being added, it was decided, in 1911, to issue the Report in two volumes instead of in one. The first of the two, a stout book of some 602 pages, contained the whole of the provincial reports made to the Central Government by the Provincial Governors. Included in this volume also were the annual reports of the Department of Agriculture and Forests, of the Forestry Department, the Customs, Education (including the Geological Section and Sudan Government Museum), the Sudan Medical Department, Posts and Telegraphs, Repression of the Slave Trade Department, and the Stores Section. The whole of the second volume was given up to the Memorandum from Lieut.-General Sir Reginald Wingate, and addressed to Field-Marshal the Viscount Kitchener of Khartoum, on the Finances, Administration and Condition of the Sudan.

Although essentially intended for the use of officials, and possibly the Press, the Sudan Report contained a great deal of matter very valuable and interesting to the public. A great mistake, therefore, was made when the altogether prohibitive price of two guineas net was put upon the publication. If it was intended to make the distribution limited, the object must have been achieved in every way, for assuredly few would have felt inclined to expend so considerable a sum upon these handbooks, notwithstanding the large amount of reading matter that they contained.

In the issue of 1913 a further rearrangement of the Sudan Government Report was introduced. The publication still continued to appear in two volumes, but now the first of these was devoted entirely to the Memorandum from the Governor-General to H.B.M.'s Agent at Cairo, while the second and smaller volume was devoted to the Provincial Governors' Reports. The best improvement made, however, was the reduction of the selling price of the two volumes from two guineas the set to three shillings per volume, or, say, six shillings the set. At this figure the public sale advanced, but still, of a necessity, remained small.

Should the war in Europe be still raging, it is doubtful whether any Report for 1915 will see the light; in that case it is not unlikely that the Government might elect to issue a triple Report for the years 1914, 1915, and 1916 combined. It is not, however, very probable that this expedient will have to be resorted to. In the meantime, no doubt the general economic, administrative, and financial condition of the country will be described briefly in the Report on the Finances, Administration and Condition of Egypt, as a supplement to that usually useful publication. The several hundred pounds which will be saved by the Sudan Government by withholding their own Report for last year should prove of some moment, in view of the present condition of the Protectorate's financial condition. This, while in no way serious or even disquieting, needs careful watching and just as careful nursing.

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CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Cyprus, July 31.

Petitions for Relief Work.

The local Press continues strenuously to urge the need of relief work under the Public Works Department. Some of the northern parts of the island, including Morphou and the Solea district, are reported to be hard pressed, and in other parts there is much complaint. Strong representations are also made as to the need of larger issues of seed corn on loan. The Government is called upon to keep the Cyprus tithe grain for this purpose, and to import from Egypt sufficient wheat to safeguard a supply of food.

The boatmen of Kyrenia have represented by deputations to the Commissioner the great hardships they are suffering in consequence of the prohibition to export produce to the Greek islands and to Italian ports. They ask for either a relaxation of this order or for relief work on the harbour.

Troödos Convalescent Camp.

The officer in charge at the convalescent camp at Troödos has expressed the warm thanks of the officers and men to all those who have sent gifts to the camp. These were collected through the kind offices of Lady Clauson, who represents the Red Cross in Cyprus. The Australian convalescents have all left, and only British soldiers are now in camp.

Death of the Abbot of Trooditissa.

News of the death from syncope of Epiphanios, the Abbot of the Troöditissa Monastery (July 20) was received with great regret not only by the Greek community, but by all the English who had the pleasure of his acquaintance. The Abbot, who had done much for the monastery during the years in which he held office, was highly esteemed and universally popular. A man of fine presence, good attainments, and very sympathetic character, he always gave a hearty welcome to the numerous visitors for whom the venerable monastery has been a favourite place of resort. It is situate in the depth of the Troödos pine forest, at one of the most picturesque spots, overlooking a deep and well-wooded ravine. Close at hand is a spring of excellent water. The building has been considerably enlarged by the late Abbot, for the accommodation of summer visitors. It was here that Sir Samuel and Lady Baker pitched their camp in 1879, and spent a considerable part of the summer; and Sir Samuel has given an interesting account of the monastery and its inmates at that time.

THE GREEKS IN TURKEY.

A Cyprus correspondent writes, under date of July 31:—The Greek papers devote much space to Hellenic and Balkan news. They recognize the serious dilemma in which the Greek Government is placed. After considerable trimming, and after becoming like the *Nea Heméra* almost anti-Venizelist, they now incline strongly to his view that neutrality will hardly be of advantage to Hellas.

The treatment of Greeks in Turkey is hotly resented. The number expelled from Gallipoli, Derco, and islands of the Marmora, and sent to places inhabited exclusively by Moslems is said to be about 30,000. At Cyzicus, Panormos, Artani, and other localities they have been similarly treated. Prisons are full of Greeks accused of aiding the Allies in various ways. In some places the Turks are stated to have enforced the adoption of Islam. Bashibozouks and other irregulars have been employed. From Vourla Greeks have taken refuge in Chios and Mytilene. According to the *Nea Heméra*, General Liman von Sandars has advised the Porte that it was desirable to expel as far as possible the Greek element from Asia Minor as hostile to Turco-German interests. The alleged formation of a close Turco-Bulgarian League aiming at the exclusion of Greek commerce is also discussed. It is believed that Turkey aims at expelling all Greeks from the Ottoman Empire, with the exception, in some cases, of women, who would be forcibly married to Turks; and also at substituting Turkish for all foreign languages.

THE PUBLISHER
would be obliged if Readers would inform him if they experience any difficulty in obtaining copies of the paper.

ODESSA NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Odessa, July 22.

Black Sea Operations.

The appearance in the field of operations of Russia's first Dreadnought in the Black Sea, the Empress Maria, is now an accomplished fact. Russia's Black Sea fleet is thus placed in a position of commanding strength as against that of Turkey. Meantime the Russian submarines have been much in evidence of late, having proved their usefulness in sinking the enemy's transports, which from time to time still try to maintain communication between the Turkish coaling ports and the capital. The torpedo craft have also just accomplished a good stroke of business in sinking fifty-nine sailing vessels laden with flour intended for the Turkish army.

The Mobilization of Industry.

The course of the war in general on this side has brought home to the Russian Government and people the truth that this is a war of ammunition and of the factories even more than a war of numbers of men. The Russian army is splendid in numbers and in spirit, and given an abundant supply of ammunition, nothing will be able to bar its way. Like her Allies in the West, Russia is now proceeding with the mobilization of her industries, and the enthusiasm with which this has been taken up everywhere bids fair to achieve great results. The Press and people have coined a new motto, "Everything for the Army," and with this as its watchword the nation enters upon the second year of this great war.

In a few days the Duma is to meet, when we are sure to see a great outburst of patriotic feeling, and it will again be made clear to the whole world that Russia's 150 million people are determined to carry on this war, in conjunction with their Allies, until the cause of freedom, justice, and righteousness shall be triumphant all along the line. The ideal is a high one and the path difficult, but the goal is, fortunately, certain.

Russia has, so far, undoubtedly borne the heaviest share of the enemy's onslaught, and one can only hope that the day is not far distant when her French and British Allies will find it possible to take a more active share in the campaign than they have done during the last few months, and by a great, determined, and sustained effort compel the Germans to withdraw part of their enormous forces now operating on the eastern front; for there can be little doubt that Germany has greatly weakened her Western Armies in order to carry on her present vigorous offensive on this side.

OUR MONTENEGRIN ALLIES.

Sir J. Roper Parkington, Consul-General for Montenegro, has received the following official telegram from Cettinje:—

During the last few days the Austrians have shown greatly increased activity on the whole of the frontier, more especially in the Grahovo Gatzko district, and on the Herzegovina borders. In the neighbourhood of the "Bouches de Cattaro" an artillery duel was followed by a determined infantry attack, which was readily repulsed by our troops. The Austrian aeroplanes make daily flights over our entrenchments for reconnaissance purposes.

His Majesty has conferred on the French Minister at Cettinje the military medal for bravery in the field; the gallant Frenchman took a leading part in a desperate encounter with the enemy, and greatly encouraged our soldiers by his presence. The King has recently received in audience a deputation of the leading Catholics from the Scutari district, who desired to express to His Majesty the loyalty of their co-religionists.

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SERBIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Nish, July 31.

Minor Operations of War.

We are still in a state of expectancy in Serbia. No important move has as yet been made either on our side or on that of the enemy. At four o'clock in the morning of July 22 three enemy aeroplanes flew over Belgrade, and threw thirteen bombs, wounding twenty persons, six of them severely, of whom three died afterwards from the effects of their wounds. At the time of the occurrence one of our aeroplanes set out from Belgrade to pursue one of the enemy aeroplanes, and overtook it north of Borcha. The fire of a machine gun from our machine drove off the enemy, whose aeroplane, after replying with rifle fire, appeared to descend south of Mogona, in Hungary.

On the same day we undertook an aerial enterprise. Two of our aeroplanes flew over Peter Wardine, an Austrian fortified post on the Danube, opposite the town of Neusatz, in Hungary, and threw six bombs, one falling on the railway station, one on the hangar for storing aeroplanes, and one on the fortifications.

On July 24, between seven and eight o'clock p.m., a weak Serbian division stationed on the bank of the Drina, near the village Shgitareva, crossed the river, and in ambush awaited the arrival of the enemy's reconnoitring party. The latter, although more numerous than the Serbian force, was surprised, beaten, and driven away, losing several men killed and one taken prisoner. Early the next morning the enemy was seen to be endeavouring to fortify the left bank, and was repeatedly driven off.

On July 27 there was feeble cannonading between the Serbian and the enemy's forces near Ritopeck, close to Belgrade, Petka, and Tekié, on the Danube. Serbian artillery fire prevented the enemy fortifying the position at Chetkovza

Proclamation by Crown Prince.

A proclamation to the Army has been issued by Prince Alexander, as Regent and Commander-in-Chief of the Serbian forces. It recalls that one year has elapsed since the present war began, and calls upon the men to be ever ready to offer their blood for the cause of Serbia and of Slavdom.

On August 14 (August 1, Serbian style) a decree will be promulgated setting forth a long list of officers promoted. Amongst the list of promotion of higher officers it is expected that there will be no less than eight new generals, and the present Minister of War will probably be one of them.

American Aid for Serbia.

A volunteer motor-car corps has been equipped and forwarded here from the United States of America. The corps consists of twenty-five students of Columbia University and twenty-five Serbians resident in America, and possesses twenty-five light motor-cars, with all necessaries for field service. It has been placed at the disposal of the Serbian civil and military authorities.

Prisoners of War.

Through the Roumanian Government an arrangement has been made between the Serbian and Austrian Governments for the organisation of postal communication across Roumania for the forwarding of letters and packages for prisoners of war and interned persons in Serbia and Austria-Hungary.

The Russian paper *Novoe Retch* states that 17,000 prisoners of war captured by Russia from the Austrian Army, of Serbian and Slav nationality, will be sent by Russia to Serbia in order that they may assist in agricultural work in this country.

An Extraordinary Storm.

During the last few days the weather has been excessively hot, almost as oppressive as in the torrid zone, and last night came the climax, a sudden and violent storm of hail pouring down with fearful violence, many hailstones of the size of hen's eggs. At Nish most of the houses had many windows broken by the hail; in the parks birds lay dead and dying, horses were lamed and wounded, men who were unable to obtain shelter had cut scalps and bruised limbs, the blood streaming from their wounds. This hail lasted fifteen minutes.

The brewery at Pagodine is manufacturing large supplies of ice for hospitals, butchers, hotels, etc., and the first 10,000 kilos has been received at Nish.

The famous Albanian chief, Akif Pasha, former Cabinet Minister under Prince Wilhelm, who after the retirement of that Prince directed many of the attacks on the Serbian frontier, has been captured by the Serbian army of occupation in Tirana, and is at present interned at Podgoritza, in Montenegro.

Nish, August 7.

The Entente Powers' Representations.

The collective and simultaneous action of the Quadruple Entente Powers at Nish, Sofia, Bucharest, and Athens will probably have a prompt and favourable effect, and the result, whether favourable or unfavourable, will be telegraphically made known to the public in Europe long before this letter reaches its destination. The Serbian Crown Prince, acting as Regent and Commander-in-Chief of the Serbian Army, arrived at Nish to preside at the important Cabinet Councils now taking place in connection with this matter.

The modification of the Bucharest Treaty, so essential to peace and a good understanding between the Balkan States, is not likely to give entire satisfaction to any of them, and least of all to Serbia and Bulgaria, whose views are irreconcilable, and whose conciliation can only be achieved by firm and generous action on the part of the Entente Powers. Furthermore, both Greece and Serbia attach great importance to the retention of those Macedonian territories already in their possession, and it is no easy task, in order to modify the Bucharest Treaty, to discover a *quid pro quo* that would appease the susceptibilities of these two nations.

Should the present negotiations result in an amicable understanding between the Balkan States, we may expect to see the neutral countries of the Balkans entering at once into action. In parliamentary circles it is supposed that the next sitting of the Skuptshina will be convened for the 16th of this month; and it must be borne in mind that, according to the Serbian laws, no cession of Serbian territory can be legally made without the sanction of the Great Skuptshina.

Serbo-Austrian Fighting.

At present only preliminary war demonstrations can be reported on the Serbo-Austrian frontier. According to the Serbian official reports:—

In the morning of the 2nd of this month one of the Serbian batteries at Belgrade had a duel with an enemy howitzer battery at Bezhania on the other side of the River Save on the Hungarian frontier. The correct aim of the Serbian battery was facilitated by means of information obtained from a Serbian aeroplane. Our fire was very effective, and the enemy battery was quickly silenced. During the action two enemy field guns fired fifty-six times at our aeroplane, but without doing any harm.

On the 3rd of this month one of our divisions crossed the River Save to the enemy's territory near the island Ada Tzigania, and after successfully reconnoitring, our division recrossed to Serbian territory, bringing back several prisoners.

On the same day towards evening our artillery near Tekio on the Danube engaged the enemy artillery, which in a short space of time was silenced by us.

At about the same time our artillery stationed lower down on the Danube dispersed a body of enemy troops who had constructed trenches near the railway station at Orsova, on the Danube in Hungary.

Between the 3rd and 4th of this month the enemy opened fire on several points of our territory on the River Save with the object of constructing fortifications under the shelter of their artillery, but the fire from our side rendered any such construction impossible.

Serbia and the Vatican.

It seems that the Austrian Government, whose aim was to make itself the protector of the Catholic Church in the Balkans, is not overpleased with Serbia's relations with the Vatican. An official Austrian *communiqué* of July 22 states that the Vatican had resolved not to have any diplomatic intercourse with Serbia through a representative of the Vatican until the conclusion of the war. This statement is, however, undoubtedly misleading, for since Dr. Michael Gabrilovitch's arrival at Rome he has presented his credentials as Serbian Minister to the Vatican, and the Pope has already accorded him several official audiences.

The above-mentioned Viennese fabrication is a proof of Austria's grief at having suffered the loss of a formidable weapon which she had hoped to wield against Serbia. For in consequence of the new *Concordat*

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between Serbia and the Holy See Austria is deprived of the religious power she hoped to attain over the Catholics in the new Serbian territories.

News in Brief.

The monks of the monasteries in Serbia have resolved to receive and maintain free of charge a certain number of orphans whose fathers have fallen in the war. As soon as the permission of the Serbian Minister of Public Instruction is obtained the monks will begin to take in the orphans.

It is intended to open agricultural schools at Uskub and Monastir in the new Serbian territories, and thirty students will be provided for at the expense of the State.

According to *Odjek*, fifty soldiers have been sent to Durazzo to form a guard for the Serbian Consulate. In that part of Albania which the Servian troops have occupied a registration of the inhabitants has been made.

ROUMANIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, July 26.

Germany and Roumanian Students.

A considerable sensation has been caused by the discovery that Austro-German propagandists have been actively at work amongst the students of Bucharest. Some of these young men having been observed spending money very freely, some professors instituted inquiries, which led to the discovery that the money was supplied by a M. Stoian, nominally a lawyer, but actually a journalist of some notoriety. He, in turn, declared that the money came from the Austro-Hungarian and German legations, and was being distributed to certain students who were willing to spread German propaganda among their fellows. Dr. Thomas Jonescu, Rector of Bucharest University, having instituted an inquiry, the charge was fully proved, and the Senate of the University is now considering what punishment shall be inflicted on the students guilty of such dishonourable conduct. A number of lawyers have petitioned for the removal of M. Stoian's name from the roll, and most of the journalists of Bucharest are doing likewise with regard to the Syndicate of Journalists, of which M. Stoian is a member. The students as a body have issued a manifesto condemning the act of their comrades in the strongest terms, and invoking the aid of students throughout the country in order to raise funds to establish a paper to combat German and Austro-Hungarian propaganda.

A "Ballon d'Essai"?

The *Adeverul* recently announced that M. J. Bratiano, President of the Chamber, had, in the course of an interview with M. Radeff, the Bulgarian Minister, proposed the formation of a Bulgaro-Greco-Roumanian *bloc*, directed principally against Serbia and the Slav cause. M. Radeff, in the *Viitorul*, categorically denies this report, though there was hardly any need to do so in view of what is known of Roumania's policy.

The Question of Munitions for Turkey.

As reported already, the request of Prince Hohenlohe for permission to pass munitions of war through this country to Turkey met with a formal and decided refusal from the Roumanian Government. As one result of this, the Austro-Hungarian authorities are raising all manner of difficulties in the way of the passage of all kinds of goods that are urgently required here. Several hundred trucks of sugar purchased in Austria-Hungary are thus held up at the frontier, and a similar fate has overtaken various other goods, notably part of the coal bought in Germany by the Roumanian Government. As to the latter, perhaps it does not matter much, as the first instalment, which had already been delivered, turns out to be not up to sample, and is being detained while the matter is inquired into.

A local journal has revived the reports that engineers, sailors and officers in large numbers, to say nothing of munitions, were being allowed to pass through into Bulgaria for Turkey. As a matter of fact, the arrangements made by the Ministry for Public Works, which controls the State Railways, and the Ministry of Finance, which directs the Customs, are so elaborate that it would be wonderful indeed if any munitions are smuggled through to Turkey. If such there be, it must be only in quite insignificant quantities. Only a day or two ago, for instance, an Embassy courier arrived at Predeal with some innocent-looking packages supposed to contain cotton-wool, all marked with the familiar Red Cross, and all smelling strongly of disinfectants. Medicated cotton-wool, the courier explained, was much wanted at Constantinople, for the wounded. But a Customs official, impressed by a difference of weight in the packages, opened one and found that it contained shell caps. Of course, confiscation followed. A large number of waggons, said to contain Red Cross material, are now at the frontier undergoing close examination, even the smallest boxes being inspected in accordance with orders. The German authorities fret and fume, but the examination proceeds systematically.

For the Turkish Army.

A large consignment of anti-cholera and anti-typhus serum, destined for the Turkish troops, passed through from Vienna a few days ago, in charge of a Dr. Ghermanis, and was carefully gone through in Bucharest. The doctor, who had been sent to obtain the serum, complained bitterly of the lack of hygiene amongst the Turkish troops. All attempts to introduce any cleanliness, he said, are combated not only by the soldiers, but by their officers also. The result is that sickness of all kinds is terribly prevalent.

A Pro-German Society.

At last a society has been formed which dares to declare openly for the "boches." The Ligue Populaire, as it is called, is a creation of the Austro-German propagandists, formed by the efforts of a former editor of *La Politique*, who has, officially, left M. Marghiloman's journal to take up his new duties. The "Ligue" held a meeting yesterday at the Dacia Hall, at which a motion was carried declaring that Roumania's future depended on a durable and solid friendship with the great German Empire. The "arguments" employed to support this view are too vague and subtle for recapitulation, and frequently bordered on the ludicrous, while the audience was not an imposing one.

A Cloud Burst.

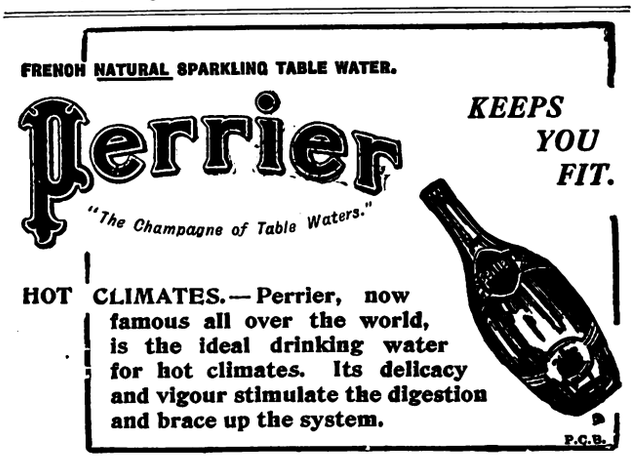
Last Monday there was a violent storm, and between Comarine and Sinaia stations there was a cloud-burst that washed away part of the line. As a result, railway communication was interrupted for two days, and visitors at Sinaia had either to prolong their stay or to pay the exorbitant prices demanded for carriage or motor transport to Comarine. The line has now been restored to working order.

DEFENCE OF BELGRADE.

The Serbian Legation in London has received the following statement from Nish :—

On the 12th inst. we succeeded in silencing the enemy's guns and stopping the work among the fortifications of the enemy near the village of Dobra, on the Danube.

On the same day, near Velico Selo, close to Belgrade, our artillery was engaged with the enemy artillery which has been placed near Lelo Starkchevo. After this the enemy's artillery was silenced, having fired about sixty shells.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

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

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

"THE FUTURE OF CYPRUS."

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—Owing to the derangement of the postal service in the Mediterranean I have only just received your issue of July 16, and I now beg leave to offer a belated criticism of one statement in Mr. Kenneth Ledward's letter on "The Future of Cyprus." I refer to his assertion that "we have never had cause to regret Mr. Gladstone's action in handing them (the Ionian Islands) over to Greece."

From a naval standpoint, the possession of Corfu by Great Britain during the present war would have been of the first importance, and it might well have formed the base for operations against the enemy in the Adriatic, for which Malta is a distant and awkwardly placed substitute. I can assure Mr. Ledward that the loss of Corfu by Great Britain has been deplored by the Naval War Staffs of at least three Great Powers since the end of July, 1914.

Again, in view of the great and increasing importance of the submarine in modern naval warfare, I must protest against Mr. Ledward's scheme for transferring Cyprus to Greece on sentimental grounds. Greece has already an enormous coast-line, far larger than she can ever hope to police adequately. Are we to give Cyprus into hands already more than occupied elsewhere, and so provide a future enemy with a coast-line for the establishment of secret submarine bases within easy striking distance of the Suez Canal and all that its traffic means to us? A secret submarine base is a very simple affair—it is not necessary to have a natural harbour for the purpose—a thing which has so far not been discovered in Cyprus.—I am, sir,

Yours, etc.,

PHILHELLENE BUT PRO-BRITON.

Monastery of Iviron, Mount Athos.
August 7, 1915.

THE SITUATION IN PERSIA.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—Permit me to say a word or two regarding the article on "The Situation in Persia" by a correspondent, who signs himself "Jamsheed," published in your issue of the 13th inst. In THE NEAR EAST of July 9 you published some "Persian Notes" which appeared to me to give an accurate account of the exact position in Persia. I am able to judge this, as I am in close touch with Persia, and carefully read most of the Persian newspapers. In no Persian paper have I seen an advocacy of Persia fighting on the side of the Germans or the Turks; and from most reliable private information in my possession no responsible person or party, with influence on public opinion, advocates or would think of advocating such measure.

On the other hand, my information unfortunately strongly confirms your correspondent's assertion that there is a widespread animosity against Russia, because, as your correspondent states, the Persians say "Persia has suffered too much at the hands of Russia." It is this very fact of which the German and Turkish propagandists in Persia have taken advantage. Apparently Russia does nothing to counteract this. We all know that, apart from the Russian occupation of certain parts of their country, Persians have had various grievances against Russia, such as collection of Persian revenue by Russian consuls, and similar interferences in the internal affairs which the Persians have considered not only derogatory to their independence, but also an obstacle to the proper administration of the country. It appears that nothing has been done to remove or to mitigate these grievances.

A careful perusal of the Persian Press shows that the cause of the frequent changes of the Persian Cabinets to which your correspondent has referred is their failure to come to some understanding with Russia regarding these matters, the settlement of which public opinion strongly demands. My information and my careful observation of the Persian situation convince me that not only the Government but the whole nation are determined to maintain their neutrality with all means at their disposal. For this very reason since the commencement of the war they have pleaded more strongly than ever for the withdrawal of Russian troops, the presence of which the Turks have represented as the cause of their violation of Persian neutrality. Deep study of the situation leaves no room for doubt that the remedy for this state of affairs would not be the dissolution of Parliament or the formation of a Cabinet such as your correspondent suggests. In the first place, the dissolution of Parliament would cause disturbances throughout the country; and where is the military force which would be necessary to keep order? In the second place, a Cabinet such as your correspondent suggests could not possibly be formed, and, if formed, would have a very short life, as it would be most heterogeneous; for it contains the names of great Persian patriots and Liberals, as well as the names of staunch reactionaries and of men whom Persians consider traitors to their country. Surely the most effective remedy would appear to be the pursuance by Russia of a more liberal policy, with due regard for public feeling and for their aspirations. My conviction is that, had such policy been pursued, Persia would not have seen so many Cabinet crises, and there would have been none of this undue anxiety about German propaganda.—I am, etc.,

FREYDOON.

London, August 19, 1915.

"IN STRICKEN SERBIA."

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—Some centuries ago an Englishman landed at Rouen and saw a red-haired fisherwoman. He wrote home: "French women are red-haired and coarse in appearance." He was in perfect good faith. Similarly, a certain doctor writes recently from Serbia to say: "Such a thing as a bath is unknown in Serbia." This remark, by a stranger, is no wonder; baths, pots, pans, and more precious things are now scarce in Serbia; but the wonder is that this funny *calembour* should find room in your pages. You surely know that the weekly bath was a national institution in Serbia long before it had been introduced into England. There are public baths in every little town, and the daily shower-bath precedes the average Serb's breakfast. In wartime, many things have been upset, but bathing in contaminated rivers has been a source of epidemic. The fond physician who imagines he is introducing the custom of the bath to Serbia merits our tender solicitude.—I am, etc.,

ANNIE CHRISTITCH.

Valjevo, Serbia, July 25.

RED TAPE AGAIN.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—A Christian Syrian, resident in London for the past twenty years, finds it necessary for his business to go to Egypt, via Marseilles. We know that he is under no special restriction here, and that France looks upon Syrians as her "protégés." We know, also, that Syrians are welcome at any time, and were never considered strangers in Egypt, if we do not remember that Syrians gave Egypt her first civilisation, and her later one, too, and also her best men.

Yet, incredible to relate, when this Syrian applies to our authorities for a permit to leave these shores for Alexandria, he is told to get first a permit from the High Commissioner in Egypt to enter! I need not explain further, because neither you nor your readers can give the permit required, and the dullards who withhold it do not understand anything.

The instances of red tape being really too many, I venture to advise the Prime Minister to have a deputy of eminence, like Curzon or Rosebery, to overlook the doings of every department. We cannot afford at this juncture to make mistakes, and it will be no consolation to us to be told afterwards that So-and-so is to blame, and not the Government.—I am, etc.,

ALEXANDER SEFI.

London, August 18, 1915.

NEW BULGARIAN STAMPS.

Mr. Fred J. Melville writes in the *Daily Telegraph*:—A correspondent in Sofia sends me three of the stamps of the pictorial series printed by the new printers, Messrs. Petiti and Co., of Rome. They are the 5, 15, and 30 stotinki, depicting respectively King Ferdinand in white military undress, the River Iskar, and the monument on Mount Rŏla. The original series was engraved in London but printed at the Oficina Calcografica Italiano in Rome, and the stamps were perforated 12. The new stamps are similar in design, but are in new colours and have a different gauge of perforation:—

5 stotinki... Green and brown, perforated 14.
15 stotinki... Myrtle-green, perforated 11½d.
30 stotinki... Black and red-brown, perforated 14.

There is also a new provisional 10 stotinki surcharged in red on the 25 stotinki ultramarine and black. This surcharge appears to have been printed in sheets of 100, and the ninth stamp in the second horizontal row has an error, reading "18" instead of "10."

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE OLD ORDER IN EGYPT.*

Egypt in the 'sixties was a very different place from the Egypt of to-day, and Baron de Kusel's volume of reminiscences, extending over the period from 1863 to 1887, comes at a moment when the country, passing into yet another definite period of her history, is attracting a very considerable share of attention throughout the world.

Baron de Kusel was a young man when he first went to Egypt as the protégé of a certain Dr. Mustapha, whom his father had met casually at the house of a mutual friend a week before. The book which he has now produced is a pleasantly written record of his experiences during the many years which elapsed before, honoured by the Khedive and occupying a high position in the Government service, he resigned and retired to England. The Baron received a characteristic initiation into the existing ways of Egyptian officialdom on his very first journey from Alexandria to Cairo. Accompanied by Dr. Mustapha, his wife, and two other Englishmen, the author travelled first-class, but the journey was comparatively inexpensive to them, for

> We travelled without paying, the ticket collector being far more pleased to feel a piece of gold in his hand than to see hundreds of tickets bought at the proper office. In those days most people "in the know" travelled in this way, although I personally never made a habit of it.

That first journey was full of excitement, as the following paragraph, descriptive of an incident witnessed at Benha station in the early hours of a sleepless night, will show:

> It was during one of these breaks in my slumber, and just before dawn, that a goods train from Alexandria to Cairo puffed into view, and with a great deal of noise came to a standstill; on one of the open trucks I saw a number of figures, and walked towards it, and to my delight, boy that I was, saw a sight that filled me with amazement. Some half a dozen women clad in white, and wearing the yashmak or veil, were sitting or lolling upon bales of what I believed to be merchandise, while evidently guarding them were three most villainous-looking ruffians, each with a long scimitar by his side, and a brace of great pistols tucked into his sash.

Subsequent inquiries revealed the fact that the party was composed of Turkish and Circassian slaves and dealers *en route* for the slave market at Cairo. In the light of existing conditions, such incidents as these, occurring in Egypt but a comparatively short time ago, are fairly substantial evidence of the benefits which have accrued to the country in later days; but still more forcibly is the contrast felt when we read of the terrible ravages of cholera in the latter years of the nineteenth century. There appear to have been very few doctors outside Cairo; medical knowledge was not profound even where it existed at all. Baron de Kusel himself, with the aid of Providence and hot cakes laid upon the patient's stomach, succeeded in effecting a certain number of cures, but it was not until some considerable time later that cholera ceased to remain a fiendish danger in Egypt.

After having had commercial experience of the country extending over ten years, during which he acquired an intimate acquaintance with the Arabic language and became fairly proficient in French and Italian, the Baron received his first Government appointment, entering as head of the European Department of the Customs in 1877, the present Sultan being then Minister of Finance, and therefore his responsible chief. Considering that the term of his service was marked by events of the utmost importance to Egypt, it is natural that the author should have many personal narratives of extreme interest regarding British and other celebrities who, from time to time, appeared on the Egyptian stage, and with whom he came into close contact. Baron de Kusel has blended these with his own experiences in a manner that will make his book easy reading even to those who have no first-hand knowledge of Egypt or of the Egyptians. To those who can look back on pleasant years spent in the Nile Valley the many amusing anecdotes of Anglo-Egyptians and others of the old school will provide interesting reading. Among the many personalities whom the Baron met were the explorer Stanley and General Gordon, a remark of whose is worth quoting at the present time: "In a nation of liars, the *truth* will often deceive far better than a falsehood."

Baron de Kusel, being stationed in Alexandria, of course, saw a good deal of the historic happenings of '82, and he recalls with what pride he and other Englishmen watched the arrival of the British Fleet in the harbour. These vessels, however, heralded anxious times, and the author gives a vivid account of the stirring events which preceded the bombardment. In view of the part that mines and torpedoes have been playing in the present war, it may be interesting to recall a fact which Baron de Kusel does not believe to be generally known—viz., that the British men-o'-war were "in danger of being seriously, if not fatally, damaged by mines or torpedoes, while anchored inside the harbour of Alexandria shortly before the bombardment." It seems that the idea of laying mines or torpedoes in the harbour was a conception of General Stone Pasha, Chief of the Egyptian Army Staff, who had some little time previously ordered secretly from America a specially-made submarine explosive machine. That this machine never had an opportunity of doing its deadly work would appear to be due to the fact that the author, who was at the time Acting Director-General of Customs, had his suspicions aroused by anxious enquiries on behalf of Arabi Pasha for a certain case that had been discharged from a tramp steamer and bore no evidence as to either its origin or destination. This case, which was discovered concealed in a corner of the Custom-House, was found on inspection to contain a "terrible weapon of destruction," which ultimately found its way (after being rendered innocuous, *bien entendu*) on board H.M.S. Invincible.

Baron de Kusel makes no attempt to probe deeply into politics, though he comments interestingly, with a sense of inside knowledge, on the chief events of his time. He animadverts on the action of Her Majesty's Government in refusing to accede to Gordon's request that Zobehr, "the one man capable of dealing with the situation" should be sent to the Sudan as Deputy Governor-General. Later on, when Khartoum was surrounded and Gordon's life was in danger, Zobehr himself volunteered to proceed to the Sudan, and said he would undertake to send Gordon back alive to Cairo. . . Confident that it was perfectly *bona-fide*, and that he would, and could, do what he claimed to be able to do, I offered to accompany Zobehr to Khartoum, whilst he himself agreed to leave his family with the Egyptian Government as hostages. Zobehr's offer was refused, and so was mine.

The author has a poor opinion of the ex-Khedive. In the epilogue, with which he brings his volume up to date, he says that the disappearance of Abbas Hilmi from Egyptian affairs will be regretted by none:—

> He cared little for the welfare of his people, who, in their turn, disliked him personally, though they have always respected the dynasty of Mohammed Ali. He was considered very avaricious, his one object in this world being to amass riches; and it is said that he never forgave Lord Kitchener for depriving him of his authority over the revenues of the Wakfs (Moslem Endowments), where he reigned supreme. He was the very antithesis of his famous grandfather, Ismail Pasha, one of the most generous rulers of his day, and who was every inch a sovereign.

Although this book does not pretend to be anything more than its title indicates, it is certainly one which should hold the attention of that large class of readers who seek their knowledge of men and places in the easily-told reminiscences of other travellers.

* "An Englishman's Recollections of Egypt." By Baron de Kusel (Bey). Illustrated. (London: The Bodley Head. 10s. 6d. net.)

NEAR EAST BOOK NOTES.

The next volume in Messrs. Pitman's "Countries and Peoples" series will be "Egypt of the Egyptians," by W. Lawrence Balls, who brings the story down to the present day.

Messrs. A. and C. Black have in preparation for the autumn "Ottoman Wonder Tales," translated and edited by Lucy M. Garnett and illustrated by Charles Folkard.

Mr. Frank Fox has an illustrated book on "The Balkan Peninsula" in preparation with Messrs. Black.

The current number of the *Journal of Egyptian Archæology* contains the second instalment of letters to Sir William Gell written in the 1820's by Early Egyptologists—Henry Salt, Sir J. G. Wilkinson, and Baron von Bunsen—with interesting sidelights on the labours of the early decipherers of hieroglyphics. These are followed by papers on "Royal Tombs in Mesopotamia and Egypt," by Professor L. W. King; on "The Great Tomb Robberies of the Ramesside Age," by Mr. T. E. Peet; and on "An Undescribed Type of Building in the Eastern Province of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan," by Professor Seligman.

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JOHN LANE: THE BODLEY HEAD, W

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1915. August	1915. August		1333. Shawwal	5675. Ellul
20	7	Friday	9	10
21	8	Saturday.....	10	11
22	9	Sunday	11	12
23	10	Monday	12	13
24	11	Tuesday	13	14
25	12	Wednesday	14	15
26	13	Thursday	15	16

Sunday is the birthday of H.M. Queen Eleonore of Bulgaria, who was born in 1860.

Tuesday is the birthday of H.M. King Ferdinand of Roumania, who was born at Sigmaringen in 1865.

In a letter dated July 26, but only received this week, our Bucharest Correspondent writes: The Royal Family this year have not officially taken up residence at Sinaia, though some of the younger members are there. Queen Marie has paid flying visits, but only to remain single nights at most. On the 23rd inst. her Majesty motored to Tikir Johl, near Constantza, where Princess Elisabeth has been staying for some time in company with her companion, Miss Milne.

Sir Francis Elliot, the British Minister in Athens, had an audience of the King of Greece yesterday, and a subsequent conference with M. Venizélos, the Greek Premier.

In a letter written from Nish on July 31, but only received by us this week, our Serbian Correspondent writes:—"Lady Paget is indefatigable. Having recovered her health, she has revisited the scene of her former operations, accompanied by her husband, Sir Ralph Paget, who is Chief Inspector of Great Britain's Red Cross work in Serbia. Yesterday she arrived in Nish, coming from Uskub, and proceeds to Belgrade, whence she will return in a few days."

His friends in this country will learn with peculiar satisfaction that the services rendered to Montenegro in the present war by Dr. F. G. Clemow have been recognised by King Nicholas, who has bestowed on Dr. Clemow a high decoration. Special permission, we understand, has been accorded to Dr. Clemow to accept this decoration.

This reminds us that when he was at Podgoritza a short time ago Dr. Clemow had the experience of being "bombed" by an enemy aeroplane, but, fortunately, escaped without injury. One of the chief troubles of the British Red Cross in Montenegro appears to be the very irregular arrival of mails, which sometimes fail to put in an appearance for six or seven weeks together.

H.E. the Roumanian Minister saw Sir Edward Grey at the Foreign Office on Wednesday afternoon.

H.E. the Bulgarian Minister called at the Foreign Office last Friday afternoon and saw Sir Edward Grey. H.E. the Serbian Minister also called at the Foreign Office.

Earl Curzon of Kedleston and Sir Louis Mallet were the guests of the King, at Windsor Castle, over the week-end.

The *Petit Parisien* announces that Abdul Aziz, the ex-Sultan of Morocco, is now at Bordeaux.

In sending us news of Turkey, under date of August 2, our Special Correspondent at Athens reports that the wife of Baron Wangenheim—the German Ambassador, who left Constantinople on July 22—had not accompanied her husband, but had gone to the summer residence of the Embassy at Therapia.

In the same letter our Correspondent writes:—"Dr. B. Post, of Robert College, and his family have arrived in Athens from Constantinople. They are proceeding to America for the summer holidays. Many Americans have left Constantinople."

The Rev. R. Frew is, we learn, still in Constantinople.

Lieutenant R. C. Cumberbatch has been transferred from the 15th (S.) Battalion Rifle Brigade to the 7th Battalion, and is now at the front.

Dr. D. A. Davis, whose valuable work in connection with the Y.M.C.A. in Constantinople is doubtless well known to many of our readers, is now in France, where he is engaged in work on behalf of the Y.M.C.A.

Seaman George McKenzie Samson, R.N.R., who has won the V.C. for gallantry at the Dardanelles, where he was seriously wounded, was formerly employed by the Ottoman Railway Company. He left Smyrna for Malta at the outbreak of the war.

The *Hilal* announces that the Second Class of the Osmanieh has been conferred on Mr. W. E. Bemis, Vice-President of the Standard Oil Company, and the Third Class of the same Order on Mr. Oscar Gunkle and Mr. L. I. Thomas, directors of the company at Constantinople. These marks of distinction, it states, have been conferred by the Sultan in recognition of the numerous services of humanity rendered to the country.

Our Serbian Correspondent writes, under date of August 7:—

There is no epidemic now raging in Serbia, and very little sickness of any sort among the soldiers and prisoners of war. In many hospitals the doctors and nurses have nothing to do. Dr. Bedell, of the British Sanitary Mission in Belgrade, and several other members of the Mission are returning to England. They have already arrived in Nish en route for Salonika.

Our Bucharest Correspondent informs us that Madame Milovanovitch, widow of a former Prime Minister of Serbia, who is a Roumanian by birth, has arrived in Bucharest after having spent a year at Nish working amongst the hospitals there.

Lady Hamilton has heard from Sir Ian Hamilton that the comforts sent to her for the Dardanelles wounded have been received on the hospital ships and in the hospitals at Alexandria, Gallipoli, Mudros, and Malta, and are very much appreciated. They have helped to soothe the suffering of our men, who like to feel that those at home are thinking of them.

Last week, in referring to the work in Palestine of Dr. E. W. G. Masterman, we referred to him as the "head of the work carried on in Jerusalem by the London Society for Promoting Christianity Amongst the Jews." This description was not quite accurate. Dr. Masterman's position in Jerusalem is Medical Superintendent of the English Mission Hospital, which belongs to the society mentioned; and, though head of the medical and surgical work of the hospital, he is not head of the society's work. For the last year he has been senior resident medical officer of the Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital, with special charge of the wounded soldiers at that institution. The hospital has one hundred beds for civilians and eighty for soldiers, and since Dr. Masterman has been there some 500 sick and wounded soldiers and over 100 recruits needing surgical treatment have passed through his hands.

News has just reached England of the death of Second Lieutenant Roland Whittall, who was recently wounded at the Dardanelles. He was the third son of Mr. F. E. Whittall, of Constantinople, was educated at Rugby, and joined the firm of J. W. Whittall and Co. a few years ago. At the outbreak of war, it will be remembered, the British community in Constantinople held a meeting, at which it was decided to raise a subscription for the purpose of enabling volunteers to be sent to England and to contribute to the Prince of Wales' Fund. At this meeting forty young Englishmen stepped forward and volunteered. Many others subsequently offered themselves, and the total number now serving is over one hundred. Close on £2,000 was remitted to the Prince of Wales' Fund. Roland Whittall was placed in charge of the first squad which left Constantinople, and on reaching England joined the 10th Battalion Royal Fusiliers at Colchester, but later obtained his commission, and was sent to the Dardanelles as interpreter. He was twenty-two years of age.

Brigadier-General C. Godby, Royal Engineers, who is reported wounded while serving in the western theatre of operations, has seen service in the Sudan on two occasions, at Hasheen and Topek in 1885, and at Toski four years later.

Colonel Neville Manders, Royal Army Medical Corps, who has been killed while serving at the Dardanelles, was the youngest son of Major Thomas Manders, 6th Dragoon Guards, and was born at Marlborough, Wilts, in 1859. He was educated at Marlborough, and entered the Army Medical Service in 1884, after qualifying as F.R.P.S. and M.R.C.S. The Colonel served in the Suakin Campaign of 1885, receiving the medal with clasp and the Khedive's star, and later saw service in the Burmese Expedition of 1887-89. He was appointed Deputy-Director of the Medical Service in Egypt in December, 1913, and held this position until January of the present year, when he was, by special request, attached to the Headquarters Staff of the Australian and New Zealand Forces.

Colonel Arthur R. Cole-Hamilton, 6th Battalion East Lancashire Regiment, who has died of wounds received in action, was Deputy-Lieutenant of Tyrone, and was the eldest son of the late Captain William Claude Cole-Hamilton. He was related to the Earl of Castle Stewart and to the Earl of Enniskillen. Colonel Cole-Hamilton served in the Egyptian War of 1882, for which he held the medal and bronze star, and he also had the clasp for the Suakin Expedition, 1885-6. At the outbreak of war he was posted from the Reserve of Officers to the 6th (Service) Battalion East Lancashire Regiment.

Colonel Edward Thomas Browell, late of the Royal Artillery, has died at his residence, Merrow House, Merrow, near Guildford, at the age of seventy-three. He obtained a commission in the Royal Artillery in 1864, and took part in the Egyptian expedition of 1882, and in the expedition to Suakin in 1885.

Major H. R. W. M. Smith, R.A., who has been wounded in the Dardanelles operations, served with Lord Kitchener in the Sudan, and was present at the battle of Omdurman.

Major C. S. Venables, D.S.O., of the 7th Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment, who has been killed at the Dardanelles, was the eldest son of the Right Rev. A. R. P. Venables, Bishop of Nassau, Bahamas. He joined the Gloucestershire Regiment in 1885, after being educated at Charterhouse and the Royal Military College, Sandhurst. He was awarded the D.S.O. for service in the Siege of Ladysmith. He was a splendid horseman, and the rider of many winners. He was well known in Egypt and Malta.

Major Dudley S. Skelton, of the Medical Service, who is reported wounded, was in 1909 employed in Somaliland, when he saw active service. Later he was employed in Zanzibar.

Captain Eustace Hotham Burnaby, 7th Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment, who has been wounded with the Mediterranean force, is the only son of Lieutenant-Colonel E. B. Burnaby, who was formerly mace-bearer to the Lord Mayor of London, and is a cousin of the famous soldier Colonel Fred Burnaby, who rode to Khiva and was killed at the battle of Abu-Klea.

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Captain John Cecil Morgan, 6th Battalion Yorkshire Regiment, who has been killed in action, was the only son of Mr. John H. Morgan, C.V.O., consulting surgeon to the Charing Cross Hospital. He had served in the Boer War, and also in Egypt, when he resigned six years ago. He joined the 6th Yorkshire Regiment last October. Captain Morgan, who was thirty-three years of age, was an M.A. of Oxford.

Captain Walter Lloyd, 8th Royal Welsh Fusiliers, whose death at the front is announced, joined the 2nd Battalion in 1896. He served in Malta, Egypt, India, and Hong Kong, and during the international occupation of Crete was attached to the International Commission as interpreter. For some time he held a Volunteer adjutancy at Carnarvon. In 1911 he retired from the active list, and was placed on the Reserve of Officers, from which on the outbreak of war he was appointed to the 8th Battalion of his former regiment. Captain Lloyd was 41 years of age, and was the second son of the late Thomas Lloyd, of Leghorn, Italy, and Minard, Argyllshire. He married, in 1899, Phyllis, second daughter of Admiral Sir Francis Powell, K.C.M.G., by whom, with two daughters, he is survived.

Lieutenant Gerald Ernest Berkeley Carter, R.N., who is reported to have died at sea, was the son of Brigadier-General F. C. Carter, C.B., and Mrs. Carter, of 157, Victoria Street, and was born in India in 1886. As a midshipman, he took part in landing operations in the Somaliland campaign.

Lieutenant William Arthur Bayford Kirwan Ward, who died of wounds at the Dardanelles on August 2, was the only child of the Rev. W. H. K. and Mrs. Ward, of Asthall Vicarage, Burford, Oxon. He was born in 1888, and was educated at Aberdeen Grammar School, Dover College, and King Edward's School, Stourbridge, where he won the championship for athletics. On leaving school he was apprenticed to the National Telephone Company, and while there gained the bronze medal for telephony in the Technological Examination of the City and Guilds of London Institute in 1910. Later he was with the Constantinople Telephone Company and the Betulander Company. A keen Territorial since 1907, he received his commission in the London Cable Signal Company, Royal Engineers, in June, 1914, and was transferred to the Regular Forces in December last. In January he went to Flanders, and was present throughout the second battle of Ypres. Thinking his local knowledge of Constantinople and district would render his services of more value to his country, he volunteered for service at the Dardanelles.

A group of Roumanian ladies has, our Bucharest Correspondent informs us, founded a society, to be known as "L'Union Culturale des Femmes Roumaines," for the encouragement of feminine activity in the domains of art, science, and literature.

The exhibition of sculpture by M. Ivan Mestrovic, now on view at the Victoria and Albert Museum, will be closed early in next week.

The *Cyprus Gazette* of July 30 contains the acknowledgment by the High Commissioner of the receipt of £35 forwarded by the manager of the Bank of Athens, Limassol, for Red Cross work.

The outlines of a romance of the war may be traced in the following marriage announcement which appeared on the first page of *The Times* on Thursday:—

On the 27th June, on the high seas, off Salonika, by the chaplain to bridegroom's unit (the Rev. A. J. Waldron, vicar of Brixton), Percy Wallice, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., of King's College, Cambridge (First British Field Hospital to Serbia), elder son of Mr. and Mrs. James G. W. Wallice, of Plymouth, to Dora Eunice (of the Wounded Allies' First Hospital Unit to Montenegro), eldest daughter of the late T. Cleave Woolcock, of Surbiton, Reigate, and Redhill, and of Mrs. E. C. Rundle Woolcock, of Rhodesia, and Southwick, Sussex.

Over 400 Moslems assembled at the Mosque at Woking last Friday to celebrate the festival of Eid-ul-Fitr, the termination of the month of Ramadan. Amongst the crowd were fifty soldiers, some of them back from the front wounded. The mosque being too small for the worshippers, an adjournment was made to the lawn, where the Imam, Moulvi Sadr-ud-din, led the prayers, at the conclusion of which he delivered two addresses, one in English, one in Hindustani. The usual Friday prayers followed the close of the discourse. The festival continued throughout Sunday, the time being mainly spent in calling upon friends, to give "Bairam greetings" and good wishes.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, etc.

The Bulgarian Government has formally notified assent to the appointment of Mr. H. J. O'Beirne (says Reuter's Sofia correspondent) as British Minister on a special mission to Bulgaria.

M. Korostovetz, the Russian Minister at Teheran, has been recalled from that post, and has been appointed a member of the Council of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

Our Bucharest Correspondent reports that M. Rado. Djuvara, First Secretary of the Roumanian Legation at Athens, has been transferred to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bucharest.

"Germany," writes the same correspondent, "not to be outdone by Great Britain, has appointed a Naval Attaché at Bucharest. There will probably be keen competition for the post, as anything will be better than the enforced inactivity in the Kiel Canal."

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION.

Several papers on what we may term "Near Eastern" subjects are to be read at the forthcoming meeting of the British Association. In the Anthropology Section Professor C. G. Seligman will consider future lines of research in the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan. Recent evidence suggests that the palæolithic period as well as the neolithic is represented in the district. The extent and duration of ancient Egyptian influence there will be considered and reference made to the legends of great Queens between the White and Blue Niles. The importance of closely examining all customs indicating contact with Egypt will be emphasised and the possibility of their originating in Hamitic culture considered. It will be shown that the negroes portrayed in the New Empire were not tall, long-headed negroids, such as the Dinka and Shilluk, now in the Northern Nile Valley, but representatives of round-headed races now living in Dar Nuba and between the White and Blue Niles. The joint Balkan discussion with the Geographical Section will be opened by Professor G. Elliot Smith, who will also initiate a discussion on "The Influence of Ancient Egyptian Civilisation on the World's Culture," referring especially to the diffusion of burial and other customs. Professor Flinders Petrie will be giving a lecture on "Egyptian Jewellery," and Miss Margaret Murray, in a paper on "Royal Marriage and Matrilineal Descent," will examine the social and religious custom of the ancient Egyptians and Semitic peoples. Mr. R. M. Dawkins will read a paper on "The Greek Element in Asia Minor." In the Botanical Section, Mr. W. Lawrence Balls will deliver a special lecture on "Cotton."

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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

BIRTHS.

MAUDSLAY.—On August 13, at Cairo, the wife of Joseph Maudslay, of a son.

MCNEILE.—On August 14, at Gjerrild, Denmark, the wife of the Rev. R. Fergus McNeile, M.A., of Cairo, of a daughter.

DEATH.

SAVAGE.—On August 14, at the New Zealand Military Hospital, Pont Koubba, Egypt, Major Thomas Copeland Savage, M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S., F.U.L., second son of the late Warwick Savage and Mrs. Savage, of Wellington House, Burslem, and beloved husband of Madeline Savage, Princes Street, Auckland, aged 41.

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 20, 1915.

GERMANY AND THE BALKANS.

Germany has contrived to render a number of services to her enemies both before and since the outbreak of war, and now appears to be coming to the rescue of the Allies' diplomacy in the Near East. Nothing is more calculated to bring home to the neutral States of the Balkan Peninsula a realization of the danger to which their independence would be exposed by a victory of the Central Powers than the prospect of German armies marching through Serbia and Bulgaria in order to bolster up Turkey against the Allies. However acute may be the estrangement at any given moment between the Balkan Governments, they are well aware that Turkey under the existing régime remains the common enemy. If the Turks should be victorious with the help of Germany in this war, there would be no security in the future from Turkish aggression for either Greece or Bulgaria. For Roumania there would be the same uncertainty regarding the main outlet for her commerce, even if actual restrictions on the navigation of the Bosphorus and Dardanelles were not imposed as a penalty for her neutrality. But in massing troops on the Danube Germany has shown that she is prepared to stake much on a last throw in Turkey's behalf. Her intention would be to force her way through Serbia, and then to deal with Bulgaria as a second Luxemburg or Belgium, according to the exigencies of the Bulgarian attitude. The possibility of the Bulgarians making common cause with the Germans does not need to be discussed at this stage. Even if the Bulgarian Premier had not candidly expressed his dislike of a policy of neutrality for Germany's benefit, it would be unthinkable that Bulgaria at this period of the war should deliberately offer herself to be crushed by the German hammer on the Turkish anvil. Neutrality was for the Balkan States a rational course to adopt, at least for a time, until it was seen that there could be no issue out of the Titanic conflict which did not spell for the smaller countries of Europe complete subjugation on the one hand to German domination, or on the other national independence guaranteed by a group of Powers which were sacrificing everything for European liberty. Any doubts as to the principles at stake which survived the violation of Belgium will have been entirely removed by successive steps on Germany's part. In the first place, there was the wanton treatment of Turkey, by forcing upon her a quarrel which was not her own, and out of which she stood to gain nothing; secondly, there is the cynical betrayal by Germany of her allies, in offering to buy off Russia at the expense of Austria and Turkey. German aims have been explained in many quarters. Recent manifestoes have restated them in the light of a year's war. Belgium is to be held politically, militarily, and commercially in German hands; Austria-Hungary and Turkey are to "open up" to Germany the Balkans and Asia Minor, in a way, we must infer, which is not provided for by the present-day freedom of international trade.

A country or Government which could still regard Germany as capable of paying any attention to the interests of others, whether allies or neutrals, would indeed be past praying for. We refuse to believe that such a country exists in the Near East. Roumania, Bulgaria, and Greece, for different reasons, have felt obliged up to the present to keep out of the European war. Military considerations have largely determined their policy; but the deciding factor has been lack of statesmanship. The long struggle for existence which the Balkan peoples have survived has had the effect of restricting their range of vision to the needs and conditions of the moment. In many particulars the Governments of the day have advanced but little beyond the stage when the only opening for patriotic endeavour was held to be the withdrawal of a few men to the mountains, who, if they saved their own skins, could only do so at the expense of the hapless populace they left behind. There is the same insistence upon unessentials, which happen to be immediately under the eyes; the same indifference to the things that really matter, which may be more remote. In each country there have been individual exceptions to the rule. M. Pashitch has shown an appreciation of Serbia's true interests as a unit of the Balkan group; but at every turn he is liable to be checked or thwarted by a military clique, which, knowing nothing of wider considerations, rejects compromise from its vocabulary, and holds that there can be no other treatment for alien subjects than death or expulsion. M. Venizelos is head and shoulders above his generation in Greece and in the Balkans as a whole; but he, too, has had to give ground temporarily to a conspiracy of ignorance and prejudice. Roumania and Bulgaria are equally victims of a national paralysis, which is likely to yield to nothing so readily as to the menace of aggression from without. It is this menace which Germany's action is now supplying. She has delivered her ultimatum to Roumania to allow the transport of munitions to Turkey or to suffer the consequences; she has massed troops in a position which enables her to threaten both Serbia and Roumania. A common danger confronts all the Balkan States, and they know that their one chance of averting it lies in co-operation.

Thus, whereas the representations of the Entente Powers might otherwise have continued to fall on deaf ears in the Balkan capitals, they have suddenly been reinforced by an argument which cannot fail to carry conviction. We have no wish to impugn the efficacy of a course of action which has been urged in these columns for many months past. We have pointed out that an agreement among the Balkan States was an essential preliminary to military action on the part of one or more with the Allied Powers. It was impossible that the States of their own initiative should arrive at such an agreement, and for that reason it was incumbent upon the Triple or Quadruple Entente to take the necessary steps to bring about an understanding. At the most opportune moment for the exercise of diplomatic pressure upon the Balkan Governments, when the Russians were advancing over the Carpathians, British diplomacy held back, sheltering itself behind Russia or the fear of hurting the susceptibilities of an independent State. When at last the Allied Governments decided to act in the Balkans, the military situation had undergone a complete change, and German intrigue had succeeded in making considerable headway. The obstacles to be overcome were, therefore, much greater than they would have been at the beginning of the year. Each Balkan country had a strong inducement to adhere to a neutrality which had something to recommend it from the point of view of economy, if not from that of courage and political wisdom. Into this state of affairs the Germans blunder with threats and military movements. The Bulgarian Premier at once announces *urbi et orbi* that, if Bulgaria is given that part of Macedonia which she regards as her own, she will place her whole resources unreservedly at the disposal of the Allies. Serbia for the first time shows a more pliable demeanour, and Greece takes steps to terminate the process of marking time. In these circumstances it is difficult to suppose that the Balkan States will hesitate much longer to adopt the only line of action which promises them the realization of their national ideals. United, they not only stand firm, but go on from strength to strength; divided, they lapse inevitably into mediocre and antagonistic units, while running the risk of losing their national independence and being sacrificed to the Moloch of German *Weltpolitik*.

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THE MAKING OF MODERN EGYPT.

MOHAMMED ALI, THE LION OF THE LEVANT.

By Professor Todd.

The fascination of history lies in noting how one thing led to another, and in the history of Modern Egypt it is of special interest to note how economic and political conditions have acted and reacted on each other. Almost without exception the outstanding features of the present conditions in Egypt, both economic and political, can be traced back to the time of Mohammed Ali, the founder of the present dynasty.

Three men have played the chief parts in the history of Modern Egypt: Mohammed Ali made it; his grandson, the Khedive Ismail, pawned it; and Lord Cromer redeemed it. The popular impression in this country, that Modern Egypt dates from the British Occupation of the country in 1882, is a complete misunderstanding. The political and economic problems of Egypt to-day may be grouped round three points: (1) The cotton crop and the irrigation system; (2) the Suez Canal; and (3) the Egyptian State Debt. All of these had their first beginnings in the reign of Mohammed Ali, as also had Egypt's dominion over the Sudan.

Mohammed Ali, the Lion of the Levant, will go down to posterity as one of the great men of the world's history, and it is a coincidence that he was born in the same year (1769) as Napoleon and Wellington, two of the greatest. To the first of these he owed the chance which raised him from a humble position to be in effect the absolute ruler of a great country, not his own. But the use which he made of that opportunity and the really great results which he achieved, almost entirely by his own merits, constitute his claim to greatness.

Born at Kavalla, which lies on the north shore of the Ægean Sea, about half-way between Salonika and Dedeagatch, in the territory ceded to Greece after the last Balkan War, his father was a small landowner and captain of the local watchmen; but his early death left Mohammed Ali to fend for himself as an almost penniless orphan, which, however, he soon proved himself able to do. His great chance came in 1798, when, on Napoleon's invasion of Egypt, the Sultan could do nothing but issue a proclamation calling upon loyal Moslems to unite and drive out the French invaders. A company of three hundred Bashi-Bozouks was raised in Kavalla, with Mohammed Ali as second in command, and in June, 1799, it joined the army which sailed for Egypt. But they had hardly landed at Aboukir when Napoleon, hurrying back from Cairo, literally drove them into the sea, and Mohammed Ali himself was pulled out of the water by a gig from the flagship of the British Fleet under Sir Sidney Smith, which was lying off the shore.

Two years later, however, Mohammed Ali returned with a second expedition, which, in co-operation with the British, at last secured the evacuation of the French in September, 1801. Then began the real rise of Mohammed Ali to power in Egypt. As commander of the Albanian contingent, he frequently found himself in a position to turn the balance of power between the Mamelukes and the Turkish Pasha. Proving himself master not only of intrigue but of military skill, he emerged at the end of four years as the only man capable of controlling the situation; and when in 1805 he was nominated by popular acclamation as Pasha of Egypt, the Porte had no alternative but to confirm the choice, which they did in April, 1806.

But there was no rest for him yet on his new throne. We are apt to forget that the first enemy against whom he had to defend it was a British Army, which he practically annihilated in 1807, decorating his triumphal march through Cairo with their heads. In 1808 he was ordered by the Porte to undertake a punitive expedition against the Wahhabis, a rebellious sect in Arabia, who had closed the approach to the Holy Cities; and the next three years were spent in preparations for this expedition, including the building of a fleet at Suez. But the preparations included more than military equipment. Mohammed Ali was too shrewd to imagine that, denuded of his army, he would have any chance against his old enemies the Mamelukes, who had misruled the country for centuries; and he decided to dispose of them with characteristic thoroughness and finality. On March 1, 1811, he invited all their chiefs to a great *fantasia* in the Citadel, when his son, Toussoun Pasha, was to be invested with a pelisse of honour on his departure for Arabia, and, penning them between closed gates in the rocky defile leading up to the Citadel, he had them shot down to a man. His methods may be condemned by modern standards, but there can be no question of the real gain to the country in removing once and for all a turbulent race of oppressors, under whom the development of Egypt had been absolutely strangled for centuries.

Once rid of them, and the Wahhabi expedition successfully concluded, Mohammed Ali set himself to work in earnest to develop the great economic possibilities of the country which he had made his own; and herein lies the really astonishing part of his career and character. Judging by his origin and upbringing, he might well have been no better a ruler than the Mamelukes; for he was more than half Oriental, and wholly illiterate and uneducated. It was only about this time, when over forty years of age, that he began to learn to read and write. But by some means he had acquired great ideas of the possibility of industrial development of his country, and had been imbued with the desire to follow Western methods. It is said that in his young days he had come under French influences in Kavalla. Whatever may have been the source, there can be no question of the result. He was half a century in advance of his age, and the faith and energy with which he took up great schemes for the development of the agriculture and industry of the country have seldom been equalled. His handling of the cotton crop may be taken as typical. In 1820 a French-Swiss engineer, named Jumel, discovered a plant growing, for decorative purposes, in the garden of one Maho Bey, in Cairo, which he recognised as cotton of a quality likely to be of commercial value. Inspired with the idea of developing cotton-growing in Egypt, he succeeded in gaining access to Mohammed Ali, who at once took the matter up. Soon the scheme developed into nothing less than a complete reconstruction of the whole irrigation system of Egypt, and this again resulted in the planning and commencement of the great Delta Barrage at Cairo, which was only completed by English engineers in 1885-90, and still forms the key of the whole irrigation system of Egypt.

But he was not content with agricultural wealth alone. Anticipating the theories of List, the German economic nationalist, he aimed at an all-round development of industry as well as agriculture; and great schemes were set on foot for factories to manufacture the cotton and other products of the country. Fully appreciating the need for education as a means to the development of his schemes, he set up a system of "compulsory" education in the truest sense of the word; for the children had to be driven to the schools at the point of the bayonet. There has, indeed, been a good deal of misunderstanding as to the compulsory character of most of Mohammed Ali's reforms. He did not waste time trying to *persuade* the people to do things as he wanted, and he was right, for they would never have done it except under compulsion. When he had made up his mind that they were to grow cotton, he ordered them to grow it, and if they demurred he annexed their land and grew it himself. When they said that they had no market for the crop, he took it from them at his own price and found a market himself. In the light of modern principles of the liberty of the subject, it is easy to condemn such methods; but those who have known Egypt in recent years can hardly suppress a feeling of envy. To expect Egypt after 500 years of Mameluke misrule to take any steps towards its own improvement would have been sheer waste of time, and Mohammed Ali's autocratic methods may be at least excused, if not justified, on the ground that they were benevolent—and successful. For, whatever may be said of the subsequent failure of some of his grandiose schemes, the fact cannot be denied that he set Egypt on the road to progress, that for many years the country flourished exceedingly under his rule, and that everything that has been done since has been on lines laid down by him.

His conquest of the Sudan may also be quoted as an example of his far-reaching ambition. Many things have been suggested as the motive of the great expedition which he sent out in 1820 under his sons, Ismail and Ibrahim. It was certain that the country possessed a considerable caravan trade which Mohammed Ali desired to get into his

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own hands. It was also believed that the country contained gold. On the other hand, the reports of the anarchy and misrule which prevailed in the country, and the desire to introduce civilisation on the upper reaches of the Nile, may well have weighed with him; for he had broad views of the future of Egypt, and realised, probably as well as it has ever been realised since, the common interest of all the territories which lie in the valley of the Nile. It is probable that he had also in view the possibilities of the Sudan as a recruiting ground for his new armies.

The campaign, in spite of the horrible death of Ismail (who, with all his officers, was burned alive in his tent at a feast at Shendy by a local chief), was successful in its first object. Khartoum was begun in 1823, and the whole country came under the rule of Egypt. That rule, however, was little more than nominal, and the chief result of the opening up of the country was the development of the slave trade. This became so bad that in 1838 Mohammed Ali, moved by the reports of Bowring and others, paid a flying visit to the Sudan, but without any very practical results.

Again, his willingness to throw the country open to foreigners, and his determination to secure them safe passage and hospitable treatment, marked him out as something very different from his predecessors, and did much to bring the wonders of the country, and his own achievements, under the notice of Europe. And it was the opening of the overland route by Lieut. Waghorn, in 1845, bringing the Bombay mail to London in thirty days, viâ Suez and Alexandria, that first brought the idea of the Suez Canal into practical politics. Two years later French and English engineers, with Mohammed Ali's assistance, were making a survey of the Canal route, which incidentally had already been condemned by the French savants of Napoleon's expedition.

FIRST BRITISH FIELD HOSPITAL FOR SERBIA.

The Committee of the First British Field Hospital for Serbia has issued a special appeal for £5,000, addressed to subscribers and friends. The appeal, which is signed by the Chairman, Sir W. Arbuthnot Lane, and the Hon. Treasurers, Messrs. A. McConnell and Mr. H. S. Souttar, says:—

"We venture again to ask your support for our hospital, the financial position of which is to us a matter of some anxiety. During the last month we have had to meet expenses of a very heavy nature, many of which could not have been foreseen. In addition to the cost of replacing much of our rolling stock, damaged on the rough roads of Serbia, we have had to make good damage caused by an overwhelming flood, which swept away a portion of our hospital in the night. Such experiences are unavoidable in the work of a field hospital, constantly moving with the army and unable to choose the site of its work; it is this very mobility which makes the hospital of such incomparable value to the wounded soldier.

"Our hospital is the most important field hospital of the Second Serbian Army, and is established at Mladenovatz with the Headquarters Staff. The army has been completely refitted, we have been warned to be prepared for heavy fighting at an early date, and it appears indeed to be certain that Serbia is about to enter upon a campaign as strenuous as any in her history. We feel confident that the generosity which has enabled us to equip the hospital and to place it in so unique a position will support us in our effort to assist Serbia in the struggle upon which she is about to enter."

Subscriptions should be forwarded to the Hon. Treasurers, 61 and 62, Chancery Lane, W.C.

GALLANTRY AT THE DARDANELLES.

General Sir Beauchamp Duff, Commander-in-Chief, India, has received from Sir Ian Hamilton a stirring description of the valour of the 14th (Ferozepore) Sikh Infantry in the attack on the Turkish positions in Gallipoli on June 4 and 5. "In the highest sense of the word," Sir Ian wrote, "extreme gallantry has been shown by this fine battalion." It went into action with a strength of fifteen British officers, fourteen Indian officers, and 514 rank and file. The remnant of unwounded next morning was three British and three Indian officers, and 134 rank and file. In spite of these tremendous losses there had not been a sign of wavering. "Not an inch of ground was given up, and not a straggler came back." When the main attack on the enemy's trenches failed two companies would not retire, but held on to the edge of the ravine, losing all their British officers and 45 per cent. of their number. Sir Ian Hamilton says: "The defence of the point gained in the ravine, with an enemy entrenched on both sides above it, speaks for itself, and is a very fine example of the way the Sikh bears himself as the stubborn fighting man."

The Lancashire Fusiliers and the Worcesters, the General says, were full of admiration of the gallantry of their Indian comrades, and speaking for himself, he says in conclusion:—"The history of the Sikhs affords many instances of their value as soldiers, but it may safely be asserted that nothing finer than the grim valour and steady discipline displayed by them on June 4 has ever been done by soldiers of the Khalsa."

IN STRICKEN SERBIA.

Being further extracts from letters written by Dr. Lauwens, of the Wounded Allies Relief Hospital in Serbia.

KRAGUJEVATZ, July 19.

We have only sixteen patients. Something is happening at the Front, but nothing of much importance; so far only one wounded has arrived from the firing line, and he is in another hospital. Besides our hospital of 100 beds, we have been placed in charge of the 6th and 7th reserve hospitals, and this will constitute a divisional hospital when there are many wounded. Our surgical supplies, which arrived in Salonika on June 20, only reached here a week ago, and we are now busy getting them into order. We have also received three splendid motor-cars.

We have had to mourn the loss of another member of the nursing staff of the Stobart Mission—Mrs. Dearmer, wife of the chaplain to the mission, who died of typhoid fever on July 10. There are other nurses of the same staff ill, but they are now convalescent. I have given very strict orders regarding the food of our party, and have absolutely forbidden that anything should be eaten that is not freshly cooked—no salads, no freshly gathered fruit, no spring water. I thoroughly mistrust the local milk, even when boiled, and we use condensed milk, of which we have a large supply. No butter is to be procured here, but so much the better, for the local methods of preparation are not above suspicion.

The heat has been very great here for some weeks—generally 35° C. in the shade at 1 p.m. The nights are much cooler, and though there are a lot of midges, which are troublesome, there are few or no mosquitoes. We have made some mosquito nets to protect ourselves against the flies, for in the afternoon during the inspection of the patients they are intolerable. Yesterday afternoon there was a terrific storm—no rain, but clouds of dust, trees uprooted, the camp of the Stobart Mission beaten to the ground, tents blown away. If there had been any rain it would have spelled complete and irreparable disaster. This morning it was almost cold; at ten o'clock the rain began, and it will probably rain all day. I am anxious for the mission that suffered so much yesterday.

(Later.) It is now three o'clock. We lunched at the 6th Reserve Hospital (which is soon to be in our charge), by the invitation of Doctor Kapocka, a Serbian doctor, and head of the hospital. After lunch we were received by H.E. Dr. Georgevitch, who is under treatment in a private room. He is a physician and a Serbian statesman, well known for the part he has played in the development of Serbia during the past thirty years. He has been Minister in France, Greece, Turkey, etc., and was Prime Minister for several years; he has a very complete knowledge of the Balkans and of Austria; he was physician to King Milan, and to King Alexander and the celebrated Draga. He also reorganised the Serbian Military Academy and the Military Sanitary Service, and he has written several books on the Balkans, the Balkan wars, etc.

He received us in bed. Seventy-one years of age, he has a fine head, piercing eyes, a patriarchal grey beard. Though ill and tired, he talked with us for twenty minutes. He was, he said, very glad to meet some Belgians in Serbia, and added: "You have been brought here by chance, but wherever you may be you can do good work, and especially here in Serbia, where we need doctors. Do your duty, do what you can, and let what will come. That has been my motto through life." He speaks French perfectly. "Germany and Germanism will be beaten," he added, "but it will take a long time. The defeat of the Allies would be an irreparable disaster for the national aspirations of the European races." He is of opinion that Russia, after the marked check she has just suffered, is on the way to reorganise her resources, and that she will deliver a decisive blow to the German empires.

He knows Belgium well, and has a boundless admiration (which is shared by all Serbs) for our country, which in such a small space has built up such a mass of industry and of intelligence. He concluded by expressing his conviction that Belgium will overcome all its present trials and misfortunes, and will become more prosperous and more glorious than ever.

He also spoke of Austria and its fate—foreseen by him long ago, and now in process of realisation—and of Turkey, whose disappearance from Europe is inevitable, in spite of the Young Turk Revolution.

We were delighted by our reception, as friendly as it was flattering, and I hope that I shall see him again many times.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

The ladies and gentlemen who have been writing to *The Times* complaining about the non-delivery of parcels sent to members of our Forces at the Dardanelles may be interested in the following extract from a letter written as recently as August 9 by an officer out there, and delivered in London on Wednesday:—"I have just received your letter of July 1. . . . By the same post I also received letters of March 23, April 25, June 30, and July 27—so one need never despair." Nearly five months on the way seems a long time for a letter to take, even in these stressful days. But doubtless the Post Office is really doing its very best in extraordinarily difficult circumstances, and in view of the undaunted cheerfulness of our friends "out there," we, too, must take for our motto: *Nil desperandum.*

***

Curiously enough, after writing the above paragraph, I received a second letter (dated August 1) from the writer quoted, and this later epistle expressly refers to the question of parcels. "A tradition," he writes, "has grown up out here that people at home who do not pack their parcels in strong tins, or stout wooden boxes, mean the contents of the parcels for anybody who comes across them *en route*. The addressee, being the last, is also the least likely to get what is sent wrapped up in brown paper or packed in cardboard boxes!"

***

It is not only our own seaside resorts that can offer opportunities to holiday-makers of seeing something of the War. From a Roumanian correspondent I learn that a sentry on duty near the Casino at Constantza recently noticed a strange object floating on the sea. He promptly notified his superiors, who proceeded to investigate; with the result that the object proved to be a mine, presumably a Russian one, that had broken away from its moorings. It was towed out to sea, and there exploded. What might have been a very unpleasant accident was thus averted. For, as you may know, the Casino is built out over the sea, and might quite well have been blown up—which, as my correspondent remarks, "would, indeed, have been a case of *faire sauter la banque.*"

***

The same correspondent sends me another story, as follows:—"A few days ago there died at Buzeu, after a long illness, a veteran of the War of 1877, Colonel Jean Bogdanescu, a well-known member of the Conservative party. He was known as the possessor of fine powers of invective, of which, upon occasion, he made free use. Two years ago, having to undergo an operation in a hospital at Bucharest, he was placed under an anæsthetic, and he appeared to the doctors to have succumbed. His body was therefore removed to another room for the purposes of *post-mortem* examination. But hardly had it been laid down by the attendants when, without assistance, and to the huge astonishment of the doctors and attendants, it rose to a sitting position. One rapid glance sufficed to show the gallant old warrior where he was, and then—the medical men were treated to a linguistic display which very soon convinced them that their patient was *not* "past praying for." My correspondent does not mention if the Colonel was a golfer.

***

From the *Busra Times* of July 14 I cull the following advertisement, which appears under that pathetic heading, "Lost":—

> AT the Supply Wharf, a MONGREL DOG of eccentric appearance. Black with brown feet. 18 inches long between perpendiculars and about 2 feet 6 inches over all. Sometimes answers to the name of "Moses." Anyone returning the same to Mr. G. Hull, R.I.M. Workshop, will be suitably rewarded.

The "ad." appeals to my fancy, especially that cryptic expression "suitably rewarded." What would be a suitable reward for a dog whose character appears to be as eccentric as his appearance, since he sometimes condescends to answer to such a name as Moses? But, judging by the ominous intimation that he was lost in the neighbourhood of a wharf, I fear me greatly that his owner will never see him again. For there are sharks in the Shatt-el-Arab.

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The war has turned many a man of peace into a "first-class fighting man," and I do not think I shall be giving away any secret when I say that quite a number of our younger archæologists are now using to the advantage of their King and country knowledge of the Near East which they acquired in happier times. In passing, I may add that at least one of our middle-aged archæologists also is, to my knowledge, doing likewise, though he is employing the arts of diplomacy rather than the ruder weapons of the sailor or the soldier. However, that is by the way. The little story I want to pass on concerns a younger man, and is told by a certain French professor resident in Athens, and well-known in the world of archæology. A short time ago this professor was making a voyage in the Ægean, on board a steamer of a certain nationality, which aroused the suspicions of an English cruiser that was on the look-out for contraband of war. Of course, the cruiser politely expressed her intention of searching the other vessel; of course, the other vessel protested and objected; and, of course, the search was duly made. While this process was going on, one of the British officers ran across the professor, and, learning by chance who he was, entered into conversation with him. The professor, who was in no wise vexed by the detention of his boat, found the officer an interesting young man, and, congratulating him on his acquaintance with certain facts which the average Naval Man might hardly be expected to trouble himself about, ventured to ask his name. The lieutenant blushed. "Oh," said he, "I am So-and-So," and added apologetically: "*un archéologue en peau de loup.*"

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I have just received a grubby note from a boy at the Front in Flanders. The first part is admirably written; the latter shows signs of haste and disorder. It is also muddy. "Can't stop to write a new one, so please forgive this," wrote my correspondent. "Half a farm was blown into my trench as I was writing, and we've got to clear up." That was all—the average soldier does not play with words. He tells you what happens, but details of his experiences are left to the imagination. This, I suppose, is a characteristic of the real Englishman, the Englishman who has found himself anew during these comparatively few months of war. In a recent number of the *Daily Chronicle* I noticed an extract from the *Figaro*, in which a correspondent of the latter paper recounts an incident bearing upon this. It appears that M. Poulet, Director of Supplies to the French Forces, saw a shell burst beside two horsemen on the beach at Gallipoli, and bury them in the sand. A few minutes later, the English Director of Supplies was announced. He was dusty and stained, but this was put down to the violence of a sand-laden wind. The two directors finished their business, and it was only when the Englishman turned to lead his horse away that the other noticed that the animal had a deep wound in the back. "Then it was you," exclaimed the French officer, "that the shell burst near just now, and you said nothing about it." "Yes," replied the officer, with imperturbable phlegm, "it fell near us, but it wasn't a serious matter. It fell too near to harm me." The writer remarks: "The English character, brave to the pitch of utter indifference to danger, was summed up in the remark of the supply officer."

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Now, this is good hearing, coming as it does from the member of a nation which is each day adding to deeds of heroism that will be deathless in history. And yet only a few months ago many people, especially those of us who have not travelled beyond the outposts of the Empire, imagined the French to be a nation governed largely by hysteria, and our own people to be moving quickly along the road of decadence. The confident ones were to be found principally among our administrators abroad, in India, Africa, and elsewhere, men who, year by year, had seen the young Englishmen fresh from school respond to the circumstances of duty, as they have responded since the call of Imperial expansion ran through England years ago. I remember that the Bishop of London laid stress upon the achievements of young men in the Sudan, when interviewed by the *Daily Graphic* in Khartoum. A country may not be judged by the fops of its pavements. And those who shout hardest fail most. Because our men marched into battle with a music-hall song on their lips, the enemy scoffed at our lack of Kultur, and, failing to crush us as, singing deeply patriotic songs by order, he advanced, he destroyed women and children and churches that his powder and steel should not be wasted. Berlin goes mad with joy over successes, not one of which bears comparison with the landing of the Allied armies in the Dardanelles. France and England wave no flags; they accept each advance soberly, as incidents leading on to the completeness of victory. The Turks, we are told, are tied to their guns, that they may not escape should their hearts fail them. German soldiers, on more than one occasion, have been shot down by their own guns while attempting to retreat. The great Austrian army has failed on almost every occasion that it has been greatly tried, while little Serbia remains serene and unconquered amid the ashes of war. If we look for decadence, we do not seem to find it in those nations that were built upon the bones of their fallen warriors, but rather when the easy trust of civilisation has given power unfought for. Turkey is the most notable exception to this argument, but then the Turk is no longer, if, indeed, in the course of this war he ever was, a willing fighter.

CORSAIR.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Indestructible Bulgarians.

In an article appearing under the above heading in the *Daily News* (August 10), Mr. H. M. Wallis, who was engaged in relief work in Bulgaria at the time of the Balkan war in the winter of 1912, seeks to place on record the characteristics which have lifted the Bulgarians supreme above the humiliation of August, 1913. At that time it seemed that these peoples would "be helpless for a generation," if, indeed, they ever held up their heads again. That was two years ago. Of Bulgaria to-day Mr. Wallis writes: "There she stands, her harvest out of danger, her manhood under arms, hand upon hilt, bargaining, and in no hurry to strike hands."

To the fact that Bulgaria is not an industrial but an agricultural country, and that her people are one and all trained to take their part in agricultural work independently of modern machinery, the writer attributes her extraordinary resurrection to-day:—

Bulgaria and the Bulgarians are exactly suited, the men to their land, the land to its men. Burn down their new, big corn-mills full of modern refinements, but grinding goes on. The "ruined" miller puts his scrapped plant of former years aboard a barge, moors her to the bank of the swift Maritza, lets the stream turn his paddlewheels, and restarts the stones forthwith. . . . The surplus of two average harvests has put him in funds, and your "ruined" Bulgarian is upon his feet again, alert, indefatigable, silent, tenacious as ever; his children at school beneath the wall of the gutted school-house, his lads drilling.

If his villages are razed to the ground it matters little; the Bulgar can erect a hut suitable for habitation in a few hours. And in his hardihood he is indestructible. Mr. Wallis compares the Bulgarian of to-day with the Englishman of the Middle Ages:—

There is the same simple thrift, handiness, alacrity, mutual helpfulness, and unboasting valour in him that carried our hard-bested forefather through his dark days.

He concludes a telling article with the following parable:—

An Englishman in the Balkans, when upon a lonely road, found a huge brindled dog persistently loping behind his carriage. Its size, grim silence, and uncompanionability aroused his curiosity. Whose was it? What did it want? "If such a thing were possible," said he to his driver, "that dog might be mistaken for a wolf." "It is a wolf," replied the man. Yes, for forty years we have treated the Bulgarian like a dog, but—— Is there yet time?

The Cross Roads in the Balkans.

"Plinthos," writing under the above heading in the *New Statesman* (August 14), says that "it is the misfortune rather than the fault of the Christian Balkan States to be inconvenient to the Great Powers of Europe." He shows that the complexity of the Balkan situation only increases, or at the least grows no more clear, with the progress of the war. To the eyes of the Balkan States the Austro-German menace has not greatly diminished in the last twelve months, and, after dealing with this side of the question, the writer continues:—

Neutrals, again, are sometimes in a position to make money out of a great war, and the Balkan traders have been and still are making a great deal of money out of the present war. This may be irritating to us, but they are no more to blame for it than are the respectable neutrals of the United States. Furthermore, the Balkan States have not been so uniformly well treated by the diplomatists of the Great Powers as to have acquired a habit of implicitly accepting everything that those gentlemen tell them. On the contrary, they are as suspicious of European politicians as English Trade Unionists are apt to be, and are as doggedly convinced that they are the best judges of their own interests. This may not always be the case, but it is something that has to be reckoned with.

Greece and the Balkans.

In a leading article the *Daily Telegraph* (August 18) deals with the progress of events in the Balkans, and particularly in Greece, where things have at last reached a climax. The following paragraph will show the opinion held by the paper regarding the attitude of the States generally at the present moment:—

In Roumania, in Bulgaria, in Serbia, and in Greece there are signs that the popular movement is on the side of the Allies, and that such public opinion as exists—and we are aware that it is not always so influential as it might be—tends more and more towards some kind of intervention on behalf of the Quadruple Entente.

The *Telegraph* expresses full confidence in the strength of M. Venizelos's statesmanship, and thinks that he will unreservedly refuse to commit himself to a policy of neutrality, such as it is rumoured the King will at first demand. The writer does not consider that it is seriously contemplated to call upon M. Zaimis in any case. "Things have gone too far for the success of such purely dilatory tactics":—

M. Venizelos is a great popular favourite in Athens; indeed, he has in the last two days enjoyed so conspicuous a triumph that enthusiasm speaks no longer of his victory, but of his "apotheosis." If the votes of the populace could carry the day, there would be no other name uttered in the Greek capital save that of the man who desires that the Hellenic kingdom should recognise its destiny and join with the Allies in the cause of independence and liberty.

The article concludes:—

So far as we can see at present, the wisest heads at Nish and Sofia and Bucharest, as well as at Athens, are becoming aware that the Quadruple Entente gives them the promise of a fairer future—a future in which, while the claims of each nationality are duly protected and secured, a powerful Balkan Confederation may arise, founded on eternal principles of justice and liberty.

The Lebanon Druses.

Hélène Flecker, writing in the *Sphere* (August 7), gives a very interesting sketch of the Lebanon Druses, who have always been under the special protection of England and put all their trust in her at the present day. Following upon a vivid picture of their village life in days prior to the war, the writer concludes with the appeal which we quote below:—

It is to be hoped that as soon as the difficult enterprise of the Dardanelles is brought to a successful end the Allies will have the opportunity of turning their attention to the liberation of Syria from the Turkish yoke. It will then be possible for them to restore to the Lebanese people that peace and prosperity which their protection had assured them during the last fifty years.

Bulgaria's Claims.

In commenting upon M. Radoslavoff's statement of Bulgaria's claims, which was published last week, the *Standard* (August 13) remarks that it is eminently reasonable. In reviewing the whole situation in the light of M. Radoslavoff's statements the papers incline to the belief that the common sense of the other Balkan States will ultimately prevail, and that the reasonable demands of Bulgaria may be met; although the situation is admittedly critical. In regard to the Serbian attitude the *Standard* says:—

By taking up an impracticable attitude Serbia may easily lose, as Bulgaria did two years ago, the just reward of her efforts and sacrifices. On the other hand, by stooping she may conquer a good deal more than she could possibly gain, given the best of luck, by stiff-necked refusal of all concession. A solid Balkan Peninsula—or, if Greece still hestitates to risk anything, a Balkan Triple Alliance—would win a secure and dignified future for each of the States participating.

The *Evening Standard* of the same date concludes a leading article on the subject in the paragraph which we quote below:—

We make no apology for returning again to the discussion of the Eastern question. It is vital, both in regard to the military position of the moment and in regard to the future peace of Europe. Moreover, we feel considerable sympathy with Bulgaria. She has made bad mistakes, but has paid heavily for them. Now that the time has come to set all wrongs right, we think it well to state that public opinion in this country would gladly see Britain make an effort to do Bulgaria justice.

Articles to Note.

"If Britain had not gone to War," by R. A. Scott-James, in the *Sunday Pictorial* (August 15).

"The Balkan Question," in the *Statist* (August 14).

"Bulgaria and the War (1)," in the *Aberdeen Free Press* (August 13).

"Glorious Serbia," by Alan Stephens, in *Reynolds's Weekly Newspaper* (August 15).

"Serbia To-Day," in the *Westminster Gazette* (August 14).

"The Military Situation," in the *Morning Post* (August 16).

"The Turkish Repressive Action in Armenia," in the *Yorkshire Post* (August 16).

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

We publish on another page an optimistic review, by our Cairo Correspondent, of the Egyptian financial situation after twelve months of war. The balance of trade shows an improvement; there is an abundance of money (over £100,000 of Unified Debt have been bought in England for Egyptian investors), State finances "afford reassurance," and if Egyptian companies have not paid dividends, one of the causes is the "tendency which the uncertainty of the situation everywhere creates to postpone the meeting of obligations, and to hoard or place the money one holds in easily realisable securities." So that the "outlook is encouraging."

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In connection with the question of shares, referred to in the last paragraph of the article refererd to, our Cairo Correspondent states that "one point requires adjustment at the earliest possible moment, and that point is this: Egypt, being within the British Empire, there should be freedom of Stock Exchange dealings between Egypt and London. For some considerable time London has been a seller and Egypt has gradually absorbed the shares offered. But once the shares are shipped to Egypt they are no longer allowed to be resold on the London market, and this naturally militates against Bourse transactions. In the interests of all concerned—buyers, middlemen, as well as sellers—it is advisable to have the law modified so that the 'physical possession within the United Kingdom' stipulated by the regulations and applicable to securities, shares, etc., offered on the London market should read, 'physical possession within the Empire'—Egypt being an integral part of that Empire. Besides, enemy countries having little or no stake in Egyptian securities, the free intercourse between the London and Egyptian markets could not lead to any abuses. On the other hand, if present conditions continue and if London should turn round and wish to buy Egyptian shares, it will, in the absence of further selling by English holders, be very difficult to deal, as all the shares held in Egypt will continue to be barred from the English market."

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The following message from Reuter's correspondent in Amsterdam some days ago is of interest. It appears that according to a telegram received from Constantinople viâ Berlin, the *Official Gazette* publishes a law authorising the Government to buy back the following French railway and tram lines in Syria, the purchase-money to be provided by the Ministries of Finance and of Wakfs:—(1) The narrow-gauge railway from Beyrout to Zeirib; (2) the tramway from Beyrout to Hamslekin, in the Lebanon; (3) the line Rajak-Aleppo to the junction on the Baghdad Railway; (4) the line from Homs-Tripoli to the harbour of Muawene; and the line from Jaffa to Jerusalem, and all rolling stock, workshops, and other properties of the aforesaid lines.

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On the other hand, our Special Correspondent in Athens writes that the Turkish *Official Gazette* publishes a provisional law authorising the Minister of War to appropriate for account of the Ottoman Steam Navigation Company the Stenia dock and repairing yard. As a matter of fact, these works, in which British capital is invested, have been in the hands of the Germans for the past eight months, and a good deal of work has been done there. As Stenia Bay is now a naval centre, the authorities have driven away from their houses all the Christian inhabitants of the neighbourhood.

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I referred some weeks ago to a report to the effect that the Cyprus Government had come to an arrangement with the Cairo Motor Company for the running of a mail and passenger motor service between Nicosia, Larnaca, Famagusta, and Limassol, in place of the now defunct service which used to be run by the Cyprus Transport and Development Company. A correspondent in Cyprus writes to me to the effect that the new arrangement has given great satisfaction throughout the island, and hopes are expressed that the service will be extended to serve Papho and Kyrenia, the two other headquarters of districts, and perhaps some of the larger villages. The service is to begin on September 1. Headquarters are at Larnaca. Further details concerning the working arrangement between Government and company are not known, though they are believed to be practically identical with the Government offer published some months ago in THE NEAR EAST.

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The unfortunate sinking of the s.s. Royal Edward in the Ægean removes a link with the boom days in Egypt—those good old days which are never to return, if we are to believe the inveterate pessimist. For the s.s. Royal Edward was none other than the s.s. Cairo, one of the two luxurious floating palaces owned by the Egyptian Mail Steamship Company, and intended for an express service between Marseilles and Alexandria. Had the boats been floated two years sooner—that is, in 1904 or thereabouts, they would more than have paid all running expenses, but, unfortunately, the service was only ready when the great financial crash came in Egypt, with disastrous results for the Egyptian Mail Steamship Company, which shortly afterwards went into liquidation—one of the many companies, similarly placed, which had to wind up their affairs. The two vessels, the s.s. Cairo and the s.s. Heliopolis, were bought by the Canadian Northern. The former, as the s.s. Royal Edward, has been torpedoed in the Ægean; the latter, as the s.s. Royal George, is in service. May her fate be better than her sister's!

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The Bulgarian notice published elsewhere and inviting tenders for the construction of railways in that country will, I hope, attract the eye of some British firm of contractors. If not, a German firm is likely to be the successful, because the only, tenderer. This would be deplorable from all points of view, and more particularly so at the present time. For the sake of those who have never contracted for work in Bulgaria, it may be stated that that country is a regular and prompt payer, and that no one has ever had to repent having undertaken Government work in King Ferdinand's kingdom. The date for the closing of the tender is September 13.

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I quoted last week from an able article by Mr. A. Ball in the *Quarterly Review* on German banking methods in Italy, and stated at the time that what applied to Italy was applicable likewise to other countries. Now we have Dr. Dillon analysing in the *Daily Telegraph*, in a series of able articles, Germany's ante-bellum methods in more countries than one. These methods were not merely based on the economic exploitation, under German auspices, of the victimised State, but extended to a campaign whereby the local Press was unduly influenced, bribed, and bought. We have proof of this, since the war began, in Roumania, and latterly in the United States and Switzerland. And so perfect is the organisation, and so unscrupulous its organisers, that not until Germany has been smashed will it cease to do incalculable harm in those countries where it operates. Strange to say, the most hopelessly bound victim of the Teuton, where the latter first applied and practised his Kultur methods, is none other than his ally Austria—a circumstance that is generally passed over in silence by commentators. Nevertheless, it is principally owing to Germany's hold over Austria that the present war broke out.

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The necessity for the creation of British commercial banks in countries where, after the war, we intend to increase our trade returns, is beginning to be more generally recognised. I have insisted on the creation of an Anglo-Balkan Bank (commercial only, and not in the nature of an *agent-provocateur* as are German banks), and have quoted our Consular officers in Bulgaria as supporting the scheme, as far as Bulgaria is concerned. Our Consuls and Chambers of Commerce in Spain are now pleading the same cause for their district, and at the annual meeting in June of the British Chamber of Commerce for Italy, the President urged the "desirability, or, rather, supreme expediency, of the prompt establishment in Italy of a British bank, to foster and facilitate exchanges between the two countries." He added (and his words apply to the Near East likewise):—"Those of us who have lived in this country for many years and have seen the success in commerce of other countries whose trade here is backed up by powerful banking institutions, while Anglo-Italian trade has languished (except in the case of coal, which is indispensable to Italian industry), have the intimate conviction that such a bank is indispensable if things are to take an upward turn."

COMMENTATOR.

DELICIOUS COFFEE.
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Wholesale, of Hanson's, London, England.

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Egyptian Companies and the War.

Optimistic Review of the Year.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, July 31.

Since the last review of the financial and commercial situation of Egypt was published in these columns (*), six months have rolled by, and the moment is perhaps opportune to say a few words as to the effect that a year of war has had on the country, and the change, if any, that may have taken place in the general position as reported on in February last. It is all the easier to make some statement on this subject to-day, seeing that there are now various facts and figures available to enable one to obtain a clearer view of the position. In the first place, when the above-mentioned articles were penned Egypt was still threatened with the much-vaunted "Turkish invasion," which—albeit those who had inside information did not attach much importance to it—nevertheless was a factor that had to be reckoned with in any study of the general situation. That invasion has proved to be really nothing more than a nightmare. In addition, the war area has been shifted entirely away from the banks of the Nile by the attack on the Dardanelles, which, as our Gallic friends so aptly put it, is giving the Turks far too much "string to twist" to permit them to give any thought to any other enterprise. Politically, therefore, Egypt is at rest once again.

Troops and Economics.

From an economic standpoint, the position in Egypt has improved and is continuing to improve. The war, whilst it has undoubtedly ruined the "season," has by no means injured the country in respect of the profit it usually derives from the tourist element. Indeed, never before in its modern history has so much money been spent within its borders with such little necessity for corresponding outlay on the part of the inhabitants. Local produce has been purchased on a large scale by the military authorities, who have employed local labour to a very great extent, and who—more important still—have paid cash for everything they required. It is computed that on a low estimate no less than £E6,000,000 has been spent on and by the troops who have been and are still being quartered in the country When I add that in Lord Cromer's report for 1905 it is stated that the tourist element spends round about £E1,000,000 annually during its stay, it can readily be seen that the presence of the soldiers has had an exceedingly beneficial effect on the economic position of the people in general.

The Balance of Trade.

Of course, trade with the rest of the world is still somewhat disorganised, but then that is the case in every other country, be it engaged in war or be it neutral. There can, however, be no contesting that in this respect the country's position is healthier than it has been for years past. Since war broke out both imports and exports have, it is true, decreased considerably, but Egypt has in that period exported £E7,000,000 more than she imported. I know that it will be objected that without a careful analysis this cannot be taken as a true indication of the balance of trade, but as in the same period of the preceding commercial year the exports exceeded the imports by just over £E5,000,000, it is obvious that the position has undergone improvement. The decrease in imports is due not only to the reduction in markets open for purchase and the difficulty in obtaining freights, but also to the fact that the country, as a result of recent legislation restricting the cotton area, has produced more cereals and other products than it requires, and so has not needed to import them. Whilst this means that exports will naturally fall in a corresponding manner, this feature is in itself an excellent sign, for economically it is in the highest degree sounder for an agricultural country like Egypt to provide itself from its own soil with what it requires in the way of agricultural products than to rely in this respect upon other countries, and to produce correspondingly more of a commodity like cotton, which it cannot use in its raw state.

State Finances.

The returns of the State finances also afford reassurance. The land tax, which represents a little over one-third of the total revenue, and which is based on the cultivatability of the land, may by the course followed by its collections always be taken as a very fair indication of the country's financial condition. Despite the fact that such difficulty was experienced at the outset of the war in moving the cotton crop, and that cultivators undoubtedly disposed of their holdings at really ruinous prices, the collections for the financial year ending March 31 last fell short by only £E82,000 of the estimate, which, it should be noted, had been fixed at a time when there was little idea of the present war breaking out. Lest it be objected that the period of hostilities covered only eight months of the last financial year, I hasten to add that of this shortcoming £E70,000 fell within the period preceding the outbreak of war, and that, as further confirmation of the improvement during the first two months of the new financial year, the collections showed an increase of £E166,000 over the corresponding period of the preceding year. It may be a fact, as rumour has it, that great pressure had to be brought to bear on the people to get them to pay their taxes, but whilst the delay in payment may have been due to the difficulty in selling cotton at the time when the heaviest instalments of the land tax were due, there is every reason to believe that it was prompted by the absurd idea that got abroad that the Turks were coming, and that, once they had conquered the country, the taxes due to the old Government and the debts due to the foreign institutions would be wiped out. Whatever may have been the reason for the difficulty with which the taxes were collected in the early days of last autumn, the great recovery noticeable during the past five months—a recovery that is still showing itself—is in every respect a decidedly comforting feature.

Abundance of Money.

So much for the present position, which would certainly seem to show that the country is in reality in an excellent state, and that the fellaheen are by no means so badly off as might have been expected. The payment by the Bank of Egypt of another instalment to the shareholders affords further definite proof of that statement. It is a foregone conclusion that the liquidators hold far more than is represented by the dividend now paid, and, whilst it may be that part of the money in hand was collected prior to July, 1914, most of it must have come in since, otherwise the liquidators would surely have made the payment earlier. Further, it may come as a surprise to many to hear that over £100,000 of Unified Debt has been sent here from England, and has been absorbed by local investors during the past six months, whilst Crédit Foncier bonds are in constant demand, although at present prices they do not yield 3 per cent. All this shows still more clearly that there is an abundance of money in the country.

Company Dividends.

It may be asked how it is, if things are generally in such a satisfactory state in Egypt, that few of the various financial and industrial companies operating in the country have declared any dividend. The cause is the general depression that exists all the world over, and the tendency, which the uncertainty of the situation everywhere creates, to postpone the meeting of obligations and to hoard or place the money one holds only in easily realisable securities. While the war lasts it cannot be expected that people are going to tie their money up in land, and for the time being there is little demand for shares, except those mentioned above. All transactions previous to the war remain, for these reasons, pending, and the industrial and agricultural companies and mortgage concerns have had to carry over their outstandings, whilst the financial establishments have been unable to estimate the *dossiers* of their clients or advance money on securities owing to the continued closure of the Bourses. This has undoubtedly influenced the balance-sheets and the attitude of the companies concerned towards new business, which, in its turn, has had its reflection on all financial and commercial enterprise in general. The position of all the companies operating in Egypt is, therefore, due to peculiar causes created by the conditions obtaining all over the world, and I see no reason to-day to alter the views expressed in regard to each category in the series of articles which I contributed to your columns last February.

The Cotton Position.

With reference to the present outlook there is little cause to fear that the coming year will be as arduous as the one that has just passed. For one thing the cotton position is much sounder. In fact, there is no comparison with what it was ten months or less ago. The new crop should be disposed of with little difficulty—the old one has but slightly increased the stock at Alexandria—and it is certain that the prices will be very much better than they were when a large part of last year's crop was sold. Moreover, it is to be expected that, with the experience gained, the Government will, if the necessity arises, make an early attempt to regulate the cotton market on lines that will not fill the pockets of the dealers and spinners to the detriment of the cultivators as happened last winter. In addition, the agricultural position has itself improved, whilst the good Nile that is announced is bound to influence matters and may, it is hoped, be regarded as the precursor of a series of similar floods, since in this country these features go in cycles, and we have had a succession of bad Niles.

Favourable Outlook.

For other reasons the outlook is encouraging. Undoubtedly, as far as this country is concerned, the worst time is past. She has come through the crisis with such little economic hurt—I think that I have shown very clearly that she must, on the contrary, have benefited in many ways from the war that the prospects cannot help being hopeful. The favoured circumstances under which she has lived during the critical time are bound to have their effect as soon as the conditions that have acted as a restraint are removed and this country should be one of the first to respond to the revival that the close of this unfortunate war will bring into being. What makes the future appear under even rosier colours is the fact that Egypt stands in such close contiguity to just that portion of the Turkish Empire that will as the result of this war be wrested away from the yoke of Othman and be given its chance of development. This area itself is a veritable "land of promise," and Egypt's geographical position will force her to play an all-important part not only in that development, but also in the traffic which that development will in the future give rise. Also, Egypt has been brought by recent circumstances into far closer contact with people from all parts of the world than has been her lot hitherto, and there is no knowing to what extent this will not reflect itself on the country's commercial relations to the world's markets in the near future.

Investors and Egyptian Shares.

Since the present outlook is exceedingly favourable, especially as compared with other countries, and the near future holds out prospects that cannot be improved upon, those who are *bonâ fide* investors should interest themselves in the securities of this country, some of which stand at ridiculous prices. Many of them merit serious attention, and those investors who seize their opportunity will not be disappointed as to the manner in which their investments will turn out, as soon as the regular stock and share market is established by the reopening of the Bourses in Cairo and Alexandria.

* February 26 and March 5.

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Alexandria Prize Court.

In re S.S. "Rostock" (Cargo 4).

The following judgment was delivered by Judge Grain in the Alexandria Prize Court on June 18 in the above demand for the disposal of cargo on board the s.s. Rostock:—

The Procurator in this case asks for the condemnation of cargo—viz., copra, bristles, and other goods—shipped on board the s.s. Rostock, a German ship, at Colombo (Ceylon), by Karl Festin, and consigned by him to Karl Festin, of Hamburg. The goods were shipped on or about July 13 at Colombo, invoiced and consigned to Karl Festin, Esq., of Hamburg, by Karl Festin, of Colombo, the invoice having "Hamburg" printed on the left-hand of the billhead, "Colombo" on the right-hand. Bills of exchange drawn on the Anglo-Austrian Bank, London, and the Deutsche Bank, Berlin, were discounted with the National Bank of India, Colombo, but were never accepted owing to the outbreak of war. It is not contradicted that Karl Festin, of Colombo, is also the Karl Festin, of Hamburg, and that both trade houses belong to one and the same person—viz., Karl Festin. The Procurator argues that, on the facts placed before the court, the property has passed from the consignor, Karl Festin, of Colombo, to the Karl Festin, of Hamburg, and, even if it has not done so, that, nevertheless, it is enemy property, as the trade domicile of Karl Festin is Hamburg and not Colombo.

Mr. Booth, who appears an behalf of the National Bank of India, asks for the release of these goods to Karl Festin, of Colombo, in order that they may be handed over to the National Bank of India, who have discounted the bills of exchange. The direct claim of the bank itself he is debarred from urging on account of the Odessa case and the former cases which led to that decision. But he argues that the goods should be released to Karl Festin, of Colombo, on the ground that he, as consiginor, still retained the property in them, that a trade domicile had been established in Colombo by Karl Festin, and on that account he was entitled to the release.

With regard to the question of trade domicile, two affidavits by Mr. E. H. Lawrence, the manager at Colombo of the National Bank of India, are put in, in which it is stated that Karl Festin was "a resident carrying on business at Colombo for five years immediately preceding October 22, 1914, except for periods between December, 1910, and March, 1911, when he went to Australia, and December, 1912, and April, 1913, when he went to Germany for the benefit of his health." It is also stated that Karl Festin resided while at Colombo for some time at the Bristol Hotel, and latterly for three years resided at a house in Colombo, which "he had taken on rent and furnished himself." It appears from the affidavits in the case that he left Ceylon on October 22, 1914, "at the request of the Ceylon Government," and as far as could be ascertained he proceeded by Dutch steamer to Holland, I presume because at that time it was the only means of arriving at his native town of Hamburg. Mr. W. F. Ross, also in the employ of the National Bank of India, gives evidence, and states that in 1889, from documents passing through the bank in London, where he then was an official, he knew that Karl Festin was carrying on business as an exporter from Germany, and that about five years ago, to the best of his belief, Karl Festin went to Colombo, and from that time fresh business began, and continued between the bank at Colombo and Karl Festin.

A vast number of cases have been cited to me by the Procurator and Mr. Booth in support of their respective contentions with regard to the point of trade domiciles, "The Harmony" (1. E.P.C. 241), "The Jonge Klassina" (1. E.P.C. 485). Mitchell v. United States (Scott's Cases, 605), "The San José Indiano" (2. Gall. 208, 1814), "The Herman" (4. C. Rob. 228), "The Indian Chief" (3. C. Rob.), "The Venus" (1. E.P.C. 403), "The Vigilantia" (1. C. Rob. 14), "The Packet Bilboa" (1. E.P.C. 209), and "The Ospray," and no doubt these cases are of some assistance in arriving at the principles on which to base a decision. But on reading through them it becomes more and more clear that each case has to be decided on its own merits. And as Lord Stowell says in his judgment in "The Harmony," it "is in itself a question of considerable difficulty, depending on a great variety of circumstances, hardly capable of being defined by any general precise rules." But the judgment of Mr. Justice Swayne in Mitchell v. United States is of great assistance in arriving at the principles of the doctrine of trade domicile. In the course of his judgment he states that the approved definition of domicile is "a residence at a particular place, accompanied with positive or presumptive proof of an intention to remain there for an unlimited time"; and later he says: "There must be the intention to remain. Mere absence from the fixed home, however long continued, cannot work the change, and until the new domicile has been acquired the old one remains."

In the present case the goods are consigned by an individual of German nationality to himself at Hamburg and forwarded on a German ship, therefore the presumption is that they are enemy goods, and it is for the claimant to satisfy me that he has established a trade domicile in Colombo, and is, therefore, entitled to his goods. Here we are met with somewhat of a difficulty, as Karl Festin, on whose behalf the claim is based, apparently took no interest whatsoever in the matter, and I have consequently to rely entirely upon the affidavits of the manager of the National Bank as to what the intentions of Karl Festin were concerning his change of domicile. Facts such as a man giving up his old home in one place, taking his wife and children to his new residence, or evidence from the individual himself that he had no intention of returning to his old home, but had a fixed intention of establishing himself in the new country, which have been of such material assistance in some of the cases quoted, are entirely absent in this case. For instance, in the "Herman" case it was shown that the claimant had removed with his wife and family from London to Embden, and had established himself and his family there, become a burgher of Embden, and had remained there for six years. But such facts as these are absent in this case, which merely rests on broken periods of residence.

Pitt Cobbett, Vol. II., p. 25, states that "where a person is domiciled in a neutral country, but has a house of trade in the enemy country, he will also be deemed to have an enemy character," which is founded on Lord Stowell's judgment in "The Jonge Klassina," viz.:—"A man may have mercantile concerns in two countries, and if he acts as a merchant of both he must be liable to be considered as a subject of both with regard to transactions originating respectively in both."

Is there positive or presumptive proof before me that this man Karl Festin showed any intention of throwing off his enemy character and becoming a resident merchant of Ceylon? Apparently he is a man born and bred in Germany, for years carrying on his trade at Hamburg, and still doing so, and now doubtless residing there, having been requested by the authorities to leave Ceylon, it may be assumed because he was of German nationality. I am now asked to say that the affidavits of the National Bank's manager are sufficient to establish the fact that Karl Festin has thrown off his old German domicile and shown an intention to remain for an unlimited period at Ceylon. But what does the evidence before me amount to? Merely that Karl Festin came to Colombo sometime about October, 1909, and stayed at the Bristol Hotel there, and started to trade with his trade house in Hamburg; that he left Colombo for Australia in December, 1910, and did not return to Colombo till March, 1911; that he again left Colombo in December, 1912, for Germany, and did not return till April, 1913. It is suggested that his return to Germany was for the sake of his health, but if that were so it only goes to show that Ceylon was not the place for him to take up his permanent residence. It is true that he did rent a house at Colombo, but a merchant who knew that it might take some little time to establish his new branch of business might, for the sake of comfort, take a house rather than stay at an hotel, without any intention of remaining permanently, or for an unlimited period.

Can it be said that this evidence is sufficient to convince me that this born German, who has resided most of his life in Germany and carried on his trade at Hamburg, has now abandoned his country and native home at Hamburg and has changed from a German merchant into a Ceylon one? I am of opinion that I should be stretching the doctrine of trade domicile to a breaking point if I considered such evidence sufficient, and I must consequently decide in this case that there is not sufficient evidence before me to show that there was any intention on the part of Karl Festin to remain an unlimited time at Colombo, or that he had any intention of acquiring a new domicile, and that the old domicile—viz., that of Hamburg—remains, and that, in fact, he has not acquired a trade domicile in Colombo (Ceylon).

Having decided this point in the way I have, there is no need for me to decide the question of whether or not the property has passed technically from Karl Festin, carrying on business in Colombo, to himself as Karl Festin, of Hamburg. The release is, therefore, refused and the claim struck out, and an order made for confiscation and sale, with liberty to apply.

CONSTANTINOPLE FIRES.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Athens, August 2.

Another conflagration has occurred in Constantinople, in close proximity to the scene of the recent disaster. The fire broke out on the 26th and burnt for over twelve hours, and was apparently much more extensive than the other, 3,000 buildings, it is said, having been destroyed. This number is probably an exaggeration, as were the reports of the other fire, when it was stated that 1,500 to 2,000 houses had been burnt, and which now proves to be about 500. The fire apparently broke out at Foundoukli, a Turkish district consisting principally of old wooden houses, which has been entirely destroyed, and extended down to the sea at Sali Bazar. The German hospital was in danger—in fact, an annex was burnt—and many large residential flats have been gutted.

The losses of the insurance companies in this fire will probably be more important than in the former one, as the percentage of stone buildings is much larger.

The effect of these two conflagrations is to clear Constantinople of a mass of old Turkish wooden houses from one of the finest situations of the city, and opens up the prospect of rebuilding these districts with modern residences.

The origin of these fires is unknown, but they are in all probability the work of incendiaries, as these conflagrations always occur when the country is in a disturbed state. The majority of the burnt-out people are probably Turks, and they have been sent to the houses of Christians at the Upper Bosphorus, which had been evacuated some time ago by order of the military authorities.

Advices from Constantinople report that many insurance agents are paying their losses out of funds in hand, and when sufficient funds are not available drafts on the head office in England are given, which will, of course, not be payable until the war is over.

The Great Central Railway Company have just issued their new "A.B.C. Guide to Health and Holiday Resorts." Within an attractive cover is included a description of the various resorts, and interesting information is given regarding climatic advantages, bathing facilities, sports and entertainments, also a list of hotels, boarding houses and country lodgings, schools, etc. The book has been entirely rewritten, is well illustrated, and anyone contemplating a short or long holiday, either at the seaside or in the country, cannot do better than obtain a copy, which will be sent free on application to the Great Central Publicity Department, 216, Marylebone Road, London, N.W.

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Trade Notes.

Egypt.

Slight modifications having been made in the general conditions for tenders and adjudication of Egyptian Government contracts, they are republished in their new form, as under.

1. Tenders must be submitted on the form supplied by the Administration, and in double-sealed envelopes, with the object of the tender indicated thereon.

2. The tenderer must be a person residing in Egypt, or must have a representative in Egypt, and will give in his offer an address at which notices may be served upon him. All notices shall be deemed to be validly served which are left at such address or are sent there by registered post, and every letter sent by registered post shall be deemed to have arrived in due course of post unless the contrary is shown.

3. The price of tenders should be written, without erasures, in figures and in words.

4. Every tender submitted in the name of an incorporated company must be accompanied by authenticated copies of the documents defining the constitution of the company. Every tender submitted in the name of a private firm or partnership must be accompanied by such extracts, duly authenticated, from the partnership deed as shall suffice to show what persons are authorised to enter into contracts on behalf of the firm or partnership, and what persons are responsible for the due execution of such contracts and can give valid receipts on behalf of the firm or partnership.

However, firms established in Egypt and having constant dealings with the Government may deposit with the Ministry of Finance authenticated copies of the above-mentioned documents. In submitting tenders, these firms should then simply state that the documents in question have been so deposited and that no subsequent changes in the constitution of the company, partnership, or firm have taken place.

5. Contractors must produce railway certificates in support of their invoices for transport expenses incurred on account of goods forwarded by them to Government Departments. Such certificates will be delivered gratis by the Railway Administration if applied for at the moment of despatching the goods, and in order to obtain the same forwarding agents should mention on the waybill the name of the Department concerned.

Claims for freight on goods shipped to Egypt must be supported by a copy of the bill of lading or other voucher showing the amount of the freight.

6. Each tender must be accompanied by a provisional deposit of 2 per cent. of the total value of the offer in money. Post Office Orders or cheques on local banks will be accepted, but not cheques on banks abroad.

The provisional deposit may be replaced by a letter of guarantee from an approved bank in Egypt to the effect that the bank will hold at the disposal of the Government a sum equivalent to 10 per cent. of the total value of the contract in the event of the tenderer obtaining the same.

Letters of guarantee from banks abroad may also be accepted, but in that case the Administration may require the endorsement of such letters of guarantee by an approved bank in Egypt.

7. Within ten days after the acceptance of the tender a sum equal to 10 per cent. of the total value of the contract will be deposited by the successful tenderer as security for the due execution thereof. This deposit must be either in cash (on which no interest will be allowed) or in Egyptian Government or other approved securities, calculated at market value with a margin of 5 per cent. Cash may be paid to the contracting Department or to the Ministry of Finance. Securities will be deposited with the Ministry of Finance, in Cairo, or with the National Bank of Egypt, in Alexandria, or in London, for the account of the Government. The coupons maturing on these securities may be detached by the contractor. The deposit will be retained until

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the contract has been duly carried out to the satisfaction of the Government.

In the case of unsuccessful tenderers, their provisional deposit, made in cash, will be returned to them; letters of guarantee will be returned to the bank which issued them, simultaneous notice being sent to the tenderers that this has been done.

Contractors may effect a permanent deposit in cash or securities with the Ministry of Finance, in Cairo, on which certificates for provisional deposits may be granted to accompany their tenders, and also certificates for final deposit of 10 per cent. on value of contract accepted.

Should the successful tenderer not make the deposit as required by this article, the acceptance of his tender will be withdrawn and any deposit he may have made under Article 6 will be forfeited.

8. The Government is not bound to accept the lowest or any tender, and may divide the order.

9. Unless all the foregoing conditions are complied with by the tenderer, the tender will not be considered.

10. Tenderers are permitted to attend when tenders are being opened and to satisfy themselves that their own offers have been received; but they will not be given any information as to the offers made by other tenderers.

Tenders are invited by Economat Central, Cairo, for the supply of agendas for the coming year. Date September 16.

Messrs. Avery, Limited, were recently the successful tenderers to the Egyptian Government for the supply of weights and measures.

Messrs. the Imperial Dry Plate Company, the Société Anonyme des Drogueries d'Egypte, and the Kodak (Egypt) Co. were recently the successful tenderers to the Egyptian Government for the supply of photographic material.

Morocco.

H.M. Chargé d'Affaires at Tangier reports that hitherto one of the difficulties British shipping has had to contend with was that, while cargo could be found to bring out to Moroccan ports, the ships had to go back empty for want of any return cargo. It has, however, been suggested that British steamers should be used for the conveyance of wheat and barley from Casablanca, Mazagan, and Saffi to Bordeaux, Nantes, St. Nazaire, and Havre, and the French authorities have approved of this suggestion, at the same time indicating that they anticipated great difficulty in finding bottoms for the conveyance of the large quantities of grain to be shipped to France, and that it would be of great assistance to them if British ships could be so utilised.

Writing on the same subject H.M. Vice-Consul at Saffi (Mr. G. H. Selous) suggests that British shipping companies interested should inform the local officer of military supplies of the arrival dates of their steamers, the amount of space for cargo available, and the freight per ton. Freight should compare favourably with that quoted by French shipping lines. It would not be necessary for a steamer to proceed directly to the French port of consignment; a liberal delivery date would be given. Steamers would be liable to be held up at French ports owing to congestion, but would be entitled to demurrage. Barley would be consigned to any of the four ports mentioned; wheat to all except Bordeaux. These conditions would remain in force until November 1 next. The French authorities do not wish to charter, but it might not be inadvisable for brokers to keep in touch with an agent at Casablanca in case the authorities, for any reason such as lack of the requisite French tonnage, alter their decision on this point. It is estimated that the amount of wheat and barley available for export this year will not fall short of 150,000 tons.

Cyprus.

The Board of Trade are in receipt of copy of a Proclamation, dated July 19, notifying that in cases where the general public has subscribed for, or where individuals have made gifts to British troops on active service, such gifts shall be exempt from Customs duty on importation into Cyprus.

The *Cyprus Gazette* for July 27 contains a Proclamation, dated July 22, notifying that the exportation of all articles whatsoever to the Netherlands is prohibited, unless such articles are consigned to the Netherlands Oversea Trust (or, in the case of any prohibited or restricted goods which are authorised by licence to be exported, to the person named in the licence as consignee).

Persia.

Parcels for Northern Persia can now be sent by the direct route to Archangel. Parcels for this route must be clearly addressed "viâ Archangel" on the despatch notes and on the parcels themselves. The rates of postage are the same as for the route viâ Sweden and Russia, and the parcels may be insured up to a limit of £20.

TRADING WITH THE ENEMY.

At the Guildhall Police Court on Tuesday, Thomas Bertram Ledger, of Ledger, Sons, and Co., manufacturers, of St. Mary Axe, was summoned for having attempted to trade with the enemy. There were two summonses, and he pleaded "Guilty" to one, which charged him with attempting to obtain tin boxes from the firm of Nestor Gianaclis (Limited), of Cairo, who have a branch and factory at Frankfurt.

The second summons was heard, and Mr. Muir, prosecuting, said that in response to a telegram from the Nestor Company, at Cairo, which ran, "Please remit immediately by cheque on London to order of James Lorber at Geneva, for the Frankfurt works £400," the defendant took steps to send the money. He wrote to his correspondent in Cairo as follows:—

"Of course, the ultimate destination of this money is no concern of ours. The penalties in force in this country in regard to remitting sums of money to any person or business of an alien enemy are very severe indeed, and we therefore regret that you should have mentioned in your cable the ultimate destination of the money."

There were, Mr. Muir said, two further remittances to a bank at Athens amounting to £1,000 without Mr. Ledger inquiring whether these sums were going to Germany or not. Coming to the charge to which the defendant pleaded guilty, counsel said that on March 15 the defendant requested Mr. Lorber, a Swiss, to obtain from Frankfurt samples of tin boxes so that they might place an order for similar goods in England. Mr. Muir said the letter of the defendant showed an entire incapacity to realize his duty as a citizen of the Empire.

Mr. Hewart, K.C., M.P., for the defence, said that the Nestor Company was a neutral one, and the shareholders were all English. The Frankfurt factory was really a branch of that company. With regard to the second summons, the firm wished to obtain one sample tin from the German manufacturers in order that they could take it to English tin makers and give an order for a million tins like it.

The Magistrate imposed a penalty of £250, with 10 guineas costs.

GOVERNMENT OF CYPRUS.

NOTICE.

SALE OF VETCHES OF 1915.

The Government of Cyprus offers for sale the following vetches of this year's harvest.

It is estimated that all this grain will be placed in the stores between the month of June and October 31, 1915, and delivery must be taken within a period to be arranged with the Treasurer, but in no circumstances later than November 20, 1915.

Stores.	Vetches. kilés.*
Nicosia	3,800
Larnaca	1,600
Limassol	900
Pissouri	120
Famagusta	4,900
Boghaz	700
Chelones	300
Akanthou	70
Paphos	1,700
Latzi	1,000
Kyrenia	250
Total ...	15,340

*The kilé is equal to 1 English bushel.

1. Tenders for the purchase of any of the above quantities of grain will be received by the Treasurer, Cyprus, on or after August 7, 1915.

2. Combined tenders for the purchase of the grain of two or more stores will not be considered unless accompanied by a declaration that the price offered holds good for the whole or any part of the grain tendered for.

3. The Treasurer does not bind himself to accept the highest or any tender.

4. The foregoing figures represent an estimate of the gross amounts which are likely to be brought into the various Government stores, but no warrant or undertaking must be implied on the part of the Government that these amounts, or amounts approximating thereto, will be available for sale.

5. When any tender has been accepted, the tenderer will be required to execute an agreement on a form to be supplied by the Treasurer. Specimen form may be obtained on application to the Treasurer.

6. Samples of the grain at the various stores may be obtained from the Commissioners of the districts, *but no sale effected on the basis of this notice shall be deemed to be a sale by sample.*

7. All the stores, with the exception of the store of Nicosia which is connected with the Famagusta harbour by railway, are situated near the sea shore.

C. D. FENN,
Acting Treasurer.

Nicosia, July 3, 1915.

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Sudan Notes.

TRADE OF THE SUDAN.

The Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Central Economic Board of the Sudan Government has just published its monthly report (June, 1915), from which the following information is extracted :—

One thousand six hundred and seventy-two tons of gum, valued at £41,000, were exported viâ Port Sudan, and 9,451 kilos, valued at £168, were exported viâ Halfa during June.

The gum sold in El Obeid Market during the month totalled 32,571 kantars of 120 rottles (54 kilos), of which 3,716 kantars came from Nahud. This constitutes a record for June sales. The amount sold in El Obeid Market during the current season to end of June is 156,945 kantars, as against 138,545 kantars sold during the same period last season.

As regards cotton, the total amount brought into the market (from the Red Sea Province?) was 64,760 kantars, which constitutes a record. On June 30 there were only 200 bales of cotton left to be exported to Trinkitat. On July 31 they had been sold.

Rainfall throughout the country in June proved most beneficial to the crops, but in some districts a greater fall was wished for.

Blue Nile Province is now reported clear of cattle plague, but further outbreaks have occurred in Senaar Province. There has been one fresh outbreak of contagious pleuro-pneumonia of cattle—reported from the southern part of the Kosti District in the White Nile Province.

The value of the principal exports viâ Port Sudan during the month of June were :—Raw hides, £E26,023; cotton seeds, £E10,724; ginned cotton, £E6,301.

The value of the principal imports viâ the same port were :—Sugar, £E15,212 and cotton goods, £E17,427. Further imports of cotton goods were :—Viâ Halfa, £E19,380, and viâ Suakim, £E15,954.

SUDAN GUM CONTROVERSY.

In connection with the gum controversy—*i.e*, the ruthless over-exploitation of the trees by the natives with possibly disastrous results in the near future, the *Sudan Times* publishes the following interesting particulars concerning Sudan gum :—

The best Heshab gum trees grow in the sandy soil of Kordofan. The tree is thorny, and varies in height from six to twenty feet.

In the rainy season its leaves, which are serrated, are green; but about November the leaves become dry and fall off. In December the gum collectors begin to tap the trees. This is done by peeling off a portion of the "skin" of the branches by an iron axe (Ferrar). The "skinned" portion exudes a mucous juice, which solidifies upon contact with the air and collects into crystallized lumps, which are the gum Arabic. These lumps are gathered once every twelve days. The period for collecting them is known as *Dema*. The collections are repeated until the month of June, when the rains begin and the trees commence to leaf. Then the secretion of the juice ceases, and the gum-collecting season is over.

Methods of Planting Gum Trees.

There are three methods in which the gum trees grow or are grown :—

1. The seeds are planted in the sesame fields in rows parallel to those of the sesame and alternating with them, with a space of about one metre between each row and the next. This method, however, is not popular among the natives and really is not a good one. The trees grown from seeds are usually very delicate, require much care, are easily subject to destruction at the least exposure, and do not begin to produce gum before they are five years old.

2. Natural growth. During the stormy season, the seeds of the Heshab tree are carried about and scattered. When the rain falls, they sprout, and if not choked by weeds, they grow into trees. This, however, is a precarious and uncertain method, and naturally can only succeed in regions far removed from human habitations.

3. The method most widely adopted among the natives is that of allowing the Heshab trees to grow in grain-cultivation land. When the Heshab tree is fifteen to seventeen years old, it becomes decrepit, and dried up, and the least storm blows it down. If the land in which the trees have fallen down is cleared properly and the stumps are burnt, the land becomes very fertile for the cultivation of grains such as dukhn and dura, and for three or four years in succession it gives good crops. After this period, however, the land loses its fertility for producing grains. But in the meantime, the roots of the old gum trees, which had remained buried in the ground, have sprouted and sent forth new strong shoots. If these are left uncut by the cultivators, in three or four years they begin to produce gum. So that this method furnishes an excellent system of rotation, which by judicious use can be turned to great advantage for development of both the gum and grain crops.

WAR ON GERMAN TRADE.

In connection with the campaign undertaken by the Board of Trade, on the advice of their Advisory Committee on Commercial Intelligence, to assist British manufacturers and merchants to secure trade formerly in the hands of German or Austro-Hungarian firms, the Board continue to receive a very large number of inquiries for the names of sellers or buyers of articles of which the sources of supply or markets have been interfered with by the war.

Special arrangements have been made in the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade for dealing with these inquiries, and the weekly list of articles (No. 34) which inquirers desire to purchase is ready, and may be obtained by United Kingdom manufacturers and exporters of British goods.

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Engineering Notes.

Bulgarian Railway Construction.

We publish in another column an official notice by the Bulgarian Government inviting tenders for the construction of four railway lines:—(1) From Radomir, viâ Dupnitza, to Zumaja, with (2) a branch line from Dupnitza to Bobordol, together 90.1 kilometres; (3) from Plevna to Lovetch, 52.5 kilometres; and (4) from Gabrovo to Sevljievo, 29.75 kilometres. Caution money for (1) and (2), 741,000 frs.; for (3), 320,000 frs.; and for (4), 160,000 frs. Specifications, plans, etc., can be obtained at the Direction Générale des Construction, 4, Rue Preslav, Sofia, for the sum of 80 frs. Date, September 13 (N.S.). Tenders to be addressed, for each line separately, to the Direction Générale des Construction.

Trees and Wireless Telegraphy.

The German air raid on the Eastern Coast in a fully dark and misty atmosphere, as it was on Tuesday night, and which resulted in the senseless assassination of a few more innocent women and children, will, undoubtedly, sicken again the heart of all civilized people. But the question may now arise as to whether it is certain that such cowardly attacks in the darkest hours of the night are not guided by some means, as yet undetected, of communication from the land. It is believed that all suspected persons have already been removed from the Eastern Coast; that all private wireless telegraphic installations have been demolished, and no new ones are allowed; but is it certain that newer methods of wireless telegraphy are not adopted by unsuspected spies of the enemy? Lofty masts erected on wireless stations can, of course, be seen; also the modern portable outfits carried on specially fitted motor-cars, with articulated or telescopic sections of the antennæ masts; but a small outfit which can be placed in a bag and carried in the hands, and for which any convenient tree may be used as antennæ can easily avoid detection. Such an apparatus exists and has been used with success. It is the invention of an American officer, who, on the accepted theory that vegetable organisms possess a certain amount of electricity, experimented and discovered that a tree can be utilized for the reception and transmission of wireless messages.

No High Aerial Wire.

With this method there is no need of long aerial wires, generally suspended by a long pole or staff, which in the orthodox apparatus forms a very characteristic feature. Only a very short length of wire is used; and the method employed in effecting the electrical contact between tree and receiver is very simple. By driving an ordinary iron nail at a convenient point into the upper part of the trunk of the tree, and another similar nail into the same trunk at a point an inch or two above the surface of the earth, and by fastening the end of each wire to each of the nails, the electrical contact is secured between tree and receiver. The detector consists of a simple microphone, made by partially filling a small ebonite tube with the spherical carbon granules used in telephone transmitters; embedded therein are two small steel needles as electrodotes, so that they nearly touch each other in the central part of the tube. With the view of putting this system to a most vigorous and searching test, and to ascertain its practicability when applied to a variety of trees, prolonged experiments were made with one of these apparatus, the necessary electric power to excite the induction-coil being provided by two portable storage batteries. Among the trees selected were spruce, oak, pine, and willow; and a significant difference in efficiency was observed. The results achieved from a barren and generally unhealthy tree were indeed disappointing, while a dead tree acted as an insulator. Apart from this trial of trees, further experiments were carried out to ascertain to what extent the system might be employed, and it was found that the distance depended to a large extent upon the power of the emitter and the delicacy of the detector. Messages, however, have been received from a distance of over thirty miles, using as antennæ any convenient small tree in the vicinity. An objection to some of the field equipments at present used is the necessity of suspending an aerial wire by means of a high pole, kite, or balloon. These supports are apt to disclose the presence of the operator to an enemy, while, by using a tree, the possibility of disclosure is not only reduced to a minimum, but the short time necessary for installing both remitter and receiver is, in itself, a decisive advantage. The remitter can be made ready within ten minutes, while the receiver, capable of being carried in the hands—the whole being mounted on a small board about ten inches by twelve inches—requires even a shorter period. It is obvious, therefore, what could be done by a spy who possessed such an apparatus.

Diesel Boats for the Danube.

Three new motor boats have recently been completed by the Ruthof Yard, at Regensburg, on the Danube (says the *Motor Ship and Motor Boat*), each having a length of 64 metres (210 ft.) and a beam of 8.1 metres. Each of the vessels is fitted with two hot-bulb engines developing 120 h.p. The company for whom these were built (the South German S.S. Co., Limited) has now six such vessels in commission, with a total tonnage of 4,000. Two motor tank ships have also been completed for service on the Rhine for the Bavarian Lloyd Co., these being engaged in the transport of petroleum between Roumania and Germany. They were 66 metres in length (216 ft.), having a beam of 6.1 metres, and in these are installed two Benz-Diesel engines of the Polar type, of 200 h.p. each. The importance of these tank vessels in present circumstances will be readily understood. Besides these two vessels, two tugs, fitted with 2,270 h.p. and 345 h.p, Diesel engine respectively, were put into service in Roumanian waters, whilst three Dutch tugs were also sent to Bulgaria in which Diesel engines of 270 h.p. were fitted.

A New Grinding Paste.

A new grinding paste has recently been brought out which at the present time will be of great interest to munition manufacturers and others. It is a mixture of ingredients to combine the rough and finishing processes of grinding cocks, valves, eccentrics, etc., into one simple process. The paste has to be smeared evenly over the work to be ground, and it is said that jobs which with other preparations often take hours to complete, can be finished with this paste in a few minutes.

Cement from Beets' Scum.

The industrial chemist and the engineer of to-day continue to prove that there is use for, and wealth in, what but yesterday was thrown away as useless. An excellent cement is now being produced by a French firm from the scum formed by boiling beet for sugar manufacture. The scum consists chiefly of carbonate of lime and water. Out of 23,330 tons of beet 1,330 tons of lime is obtained; to this 370 tons of clay is added, the resulting product being 1,000 tons of excellent cement. The scum is pumped into large tanks, where it is allowed partially to dry; finely divided clay is then mixed with it; the mixture is thoroughly amalgamated by beaters for an hour, and then burned in a rotary kiln, much in the same way as Portland cement. The clinker is then removed and pulverised into cement.

Soapsuds for Gas.

This reminds one of another, but more curious discovery. One day a chemist was passing a yarn mill and saw hundreds and thousands of gallons of soapsuds going to waste. To this industrial chemist the sight of these soapsuds being thrown away was so painful that he devised a method by which he precipitated the soapsuds with lime, pressed them into briquettes, and from these produced a gas of three times the illuminating power of ordinary gas. With this gas he lighted the mill, and to-day yarn mills save their soapsuds for illuminating purposes.

ROYAUME DE BULGARIE.

MINISTERE DES CHEMINS DE FER, POSTES et TELEGRAPHES

Direction Générale de la Construction des Chemins de fer et des Ports.

AVIS.

No. 5565.

Le 31 Août / 13 Septembre, 1915, à 10 heures du matin, il sera procédé au Palais de l'Assemblée Nationale à l'adjudication, sous pli cacheté, de la construction par entreprise générale à forfait des chemins de fer: "Radomir - Doubnitza - Gorna Djoumaya" et de son embranchement "Doubnitza-Bobov-dol" d'une longueur totale de 90.1 kilomètres, "Pleven-Lovetch," d'une longueur de 52.5 klms., et "Gabrovo-Sevlievo," d'une longueur de 29.75 klms.

Les cautionnements qui devront être déposés pour être admis à l'adjudication sont fixés conformément à la Loi sur les entreprises publiques comme suit: leva or 741,000 pour la ligne Radomir-Doubnitza-Gorna Djoumaya et son embranchement Doubnitza-Bobov-dol; leva or 320,000 pour le tronçon Pleven-Lovetch et leva or 160,000 pour celui de Gabrovo-Sevlievo.

Le cahier des charges, les plans et la collection des types pour chacune des lignes susmentionnées, se vendent à la Direction Générale des Constructions, 4, Rue Preslav, au prix de frs. or 80.

Les offres devront être conformes au modèle de soumission et porteront sur chaque ligne séparément et non sur les trois ensemble.

Les plis contenant les offres devront être remis jusqu'au 31 Août, 1915, 10 heures du matin, au plus tard et porteront l'inscription: "Offre pour la construction du chemin de fer..... ....." Les offres faites ap ès cette heure ne seront pas prises en considération.

La Direction
Générale des Constructions.

Sofia, le 9/22 Juillet,
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Near East Markets.

CYPRUS RAINFALL.

(From a Correspondent.)

Cyprus, July 31.

In view of the fact that a season of drought was feared by many, it is interesting to note that the steady increase in the rainfall, which has been so marked a feature in late decades, has been maintained. The old consular reports before the Occupation gave an annual average of 13 to 14 ins. The fall from October 1, 1914, to April 30, 1915, shows, except for a portion of the Nicosia district, a satisfactory record, viz.:—Papho, 18.29; Limassol, 18.28; Famagusta, 17.63; Larnaca, 15.89; Nicosia, 9.19. The fall as gauged in parts of the forests exceeded 62 ins.; at Amiantos (Troödos), 30.28; at Rizo-Carpas, 25.03.

PERSIAN CROPS.

H.M. Consul-General at Ispahan reports, under date June 22, that the 1915 opium crop in that district is likely to prove considerably less than last year's harvest on account of hailstorms and a plague of black and white blight, the latter resulting from an exceptionally mild winter, with insufficient rains. Farmers, however, encouraged by last year's crop, had planted a much wider area with opium than usual. The quality of this year's opium is said to be up to the average and the colour somewhat darker.

The barley crop is less than last year's, and prices about 50 per cent. below normal, owing to plentiful supplies and imports from other parts of the country. The decrease in quantity is attributed to lack of timely rain, for although more fell than was wanted during the early autumn, damaging the young crops, too little fell subsequently. Prices are expected to advance shortly.

Wheat has not yet been harvested, but the crop is said to be inferior to last year's. Prices are much below those of 1914, but they are likely to rise as the crop is insufficient for local needs.

The bean crop is the poorest since 1909; fully two-thirds has been eaten by black blight.

THE ROUMANIAN HARVEST

The *Morning Post* correspondent in Bucharest, writing on August 15, states that the Government has definitely decided to remove the prohibition of the export of wheat and rye, whether in the form of grain or flour. On the other hand, barley and oats, seed or ground, peas, haricot beans, and other leguminous seeds, linseed, colza, and other oleaginous products, aniseed, nuts, millet, lentils, vetches, ryegrass, oil cake, colza, and linseed oil, etc., will pay an export tax ranging from £8 to £40 per wagon. There are 200,000 wagon loads of the previous harvest awaiting export, and the new harvest promises to yield 400,000 wagon loads. The railways under normal conditions of working are expected to take 15,000 wagons a month. The Government is about to authorize the credit banks to advance 60 per cent. upon the harvest provided the sanction of Parliament is obtained.

Our Bucharest correspondent writes:—

The grain export trade from Roumania during 1914 was greatly inferior to that of the two previous years. During the five last months export by sea was completely interrupted, so that the quantity of wheat exported during the year was only 1,260.000 tons, as compared with 2,290,000, or a falling off of 45 per cent.

The cessation of export had a signal effect on the economic situation of Roumania. In accordance with the new law of 1913, six grain exchanges were established in Roumania, viz., at Braila, Constantza, Galatz, Bucharest, Craiova and Jassy. The three first handled 70 per cent. of the total production of cereals. In following the course of trade on these exchanges one could not but remark the great influence of the European war on the trade.

During 1914, the total quantity of agricultural produce, handled at the three abovementioned exchanges was 852,165 tons, representing a value of 119,634,448 fr., as compared with 1,154,580 tons, valued at 179,342,732 fr. in 1913.

In spite of the fact that during the first six months of 1914 the activity of the Roumanian grain trade showed increased activity—the actual trade done being for 5,377,450 tons, of a value of 70,121,973 fr., as against 376,980 tons, value 62,478,072 fr. in the same period of 1913—the second six months felt a great diminution of trade, and complete stagnation followed. In fact, during this latter period, the entire quantity of grain negotiated was but 314,442 tons, of a value of 49,512,475 tons, as compared with 777,759 tons, valued at 116,864,661 fr. in this period of 1913. Comparing the two periods one sees a falling off of 463,170 tons.

The total business done by the entire number of exchanges during 1914 was as follows, compared with the quantities of 1913:—

	1914.			1913.
Wheat.....	268,940	as compared	with	550,840
Maize	272,160	,,	,,	204,630
Barley.....	181,940	,,	,,	205,880
Oat	65,600	,,	,,	90,060
Rye	27,420	,,	,,	39,950
Rapeseed ..	8,490	,,	,,	2,930
Beans	18,920	,,	,,	26,780
Peas.....	4,430	,,	,,	8,120

PRODUCE REPORT.

London, August 19.

Currants.

There has been more activity in the market this past week, and spot prices were dearer, whilst, owing to advices from Greece, quotations for new crop have also advanced.

In the Liverpool market there has been a better demand, and fair business was done in better grades at an advance.

Sultanas.

There is a good demand for all grades, and prices continue to advance. Nothing can be said yet with certainty as to the prospects of this fruit this season, but it is very doubtful that there will be any opportunities this year for Smyrnas reaching this market.

Dates.

The market is much firmer and prices have advanced, Persians being quoted 16s. 6d. to 23s.

Seeds.

Linseed continues steady, but there is very little business, the demand for oil showing no improvement. Calcutta to London, spot, on passage, and for shipment up to August-September is quoted 54s. 3d., and September-October 54s. 9d. Cottonseed is quiet, and inclined to lower for new crop positions; London-Egyptian spot £9 16s. 3d., September £9 18s. 9d., Fayumi £10; and ditto October £9 7s. 6d. per ton. Rapeseed remains firm, but quiet; Guzerat August-September 56s. 6d and brown Cawnpore, pure basis, ditto, 52s.

Oils.

Linseed oil is very quiet and 2s. 6d. lower in most positions. Spot pipes £23 15s., barrels and month £24 2s. 6d., September-December £24 5s., January-April £25 5s. Cotton oil is quiet but steady; Crude, spot, in pipes, £28 5s.; refined, pipes, pale £30 15s., and barrels sweet £35 to £36 as to make. Rape oil remains dull and weak; ordinary brown naked, spot, £34 to £35; English refined barrels £37 to £38.

EGYPTIAN COTTON.

Reuter's Agency reports from Cairo, under date August 3, that the monthly bulletin of the Ministry of Agriculture for July shows a decided improvement in the condition of the cotton crop in Lower Egypt over that of June, the cotton being now 2 per cent. above the average. The Upper Egypt crop, however, still remains at 3 per cent. below the average.

ADANA COTTON.

The United States Consul at Mersina reports that the cotton crop of 1915 in the Turkish Province of Adana will probably not exceed 50,000 bales, owing to decreased plantings and the ravages of locusts. Last year's crop totalled 120,000 bales, of which 60,000 bales have been exported. About 10,000 bales have also been required by the four spinning and weaving mills in Tarsus and Adana. During May of this year they used 1,600 bales, while in May, 1914, only 1,100 bales were needed. Thus about 50,000 bales of cotton remain in the country, most of which, however, is still unginned. The stock in May, 1914, did not exceed 15,000 bales. Italy's entry into the war has practically stopped all exports, as most of the local cotton was shipped to Austria and Germany viâ Italy on Italian steamers which have ceased calling here. The mills of Tarsus and Adana have a total of 42,000 spindles, of which only 19,000 were employed during May, 1914, an activity of 45¼ per cent.; in May, 1915, 33,000 spindles were operated, an activity of 78½ per cent. The value of unbleached cotton goods of local manufacture on hand in May, 1914, was £24,000, and in May, 1915, was £32,000. The two cottonseed-oil mills near Mersina are in operation, and produce about 150 tons of oil per month.

EMPLOYERS AND THE COTTON PROBLEM.

At the monthly meeting of the Central Executive Committee of the Employers' Parliamentary Association held in Manchester last week, the cotton problem was freely discussed.

The committee were strongly of opinion that as cotton was a practically irreplaceable constituent of modern propulsive explosives, it was manifestly imperative in the national interests that strong and decided action should be taken by the Government to ensure that supplies of this commodity should be completely cut off from enemy countries. It was realised that the promulgation of any scheme would, of necessity, have to provide for safeguarding the American cotton growers against grave financial loss consequent upon the stoppage of such supplies, and the Secretary was instructed to forward a suggested scheme to the Liverpool Cotton Association, for their consideration.

Reuter's Agency reported from Cairo last week that the Ministry of Agriculture is anxious to avoid the recurrence of overwatering this year, and has circularised the cultivators regarding the attendant dangers. The cotton worm, which a few weeks ago manifested itself throughout the country widely and profusely, did no damage to the crop, owing to the favourable weather conditions and the energetic steps taken by all to combat the pest. There is now little fear of any damage being done by the next generation. With regard to the boll worm, however, it is, of course, too early to make any statement, except that those cultivators who had planted their cotton early will be the smallest sufferers from attack.

DATES.

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NEWS FROM TURKEY.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Athens, August 2.

The *Hilal* announces that an Imperial Iradé has been issued sanctioning the transformation into an Ottoman society of the English company trading at Aidin under the style of "Compagnie Industrielle du Levant."

The Deutsche Bank, it is announced, has carried out the formalities required by the new Companies Law.

The Turkish Government have, however, decided to extend the delay accorded to insurance and other companies to conform to the provisions of the new law, but it is not said what the extension of time is.

A Commission is sitting at the Custom House for the purpose of drawing up a new Customs tariff.

Some of the new Treasury bonds of five liras are in circulation, but the one-lira notes have not yet arrived in Constantinople.

Reuter's Agency reported from Sofia, under date August 14 (delayed), that, according to latest advices from Constantinople, the Turkish authorities have compelled the American Embassy despatch boat Scorpion to take up her moorings in the inner part of the Golden Horn. Mr. Morgenthau, the American Ambassador, protested, but his efforts were unavailing.

With reference to the coal supply of Constantinople, it is ascertained that the activity of the Russian warships is beginning to be felt. All travellers from Constantinople passing through Bulgaria declare that there is a great shortage of coal in the Turkish capital, and it is expected that the electric lighting and the running of trams will be discontinued within the next few days. Such an event is bound to make a great impression on the population of the city.

RUSSIAN TORPEDO ACTIVITY

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, July 26.

The Ministry of Finance has prohibited the export of petroleum to Turkey. The reason for this is not quite clear, but it can hardly affect exports, as of late the Russian torpedo boats have been so vigilant. Hardly a vessel carrying petroleum or other articles declared contraband by Russia can get through. Several sailing vessels have been stopped, their crews put ashore, and the boats sunk. The Roumanian s.s. Craiova, which recently put out with a cargo of petroleum, had to return to Constantza, being chased by a Russian torpedo boat.

COMPANY RESULTS, &c.

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields.—Production for week: Gemsah, 150 tons (last week 163 tons); Hurgada, 247 tons (last week 274 tons).

Anglo-Roumanian.—Production of crude oil for the week ended 7th inst., 214 tons.

Egyptian Guaranteed Three per Cent. Loan.—The dividend due September 1 will be paid by Messrs. N. M. Rothschild and Sons on that day and on each succeeding day (Saturdays excepted), between the hours of eleven and two.

European Oilfields Corporation.—The annual meeting of shareholders will be held in London on the 24th inst. Production for week ended 15th inst., 93,200 poods. Price of crude oil at Blacktown, 49 copecks per pood.

Nile Cold Storage Company.—An interim dividend of £1 per share has been declared. Coupon No. 8, payable at the offices of the National Bank of Egypt.

Roumanian Consolidated.—Production for week ended July 10, 989 tons; July 17, 951 tons; July 24, 722 tons; July 31, 930 tons; August 7, 1,444 tons. Moreni 49 struck oil on August 2, and has been flowing steadily since at the rate of 50 tons daily. Output curtailed pending completion of additional new storage tanks.

Suez Canal Receipts.—The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal for the 14th and 15th inst. amounted to 540,000 fr., against 270,000 fr. for the corresponding days last year.

MORATORIUM IN GREECE.

H.M. Minister at Athens reports, under date July 19, that although the Greek Moratorium is no longer in operation, the following exceptional measures of relief will remain in force until the end of the current year:—

(1) Imprisonment for debt is prohibited. Only administrative enforcements are allowed.

(2) The judicial authorities are empowered to grant delays to tenants in arrears exceeding one month, and also to suspend the execution of decisions concerning evictions of tenants. The suspension of compulsory executions and of bankruptcy is also permissible.

The privilege granted under a banking moratorium, which expired about the end of February, by virtue of which any bank might have the option of returning deposits in small portions, is not now in force.

COMPANY NOTES.

Russian Petroleum Company.

The report for the year ended December 31 (O.S.) states that the balance-sheet shows that considerable reductions have been effected during the year in the various liabilities of the company. In particular, the four years' arrears of interest on the debenture debt, amounting to £72,000, were paid in May, 1914. Subsequently, £21,925 of debentures were redeemed for cash, and the amount outstanding was thereby reduced to £277,048. By consent of the debenture-holders the redemption of debentures, which should have commenced on May 1 of this year, has been postponed till six months after the declaration of peace or expiry of the Courts (Emergency Powers) Act, whichever shall happen first. The balance of the Russian Government Loan of £51,000, amounting to £12,870, is in process of repayment from the resources of the Baku office. The gross profit on trading in Russia, taking the rouble at the rate of 2s. 1½d., amounted to £52,978, and, with sundry receipts in London, amounting to £270, gave a total of £53,248. After payment of administration charges, amounting to £6,487, contributions to war funds, £407, and payment of debenture interest, £17,073, there remains a balance to credit of profit and loss account of £29,279. Out of this sum taxes in London and Russia (at present unascertained) have to be paid, and the directors recommend that the balance should be added to reserve for depreciation, renewals, and general purposes. The gross production of crude oil from the properties was as follows:—Plot 19, Bibi Eibat, 3,327,912 poods; plot 4, Bibi Eibat, 434,940 poods; plot 53, Bibi Eibat, 196,017 poods; Plot Khirdalan, 309,596 poods; Plot Digiah, 26,088 poods; total, 4,294,553 poods. At the beginning of June last year the company, in common with other producers, was unexpectedly confronted with a general strike of its employees, the first result of which was the stoppage of production for a period of eight weeks. This long stoppage of work in the baling wells caused a rise in the water-level, in reducing which very great difficulty is still being experienced. It was found also, on resuming work, that the casings in many of the best wells had collapsed, and the necessary heavy repairs are still retarded by the scarcity of skilled labour and suitable material. For similar reasons the completion of the deep wells, Nos. 92, 89, 81, and 63—some of which had arrived at a very important stage, and upon which the future of the company so largely depends—is greatly retarded. Prices of crude oil have fluctuated during the year between 22 and 48 copecks

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per pood. Opening the year at 37 copecks per pood, the price gradually rose to 48 copecks, but on the outbreak of war it dropped to 30 copecks. When Turkey joined in hostilities and the Dardanelles closed there was a further sudden drop to 22 copecks. Since then the price has steadily improved, and to-day is 50¼ copecks per pood. The company has benefited by the minimum price of 30 copecks per pood guaranteed under the contract which expired on August 1 (O.S.), 1915. The average price realised for oil sold and delivered during the year was 35.75 copecks per pood. A new contract has been concluded for the sale of the company's output for twelve months from August 1 (O.S.), 1915, at average monthly Bourse prices, plus ⅜ copeck per pood. The question of economy engages the constant attention of the board and the local management. The installation of electric motors in place of steam engines was completed in the early part of last year, but the electric power company have only recently commenced the supply of energy, and the full benefits of this change have yet to be reaped. By arrangement with the Baku Russian Petroleum Company, Limited, and the European Oilfields Corporation, Limited, a new well is to be drilled at once on the properties of the Romany-Zabrat Oilfields, Limited, in which this company holds a one-third interest.

European Oilfields Corporation.

The profit and loss account shows a gross income of £62,627, of which £57,439 was derived from profits on trading and £5,188 from miscellaneous receipts in London. General charges absorbed £4,153, donations to war funds £300, and debenture service £15,125, leaving a balance to credit of profit and loss account of £43,048. Of this sum £25,000 has been added to the reserve for depreciation, renewals, and general purposes (bringing the total up to £110,000), £3,609 is applicable to the redemption of profit sharing notes, and a balance of £14,439 remains to be carried forward. In view of the great rise in the Russian exchange—the sterling value of the rouble having fallen from 2s. 1½d. to 1s. 5½d.—and the difficulty of obtaining remittances from Russia during the continuance of the war, the directors feel that they should not deplete the resources of the company in London, and, therefore, do not recommend the payment of a dividend. The decrease of 547,679 poods in the production is largely accounted for by the strike of the workmen at Baku in May and June, 1914, and its consequential after-effects. Continued economies have been made in the quantity of oil used for fuel, the amounts during the last three years having been 877,085 poods, 516,385 poods, and 255,152 poods.

United Crude Oil Producers.

Under the compulsory winding-up order made against the United Crude Oil Producers and Refineries, Limited, the Official Receiver's statement of affairs discloses total liabilities of £244,444, of which £45,380 rank as unsecured creditors, and no available assets. The company, formed in 1911, purchased a number of oil-producing properties in Galicia and Roumania, the development of which had been carried on almost entirely upon borrowed money. No balance-sheets had been issued. The failure was attributed to lack of capital and to the outbreak of war, which prevented the completion of arrangements entered into for the sale of the properties. The Official Receiver is winding up the estate.

THE CAIRO BOURSE.

Some years ago the Société Civile de la Bourse du Caire, which has a capital of £E20,000, undertook the construction of premises for a Bourse in Cairo, says the *Egyptian Gazette*. These premises, which were to have cost £E20,000, finished by costing £E35,000. The balance was obtained by means of a loan from the Deutsche Orient Bank of £E9,000 at 7 per cent. interest, the rest being advanced by the Brokers Corporation of Cairo.

In consequence of the crisis the revenue from these premises does not suffice even to pay the interest on the loan. Threatened by a seizure and a forced sale by the Bank the Board decided to let the Bourse or to sell it. Most of the proposals that have reached the Board have been ridiculously low, the best offer being that of Messrs. Melachrino and Co., the well-known firm of cigarette manufacturers, of Cairo, who offer £E10,000 for a building and site which cost nearly four times as much. No decision has been made so far, but it is thought that the offer will be accepted in order to pay the Bank.

NATIONAL BANK OF ROUMANIA.

BALANCE-SHEET, JULY 11/24, 1915.

ASSETS.

Metallic reserve	Gold (specie)	164,494,114	
	On deposit..	25,220,000	
	Gold (bars) .	205,000	
	Foreign bills payable in gold.....	73,902,060	263,821,174
Silver and other coins			545,279
Roumanian and foreign bills			210,955,807
Advances against Government securities		26,586,000	49,198,042
On current account	49,015,000		
Unused balance ..	26,402,958	22,612,042	
Loan of 15 millions to the State			11,273,958
Loan to Government on 4 per cent. Treasury Bonds (1914)			221,974,938
Bank's capital invested in Government stock			10,660,471
Reserve invested in Government stock			16,411,177
Reserve, depreciation of buildings, furniture and printing machinery			3,956,681
Premises			6,737,913
Furniture and printing machinery			1,110,861
General expenses			54,999
Government and other securities deposited			137,522,541
Four per Cent. Gold Treasury Bonds as security for loan to State			300,000,000
Securities held against advances or temporarily lodged			160,396,684
Current accounts			17,086,091
Security accounts			21,879,354
Sundry accounts			33,478,855
Total Lei			1,467,064,825

LIABILITIES.

Capital	12,000,000
Reserve	39,780,616
Reserve, depreciation of buildings, furniture and printing machinery	5,907,700
Notes in circulation	668,663,977
Profit and loss account	4,902,667
Interest and various earnings	480,314
Current accounts and drafts at sight	67,481,578
Securities, etc., held on account of customers	597,919,225
Sundry accounts	69,928,748
Total Lei	1,467,064,825

Bank Rate, 6 per cent.

IONIAN BANK, LIMITED.—The Court of Directors have DECLARED an INTERIM DIVIDEND at the rate of Five per Cent. per annum, free of Income-tax, for the half-year ending 13th July, 1915, payable on and after Tuesday, 7th September, 1915. The Transfer Books will be closed from the 27th of August to the 8th of September, both days inclusive.

By Order,
JOHN LINDSEY,
Acting Secretary.

25, Abchurch Lane, E.C.,
17th August, 1915.

AGRICULTURAL BANK OF BULGARIA

(BANQUE AGRICOLE DE BULGARIE).

PRIVILEGED CREDIT ESTABLISHMENT.

ESTABLISHED IN 1864.

CAPITAL (fully paid-up) - - Frs. 45,500,000
RESERVE FUNDS - - - ,, 14,500,000

Head Office: SOFIA.

85 Branches and 100 Agencies in all the principal centres of Bulgaria.
Banking and Stock Exchange Operations undertaken. Special Service for Debt Collection Transfers, Letters of Credit, etc.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE	Mean Price. July 27.	Min. Price. Mar. 20.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	—	89½xd
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907..	82	—	—
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909..	80	—	66
City of Alexandria 5%, 1909 ..	99	—	90½
City of Constantinople 4% Bnds	96	—	—
Egypt. Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan ..	93½	87½	87½
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	85	85
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	88	78	78
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82½	73½	78⅝
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	80½	75	75⅝
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	52	57½
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	52	56⅝
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	45	48
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	40	43¼
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	52	54
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	—	51½
Do. 4 % Rails. Loan, 1902 ..	77	—	66
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	94	—	92
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	—	76
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	91	—	80
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913, 8o., £60p.	92	—	85
Servian 4 % Unified Bonds	67	—	—xd
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855..	103	97	—
Do. 4 %, 1891	94½	—	83
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	—	73½
Do. 4 % Loan, 1902	82½	—	—
Do. 4 % Unified	79	—	54
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	65½	—	49
Do. 4 %, 1909	69	—	47⅛
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)..	4½	—	2¾
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7¾	—	6¾
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.	80	—	73
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red...	83	—	75
Anglo-Egyptian Bank.....	12	—	9½
Bank of Abyssinia	¼	—	—
Bank of Athens.....	£2	—	1½
Bank of Roumania	8½	—	—
Eastern Bank	5	—	82/6
Imperial Bank of Persia	7¾	—	6
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	—	—
Ionian Bank, Limited.....	3⅞	—	3½
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6¼	—	4¼
National Bank of Egypt	13¾	—	10¾
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½% C.P.	8	—	no m.6
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8½	—	6¼
Do. do. 5 % Debs., Red.	98	—	95
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I.	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88½	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17¾	—	13
Do. do. 6 % Cum. Pref.	22	—	13¼
Do. do. 4 % 1st Deb. ..	87	—	57
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb...	101	—	69
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	—	—
Pirœus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	90	—	—
Do. do. 3 % Bonds..	61	—	—
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares) ..	1⅛	—	⅝
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	—	95
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt....	¼	—	—
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	—	2
Do. Do. Def.	¼	—	—
Béhéra Co.	8¼	—	7
Do. Pref.	4⅜	—	3
Daira Sanieh	2/2	—	2/6
Do. Def.	⅞	—	20/-
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	9/-	—	6/-
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tst.	98	—	90
Do and Foreign Trust ..	5/-	—	2/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	—	1
,, ,, Founders	¼	—	—
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—	—
Do. 5 % Debs. Red.	—	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	9⅜	—	7½
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	—	87½xd
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	—	⅝
Sidi Salem Co.	⅝	—	⅛
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1¼	—	⅜
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	—	-/9
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12¼	—	10⅝
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt..	97	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	—	—
Egyptian Hotels	1¼	—	—
Do. 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—	—
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅜	—	1⅛
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	99½	—	95
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	1⅛	—	14/-
Do. 5 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	96	—	95
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅝	—	9/-
Do. do. Prefs.....	3½	—	3xd
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt. ..	90	—	85
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (*fr.*500)	£179½	—	£—
Upper Egypt Hotels	2¼	—	—

OIL.	Price on July 30.	Aug. 18.
Anglo-Egyptian "B".....	⅜	4/-
Anglo-Persian	22/1½	31/3x
Cyprus Oil Trust	2/3	2/3
European Oilfields	4/9	3/6
Roumanian.....	20/-	13/6

PARIS BOURSE.

	Jan. 4.	Aug. 18.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane ..	—	440
Canal de Suez	4050	3940
Credit Foncier Egyptien	639	553
Turkish Unified 4%	61.50	57.90
Egyptian Unified 4%	87.75	88.40
Serbian, 1895	—	61.20

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 225.—Vol. IX. FRIDAY, AUGUST 27, 1915.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Italy has now declared war on Turkey—for the second time in less than four years. The immediate cause for this step was the refusal of the Turkish authorities to allow Italians in Turkey to embark and return to their native country, in spite of assurances given by the Porte that the embargo on their departure would be removed. The Italian Government, however, has other grounds for complaint against Turkey. In a particularly lucid memorandum it sets forth the various steps by which the Porte has contrived to infringe upon Italian rights, and summarises the course of events which led to a declaration of war. Immediately after signing the Treaty of Lausanne, it is stated, the Ottoman Government violated that agreement, and continued these violations uninterruptedly up to the present time. Turkish officials retained command of Turkish troops in Libya, and the Arabs have never been without Turkish officers to direct their operations against the Italians.

It was, however, the more recent action of the Turkish authorities in Asia Minor which constituted the most flagrant violation of Italian rights. The declaration of war against Austria-Hungary found a large number of Italian subjects liable to military service in the Ottoman Empire. Acting no doubt under the instructions of its allies, the Turkish Government placed obstacles in the way of these men leaving the country. In the face of the Porte's prevarications the Italian protests gradually assumed the form of an ultimatum. On August 3 a Note was presented to Turkey demanding that Italians at certain named towns on the coast should be allowed to leave freely, and that the local authorities of the interior should give up their opposition to the departure of Italian subjects going to the coast, and should, on the contrary, provide facilities for their journey. Before the ultimatum expired the Grand Vizier sent a note to the Italian Ambassador acceding to all Italy's demands. Four days later, however, the military authorities at Beyrout and at Mersina revoked the consent for the departure of Italian subjects. The Italian Government appears to have satisfied itself that further protests on its part were useless, and instructed its Ambassador to declare war upon Turkey. This was done, and the Ambassador left Constantinople on August 21.

Italy's declaration of war on Turkey leaves her free to co-operate more effectively with her Allies. There is a limit to the number of troops which the Italian military command can usefully deploy in the difficult country to which the operations against Austria are for the present confined. On the other hand, the forcing of the Dardanelles has become a matter of the utmost urgency, from which Italy stands to benefit in common with her Allies. With the approach of autumn in the Ægean Sea the freedom of the Allies' movements in those waters is liable to be curtailed by weather conditions. It becomes the more necessary, therefore, that every effort should be made to force the passage of the Dardanelles while the forces on land can be supported by the Allied fleets. In this work the Italians can play a useful part. There may be little room for them within the narrow confines of Gallipoli Peninsula; but there are other parts where they can try conclusions with the enemy. It is hardly to be supposed that the Italian Government would have declared war unless it intended to take an active part in punishing the Turks. We shall hope, therefore, to find that the Italians have been especially opportune in the time chosen for their declaration of war, and that in the course of the next few weeks their co-operation with the Allied forces on Turkish soil will lead to specific results.

Something more than a "certain liveliness" has to be recorded on Gallipoli Peninsula. If reasons had to be adduced to show why the two fresh landings at Suvla ought to have been made several months ago, they could be found in the results already achieved in this section of the British line. A far more considerable advance has been made on this left wing in a few days than was possible in as many months along the rest of the battle front. But we know from a remarkably candid statement issued by the Government yesterday that the Allies' objective has not yet been attained. Reading between the lines of this *communiqué* we infer that the landing at Suvla would have been more successful if the attack had been pressed home at once. The Allies may still be far from driving the Turks off the

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Peninsula; but they have made a strong bid for the "elbow room" that they were denied before they had extended operations beyond the Salt Lake near Little Anafarta Bay. The series of vigorous attacks now taking place—how fierce the fighting has been the casualty lists testify—conveys the impression that both sides realise that they are fighting against time, the Turks to keep what they hold and the Allies to render the enemy's position on the Peninsula untenable before the gales of autumn and winter seriously handicap the operations of an attacking force. There remains the third landing recently effected on the north side of the Gulf of Saros. Nothing further has been reported of the fortunes of the landing party; but it can hardly be possible that the operations at this point, so far removed from the fighting at the southern end of Gallipoli Peninsula, would be abandoned at the first signs of opposition. It is here, it would be thought, that Italian co-operation would be most useful. But we have to remember that since the landing was effected a German submarine has revealed its presence in these waters. Until this fresh menace has been satisfactorily dealt with, the task of reinforcing our troops on shore at any point has been rendered much more difficult.

It may be that the issue on Gallipoli Peninsula is being decided at this moment even more effectually in the Balkan Chancelleries than in the trenches that stretch from Kizlar Dagh to Krithia. The Allied Powers have at last taken the steps which charity and self-interest alike imposed upon them as soon as Turkey threw in her lot with Germany and Austria-Hungary. They have acted as arbitrators of the differences between the Balkan States, which are preventing each country from realizing its national ideals and are hindering the Quadruple Entente in its work of ridding Europe of the incubus of Germanic militarism. Their decision on the merits of the controversy has been communicated to Bulgaria in the form of a statement setting forth the territorial readjustments which they consider necessary to enable justice to be rendered to the rival claimants. A Bulgarian newspaper, quoted by our Sofia Correspondent, claims to have an intimate knowledge of the contents of the Note delivered by the Entente Powers to the Bulgarian Government. Whether the terms are given accurately or not, there would seem to be little doubt that the Allies have undertaken to redress Bulgaria's grievances and to guarantee her an extension of her territory in the future. At Athens and Nish *démarches* have been made simultaneously notifying the respective Governments of the conclusions which the Entente Powers have arrived at, and inviting Greece and Serbia to fall in with their wishes in regard to the compensation to be given to Bulgaria.

Serbia holds the key to the decision of the Balkan States. Bulgaria may delay her answer from an excess of caution, reasoning with herself that, if Serbia and Greece refuse to carry out the Allies' recommendations, she will not be called upon to record any decision, and thus will not have impaired the advantages she expects to derive from an attitude of neutrality. But there can be little doubt that she is wholly in favour of the Quadruple Entente. Germany will bluster and threaten, but each fresh indiscretion on her part is likely to confirm the Bulgarians in their sympathy for the Allies' cause. Fortunately, every indication points to Serbia's giving a favourable reply and placing herself in the hands of her Allies, to whom she owes so much. If the Serbian Government adopts this course, Greece is almost bound to follow its example. It only remains for the Allies to persevere in the strong attitude they have at last adopted.

The situation created by the Allied Powers' *démarches* at the Balkan capitals is examined elsewhere in this issue. It is certain that if the Bulgarian Army is launched against Constantinople, the whole position on Gallipoli Peninsula will undergo a radical change. For this reason the negotiations now in progress at Sofia, Nish, and Athens are necessarily followed with almost as much attention as the terrible struggle on the Peninsula. At the moment of writing it can be said that the auguries are good. M. Venizelos has accepted King Constantine's invitation to form a Ministry, and the new Government is already in office. The Allies, it is understood, do not require Greece to take part in the operations at the Dardanelles. They ask her to make a small territorial concession to Bulgaria, and in return they offer her important compensation in Asia Minor. In spite of the manifestations of public feeling against the cession of any territory, particularly the rich lands around Kavalla, we may expect that M. Venizelos will be able to persuade the nation that the small sacrifice is wholly in the interests of Greece. It is stated that the people are now eager for war on the side of the Quadruple Entente. If this be their attitude, M. Venizelos' task should not prove difficult.

The new Greek Cabinet, which took the oath of office on Monday afternoon, is constituted as follows:—

M. Vénizelos.....	Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs.
General Danglis ...	Minister of War.
M. Miaculis	Minister of Marine.
M. Repaulis	Minister of Finance.
M. Cafandaris	Minister of the Interior.
M. Raktivan.....	Minister of Justice.
M. Diamantidis ...	Minister of Railways and Communications.
M. Teirimokis	Minister of Public Instruction.
M. Michalacopoulo	Minister of National Economy.

Most of the Ministers held office previously under M. Vénizelos. The solidarity of the party has withstood all efforts of its political opponents to undermine its loyalty to its leader, and this fact, coupled with the popularity of the new Government, is of good augury for a successful issue from the crisis through which the country is passing.

Meanwhile, it is certain that Germany is not looking on with folded hands while the Balkan States are passing over to the side of the Quadruple Entente. Her chief efforts have been put forth in Bulgaria. It was not difficult in the frame of mind in which the Bulgarians were found at the outbreak of the European War to flatter them with attentions and more practical indications of German goodwill. The shrewd exploitation of Bulgaria's financial needs tended to give the Germans a strong position in the country, and went far to make the people forget the part played by Germany in their humiliation at Bucharest. In case any misgivings lingered in the mind of the Government, the German Emperor appears to have gone to the length of a personal apology to King Ferdinand. In an autograph letter sent by the hand of Prince Hohenlohe the Emperor William is said, our Sofia Correspondent reports, to have expressed regret that Germany had latterly underestimated the importance of Bulgaria in the Near East, and had allowed her to be treated unjustly at the Bucharest Conference. He hoped that the bonds connecting Germany and Bulgaria would be strengthened, and promised Bulgaria the energetic support of the German Empire in the future. Since the delivery of that letter, however, Bulgaria has shown further signs of falling away from grace, and the Emperor's flattery and smooth words have given place to more forcible representations from the German Government.

Germany's last card in the Balkans appears to be the threat of an invasion of Serbia and Bulgaria. If report be true, almost the first notification of the concentration of Austro-German troops at Orsova was given by the German Minister in Sofia in representations to the Bulgarian Government. The objective of the force is said to be Turkey, and if Bulgaria opposes its advance she is threatened with the fate of Belgium. No more powerful incentive could be imagined to bring the Balkan States together in their common defence. The effect of the German protestations of friendliness towards the Balkans is marred by the simultaneous publication by influential bodies of clear *exposés* of what must be Germany's policy in the future. This scheme includes the "opening up" of the Balkans by the agency of Austria-Hungary and Turkey, a process

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which is hardly calculated to have attractions for the proscribed victims. Germany's position in the Near East requires no elaborate commentary to explain it to the Balkan States. She has thrown in her lot unreservedly with Turkey, who in the event of the victory of the Central Powers would need and deserve very substantial compensation for all she has undergone at Germany's bidding. All compensation, other than monetary payments, would have to be at the expense of the Balkan States. Germany, therefore, will not be allowed to run with the hare while hunting with the hounds, and unless wisdom and statesmanship are to be banished for ever from the Balkans, it is impossible that the least credence should be placed in any promise or agreement made by Germany.

In Serbia the situation in the Balkans has been made the subject of a discussion *in camera* by the Skupshtina. A resolution was then passed in which the Chamber again placed on record "its decision to continue side by side with the Allied Powers the struggle for the liberation and the union of the Serbo-Croatian-Slovene people at the price of the indispensable sacrifices necessary for the protection of the vital interests of the country." This resolution should set at rest all misgivings entertained in nervous quarters lest Serbia should be tempted from sheer weariness to throw up the sponge. There is no room in the Skupshtina's dedication for any reinsurance treaty with Austria-Hungary. Rather, if words bear their accepted meaning, the resolution implies that M. Pasitch has secured the assent of the representatives of the nation to make such concessions to Bulgaria as the Entente Powers may decide to be essential in the joint interests of Serbia and of Europe as a whole.

Germany's methods of fighting her enemies lack nothing in thoroughness. She is as intent on the pin-pricks that can be administered by a native tribe in regions where she has no legitimate interest as she is on the sledge-hammer tactics of her magnificently equipped forces. No country laying claim to enlightened government has so far allowed itself to be embroiled in the war by German intrigues, but among the peoples whose attitude is regulated solely by monetary considerations it has to be admitted that German policy has achieved no little success. Bribes direct and indirect persuaded Turkey to throw in her lot with the Central Powers in a war in which she had no interest, and from which, while risking much, she had nothing to gain. The same means have been employed in stirring up the large number of tribes living on the confines of British territory or of spheres in which Great Britain is predominantly interested. From North Africa to the Indian frontier "unrest" in varying degrees has been fomented by German agents; but whether the results have in each case satisfied the German Government is a matter that must be left to that body to decide.

The efforts made to embroil Persia in the war have been particularly persistent. From time to time the more egregious of these attempts have achieved notoriety, as when a candidate for the post of German Vice-Consul tried to go through the ceremony of embracing Islam in order to further his objects. Other less conspicuous methods of German intrigue in Persia are doubtless known to the British and Persian authorities, but there is some reason for supposing that the Germans have succeeded to a greater extent than was at first realised in unsettling the tribes in Southern Persia and along the Afghan frontier. The incident reported a few weeks ago of the loss of an officer and Political Agent attached to a British reconnoitring party from Bushire was a sufficient indication that the neighbouring districts had been roused to a dangerous mood. For the British Government to have taken no further notice of the outrage would have been a serious blow to our prestige in the Gulf. The measures adopted to deal with the situation have not been made public; but from a telegram to the German Press, emanating from Constantinople, we may infer that the Germans are not altogether pleased with the inevitable result of their intrigues in Persia. "The British Consul at Bushire," it is stated on the authority of the German Ambassador at Constantinople, "has been appointed Governor-General of Southern Persia. The British flag has been hoisted at all places in Southern Persia where possible. The number of Indian troops that have been landed is said not to exceed 3,000 men. The excitement in Southern Persia is great. Preparations are being made for resistance on a large scale in the event of the British advancing from the coast region." Without accepting the accuracy of the above message, we may infer that, as suggested in our issue of August 6, the British Government has taken steps to ensure that, if reconnoitring parties are necessary, they can be of adequate strength without depleting the garrison at Bushire.

Reports of Turkish excesses in Armenia which have gradually been coming through to this country have received most unpleasant confirmation in the statements attributed to an Italian Consul from Asia Minor. According to his testimony, the treatment of the Armenians, whether by the Kurds or by the Turkish authorities, has surpassed in cold-blooded cruelty the worst occurrences of the Hamidian régime. It is unnecessary to recapitulate here the details of these atrocities. The evidence of a consul, however, is enough to justify a thorough investigation when the war is over. Then if even a tithe of the allegations can be proved, the Allied Powers must make up their minds to secure some compensation for the unhappy Armenians. It is essential that final peace should not be concluded with Turkey until provision has been made for a future for the Armenians which will free them for all time from the domination of officials of the Committee of Union and Progress. The German Press, it may be mentioned, with one eye on Belgium, has sought to exonerate the Turks from the charges brought against them by pleading military urgency and the "unsatisfactory" attitude of the Armenians.

THE HODJA'S TALE.

A Hodja, versed in Oriental lore,
Gave this one day from out his rounded store:

There was a banquet held in Paradise
(Where with the great may hope to dine the least),
And all the Virtues dwelling in the skies,
With those on earth, were summoned to the feast.

They came in number as the stars at night,
And greetings sweet as music filled the air—
Two only stood apart in raiment bright
And wondered at the other's presence there.

The Master and the Host of that High Place
Rebuked them gently: "Why art thou so rude?"
"We never met before, Lord, face to face!"—
They were Benevolence and Gratitude.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, August 9.

Egypt and the War.

The anniversary of the declaration of war has found Anglo-Egypt somewhat changed from what it was a year ago. Then the greatest excitement reigned on all sides, and the telegrams as they came in were scanned with an eagerness that betrayed the general anxiety felt by the British colony. That anxiety was, I may say, as to whether the British Government would fulfil its moral obligations as guarantor of the integrity of Belgium and champion of the rights of the smaller nations, and would take up the gauntlet thrown down to it by the War Lord of Central Europe. I can still remember the relief and enthusiasm which hailed the posting up of Reuter's cable announcing the British declaration of war, and which testified to the general approval of the Cabinet's decision. Egypt, in common with many other nations, did not think then that the conflict would be a protracted one, nor did most of us realise the enormity of the task before the Allies. But if time has shown us the vanity of our discussions and prophecies, the disappointment of our hopes has by no means dimmed our ardour or weakened our confidence. To-day the clubs are filled to overflowing with newcomers in khaki on their way to join the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, and everywhere one misses familiar figures—some have already laid down their lives for their country, some are still gallantly playing their part in France or in Gallipoli. Those whom duty has forced to remain at their posts instead of following the example of their friends may, it is true, experience a keen sense of sorrow when they look around in vain for old comrades, and may chafe at their own enforced inactivity; but if to-day the cables are read with the same eagerness and interest as a year ago, there is now, in place of what may be called the boisterous spirit, a quiet, grim determination to keep the flag flying, and to assist in "seeing the thing through" to the only finish that is compatible with British history and tradition. And, above all, there is a supreme confidence in the power of the Allies to make good.

Anglo-French Unity.

On the occasion of the anniversary of the declaration of war intercession and thanksgiving services were held at All Saints', Cairo, and at St. Mark's in Alexandria. In each case there was a large congregation, General and Lady Maxwell, accompanied by the Headquarters Staff, attending in Cairo, and the High Commissioner, Lady McMahon, and the members of the Residency Staff being amongst those present in Alexandria. Similar services were held in the French churches. The French colony in Alexandria took the opportunity of testifying to the feeling of unity existing between the two nations by placing wreaths on the graves of the British soldiers of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force. The deputation of the French community was headed by the Consul-General, M. Vershere de Reffye, and was received by the military authorities at the British military cemetery, where the leading British officials were present, Sir Milne Cheetham representing the High Commissioner. Amongst the graves on which wreaths were deposited was that of the late Major-General Sir W. Bridges, G.O.C. the Australian Division, who recently succumbed to wounds received in the Gallipoli Peninsula. The ceremony, which was a very touching one, concluded with a short but eloquent speech by the French Consul-General. In Cairo the leaders of the French colony called at the British Consulate, where assurances of amity and unity were exchanged between them and H.B.M.'s representative.

The Wounded from the Dardanelles.

There is increased activity in the hospital world here. Most of the new arrivals are sick men, but there is evidence that decisive action is expected very shortly at the Dardanelles, for two new hospitals have just been opened here—one, the old Austro-Hungarian hospital, has been taken by the Australians and the other, the Nasria school, has been commandeered by the British authorities. Although there are many more nursing sisters out here than was the case three months ago, the assistance of the civilian ladies will still be very much needed, as it is feared that the coming casualty list will be exceedingly heavy.

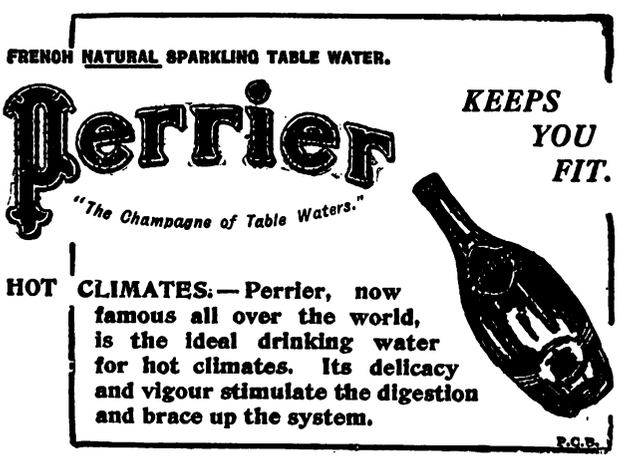
The Bomb Outrage.

There is nothing fresh to report in the bomb outrage inquiry. Belbani, the man in custody, under suspicion of being an accomplice, appears to be regarded now definitely as the bomb-thrower. As yet no other accomplices have been caught, although countless arrests have been made, including many prominent Nationalists.

The Wakfs Scandals.

A propos of the articles which you have published in regard to the Khedivial Wakfs and Seif-ed-dine Daira scandals, the principal persons implicated therein are being brought before the Saida Zenab Court to-day. The accused are Ahmed Khairy Pasha, Hussein Moharrem Pasha, Ahmed Saddik Bey, and Osman Moharrem Bey. There are four definite charges against Khairy Pasha—viz., of having, when Director of the Khedivial Wakfs, misapplied £E5,258.478 m/m of the funds, and £E748.667 m/m of the interest earned on the funds of the Wakfs deposited at the Deutsche Orient Bank; of having, when trustee of the Seif-ed-Dine Daira, misapplied £E1,551.587 m/m of the interest earned on the funds deposited at the same bank; and of having appropriated to his own use a sum of £E24 from the Private Wakfs funds by paying it to a lawyer, who had rendered him a personal service. Hussein Moharrem Pasha is accused of having misapplied three sums, amounting in all to £E52,000, in the course of the purchase of two Alexandria houses, and of having misapplied £E131.880 m/m of the interest on the funds of the Seif-ed-Dine Wakfs. The other two are accused of complicity in the misapplication of the above-mentioned £E52,000, Saddik Bey, by arranging for the purchase for £E160,000 of the houses, for which the vendor was only to receive £E135,000, and Osman Bey by reporting that the houses were worth £E160,000 and by assisting the vendor to obtain payment of an extra sum of £E12,000, included in the above-mentioned £E52,000.

Saddik Bey will be tried by default. When last heard of he was in Italy. He is believed to have left there since, but it is doubtful, even could he be located, whether he could be extradited. The charges against Khairy Pasha do not cover all his depredations. Most of the misappropriations are, unfortunately, ruled out by the Statute of Limitations, but in the course of the trial the whole of his misdeeds, as set forth in the articles published in The Near East, will be unfolded, and it is quite possible that even more details will be made public. Murad Bey Farag, the lawyer who drafted most of the deeds referred to in the inquiry, cannot be proceeded against by the Parquet, as he has successfully claimed Russian nationality. Action is, however, being taken against him in another and very effective direction.



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SUDAN NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Pension Law Revision.

Not the least attraction of service under the Sudan Government is the liberal amount of pension that can be depended upon after a couple of decades' service. When an official has passed some of the best years of his life in work in the Sudan, either as a soldier or as a civilian, he may retire with a certainty that his old age will be rendered comfortable, so far as a generous pension can help towards making it so. Far different, indeed, in this respect is the treatment adopted by the Sudan Administration from that pursued by the British Government.

At the present time the Sudan Administration is revising the whole of the Pension Law, and the new arrangement is expected to be promulgated very shortly. It is not anticipated that the new law will offer any treatment radically different from that in vogue at present, but the changes, where noted, are likely to prove of advantage to the destined recipients.

Pensions granted to Sudan officials, according to the prevailing scale, upon retirement, voluntary or compulsory, are regulated by Ordinance; they are in no way dependent upon the goodwill of any individual in the Administration. In order to render such pension as full as possible, a deduction of 5 per cent. is made from the pay of every pensionable official as a contribution towards his pension. Civil Service pensions considered as deferred pay, and granted on retirement, have, in certain instances, been objected to as an injustice to the man who without enjoying his pension can leave no equivalent to his respresentative at his death.

It is permissible to retire voluntarily, but there are few instances of this occurring in the Sudan Civil Service. The one great wish of nearly all the officials, military and civilian alike, has been, and is, to continue to serve as long as it is legally and physically possible to do so. Those, however, who choose to leave the service may retire upon pension after reaching the age of forty-five, and provided that they have attained twenty years' service. Their pensions are then calculated on the average of the salaries drawn during the last three years of service, at the rate of one-forty-eighth part of the salary for each year of service. In this connection one may recall the fact that the report of the Royal Commission, issued in 1903, suggested that all future pensions granted should be calculated upon one-eightieth part of the salary for each year's service. In the Sudan Civil Service no pension can in any case be drawn exceeding the sum of £E800, this being the maximum allowed by the Ordinance referred to. Should ill-health or annulment of the office cause retirement, a pension is obtainable after twelve years' service, while those possessing more than that number of years' service obtain a gratuity of one and a-half months' pay for each of the first seven years, and three months' pay for each of the years from seven to twelve. It will be observed that the age of retiring is put at forty-five, while that in the British Civil Service is sixty-five. The Sections 46-47 of the Pensions Ordinance deal with the medical procedure adopted in cases of death or accident to an official occurring while on duty.

Punishment of Fiki Ali Wad.

For causes no doubt sufficient but which have not been explained, the Governor-General of the Sudan has deprived Fiki Ali Wad El-Ma, ex-Mek of the Miri Jebels—in the Nuba Mountains Province—of the robe of honour of the third class which was conferred upon him in the month of December, 1911. All religious robes and robes of honour which have been granted for good service to Government may, at any time, be withdrawn by order of the Governor-General if he considers that the recipient has ceased to be worthy of the honour bestowed upon him. The Governor of the Nuba Mountains Province recommended that Fiki Ali Wad should be so punished, and the supreme Government has agreed.

Recent Appointments.

Mr. R. Wedd, the Deputy Assistant Director of the Sub-Department of Lands, a branch of the Sudan Legal Department (Kanuni), has just been made a magistrate of the first class under the Code of Criminal Procedure. Mr. Wedd has been in the service of the Government since the month of September, 1910, and is considered a very capable and conscientious official. Another recent appointment which has given much satisfaction is that of Dr. E. S. Crispin, hitherto Assistant-Director of the Medical Department (Dawa), to that of Acting-Director. Dr. Crispin, who has seen over fourteen years' service under the Sudan Government, is stationed at Khartoum.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Agricultural Instruction.

On August 2 the summer course of lectures on agriculture to village schoolmasters was opened at Nicosia, when twenty-nine students assembled. They were addressed by Mr. W. Bevan, Director of Agriculture, who reviewed the progress already accomplished, which has been quite satisfactory. The object is that the teachers in rural schools should qualify themselves to give instruction in elementary agriculture, with special reference to the conditions in Cyprus. There are, moreover, now fifty village school gardens, in which the teachers are able to give some practical demonstration in connection with the instruction imparted. It is proposed to offer prizes, when district agricultural shows are held, to the pupils who can show the best collections of the produce of the gardens. The meeting was also addressed by the Inspector of Schools, Canon Newham. The Educational and Agricultural Departments meet, he said, on common ground. It is eminently desirable that Cypriot pupils should learn something of new methods, and their application in the island. Where, for example, would medical science and practice be now if they had stood still during the last fifty or sixty years?

The Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Cleveland, also spoke. He referred to the medical inspections which are now carried out in schools by the rural medical officers for the benefit of pupils and the community in general, and warmly congratulated the zeal of the schoolmasters who were devoting time to agricultural studies. Both measures, new to Cyprus, marked a good step in advance. On behalf of the schoolmasters M. Chrysostomos Lukaïdes addressed the meeting, and assured those present of the zeal with which these courses of lectures were being followed.

In the afternoon of the same day a course of instruction in gymnastics was inaugurated. Canon Newham was present, and spoke of the great value of the new movement to bring gymnastics into the curriculum of elementary schools.

Government is to be congratulated on having at last taken energetic steps, through the Agricultural Department, to provide elementary teaching in agriculture. It is one of the signs of real progress in education which should, if properly supported, have excellent results in the future.

Refugees from Asia Minor.

There has been some apprehension that infectious disease might have been introduced by Greek refugees from Konieh (Iconium) and neighbouring parts of the Asiatic continent. The police have been taking active measures in Nicosia, through the Mukhtars (headmen) of the different quarters, to investigate; but it is suggested that inspection might be more efficiently carried out by the Medical Department.

Riot at a Festival.

At the Festival of the Prophet Elias, which has been celebrated near the picturesque ruins of the Castle of St. Hilarion, a disturbance, rather characteristic of Cypriot meetings, took place. The origin of the rioting was a dispute as to which of two rival villages should furnish the leading dancers at the principal coffee house. Two young men from one village, who had been freely offering libations to Dionysus, assumed the lead, which was speedily challenged by their rivals. This soon led to blows and a division of the holiday-makers into two hostile parties, women as well as men taking a vigorous part. In addition to sticks and stones, knives were finally used and some serious wounds inflicted. The rioting continued from about 10 p.m. till midnight. This gives a picture of what not infrequently happens at Cypriot fairs and merrymakings, especially in the absence of a sufficient police patrol. The law which forbids the carrying of dagger knives cannot, of course, prevent the continuance to a great extent of the national habit.

Greeks and the Kaiser.

The Greek papers in spirited articles condemn in strong terms the Kaiser's late proclamation that God was with Germany as a shameless blasphemy, since God cannot be with those who have disgraced civilisation by atrocious vandalism, have dishonoured and murdered women and children, and have given fire and sword to Belgium, as well as wantonly attacking heroic Serbia. The war and the Balkan crisis are watched with the keenest interest.

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ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, August 6.

The Demarche of the Entente.

The collective *démarche* made unexpectedly last Tuesday to the Greek Government by the Ministers of the Quadruple Entente has created a great sensation throughout the country. The communication having been made at a late hour, the President of the Council, M. Gounaris, went the same night to Tatoï and spent two hours conferring with the King.

The text of the Note has not yet been published, but according to information derived from official and diplomatic sources, the Ministers of the four allied Powers have handed to the Greek Government a copy of a communication made the same day to Bulgaria. According to this communication they would, in return for her co-operation against Turkey, grant to Bulgaria: (1) that part of Northern Macedonia which Serbia, by the Bulgaro-Serbian Treaty of 1912, agreed to cede to Bulgaria, save for a small portion of territory between Lakes Prespa and Ochrida, which would serve to keep up connection between Greece and Serbia, and (2) Kavalla, with a hinterland. They also assured Bulgaria that they would exercise pressure on Greece and Serbia in order to secure those territories for her. At the same time the four Ministers informed M. Gounaris that their Governments would be prepared to consider the question of granting Greece valuable compensation in Asia Minor, and that they would be disposed to guarantee the territorial integrity of Greece and her possession of Salonika. The immediate participation of Greece in the Dardanelles operations was not asked for. It appears that M. Gounaris was also informed that the hinterland to be given up to Bulgaria with Kavalla would depend upon the extent of the compensation to be granted to Greece in Asia Minor, and that the cession of these territories would not take place until after the war.

The Note concluded with an expression of the conviction that the peoples of the two countries would realize that such a settlement of the Balkan difficulties, while tending to assure victory to the Allies, was also the sole means of assuring permanent peace, and that otherwise a fresh war must inevitably break out ere long.

Ministerial Press Views.

The Ministerial Press alludes to the "grievous effect" produced in official circles and on public opinion by this communication, and speaks of it as an ultimatum notifying the Greek Government of the arbitrary and insolent decision of the Powers to dispose, without any right, of others' territory, acquired at the price of blood, and indirectly threatening Greece with force to compel her to yield. The same journals declare that the Government is going to address to the four Powers a strong protest against such injustice. The *Nea Himera* (ministerial) maintains that Greece has no need to make territorial sacrifices in order to gain, as "compensation," regions purely Greek, such as the coast of Asia Minor and its hinterland, which belong to her by every right, and which in case of the dismemberment of Turkey could not be given to anybody else. Apparently, in expressing this view, the writer loses sight of the fact that it is precisely in order to ensure the "dismemberment of Turkey," referred to, which would save the Greek element from the dangers that threaten them, that the Allies desire the co-operation of the Balkan States, and especially of Bulgaria, which cannot be obtained without some sacrifices on the part of Greece.

The Venizelist Press.

The Venizelist Press, while attributing this *démarche* of the Entente Powers to the desire to detach Bulgaria at the eleventh hour from the Central Powers, to which she tended to adhere definitely, and thus to prevent an inroad of Austro-German troops upon Constantinople by way of Serbia and Bulgaria, also criticize it very severely. They regard it as humiliating to an independent and friendly State, which the Powers have treated as they would an enemy, in order to satisfy the exaggerated and unjust demands of Bulgaria, without considering the signal services that Greece has rendered to the Allies since the beginning of the war, and especially since the beginning of the Dardanelles operations. The *Hestia* says that, in thus showing lack of consideration for independent States, in violation of those principles of which they have declared themselves the defenders, and in threatening forcible measures, they will only alienate Greek sympathies, to the profit of the Germans.

On the other hand, these journals recall that when M. Venizelos left office the situation was very different. The Entente Powers had then declared categorically that they had not demanded the cession of Greek territory, and Bulgaria had ceased to reckon on that possibility. It is the publication of the contents of the second confidential memorandum of M. Venizelos to the King, made so shamelessly by M. Gounaris, that—as I have explained in previous letters—has encouraged Bulgaria to claim Kavalla again; and this has forced the Entente Powers—without whose consent, moreover, Greece would never have been able to annex Kavalla—to agree to its cession to Bulgaria.

The Attitude of Serbia.

Immediately after the receipt of the Powers' notification the Greek Government got into communication with Nish, where, it seems, the Powers' *démarche* has caused intense irritation, especially amongst the military party, which is under the influence of the Crown Prince; and in official circles it is stated that protests will be addressed simultaneously to the Powers by the two Allies. It is understood here, however, that the Note addressed to Serbia made no mention of the exercise of any pressure, and that it was friendly in tone.

The Attitude of Bulgaria.

In political and diplomatic circles it is thought that Bulgaria will not accept the offers made to her for the following reasons: First, because she is convinced that Germany will be victorious, and will insist upon her being granted the territories promised to her; secondly, because the Entente Powers, not having demanded that Greece should abandon her neutrality and should co-operate actively with them, but only that Bulgaria should do so, the latter would fear that Greece, with her forces intact, might attack her at the moment she was weakened at the end of the war; finally, because she will not be eager to assist in installing Russia at Constantinople, for fear that, becoming the neighbour of that Power, she would next be absorbed by it.

The Turco-Bulgarian Accord.

The importance of the Turco-Bulgarian understanding was rather exaggerated here, having been regarded as indicating a definite turning towards the Central Powers on the part of Bulgaria. In these circumstances it was thought that Bulgaria must have secured at least a guarantee of obtaining Serbian Macedonia for herself. The Ministerial Press endeavoured to dispel these fears by the assurance that, come what may, the two Central Powers have guaranteed the territorial integrity of Greece, and that as long as she remains neutral she need fear nothing. The Venezelist journals, on the other hand, reached the conclusion that, Bulgaria having thus secured the promise of great rewards in the event of victory crowning the German arms, there was nothing else for Greece to do but to range herself definitely on the side of the Entente, so as not to be isolated, and to assure an extension of her territory to balance that of Bulgaria. They pointed out that the guarantee of her present territory would be worth nothing if Bulgaria should be aggrandized. Ministerial circles have endeavoured to turn to their own advantage the feeling of uneasiness lest Bulgaria should occupy Serbian Macedonia, thus compelling Greece to declare war on her. They urge, through their journals, that Germany will not allow Bulgaria to do this, in order to prevent Greece abandoning her neutrality, at least if M. Venizelos does not return to power, and that the King should therefore avoid letting this come to pass.

The Internal Situation.

The rumours of a fresh dissolution of the Chamber had ceased entirely for some days, especially since the King's recovery, and the Ministerial papers announced that the Chamber would reassemble without fail on the date fixed, August 16, and would proceed to the election of a President. According to the results of this election, it was added, the King would base his decisions

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regarding the solution of the crisis. Now, after the *démarche* of the Powers, there is fresh talk of dissolution, brought about by Ministerial circles, since the Powers, in taking their step, did so in the belief that the people, having expressed their confidence in M. Venizelos, who had (formerly) hinted at the cession of Kavalla, their proposals would be favourably received. Therefore, it is agreed, the people must be called upon to give a clear expression of their views on this question, to prove to the Powers that they are mistaken.

NEWS FROM TURKEY.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Athens, August 16.

Submarine Activities.

The activity of the Allies' submarines in the Sea of Marmora and at Constantinople is not only disconcerting to the military authorities, but, as was expected, is disturbing the equanimity of the Turkish populace. The moral effect of these raids is probably of greater importance than the material loss to the Turks, though they have inflicted considerable injury to the Turkish navy and mercantile marine. At the present time the Hamidieh is the only large vessel fit to go to sea, and there are not many small craft left. There does not seem to be any doubt that the Goeben is unfit to go to sea, and some of her guns have been taken out of her. The damage to the Breslau is reported to be very extensive, and it will take three to four months to repair her, while the Torgout Reis is said to be *hors de combat*.

Last week the Hamidieh escorted six German steamers to Eregli to load coal, but it is not known yet whether they succeeded in returning to the Bosphorus. Although the Turkish fleet may, therefore, be considered to have been wiped out, it seems to be fairly evident that there are about a dozen German submarines within and without the Dardanelles; and these will be a menace to the Allied Fleets when they enter the Marmora. One of these German submarines is reported to have gone into Sebastopool Harbour, but returned to Constantinople without doing any damage there.

The Russians have again bombarded Zunguldak, and have this time caused serious damage to the port.

In addition to the nets at the Dardanelles and at the entrance of the Bosphorus, the Turks have now placed nets in Constantinople Harbour.

Ammunition Factories.

Ammunition continues to be sent to the Dardanelles in lighters towed by tug-boats, but a good many of them have been sunk by the Allies' submarines. It is stated that the arsenal has been emptied of all its ammunition, but the daily production of munitions in Constantinople appears to be increasing, and another factory has recently been established at Chichli. Between the munition factories of Zeitoun Bournou, Top Hané, and the arsenal there are about fifteen thousand men employed, mostly Germans.

There is no truth whatever in the report that the Galata Bridge has been blown up. An aeroplane appears to have visited Constantinople a few days ago, and a bomb intended for a steamer at the quays is reported to have fallen on Camondo Han, in Galata, causing much damage and some deaths.

No arrivals of coal are reported this week, and the stock at Constantinople and at ports in the Marmora is now estimated to be between 25,000 and 30,000 tons. San Stefano is alive with aeroplanes, and a dirigible has also arrived from Germany.

The German Grip.

It appears that Liman von Sanders has insisted upon resigning, but his resignation has not been accepted; he has been accorded leave of absence, and has arrived at Constantinople from the Dardanelles. Large numbers of wounded are reported to be arriving in Constantinople these days, and it is hard to find accommodation for them. The Turkish casualties up to date are now put down at 300,000 in the Dardanelles campaign.

The Germans continue to secure new positions in the different branches of the civil administration, and it is now reported that a German has been attached to the Sheik-ul-Islamat, and that the privileges of the Patriarchate are being curtailed. A certain Herr Feit, an expert in forestry, has just returned to Constantinople after having made a tour of inspection in Asia Minor in connection with the forests.

The Lot of the European.

The latest arrivals from Constantinople report that life there for most Europeans is becoming intolerable, and that the feeling is one of exasperation. There are daily rumours of what is going to be done to the subjects of the Allies, and although they may be silly and groundless, their continued repetition produces a feeling of great tension in those of weak nerves, and the frequent intimation to attend the police station to answer some silly question does not contribute towards one's peace of mind. Women and children of the Allies are occasionally being allowed to leave in small numbers, and a few English families have been able to get away. Two Englishmen, Mr. Slade and Mr. Simmons, have recently come out of Constantinople, as well as Mr. Labussiere, the agent of the Messageries Maritimes, and several other Frenchmen. An Englishman last week wrote that he would probably have to leave Moda, but no reasons were given for his probable departure from there.

Travellers' Trials.

Travellers are not allowed to have more than £T3 of gold on them on leaving Turkish territory. Any gold above this amount is taken from them, and the new Turkish notes are given in exchange; but, as these notes cannot be cashed either at Dedeagatch or Salonika, travellers often find themselves in an awkward predicament.

Two Englishmen have been burnt out in the last fire—namely, Mr. Cyril Cumberbatch and Mr. Robert MacGill, who were occuping Mr. Crawford's flat.

According to the papers, one month's salary has been paid to Turkish officials, and from time to time payments of a half-month's salary have been announced, but there must be considerable sums in arrears.

The Sultan appears to be better, and attended last week's Selamlik.

Smyrna Isolated.

There is no news of any importance from Smyrna, where tranquillity prevails, though it is said the town is cut off from all railway communication, and many necessaries of life have practically ceased to exist.

BRITISH REFUGEES FROM TURKEY RELIEF FUND.

The statement of accounts issued by the committee of the British Refugees from Turkey Relief Fund shows that up to August 18 last the donations received amounted to £2,260 18s. 2d., to which is added the amount of loans returned (£105), making a total of £2,365 18s. 2d. This has been expended as follows:—Loans and grants in England, £392 7s. 4d.; grant to Athens committee, £750; grant to Constantinople committee, £620; grant to Dedeagatch committee, £30; postage and stationery, £12 10s.; cash in hand, £561, 0s. 10d.—total, £2,365 18s. 2d.

In connection with the Fund, which has done such excellent work on behalf of our unfortunate fellow-countrymen, it may be as well to point out that there are three committees, viz., the committee in London (which is composed of Sir Louis Malet, president; Lady Lowther, chairman; Lady Neave, Lady Barclay, Lady O'Conor, and Messrs. C. Charnaud, secretary; G. Lafontaine, A. Forbes, and A. Baker, treasurer); the Athens committee, under the presidency of the British Minister, Sir Francis Elliott (to whom moneys are remitted); and the Constantinople committee, which is presided over by the U.S. Ambassador, aided by Mr. Phillips, Dr. Frew, and Miss Whitaker.

The Athens committee still have a balance in hand of about £150, and the Constantinople committee had a balance of 224 liras on May 15, the date of their last statement. This has only just reached London, and makes painful reading. It shows that many more British subjects have had to be relieved than was anticipated by the London committee. It gives a list of twenty-one families, many of them well-known English people, who are mostly without work or have had their businesses confiscated and in some cases sequestered. Tug-owners, ship chandlers, shipping clerks, divers, and pilots form the majority.

The Constantinople committee were requested to husband their resources, and their statement shows that they have erred on the side of economy. At last week's meeting of the London committee it was therefore decided to cable a further grant of £200. This will reduce the balance in the hands of the London committee to £361 0s. 10d. The committee's calls in England now amounts to about £38 a month. Athens has so far needed an average of £60, and Constantinople another £60, but they are anxious to increase the amount to £160. The London and Athens committees have found employment for some of the refugees, but at Constantinople different conditions prevail, and those out of work are mainly dependent upon the fund. Two, three, and five liras a month to a family will only keep them from starvation. We would therefore make another earnest appeal to our readers, who have been so liberal in the past, to give some further consideration to the claims of the fund on their generosity. The Editor will be pleased to receive contributions to the fund, however small, and to acknowledge same in the columns of the Near East.

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ROUMANIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Bucharest, July 31.

The Rumours of Smuggling.

Ever since Turkey joined in the war all sorts of accusations and insinuations about permitting the passage of ammunition and warlike stores for Turkey have been levelled against this country. The fact, however, is that if anything of the kind has actually been smuggled through, it has been only the smallest quantity, and no better proof of this could be required than the many German attempts at trickery which have been foiled by the vigilance of the Roumanian authorities. This week, desiring to put a stop, once and for all, to all the foolish rumours, a categorical denial of such reports has been issued by the Government through the agency of the official Press.

Quite recently fifty trucks, constituting a sanitary train, came through from Germany, the Roumanian Government having authorized their passage, as it has done in the case of all supplies for the treatment of the wounded and the alleviation of suffering. In accordance with orders these wagons were examined, first, at the frontier, then at Bucharest, and finally at Ramadan, the "port" of Giurgevo, on the Danube. Having chanced to see some of the wagons myself, I can understand how some of the wild reports I have referred to have arisen. For among the fittings of the sanitary train are some portable camp kitchens, and the chimneys of these, packed horizontally for convenience' sake, with their ends peeping from under the tarpaulin coverings of the trucks, may quite well have conveyed to an unskilled observer the impression of guns! Then, too, the Red Cross wagons, each with a spare wheel attached to the back, look—to the unmilitary eye—suspiciously like caissons and limbers, especially as they are all painted the same grey. But as a matter of fact the contents of each wagon were examined most minutely at the three places mentioned above, until the German doctors in charge were beside themselves.

The discovery of contraband of war in false bottoms, tops, and sides of "new trucks for the Turkish railways," and in many other places, has doubtless led the Germans to abandon attempts at smuggling as too costly and quite hopeless, and the idea that such contraband is passing through this country may be dismissed as utterly unfounded.

Echo of the Second Balkan War.

A party of Bulgarians, numbering about 200, who were made prisoners by the Greeks during the Greco-Bulgarian war, have just returned to their home in the New Dobruja. They had been interned on an island, it seems, and completely forgotten, and only lately was their existence remembered—or discovered. On arriving at their old homes they found themselves no longer Bulgarian, but Roumanian subjects. Touching scenes took place on their return; for their friends and relatives, having had no news of them, had given them up long ago as dead.

The Pro-German Press.

Under the title "Figures Speak," the *Tribuna* enumerates newspapers in the capital, and states that of twenty-four journals appearing daily in Bucharest and Jassy only six are devoted to the defence of Roumanian interests, the rest being more or less under Austro-German influence. Although two important pro-Entente papers are omitted from the *Tribuna's* list, it still serves to show how active are the German propagandists in this country.

Bulgarian Diplomatist's Adventure.

Every year at this—the tourist—season one hears of persons getting lost in the mountains of the Sinaia district. This year a diplomatist. M. Neikoff, First Secretary of the Bulgarian Legation, has had the experience. While on an excursion with a party of friends he became separated from them, and was lost during a hurricane. He passed the night on the mountains, exposed to the storm, but, happily, returned to his friends the next day with no bad effects from his experience, though he had suffered considerably from cold and hunger.

BULGARIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Sofia, August 3.

The Balkan Situation.

The diplomatic situation in the Balkans has reached a state of dead-lock. Both in Bulgaria and in Roumania popular sentiment is unquestionably with the Entente, but the governments refrain from taking any decisive action, influenced in part by the effect of the Russian reverses, in part by mutual suspicions, in part by the fear that the war may last a long time, and bring the countries engaged in it to the brink of financial ruin. There is also a tendency to regard the great conflict of the nations from the narrow point of view of the military expert. Germany is known to be well prepared, her supply of munitions appears to be inexhaustible, and her strategy, in the eastern theatre of war at least, has so far been successful. Military circles in these countries have not been accustomed to study the wider problems that underlie a world-conflict of which the issues will be decided by the staying power of the combatants and not by the outcome of one or two campaigns in Europe.

Obstacles for Bulgaria.

In the case of Bulgaria there is a further obstacle to taking action. The nation is still suffering, morally and materially, from the disasters of 1913, and is not disposed to face the risks of another war without having some guarantee regarding the fate of the kindred population in Macedonia.

In order to provide a guarantee, the Powers are compelled to appeal to Serbia. In the past, their promise to Bulgaria would have sufficed; but Bulgaria has seen too many treaties broken, to her detriment, and she fears that even after waging a victorious war she might not receive her reward. Permission from Serbia for Bulgaria to occupy temporarily a portion of Macedonia, as far as the Vardar river, or at least a formal declaration by Serbia that, in accordance with the demand of the Powers, she will cede the regions she appropriated in 1913, would probably provide a solution of the difficulties, and enable Bulgaria to advance on Constantinople in alliance with the Entente Powers. Such action on the part of Bulgaria would undoubtedly decide the attitude of Roumania in favour of the Allies.

Serbia Bars the Way.

But Serbia so far remains obdurate. The military clique, with whom the supreme power really rests, refuses to listen to reason, even though Serbia's very existence depends upon the success of her allies. With Greece and Montenegro, Serbia has been engaged in the partitioning of Albania, and her army has been practically inactive for some months. And meantime the Entente Powers must forgo the aid of Bulgaria and Roumania. The situation may be summed up in the words of a Bulgarian, "Serbia blocks the way."

Another Letter from the Kaiser.

The *Duma* of yesterday's date reports that "according to information from a German source, Prince Hohenlohe brought to our King a very friendly letter from the Kaiser. His Majesty therein expressed his *present* sympathy for Bulgaria and the Bulgarian nation, whom he considers as foremost in the Balkans. He also expressed the hope that in the future the ties between Bulgaria and Germany would be strengthened, and that the Bulgarian nation would have the warm support of Germany. The letter also expressed regret that Germany had allowed Bulgaria to be so wronged at Bucharest." Bulgaria, says the *Duma's* informant, has succeeded in winning the Kaiser's confidence only by her strict and loyal neutrality, which was of inestimable value to Germany in the days of the violent agitation in Bucharest, when Roumania was on the point of hurling herself against Austria-Hungary.

Last Friday Colonel Gantcheff, a former Military Attaché at Berlin, left for that city, entrusted, it is said, with King Ferdinand's reply to the Kaiser's characteristic letter.

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The Negotiations with Turkey.

The negotiations between Bulgaria and Turkey which have been in progress at Constantinople for some time past are now concluded as far as concerns the surrender of the Dedeagatch railway to Bulgaria. But Bulgaria now insists also on having territory west of the river Tunja, in order to enable her to construct a new railway connecting Slivno, Yamboli, Kizil-Agatch, and Lozengrad (Kirk Kilisse) with Kara-Agatch. Whatever may be the result of these negotiations, Bulgaria is resolved not to pledge herself to any political engagement with Turkey or the Central Powers.

According to information received from Constantinople, Halil Bey, President of the Turkish Chamber, who came to Sofia several times, and through whom, it is reported, the Turco-Bulgarian negotiations at Constantinople were conducted, has been taken ill, and it is on this account that the negotiations are not yet concluded.

The Turkish deputies in the Bulgarian Parliament have arrived here from Gumuljina, and have frequent confabulations with the Turkish Minister, Fethi Bey.

SOFIA, August 10.

The Reply of the Entente.

Last Tuesday evening (3rd inst.) the representatives of the Entente Powers called, one after the other, upon Dr. Radoslavoff and handed to him identical Notes containing the replies of their respective Governments to the Bulgarian Government's Note of June 15. It was agreed on both sides that absolute secrecy should be maintained as to the contents of the Note.

Though so long delayed, the reply of the Entente took political circles here by surprise. For it was generally considered that after the great Russian reverses the moment was an inopportune one for the Entente to resume negotiations, unless they were ready to comply with Bulgaria's demand for the immediate occupation of Macedonia.

The comments of the Press are very guarded. The *Duma*, an Anglophile journal, writes:—

We learn from a trustworthy source that the new proposals of the Quadruple Entente were exhaustive and contained the maximum concessions that a reasonable Bulgarian politician could have asked for. The main point of the rewards promised to Bulgaria is that they are not made conditional on the compensations that our neighbours expect to get. The Entente informs us that Anglo-French troops will occupy Salonika and the railway line to Ghevgheli in order to secure direct communication with Serbia, and this will guarantee us from any attack in the rear. In the third place, the Entente would undertake all responsibility of placing us in possession of the promised territories. In the fourth place, we should be allowed to occupy all the territory east of the river Vardar on the day we move against Turkey. Finally, the Entente Powers promised also that we should occupy Western Macedonia before the summoning of the Peace Congress. As soon as Constantinople falls the Anglo-French troops set free are to join up with the Serbians after passing through Macedonia, which will be handed over to our troops.

A strong impression has been caused by the fact that the Entente is making *démarches* simultaneously at Sofia, Athens, Nish, and even, it is reported, at Bucharest. In well-informed political circles it is thought that the Bulgarian Government will not give any reply to the Note of the Entente before seeing what replies are likely to be given by the Greek and Serbian Governments.

More German Threats.

Since the Entente's reply was delivered, the diplomatists of the Central Powers have been distinctly nervous, especially because both the King and the Prime Minister have been much away from Sofia, and only returned yesterday. Then the German Minister and his Austro-Hungarian colleague promptly called on the Prime Minister. It is stated that they even fixed the date on which the Austro-German offensive against Serbia is to begin, and warned the Premier that should the Bulgarian Government accept the offers of the Entente and decide to act against Turkey the Central Powers would treat Bulgaria as an enemy and invade and crush her.

In spite of all these Austro-German threats one thing is certain: that in no circumstances will Bulgaria attack Serbia. It is reported even that Dr. Radoslavoff declared before the representative of one of the neutral States that he would no longer be Prime Minister if Bulgaria should be forced to attack Serbia.

King Ferdinand Visits Greek Frontier.

On the 7th inst. King Ferdinand left Kustendil, by motor, for the Greek frontier. After visiting the Bulgarian frontier post on the river Bistritza, his Majesty drove back to the Rilo Monastery, where he spent two days.

The Late Exarch.

To-morrow morning, forty days having elapsed since the death of his Beatitude the Exarch Joseph I., a requiem service will be celebrated at the Cathedral Church, Sveta Nedelia, at which all the leading clergy in the kingdom will be present. After the service there will be a great meeting of the Holy Synod, at which the will of the late Exarch will be opened and publicly read.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

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

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

"IN STRICKEN SERBIA."

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Monsieur,—Je vois dans le NEAR EAST du 20 août un petit article critiquant d'une façon un peu sarcastique une phrase de l'article "In Stricken Serbia." "Such a thing as a bath is unknown in Serbia" aurait été écrit dans cet article, d'après l'auteur de la critique. Or, voici ce qui a paru dans votre no. du 2 juillet: "We are still working like niggers *fixing up* baths, *etc.* (for they know nothing of such things in Serbia) and getting arrangements for laundry work ready." L'ensemble de la phrase a un sens très différent, me semble-t-il, à celui qui lui est attribué.

Je vous ferai aussi remarquer que ces lettres étaient privées: des impressions écrites rapidement, non destinées à la publication. J'ai mis ces lettres à votre disposition pour en extraire les passages qui vous intéressaient, mais la phrase textuelle dans cette lettre du 20 mai est celle-ci: "Nous continuons à travailler comme des nègres à l'installation de bain, de 'lavatoires convenables' (car ils ne connaissent pas cela en Serbie), etc." Vous voyez qu'il y a loin de la phrase originale à l'interpretation donnée dans l'article en question, de même qu'il y a loin des bains publics et bains de rivières aux installations de bains perfectionnées de nos hopitaux modernes! Il est cependant clair que c'est de "cela" dont il est question. "The fond physician who imagines he is introducing the custom of the bath to Serbia merits our tender solicitude." Avant d'écrire ceci, c'est bien dommage que l'auteur de l'article ne s'est pas donné la peine de prendre un peu plus d'informations sur le compte du "fond physician"; elle aurait appris que tout son temps est absorbé par un travail important et qu'il emploie ses facultés d'une façon plus utile qu'à "s'imaginer qu'il introduit des nouvelles coutumes en Serbie." Il est loin d'avoir cette prétention: il se contente simplement de mener à bien la tache qu'il s'est librement imposée: "tacher de faire le plus de bien possible à nos alliés de l'Orient," selon sa propre expression. Et quant à "meriter la tendre sollicitude" de l'auteur, il me semble que cette phrase "sonne bien faux," si l'on songe qu'elle s'applique à quelqu'un qui s'expose journellement, comptant pour rien fatigues et privations, et cela par simple dévouement pour venir en aide à nos alliés serbes. Plus ample information lui aurait appris aussi que les autorités civiles et militaires serbes ont une certaine considération pour le medecin; ils l'ont sans doute apprecié à sa juste valeur. Il a été nommé lieutenant en premier dans l'armé serbe, par arrété royal du 17 juin. En plus, lors du congrès de chirurgiens serbes tenu à Kragujevatz le 4 juillet, il a été choisi président du comité d'honneur.

Il faut croire aussi que l'hôpital de Kragujevatz était organisé avec succès, car, cette tache terminée et l'epidémie de typhus exanthematique presque éteinte, le medecin a été chargé d'organiser un nouvel hôpital de 200 lits à Podgoritza (Montenegro) dans des circonstances particulièrement difficiles.

Ceci dit, il me semble inutile de faire remarquer que l'article en question "s'est trompé d'adresse" et que le

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medecin se passera très aisement de la "tendre sollicitude" qui lui est si genereusement offerte, mais je vous serais bien obligée, Monsieur le directeur, de vouloir remettre les choses au point. Agreez, etc.,

August 21, 1915. PAULINE LAUWENS.

RED TAPE—UNTIED.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—I had the disagreeable duty last week of complaining of red tape, but have pleasure in stating to-day that the subject matter of my complaint was put right on the very day that THE NEAR EAST came out.

It is well to have capable Civil servants who know their business, but the next best thing is to find them attentive and willing to accept advice, as all generous minds do.—I am, etc., ALEXANDER SEFI.

London, August 24.

THE GREEKS IN TURKEY.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—Formerly the Turks, in order to strengthen their hold upon the conquered countries, from time to time forced masses of Christians to become Mohammedans. The present Mohammedan Albanians, Bosnians, Cretans, and Bulgarian Pomaks are the result of that policy. In later times, after the Turks had come under the influence of the Western Powers and Russia, and permitted their occasional interference on behalf of the Christians, they adopted another system for the maintenance of their supremacy over their subjected races. Sir Edwin Pears, in his book, "Turkey and Its Peoples," says: "I doubt whether at any time since Mahomet captured Constantinople there has ever passed a quarter of a century without a big massacre. It has been the Turkish way of maintaining its supremacy."

More recently, in our days, Turkey has gone a step further, without, however, renouncing her previous methods. Turkey now expels *en masse* from its territories all unsatisfactory or undesirable elements of its population, which have hitherto constituted a right for the neighbouring States to interfere for their protection.

How did Turkey arrive at this new method?

The first systematic expulsion of such undesirables was executed by the Greek authorities when they occupied territories held by the Bulgarians during the second Balkan War. The same authorities compelled the population that had remained to abandon its homes and belongings when they evacuated these lands allowed to Bulgaria by the Bucharest Treaty. The Greeks had behaved savagely against the Bulgarians, and announced—shall I say, also believed?—that the returning Bulgarians were bound, *as a less cultured people*, to retaliate with even greater savagery; and the population fled, leaving the country a ruin and a desert.

During the eight months the Bulgarians occupied and ruled these countries both Turks and Greeks stayed at home. None were molested. Nobody protested against the Greek barbarities committed upon the Bulgarian population. The campaign of calumny against the Bulgarians, the heroes in the face of the world but of yesterday, so diabolically and so successfully carried out, took the heart out of all who for humanity's sake might desire to protest. The name of Bulgaria had come to mean reprobation. Even the Turks joined in this campaign of calumny, but they also took a leaf out of the Greek book, and learned new ways and means for the maintenance of their supremacy in their country.

On the first opportunity, after the signature of the Treaty of Bucharest, the Turks proceeded to expel all the Bulgarian population from the Bulgarian frontier down to the very gates of Constantinople. The Greeks were jubilant. The hated Bulgarians were homeless outcasts by the thousands, and the country which the Greeks dreamt would enter the boundaries of the renovated (by them) Byzantine Empire was cleared of the Bulgarians. So much gained. But the Turk had learned his lesson too well. Henceforward he would get rid of all elements alien to himself, as opportunity offered, by expulsion, and thus destroy the shadow of a right of the troublesome neighbouring States to interfere for the protection of their kith and kin under Turkish rule.

I said the Greeks were jubilant at the sufferings of the Bulgarians. Little did they think that their turn of similar and even worse suffering would come to them—and so soon. Already thousands upon thousands of Greeks have been cleared out, bag and baggage, from the country round Adrianople, the coasts of the Marmora, the neighbourhood of the Dardanelles, and Smyrna. But there is no stopping the Turk; he is bound to improve, even upon the Greeks. The Greeks in the interior of Asia Minor are now subjected to treatment which, I think, surpasses in horror all treatment hitherto meted out by the Turks to Christians.

A Frenchman, a man of the Entente, a long resident in Turkey, where he held a high position, widely known and greatly respected, just come away from Constantinople, wrote to me on his way through Bulgaria. This is what he says regarding the treatment of the Greeks: "J'espère qu'en France et en Angleterre on se guerira de la stupide amour du Grec si injustifiée, et qu'on laissera de côté ces bonhommes. *Dans l'Intérieur les Turcs les convertissent par la force à la religion Musulman, leur prenent leurs femmes et leurs filles et leur donnent des femmes Turques.*" My friend further adds: "C'est bien fait on du moins s'est merité."

It is cruel even to think so, but is it not falling into the pit you have dug for your enemy? The mere thought of the possibility of such an existence, forced upon a peaceable population, innocent of the faults or crimes for which it is made to suffer, with nobody to appeal to, is simply horrible. Those who provoked and then enjoyed the sufferings of the Bulgarians, and are responsible for the present persecution of the Greeks in Turkey, by raising false hopes in insatiable megalomania, are squabbling among themselves. Who is to lead to the attainment of the national political mirage? Should the Turks triumph in this war, the mass of the Greek population in Asiatic Turkey will be absorbed into the Mohammedan one. Should Turkey fail, generations will be required to restore this population to its former state. This present cruel existence of the Greeks in Asia Minor is the direct result of the excitement the Greeks of the kingdom went into at the possibility of their incorporating the Smyrna Vilayet in their territory.

The megalomania of the modern Greeks has ever been beyond the strength of their grasp or moral capabilities. The man who might open their eyes does not live. Venizelos gave a promise to that effect and he is being destroyed. That the Greeks of the kingdom—those in authority—are aware of the conditions of existence of their compatriots in Turkey there is no doubt. They are certainly deeply concerned, but are incapable of action, and, of course, *Bulgaria will be blamed.*—I am, etc.,

Sofia, July 30, 1915. P. M. MATTHEEFF.

NEAR EAST BOOK NOTES.

"War and Diplomacy in the Balkans" is a useful booklet by Mr. H. Charles Woods, which is published at the price of sixpence, by the *Field*. It contains a great deal of information about the military and naval forces of the Balkan States, based on the latest statistics available; and the sketches of recent history of each of the countries are, though necessarily very brief, sane and impartial.

Archdeacon Potter, of Cyprus, who is Hon. Secretary of the League of Honour, has written "An Open Letter to the Union of Democratic Control," which is a model of what such things should be. It avoids personalities, but as to facts it is pitiless, and its exposure of the illogical attitude of the U.D.C. is complete. The subject is not one that falls within the scope of THE NEAR EAST, so we must content ourselves with recommending a perusal of the pamphlet to anyone interested.

"The Royal Marriage Market of Europe," by Princess Catherine Radziwill, is announced for immediate publication by Messrs. Cassell. Princess Radziwill, whose "Memories of Forty Years" created so great an interest last autumn, is descended from the illustrious Lithuanian family of the Counts Rzewuski, and is a daughter of the Governor-General of the Caucasus. The Princess was received at all the Courts of Europe, and has acquired a familiarity with the family histories of reigning houses. Her new volume will deal with the marriages of the House of Habsburg, the Hohenzollerns, the Romanoffs, the Nassaus, the Belgian Royal Family, and those of Italy and Serbia. Included in the book are chapters upon the love idylls and tragedies of Roumania, Greece, and Bulgaria.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The Balkans, Italy, and the Adriatic. By R. W. Seton-Watson. With two maps. (Nisbet and Co. 1s.)

The Poems of Mu'tamid, King of Seville. Rendered into English verse by Dulcie Lawrence Smith; with an introduction. (John Murray, 1s. net.)

The Meeting of the Kings. By Khrimean Hairik, the Katholikos of all Armenians. Armenian text, and English version by P. Tonapetean and Laurence Binyon; with a biographical sketch of the author. (P. Tonapetean, 53, Addison Gardens, W. 1s.)

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JOHN LANE: THE BODLEY HEAD, W

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

DIPLOMACY AND THE BALKANS.*

On March 24, 1911, M. Gueshoff was asked by King Ferdinand of Bulgaria to form a Cabinet, which he succeeded in doing. On May 30, 1913, he resigned his post, "parce qu'il y avait désaccord entre la Couronne et moi." In September of 1911 war was declared between Italy and Turkey; in October of the following year the first Balkan War broke out; in June of the following year—that is to say, about a month after M. Gueshoff's resignation, the Second Balkan War, the "*Folie Criminelle*," hurled the Balkan States into fratricidal combat.

The above rough summary of events in the Near East during the time of M. Gueshoff's Premiership—he was, incidentally, in charge of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well—prove that the international situation was anything but normal. Now, it is an axiom that in abnormal times really great men have all the advantages on their side; for it is inherent in them to seize opportunities, turning them to profit, or, if there are no such opportunities, to create them to serve their own ends. Whether M. Gueshoff was such a man it is impossible to say. When there arose a divergence of opinion between King Ferdinand and himself as regards Serbia's claims to a greater participation in the spoils of the first Balkan War, M. Gueshoff resigned. Did he foresee what was coming—how the military element, gorged with its Thracian victories, would sweep all political considerations overboard, or was he politely made to resign by a power stronger than his own? The book under review does not tell us, which is a pity, as it prevents us from judging the man—whether or not he is to be reckoned among those few who can coerce as well as shape passing events. What we do know (the cause, however, being unknown to us) is that M. Gueshoff resigned when the relations between Bulgaria, on the one hand, and Serbia and Greece on the other were at their straining point. What Bulgaria then needed was a Cromwell; he was found missing. On the other hand, it is open to doubt whether M. Gueshoff, even if he had remained in power, or if he had resorted either to the pen or to the forum in those most critical days, would have averted what was to happen. For, considering that his successor was M. Daneff—much more intransigeant as regards his country's rights and pretensions—and that the celebrated order for the Bulgarian army to attack the Allies was issued by the higher military command, "à l'insu du cabinet" and in spite of the decision taken by the Government that "M. Daneff irait à Petrograd et que nos differends avec la Serbie et avec la Grèce seraient soumis à l'arbitrage"—one is inclined to believe that M. Gueshoff, had he been in power at the time, would have been similarly overriden. Besides, is it not a noteworthy coincidence that when M. Gueshoff's Government was on the point of submitting to arbitration by Russia it should resign, and that when M. Daneff's Cabinet had, after a month's delay, come to the same decision, its action should have been rendered nugatory by the hasty interposition of a *fait accompli?*

Years, doubtless, will pass before the whole truth about the *Folie Criminelle* becomes public property. Admittedly, M. Gueshoff, who was no longer in power at the time, cannot be held responsible for what happened. But, on the other hand, the negotiations which led up to the Balkan Alliance were largely of his making and shaping, and there is, therefore, just a possibility—admittedly a very faint one—that he might successfully have averted the culminating catastrophe. Either he did not seize this thread-like opportunity, or—he could not.

However, *L'Alliance Balkanique* is concerned mainly with the negotiations leading up to the alliance, and in these M. Gueshoff and his diplomats show themselves to have been keen bargainers—as is only right—beating down the demands of those with whom they were treating to the very minimum of acceptance. He develops the Bulgarian thesis with ability, and bears out his statements with documents that are, to all intents and purposes, irrefutable. I have no intention here, and more particularly at the present moment, when it is being fervently hoped that Serbs, Bulgars, and Greeks will make up their quarrel in the common cause, to delve into the differences which separated the Allies when the spoils wrested from the Turks had to be divided among them. The matter has been so frequently discussed and debated, and with such acrimony, that no good purpose would be attained by reopening the wound. Suffice it to say that there is no doubt whatsoever that Bulgarian rights and claims in Macedonia were sorely menaced by Serbia and Greece prior to the second Balkan War, and that the patience of the victorious troops of Thrace was tried to the breaking point. M. Gueshoff attempted to stem the chauvinistic tide, but failed. Then it was that the last act in the drama was enacted "sur une ordre du haut commandement bulgare." The author of the book under review insists that Bulgaria must not be held responsible for what was done unconstitutionally by a group of men, and I heartily agree with him; but, then, is a people ever guilty of what is done in its name by a minority acting unconstitutionally?

From M. Gueshoff's account of the negotiations which preceded the formation of the Balkan Alliance several facts stand forth prominently. The first of these is that the various States were not inspired merely by thoughts of self-preservation. Throughout the negotiations there breathes a spirit of aggression against Turkey. The author would have us believe, perhaps, that Bulgaria was the least aggressive, because she insisted in the first place on the autonomy of Macedonia and Thrace, to be followed only eventually, if autonomy did not work, by the partition of the two provinces. But this is hardly so, because, as M. Gueshoff himself admits:—

"Quand j'ai fait rémarquer, à M. Milovanovitch que si notre tentative d'affranchir la Macédoine et la Vieille-Serbie revêt la forme d'une annexion, notre tache sera beaucoup plus difficile, vu les susceptibilités de nos voisons, il a été d'accord avec moi qu'il vaudrait peut-etre mieux demander l'autonomie des provinces affranchies."

Regarding the relations between Turkey and Bulgaria shortly after M. Gueshoff's advent to power, we learn that he had negotiations with Assim Bey, at the time Ottoman Minister in Sofia, for an understanding between the two countries. There was, it must be admitted, some chance of these overtures leading to a successful conclusion. Assim Bey was recalled to Constantinople and became Minister of Foreign Affairs.

"A son départ de Sofia, Assim bey fit à M. Th. Théodoroff qu me remplacait provisoirement—j'étais alors à Vichy—les déclarations les plus catégoriques en faveur d'une entente bulgaro-turque. Malheureusement, à part certaine proposition mort-née (je l'appelle mort-née non seulement parce qu'elle était inacceptable pour nous à cause, surtout, de son deuxième point, mais aussi parce que ni Assim bey, ni son successeur à Sofia, Naby bey, n'en souffièrent plus un mot), à part cette proposition, dis-je, le ministrè turc des Affaires étrangères ne fit rien pour inaugurer une nouvelle politique à l'égard de la Bulgarie."

The proposition referred to is contained in the book under review, and though no claim can be made for it that it could have been acceptable, it might well have served as the basis for further negotiations. But Bulgaria by this time had already changed her *façon de voir*. The Italian War broke out when M. Gueshoff was in Vichy; he immediately returned to Sofia, stopping in Paris and Vienna; in the latter city he had, by previous appointment, an interview with M. Milovanovitch, the Serbian Prime Minister, in the course of which the foundations of the Balkan Alliance were laid in anything but a Turcophil spirit. It is hardly likely that in these circumstances negotiations between Turkey and Bulgaria could have borne any noteworthy fruit, even supposing, which is doubtful, that Assim Bey had no inkling of what was taking place.

Negotiations which failed are not, however, a characteristic of the volume under review. On the contrary, we follow diplomatic controversy after diplomatic controversy, the majority of which terminate in favour of King Ferdinand's kingdom. The Serbs have pretensions and the Greeks have pretensions, but when it comes definitely to conclude a treaty of alliance the Bulgarian point of view has been accepted. There are, I think, two reasons for this—namely, that Bulgarian statesmen had, as opposed to the Serbs and the Greeks, a definite policy in view from the very beginning, from which they did not retreat by so much as a single important concession; and, secondly, that their diplomats knew perfectly well how to take full advantage of the strength of their position, based as it was on a determined line of action. The *faillite* came when the political and military elements, the latter predominating, were torn asunder. That this rupture between the two was, in 1913, the object of Austrian diplomacy is too well known to need emphasis. People there are in Sofia even to-day who remember the smirk of pleasure and delight on the faces of the staffs of the Austrian and German Legations when it was known that Bulgaria had destroyed the Balkan Alliance by attacking the Serbs and the Turks. Unfortunately M. Gueshoff passes over this phase of diplomatic negotiations in the Balkans without so much as one word, or one letter, to show how Vienna pulled the strings in Sofia, brought about his downfall because he wished to submit to arbitration by Russia, and ruined M. Daneff because he also was going to Petrograd. Until this page in the history of the Balkan Alliance has been written, no definite judgment can be passed on the "éffondrement de l'alliance balkanique."

C. R.

* "L'Alliance Balkanique," par Iv. E. Gueshoff (Hachette).

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1915. August	1915. August		1333. Shawwal	5675. Ellul
27	14	Friday	16	17
28	15	Saturday.....	17	18
29	16	Sunday	18	19
30	17	Monday	19	20
31	18	Tuesday	20	21
Sept. 1	19	Wednesday	21	22
2	20	Thursday	22	23

Wednesday is the birthday of H.I.M. Sultan Mohammed Reshad Khan, Emperor of the Ottomans, who was born in 1260 A.H. (November 3, 1844).

Wednesday is also the birthday of H.H. Prince Michael, eldest son of H.R.H. Prince Mirko of Montenegro, who was born at Podgoritza in 1908.

On Tuesday, the birthday of H.M. King Ferdinand of Roumania, there were many callers at the Roumanian Legation. Mr. H. Montgomery, Master of the Ceremonies, called with a message of congratulation from King George, and was received by the Roumanian Minister, M. Misu, who had his Majesty's felicitations immediately telegraphed to Bucharest. Cards were left at the Legation on behalf of Mr. Asquith, Sir E. Grey, and many members of the Corps Diplomatique. Among the callers were the Lord Chamberlain and Colonel Sir Douglas Dawson.

Prince Paul of Serbia arrived last Friday at Langholm Lodge on a visit to the Duke of Buccleuch.

Prince Bibescu, Secretary to the Roumanian Legation, has taken a house at Sand Lee, Datchet, for the summer.

In a letter dated July 31, our Bucharest Correspondent writes:—It is announced that Queen Elizabeth will go to Sinaia on August 4, remaining there for about three weeks. She will not occupy the Palace at Pelesh, its memories being too sad for her; but will reside at the Villa Foieshor, which is situated higher up among the firs.

H.E. the Persian Minister had an interview with Sir Edward Grey at the Foreign Office on Wednesday afternoon.

H.E. the Roumanian Minister saw Sir Edward Grey at the Foreign Office on Monday afternoon.

H.E. the Serbian Minister was among the visitors at the Foreign Office on Monday.

M. Gennadius, the Hellenic Minister, returned to the Legation on Monday afternoon from Hampshire.

An official note issued in Paris on Thursday of last week gives a most interesting account of a visit to France paid by Lord Kitchener, who passed the previous Monday and Tuesday with the French Army, and spent the Wednesday in inspecting our own troops. M. Millerand accompanied him on his journey, and his lordship had meetings with General Joffre and Sir John French.

During the visit M. Millerand conferred the Cross of Commander of the Legion of Honour on Major-General Yarde-Buller, and the Cross of Officer of the same Order on Colonel FitzGerald, Aide-de-Camp to Lord Kitchener.

Admiral Mark Kerr left Athens on Tuesday afternoon on his return to England.

On the 8th inst., in Athens, the wife of the Rev. W. Alan Gardner, chaplain to the British Legation, gave birth to a daughter.

Last Saturday, at The Wilderness, Crowthorne, Berks, the wife of Mr. J. Douglas Craig, of the Sudan Civil Service, gave birth to a daughter.

On Wednesday afternoon, at St. Peter's Church, Eaton Square, the marriage took place of W. R. Fiddes Osmond, Royal Field Artillery, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Osmond, of 8, Wetherby Gardens, and Cynthia, only child of Colonel Percy Massy, late 6th Dragoon Guards, and Mrs. Percy Massy, 15, Cottesmore Gardens, and granddaughter of the late Sir Carey Knyvett, K.C.B., and Lady Knyvett.

On Wednesday of last week, at St. Peter's, Thorner, the marriage was solemnized of Flight-Commander Edmund Peirse, D.S.O., Royal Naval Air Service, only son of Vice-Admiral Sir Richard Peirse, K.C.B., and Lady Peirse, and Joyce, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Armitage Ledgard, of the Manor House, Thorner, Yorkshire. Owing to the war, the marriage was a quiet one. The Rev. E. Wemyss-Whittaker, the bridegroom's grandfather, and the Rev. J. P. Whitworth, vicar of the parish, officiated.

A marriage has been arranged and will take place at an early date between Demetrius John Cassavetti, only son of Mr. and Mrs Alexander Cassavetti, of Shenley, Hertfordshire, honorary secretary of the Anglo-Hellenic League, and Lilian Oswald, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Moir, of St. Andrew's, Fifeshire.

The marriage of Mr. Norman Bentwich to Miss Helen Caroline Franklin will take place on Tuesday, September 7, at 3 p.m., at the New West-End Synagogue, St. Petersburgh Place, W. No invitations will be issued, but all friends who are able to be present will be gladly welcomed.

We regret to learn that on the 20th inst., Mr. Thomas Pasil Etherington Smith, Sub-Director-General of Accounts in the Egyptian Ministry of Finance, died of diphtheria. His death took place at Gezireh. He was thirty-six years of age.

The Times understands that one of the three financial envoys to New York to put into operation the policy concerted on in London and agreed on by France and Russia for dealing with the American exchange problem will probably be Sir Henry Babington Smith, who, originally at the Treasury, was secretary to the Brussels monetary conference in 1892, and subsequently became Secretary to the Post Office (1903-9) and then President of the National Bank of Turkey from 1909 till the outbreak of war.

After spending several days in visiting the trenches and various points at the front, Mr. Rudyard Kipling arrived in Paris on Tuesday.

It is stated (says the *Egyptian Gazette* of August 12) that Dr. Howard Bliss, the rector of the American College at Beyrout, is still at Chios, as he has not been able to find a ship to take him to Mytilene, whither he intends to go *en route* to Constantinople. The commander of the American warship "Des Moines" asked permission to take Dr. Bliss to Smyrna.

The *Echo de Bulgarie* of August 8 reports that Mr. Fullerton L. Waldo, an American, who is charged with a mission to study the Red Cross organization of the Balkan States, has arrived in Sofia from Serbia.

Lady Gray Hill (of Jerusalem) is exhibiting some pictures of the Near East at Walker's Gallery, New Bond Street. The proceeds of the sale of these pictures will be given to the French Red Cross Fund, and some of our readers will doubtless be attracted by the opportunity of being charitable in such an agreeable way.

Bishop Stileman, who has been Bishop of the Church of England in Persia since 1912, has been compelled by ill health to place his resignation in the hands of the Archbishop of Canterbury. His diocese comprised the whole of Persia, and the bishopric was founded in 1912. Commenting upon his resignation, which, it says, will cause general regret, the *Record* remarks: It is twenty-six years since Bishop Stileman joined the C.M.S. Persia Mission. After working for seventeen years first at Baghdad and then at Julfa, the Armenian suburb of Ispahan, he was detained at home for several years, during part of which time he filled a gap in the secretariat at the C.M. House; he was then Organising Secretary in the Dioceses of Exeter and Bath and Wells, and from 1908-12 he was Secretary of the C.E.Z.M.S. In the latter year he was consecrated as Bishop of the Church of England in Persia. The *Church Missionary Review*, in referring to the Bishop's resignation, says the Mission owes very much to his wise guidance, and the C.M.S. Committee have expressed their sense of the loss which the Society sustains by the close of his connection with it and their sympathy with him and Mrs. Stileman.

A report has reached Egypt from Beyrout that Mr. Naville, director of the Ottoman Bank, who recently visited Egypt to endeavour to arrange for the exchange of British and Turkish prisoners of war, has been arrested and sent to the interior by the Turks, apparently for having failed in the mission referred to.

Mr. Lowe, of the Trams and Ferries Department of the Sudan Government, has lost his wife in particularly tragic circumstances. Mrs. Lowe was accustomed to sleep with a loaded revolver under her pillow, and accidentally shot herself dead with this weapon as she was carrying it to the garden to sleep in the open. The wound, which was in the region of the heart, proved almost immediately fatal.

Mr. Pavid, of Cairo, has accomplished the return journey from the capital to Alexandria on a motor-cycle, accompanied by his wife in a side car. This is the first occasion on which a lady has made the journey in this manner.

Rear-Admiral S. E. Erskine, who has been placed on the retired list in order to take up the appointment of Rear-Admiral, R.N. Barracks, Chatham, took part in the Nile Expedition of 1884-85, for the relief of General Gordon at Khartoum. In 1896 he was present on the occasion of the bombardment and capture of the Sultan of Zanzibar's palace by the squadron of Rear-Admiral H. H. Rawson, C.B., being mentioned in despatches, and the next year he took part in the naval operations against the King of Benin, being again mentioned in despatches. He was Aide-de-Camp to the King, 1911-13.

Major Arthur Gordon Bremner, R.E., who is reported wounded, served with the Dongola Expedition in 1896, and has the medal and the Egyptian medal.

Major Walter Hervey Besant, 3rd Battalion Norfolk Regiment, who was last week reported wounded, served with the Sudan Expedition in 1884-5, getting the medal with clasp and the bronze star. During the six following years he did a great deal of useful work in the same region, being mentioned in despatches and receiving a clasp to his medal, as well as the Third Class of the Medjidieh. In 1891 he took part in the capture of Tokar, and got a clasp to his bronze star, and the Third Class of the Osmanieh. He retired into the Reserve of Officers in 1901, with the rank of major, but on the outbreak of the present hostilities he rejoined his old regiment.

Captain Richard Raymond Willis, 1st Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers, who has been awarded the Victoria Cross for "conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty in the field," took part in the Nile Expedition of 1898. He was present at the battle of Omdurman, and was awarded the Egyptian medal with clasp.

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Lieutenant William Charles Mayo, 9th Battalion Sherwood Foresters, who has been killed in action at the Dardanelles, was, we understand, formerly on the staff of the Imperial Ottoman Naval School, Constantinople. After the Balkan Wars, when the fate of the Ægean Islands was under discussion, he wrote to THE NEAR EAST several letters on the subject, which showed him as a friend and well-wisher of Turkey, and it is a melancholy coincidence that he should now have laid down his life in fighting against the Turks. He graduated from St. Catherine's College, Cambridge, taking a second class in the Classical Tripos in 1908. The eldest son of Dr. J. Mayo, of Warkworth Terrace, Cambridge, he did not live in College while at the University, but while he was, therefore, not so closely in touch with the social life of the University, at the same time he took the keenest interest in the general life of his College and was prominently identified with many of its activities. On the outbreak of war he obtained a commission in the Sherwood Foresters, and was gazetted to the rank of lieutenant on December 31 of last year.

Captain Thos. Porteous Black, 9th Sherwood Foresters, who was killed at the Dardanelles between August 7 and 11, was the eldest son of the late Mr. Geo. B. Black, District Traffic Superintendent, Caledonian Railway, Aberdeen. In 1898 he paid a visit to the Dardanelles, visiting Constantinople, Skutari, and the Crimea. He was for some time assistant in physics at the Durham College of Science, Newcastle-on-Tyne, and in 1907 he became assistant in physics at University College, Nottingham. He was appointed Registrar of the College in 1911.

Second Lieutenant B. B. Silcock, 7th Battalion Royal Welsh Fusiliers, who has been killed in action while serving in the Mediterranean, secured his commission in June of this year. He was educated at Blundell's School, Tiverton, and at University College Hospital. He served in the Balkan War as dresser with the British Red Cross unit with the Greek forces at Salonika, and was decorated by the King of the Hellenes. In the early stages of the present war he served as surgeon probationer on the hospital ships Rohilla and Owl, and later joined the Artists' Rifles, from which he was granted a commission. He was the younger son of the late Mr. A. Quarry Silcock, of Harley Street, and of Mrs. Silcock, of Maida Vale Mansions.

The King has been pleased to bestow the Victoria Cross upon Corporal William Cosgrove, 1st Battalion the Royal Munster Fusiliers, for most conspicuous bravery in the leading of his section with great dash during our attack from the beach to the east of Cape Helles, on the Turkish positions, on April 26, 1915. Corporal Cosgrove, on this occasion, pulled down the posts of the enemy's high wire entanglements single-handed, notwithstanding a terrific fire from both front and flanks, thereby greatly contributing to the successful clearing of the heights.

Lieutenant-Colonel Derrick Alfred Carden, Seaforth Highlanders (attached 7th (T.F.) Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders), of Westown, Straffan, County Kildare, who saw service in Egypt, the Sudan, and the North-West Frontier of India, and who was killed in action near Ypres on May 25 last, aged forty, younger son of the late Sir John Carden, fourth baronet, of Templemore Abbey, County Tipperary, left unsettled personal estate in the United Kingdom valued at £3,774.

The *Sussex Daily News* throws light upon the romantic wedding "on the high seas, off Salonika," to which we referred in these columns last week. The bridegroom was Dr. Percy Wallice, of the first British Field Hospital to Serbia, and the bride, Miss Dora Woolcock, of the Wounded Allies' First Hospital Unit to Montenegro.—"It was when they arrived at Salonika that Dr. Wallice and Miss Woolcock decided to marry. She was bound for Montenegro, he for Serbia. They found that the wedding could only be performed after a three weeks' residence unless the marriage could take place on a British ship outside the three mile limit. Accordingly a ship was chartered, and three miles from land the marriage service was read by the vicar of Brixton. Mr. Claude Askew, the novelist, gave the bride away."

A short time ago Sir Courtauld Thomson, Commissioner in the Near East of the Joint Committee of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John, telegraphed for a picket boat to tow barges filled with wounded men from Gallipoli to Mudros, and also for two motor-launches to carry men and stores. The Stores Department of the Joint Committee was able to procure a twin-screw petrol boat for the picket and two motor launches, all of which are now ready. Mr. John Masefield, the well-known poet, one of the Joint Committee's latest recruits for service in the Near East, found the money for the picket and also for a barge. He himself has already left for Mudros, where he is to take charge of them as soon as they arrive. Mr. Masefield's barge has been also procured, and is being specially fitted with every comfort for the transport of wounded. It will be sent out in a few days. Two motor launches have also been found by the Joint Committee to serve the Persian Gulf Expedition at the request of Sir John Nixon, and the first of these was despatched last Saturday. The need for motor-boats for the Eastern Expedition will increase, and the Joint Committee begs for funds to cope efficiently with such needs as soon as they occur. Donations should in every case be addressed to 83, Pall Mall.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, etc.

M. Woislav M. Petrovitch has retired from the Serbian Diplomatic Service. He has been for some time Attaché at the Legation in London, and has many friends in this country.

Our Athens Correspondent writes (August 6):—M. Djouvara, First Secretary of the Roumanian Legation here, who has just been appointed Secretary to Queen Elizabeth, is leaving Athens in a day or two to take up his new position. He will take with him the best wishes of Athenian society, where he has made innumerable friends for himself.

Captain Nikola Christitch, who was recently decorated with the Serbian Star (the equivalent of the English D.S.O.), has been appointed Serbia's Military Attaché at Rome. Captain Christitch is the son of Colonel Christitch, Commander of the Royal Guard, First Aide-de-Camp and Military Attaché in Petrograd, under the late régime, and grandson of M. Nikola Christitch, formerly Prime Minister, who received the keys of Belgrade fortress from the last Turkish Pasha.

Field-Marshal von der Goltz Pasha is reported to have assumed command of the second Turkish army at the Dardanelles.

Hakki Pasha arrived in Sofia on August 6 on his way to Berlin, and spent a day in the Bulgarian capital.

Among the passengers for Egypt by the P. and O. steamer "Mongolia," leaving London for Port Said on September 18, are the Hon. Mr. Justice Amos, Mr. E. N. Corbyn, Mr. and Mrs. C. T. McKillop, Mrs. W. Peel, Mrs. Purvis, Mr. and Mrs. P. M. Tottenham.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The charge for Announcements under this Heading is 2s. for three lines and 1s. per line afterwards. Minimum charge, 3s. All announcements must be authenticated with the name and address of sender.

BIRTH.

ALLEN.—On August 18, at Cockley Cley Hall, Swaffham, the wife of Francis Allen, of a son (Nigel Anthony Stafford).

MARRIAGE.

NELIGAN—SPENCER.—On August 18, at Clifford Church, Herefordshire, by the Rev. Preb. Prosser, Vicar of Twickenham, Anthony Richard Neligan, M.D., Physician to the British Legation, Teheran, Persia, eldest son of Dr. J. W. Neligan, of Kells, co. Kerry, Ireland, to Kate Mary Leigh, eldest daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. G. L. Spencer, of The Priory, Clifford.

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 27, 1915.

PRESSURE ON THE BALKANS.

Our Athens Correspondent sends us this week a summary of what is understood to have been the contents of the Note presented by the Quadruple Entente to the Greek Government. If the information derived from "official and diplomatic sources" be correct, the Note specifies the offer made by the four Powers to the Bulgarian Government, and calls upon Greece to perform her share in securing an understanding in the Balkans. In return for her co-operation against Turkey, Bulgaria is said to have been promised, first, that portion of northern Macedonia which Serbia undertook by the Treaty of 1912 to cede to her, with the exception of a small strip of territory situated between the lakes Prespa and Ochrida, which will enable the frontiers of Greece and Serbia to march together for a short distance, and, secondly, Kavalla, with its hinterland. It is an open question whether there is to be any cession of territory until after the conclusion of the war; but the Allied Powers give Bulgaria the assurance that they will bring pressure to bear upon Greece and Serbia to secure their acceptance of the Allies' decision. The Note to Greece, it is reported, records the terms offered to Bulgaria, and is accompanied by a verbal undertaking on the part of the Allied Governments to grant Greece important compensation on the mainland of Asia Minor. At the same time the Powers are disposed to guarantee the territorial integrity of Greece and the possession of Salonika. Greece is not called upon to take any immediate part in the operations at the Dardanelles; her contribution towards the general regulation of the Balkan question is restricted to the cession of a small piece of territory at Kavalla, for which she is to receive ample compensation in Asia Minor, where a large Greek population is settled along the Ægean coast. As was to be expected, the disclosure of the alleged terms of the Allies' Note has been received in the Greek Press with every manifestation of resentment. The papers which support the Ministry of M. Gounaris have for so long declared that Greece could never surrender Kavalla, that they had no other course open to them. The Venizelist organs, which, it might have been thought, would be capable of more discernment, are for the moment overwhelmed by what they consider the peremptory nature of the communication. They have apparently forgotten that the Gounaris Ministry has been in office for some months, and has left the Entente Powers no alternative to a straightforward and final offer. When the first shock to the national *amour propre* has passed, Greece will realise that she is actually receiving better terms than the only statesman in the country was willing to accept at the beginning of the year. M. Venizelos was then prepared to see Greece co-operate with the Allied forces at the Dardanelles. Now she is not required to make any military or naval effort, but is merely asked, in the interests of the Balkans as a whole and her own future, to relinquish, in return for far greater possessions, a small strip of land which has only been in her hands for two or three years.

On the assumption that the tenour of their *démarche* at Athens is as reported, we must suppose that the Entente Powers are confident of carrying the Balkan States with them. The crux of the situation lies not in Greece, but in Serbia. It will be noticed that the Greek Government is stated to have put itself at once in communication with the Serbian Government. This step is an admission that Greece realises that at this crisis in Balkan history she finds herself occupying a subordinate position. In Great Britain it will be regretted that this should be so. While M. Venizelos remained in office the Entente Powers looked to him to take the lead in Balkan affairs, and he was not far wrong when he stated that the opportunity then lost by Greece would never recur. The offer has been repeated in the same terms, but the circumstances have changed. Greece no longer leads in the Balkans. Fortunately, Serbia, on whose attitude she will probably mould her own, shows signs of accepting the inevitable with good grace. If she does, it will be impossible to overrate the services which M. Pasitch has rendered his country at this crisis. It is well known that he has consistently been in favour of coming to an understanding with Bulgaria. He has been opposed, however, by a military clique, with whom the Crown Prince is understood to have associated himself. King Peter, whose constitutional position in the country has not been made clear abroad, must have desired to support M. Pasitch, but the recollection of the fate of his predecessor may have deterred him from throwing the whole weight of his influence against the military clique. Up to the eleventh hour the latter has successfully opposed all measures calculated to restore satisfactory relations between Bulgaria and Serbia. But with the menaces of an Austro-German invasion of the country, and possibly with a better appreciation of the position of the Allies in the war, M. Pasitch's opponents have withdrawn, it is believed, from an untenable position. The Serbian Premier will thus be able to accept unreservedly the proposals advanced by the Powers to whom Serbia owes her continued existence as an independent nation, and his action will, it is to be hoped, determine that of Greece.

The terms propounded by the Allied Powers for the removal of the *impasse* which has paralyzed Balkan action since the outbreak of the war are essentially those which have been consistently urged in these columns. They have also submitted those terms to the Governments concerned in the only way likely to win for them acceptance, that is as a friendly ultimatum, which enables the party in power in each State to plead the one argument that will be understood by its political opponents. It is not the case that the Quadruple Entente lacks sympathy for Greece and Serbia, or fails to appreciate their feelings in having to abandon territory which may be regarded as hallowed by the blood shed in its capture. The Powers are not blind to sentimental considerations of this nature, but they do well not to allow them to stand in the way of the major good of the whole Balkan Peninsula. For while the immediate purpose of a Balkan understanding is to enable the Allies to shorten the war, it has to be remembered that the proposed settlement stands for the enduring peace of the Peninsula after the war is over—a state of affairs which the Near East has not known for centuries. To gain this end is worth some sacrifices, and the countries in question would have readily made these sacrifices at the outset, if the national wisdom had not been stultified by the rancour of party politics. As far as Bulgaria is concerned, we may expect an early acceptance of the Powers' terms. There may be some murmuring if no immediate cession of territory is to be made to the Bulgarians; but it can be ignored. The point that the nation will keep in view is that it is now about to realise the ambitions which it has held before it from the day that the decision was taken to end Turkish misrule in Macedonia. The way of realisation has been stormy; but Bulgaria will be indebted entirely to the Allies that it has at last been trodden. Twelve months ago there seemed little chance of Bulgaria coming into her own for many a long year, and her spokesmen have admitted that she was not in a position to attain her ideals by her own armed strength. The return that she is called upon to make is a comparatively small one, and will appeal to the spirit of the nation. A fresh campaign against Turkey offers an opportunity of settling old scores once and for all, and will serve to consecrate in the popular mind the consummation of Bulgarian ideals.

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A GARDEN ON THE BOSPHORUS.

By Mary A. Poynter.

Looked out upon in summer-time from a garden midway up the Bosphorus, there seems little in the quiet landscape that is warlike, little to suggest far-off or near-by unpeaceful scenes. To be sure, in the immediate foreground there are old grey towers and castellated walls—once forbidding fortifications, built by Mohammed the Conqueror—and it was hereabouts that the first Moslem blood was shed in the taking of Constantinople; but that history is so many years old that the sadness has gone out of it, only the picturesque setting remains.

Our garden does not exactly adjoin the old fortifications; we are just a fine breathing space away, yet high enough up on the hillside to look down upon these graceful structures of defence, now long undefended. In places the ivy climbs high and clings very closely to the bastions with the strong arms of age, and on the top of one of the towers at least quite sizable shrubs are growing, and a fig tree is so firmly and comfortably rooted there as to bear fruit in the proper season. But the arms of the ivy and the roots of the trees are not necessary to the support of the walls. There was, so a white-haired, turbaned Hodja testifies, an early understanding between the stones and the mortar. When the walls were being laid the stones said to the mortar: "Hold us for two years, and we will hold you forever!" Both stones and mortar seem to be by way of keeping their compact, though "forever" is a long time, and unsettling earthquakes are frequent.

There are records of prisoners of war having been confined in these towers, even records by the prisoners themselves may be deciphered on the jagged walls of the little stone chambers leading off from the winding stone stairways of one of the towers. But these prisoners have long since been freed from imprisonment of spirit as well as of body, and so their story is simply one of interest, not one of pain to dwellers in the overlooking gardens.

All are willing captives now in the neighbourhood. Even the big and the little owls, who think it wise not to go out by day, leave the old walls at night to sit upon our roof-tree, and give utterance at stated intervals to sentiments inspired by the moonlight. These sentiments are expressed usually by single lone calls; but the intervals are filled in with most pleasing reflections—whistles, trills, throbbing

> "Notes with many a winding bout
> Of linkéd sweetness long drawn out,"

by the nightingales, if it be May or early June; or, if it be late summer, the cricket punctuates the pauses in the Bird of Wisdom's call in his own peculiar, strident fashion of expressing content. I insist that there is no real sadness in the night or day.

There is plenty of motion about us, for the wind can blow steadily and strong down the path of the blue strait when once it gets started. But wind cannot always blow, and air in motion is not like the restlessness of man, or of things, in motion. The note of the shepherd's pipe as he comes down the hill heading his white flock is pitched in the minor key—again without sadness, but with much quiet feeling. Indeed the whole story of Bosphorus shepherd existence is expressed by the notes of this mellow, wooden reed thing of few stops and few changes. Perhaps the piper will halt to look into our garden—for he loves gardens, as do all true Eastern folk—and I see a rose behind his ear. Isn't this sign worth two roses in the hand to show true love of flowers? The piping shepherd is young—he always is—I don't believe he ever grows old, though such a long, long past seems to breathe through his crude, weird melodies!

It is wonderful how well gardens and gardeners harmonize in this part of the world. We each have treasures known to our own garden, and do not envy the rare plant across the low wall in our neighbour's enclosure. Of course, we have some plants, some time-honoured, poet-sung trees or blooms in common, or how could one answer the poet's inquiry:

> "Know ye the land where the cypress and myrtle
> Are emblems of deeds that are done in their clime?"

And how could maiden blush without the flower of the pomegranate to show her in what colour her cheeks do *not* bloom when she is moved with gentle excitement? For, Eastern poets to the contrary, not with maiden-red, nor rose-red, but with a bright brick-red blooms the fine, upstanding pomegranate tree in Bosphorus gardens. The oleander is another mutual garden possession, and the hauntingly fragrant jasmine, the lavender—whose sweet scent lingers on—and several of the mimosas. . . . But I must not give our secrets all away! Some of us were married from these gardens, and our secrets were respected by the flowers.

'Tis perhaps because we have such glorious, varied views in common that we have so little rivalry within our not-always-trim and sometimes delightfully half-wild borders. The muezzin, before calling to twilight prayer from the top of his white minaret on the hillside below, stops to look out upon the blue, winding strait, bordered with simple homes and homes of "high pretence," at the little sail-boats flitting here and there before the breeze, at the stately sea-going craft—bearing on independent of sail—then directly across the strait (at its narrowest point) into Asia, the land whence his people came. He sees the little fresh-water stream, the Sweet Waters of Asia, coming down from the far hills, a broad ribbon of green marking its path. It is almost too far for him to distinguish the contented forms of veiled women along its banks; but he knows they are there, sitting under the great plane trees, or just rising to go home, the men walking gravely apart, the children dancing on before them in happy unconcern. Yes, the muezzin knows his own land, his own people; but I doubt if he has ever heard of a certain great Darius, also of Asia, who came this way some twenty-four hundred years ago, and camped with his Persian hosts by these same Sweet Waters ere he crossed into Europe, the unknown. But why should one want to know this? Can it add to or take from a man's days? Isn't the world beautiful, even cruel enough, without history? "Kim bilir!"

The muezzin turns from contemplation of the view to the needs of the people in the little town at his feet—a little typically Turkish town, with its narrow, unevenly paved streets, its latticed windows, and the irregular architecture that somehow looks so perfectly in keeping in a picture; then, putting his hands to his face, he calls to the four winds—to the eastward first—that Allah is great, and the Faithful should come to prayer. The south wind brings up the peculiar vibrating cry to our garden, and carries it past us to the dervishes in the old tekkeh that crowns the hilltop. Here in the twilight the spirit of the East still dominates, the repose is unbroken, the note of mystery remains.

Constantinople, 1913.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

I was rather surprised by the report that Prince Yussuf Izzeddin had actually accepted the Iron Cross which the Kaiser had been pleased to bestow on him. For, to say the least, the Prince has never shown himself a warm admirer of the Germans; and I decline to believe that their recent treatment of his country can have heightened his regard for them. Perhaps, however, he felt that he was entitled to some recompense for having to meet so many Huns every day, and, of course, an Iron Cross is still something of a curiosity—in Turkey.

***

This reminds me that the Germans in Constantinople, not content with revelling in the insults heaped upon the United States by the Wilhelmstrasse, are doing their best to make themselves as offensive as possible to Americans in the Turkish capital and in Turkey generally. It is credibly reported that the German "adviser" of the Turkish Ministry of Instruction is yearning to annex the numerous and well-equipped schools and colleges of the Americans, and that the late German Minister actually threatened that if the United States should declare war on Germany the Turks would at once confiscate all such American institutions, and others, such as hospitals. I should have thought that Mr. Morgenthau's truly admirable conduct since the outbreak of the war would have taught even a bullying Wangenheim that that kind of bluster was "not worth shucks." But apparently the Germans are too self-satisfied to learn little lessons of that kind.

***

The situation in Turkey is puzzling in more ways than one, and I am inclined to think that a good many of the accounts of the state of affairs in Constantinople that are served up for our edification are, to put it mildly, not half as accurate as they are pleasing—from our point of view. I am told, by one who ought to know, that far from being depressed or alarmed the Turks are extraordinarily confident. They seem to possess a capacity for swallowing German "fictions" that is shared by no other nation, and they look forward to a day, not far distant, when they will share with their Teuton "allies" the mastery of Europe. Fortunately for Europe, that rosy dream is not likely to be converted into reality; but nevertheless the Turks, I am told, are fondly indulging it, and a great many families are actually flocking into the capital from Asia Minor, with a view to taking part in the imminent division of the spoils! Their awakening is like to be a rude one. But it is to be wished that Athens would tell us of things as they *are*, not as it would like them to be, or thinks they ought to be.

***

Two incidents of peculiar interest to readers of THE NEAR EAST are recorded in the French official Note regarding "K. of K.'s" visit to France last week. The first is that which tells how his lordship, addressing a native officer of the Algerian spahis in Arabic, said that the "chiefs and native soldiers could be entirely confident in the final success of the Allies' cause," and how, "after a moment's astonishment, the native officer replied to the Field-Marshal that they all placed absolute faith on an ultimate victory." Now what accounted for that momentary astonishment of the Spahi officer? Not, I feel sure, the confident prediction of ultimate victory; for of that, under Providence, we none of us have any real doubt, least of all the brave men at the front. It seems to me that the use of Arabic must have been the reason of the Algerian's astonishment. Yet I should have thought that Lord Kitchener's acquaintance with the language would have been just one of the facts about him that our Ally's Arabic-speaking fighting-men would have learned long ago.

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The second incident is told so delightfully in the French Note that I venture to reproduce it here, for, though you may have read it before, you will, I am sure, enjoy reading it again:—

> It was towards close of day, in the broad undulating plains of Champagne, when the motor-car in which the Field-Marshal was driving swung off the road and came suddenly face to face with a division of cavalry which was massed on the ground, and which was to march past the Secretary of State. Lord Kitchener left his car and went to meet the Divisional General, who, with a fine swing of his sword, saluted the illustrious guest of France. Then the British Minister, formerly the Sirdar, Sir Herbert Kitchener of Khartoum, recognised in General Baratier, the leader of the cavalry, a former member of the Marchand Mission. Lord Kitchener, pleasurably surprised at this meeting, shook hands with the General and recalled in a few words how their careers had touched on African soil. He then asked news of Colonel Marchand, now a General commanding a division on the front. The cavalry then galloped past the Field-Marshal.

The wording of that seems to me to be very happy. Old rivalries are not forgotten; they are forgiven. And we are not afraid—how annoyed the Huns must find it!—to mention them. Anyone who can recall the state of tension existing at the time of the "Marchand Mission" will realise the full significance of the meeting last week and the way in which it passed off.

***

Just after the Fashoda incident I was at Jibuti, when the French cruiser, "Bruix," was there and Major Marchand was expected to embark on her for France. And I can very clearly recall the state of excitement that port was in and the coolness with which the presence of Englishmen in the place was regarded. It was natural, of course. But what a change has come over the scene since those days! It has always seemed to me that the way in which the French and British "kissed and made it up" was vastly to the credit of both parties. And, as I have said before, the fact that we are not afraid to talk of our past differences is a sure sign that they *are* past. Our friendship, I hope and believe, is a lasting one—indeed, how can it be otherwise when we have been drawn so closely together as we have been in the last year? But I cannot picture any such incident as that which occurred on the plains of Champagne last week taking place between Briton and German for many a long day to come. Frenchman and Briton are chivalrous; but Germans—well, we have learned now what the Germans are.

***

I am sorry to hear that the disaster to the transport Royal Edward involved the loss of a large consignment of comforts that were destined for our sick and wounded at the Dardanelles and in Egypt. Even if these goods were insured—and one presumes that such an elementary precaution would certainly be taken by those responsible for their despatch—the loss is a bad business. For, not only will it take a long time to replace them, but it is to be feared that many of the men who might have benefited by them will now never do so at all.

***

A few days ago I was talking to a young Englishman who, far away in Asiatic Turkey when the war broke out, had heard the call of duty clearly and answered it promptly. He had been at the Front, had taken part in some of the hottest fighting—which he did *not* tell me himself, by the way—had been severely wounded, had been sent home, had had sundry pieces of shrapnel removed from various parts of his body, and was then able to get about—after a fashion—though he was still carrying round in him a shrapnel bullet that the surgeons could not extract. Looking at him, and hearing him talking quietly of his experiences, I found it hard to realise all this; for his appearance was very youthful and his manner as frank as any boy's; and, somehow, I felt more venerable and more of "a crock" than ever before. At the same time I was filled with pride at the thought that this youngster, and thousands of others like him, had been so prompt to respond to the call of England; had kept alive the love of their country, though cut off from it for so long, as this young man had been. It seemed to me, too, that in throwing together men from the small British communities that are scattered over the globe, men from our great colonies and men from the Mother Country, this war must surely do great things for the Empire. For which we may thank the Germans, even as we may thank them for teaching us to know and esteem our Allies.

***

But what I meant to write about when I began the preceding paragraph was this: The young man, in showing me some of his trophies, produced a couple of live cartridges which he had taken off a dead German, and in one of them the *bullet had been reversed*. I cannot tell you what the sight of that evil-looking, blunt-nosed cartridge made me feel, but I am sure that such things would prove very useful to the recruiting sergeants. I had heard of the thing being done, of course, often enough, but I had never had ocular proof of it before. Now I have. And it has made a difference! And as I looked on that bit of evidence of German *kultur*, I thought of the many, many cases of "dum-dums" that were being sent out to Busreh by the Germans, for the use of the Turks against our troops, some months ago, and were discovered and confiscated at Port Said. I have known of their existence a long time, but I have never mentioned them before, because it seemed too horrible a thing to write about, even of the Germans. But now—well, I have seen that cartridge, taken off a dead Hun by a young Englishman who came from Turkey.

CORSAIR.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Italy and the Balkans.

The *Morning Post* (August 23) devoted a leading article to Italy's declaration of war upon Turkey, under the title of "Tests of Friendship." It is shown that although Italy had ample reason for a declaration of hostilities, the most significant point regarding her action is to be found in the proof which it carries that she has recognized that her future is bound up not only with the success of her armies against Austria, but with the success of the Entente Powers as a whole. Contrary to the general experience of successful armies, Germany is shown to be gaining new enemies with each advance.

All the little nations of the Balkans, for example, see in the approach of Germany the gravest possible threat to their independence. Germany openly boasts of the road she means to cut through to Constantinople. What would such a road mean for Roumania, Bulgaria and Greece? It would mean for them the loss of their freedom. If such a road were made they would then be at the mercy of German power. Therefore, the victory of Germany can only arouse in their hearts a stronger sympathy with the cause of the Entente.

Apart, therefore, from another point mentioned, that of Russian and British sympathy and interest in the Balkans, the paper considers that the Balkans will combine to crush the common foe, if only to preserve their own independence.

The retreat of Russia is a danger to the Balkans, since it means the advance of Germany. Russia has never threatened their independence: she has never been the friend of Turkey. We may therefore find reasons for good cheer in these recent events. The further Germany advances, the more formidable she becomes, the keener will be the realisation of the small nations of Europe that upon the victory of the Entente their liberties depend.

Germany and Armenia.

The *Manchester Guardian* (August 23) concludes a leading article upon the Armenian massacres with the paragraph which we quote below. The paper says that from one point only could any relief to the Armenians come, and from that point there has been absolute silence:—

Not a word has been said of the plight of the Armenians in the German press. The German officials in Turkey are said not only to approve of, but actually to encourage the Turks in their atrocities. The explanation is obvious. It is not only that they wish to gratify the Turks. For the Germans the Armenians are only a disintegrating factor in a country whose strength is necessary to them in the present struggle. Their traditional attitude has been one of callousness and scarcely disguised contempt towards the Armenians; and it is in the course of things that they should now look on unmoved while the race is gradually being exterminated. It will not be the least heavy of the counts against Germany in her trial before history.

Jerusalem in War Time.

The *Catholic Times* (August 13) publishes an interesting story of Jerusalem in war time, which it takes from an account which Father Legrange, O.P., has contributed to a French periodical. Father Legrange's story only goes to confirm the statements made by all other residents and travellers in the Holy Land at the beginning of the war, that the general Mahomedan population, left to itself, was all in favour of the Allies, and that the gradual transference of sympathy to the side of Germany was due to the clever and tireless propaganda spread by the German agents:—

The country was flooded with news-sheets, which retailed in French, German, and Arabic shameless horrors alleged to have been committed by Belgian women on German wounded, and cruelties said to have been practised by the English on their prisoners, and extolled the might and majesty of the Emperor William.

As a result of this lying large numbers of people flocked from the coast to Jerusalem as soon as war was declared, but in spite of it, and in spite also of the declaration of a Holy War, the Turks themselves seem to have remained universally considerate to the Christians. Father Legrange has no hesitation in saying that the first orders for the suppression of schools and convents were due to the Germans, whose aim was to eliminate French influence:—

They proceeded with their usual thoroughness. They expelled even the good Sisters, who had never raised a shadow of suspicion, and thereby cast on the streets numbers of children, of old and infirm. They had priests and monks deported to be detained in a dreary solitude as hostages, or perhaps to meet a worse fate. . . . Prussian officers rule supreme in Jerusalem. Mohammed William is the real Sultan. It will be surprising if duplicity and violence do not defeat their own ends, if those who have risen by the sword do not fall by the sword. We can look forward to the day, perhaps not so far off, when under a fairer and juster rule the religious Orders will return to their own.

The Deluded Turk.

The *Journal de Genève* (August 15) devoted a leading article to the inevitable rupture between Italy and Turkey. The writer recounts the various causes which were each good and sufficient to justify Italy in declaring war, and points out that the Tripolitan situation constitutes a grave danger for Italy. The article concludes:—

La Turquie évidemment joue le tout pour le tout. Ses alliés lui persuadent que les Dardanelles ne seront jamais conquises et que l'occasion est favorable pour le Grand-Turc de reprendre pied dans cette Afrique du nord où il fut le maître et où les Italiens lui ont arraché le dernier morceau de son empire exotique. Ce jeu aura pour résultat d'amener les troupes italiennes dans la presqu'île de Gallipoli. Rome enverra ses légions pour tenter de reprendre aux Turcs la ville où Constantin le Grand transporta il y a quinze cents ans la capitale de l'empire romain.

The Issues in the East.

Mr. Charles Roden Buxton prefaces an article under the above heading in *War and Peace* (August) by remarking that

It would be a great mistake to suppose that the Empire of the Hapsburgs no longer counts as a powerful force. With regard to the Turks, also, there is a danger lest we should underrate the magnitude of the work before us, or the extent of the achievement already accomplished in European Turkey by our sailors and soldiers.

In estimating the issues in the East the writer analyses the results which would follow the respective victories of Russia or Austria.

If Austria won it would be impossible to satisfy the desires of the Serbo-Croat and Roumanian races for unity and freedom, because it is only at the expense of Austria-Hungary that such unity and freedom can be obtained. The unity and freedom of the Greek and Armenian races would also be rendered impossible, because they could only be obtained at the expense of Turkey in Asia, and Turkey is Austria's ally. If neither Serbia nor Roumania nor Greece can secure their legitimate expansion, it would be difficult in the extreme to secure to Bulgaria the small pieces of territory which are needed to complete Bulgarian unity, but which are now held as the result of the second Balkan war by Serbia, Roumania and Greece respectively.

On the other hand, Mr. Buxton shows that the necessary concession to Bulgaria would be a matter of no difficulty if, by the victory of Russia, Serbia, Greece, and Roumania secured the fulfilment of their aspirations. Armenia, too, would profit, possibly to the degree of obtaining the autonomy which is the goal of their hopes, or at least of being freed from the danger of constant oppression and massacre. Regarding the anxiety of the Balkans concerning Russia's position in the Straits, the writer says that "in any case it would not infringe the strictly national rights of any State.

Articles to Note.

"The Ancient History of Persia," by Lieut.-Colonel P. M. Sykes; "The United Balkan States," by Oliver Bainbridge; "The Land Where East Meets West: From the Austro-Italian Border to Dalmatia," by Maude M. Holbach; and "More Quatrains of 'Omar Khayyam,'" by John Pollen, in the *Asiatic Review* (August 16).

"The Trembling Balance of the Balkans," in the *Graphic* (August 21).

"Some Serbian Experiences," in the *New Witness* (August 19).

"Notes on the Typhus Epidemic in Serbia, 1915," by T. Gwynne Maitland, in the *British Medical Journal* (August 21).

On Wednesday afternoon a private view of cinematograph pictures taken by Colonel Ahearne, V.D., R.A.M.C., during his recent visit to Serbia and Greece was given at Gaumont's private theatre in Denman Street. The films, about 3,000 feet in all, gave an excellent idea of medical work with the Serbian Army as well as some views of Serbian scenery and Serbian troops.

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showing the present addresses of English residents in Turkey, who have left the country in consequence of the war, or have been prevented from returning there. Readers from Turkey whose names are not given below will oblige by forwarding to the Managing Editor their present addresses for inclusion (free of charge) in the Directory, which is intended to be of assistance in bringing friends together. Changes in addresses should be notified as early as possible. The "Near East" accepts no responsibility for the correctness of the addresses given.

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ARLAND, J. A., C.S., 63, Guilford Street, W.C.
ATKINSON, Bombardier G. M., 266th Battery, 85th Brigade, R.F.A., Colchester.
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BELL, Mrs. H. J., 71, Belsize Park Gardens, Hampstead, N.W., or care of Messrs. Grindlay and Co., Parliament St., S.W.
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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

The article by Mr. J. M. Kennedy on German methods in the Near East is, primarily, of interest because it throws some light on a little-known function of the Anti-German Union. This function is: to strengthen our commercial and industrial position in order to enable us the better to develop our trade campaign in those countries where, owing to German machinations, we have steadily been losing ground. In order the better to achieve this worthy aim, the Union has, in the first place, organised a business section, or committee, the first object of which seems to be to collect all data and information concerning German business methods in various countries, also particulars concerning trade openings and the means which we can honestly employ in order to counteract German influence. Any information, therefore, which readers of THE NEAR EAST can place at the disposal of the Union will, I am sure, be welcomed because tending to strengthen the hands of the organising committee.

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We are, admittedly, an apathetic people, and indifference as to our real interests has been our greatest enemy. The Anti-German Union, in bringing together a body of British manufacturers who will be enabled, by the application of co-operative methods, to meet the organised competition of alien firms, has begun its campaign against apathy in the right direction. The aid derived by trade as a whole from the Consular Service and from Chambers of Commerce is, in five cases out of six, academic and negative; the only real aid can come from the traders themselves, from a powerful grouping together of manufacturers who will be so strong as to be able to influence "*both the banks and the shipping companies.*" This, to readers of THE NEAR EAST, is familiar ground, as I have continually urged the same policy in these columns, more particularly as regards the countries covered by this journal, and it is, therefore, with keen pleasure that I commend the aims of the Union. If they succeed in breaking down the barrier of our national apathy; if they succeed in persuading manufacturers and financiers, shipping companies and industrial magnates, that organisation and co-operation are necessary to the expansion of our trade and vital if we are to combat Germany in commercial spheres; and, finally, if they succeed in forming an industrial group, so powerful as to *force* banks to co-operate with industry and trade instead of, as generally happens, ignoring them—then, the Anti-German Union will have deserved well of the Empire. Other reforms—consular, etc.—which some enthusiasts consider the first measures to be introduced, will follow as a matter of course, because, once the group is formed, it will be in a position to force the Government in trade matters as it will have been able to influence the banking world. In conclusion, I may state that the Secretary, 346, Strand, W.C., will be glad to supply further details of the work of the committee to any business houses or private individuals who care to communicate with him on the subject.

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"There seems to be no prospect of starving Constantinople of coal," writes our Special Correspondent in Athens. This is to be regretted. I have continually urged the utter destruction of Zunguldak—its harbour, quays, and loading facilities—and at times reports have come through from Russian sources confirming that country's successful naval operations against the small Black Sea port. However, the damage done does not seem to have been very serious, because coal loading has continued, and coal-laden ships have sailed freely down the Bosphorus to Constantinople. Now and again we hear that some Turkish colliers have been sunk, but we do not hear of the many which successfully run the blockade. Until the source of the supply has been definitely interfered with, I am afraid that our Special Correspondent will have no cause to alter his opinion.

***

Since writing the above, a further despatch has been received from our Special Correspondent in Athens, dated August 16, in the course of which he says: "The Russians have again bombarded Zunguldak, and have this time caused serious damage to the port." *Inshallah!*

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The second Constantinople fire within the past few months seems to have been the more disastrous of the two, about 1,000 buildings, including fifteen residential flats, having been destroyed. In both cases the fires seem to have been the work of incendiaries—a class of hooligans who thrive plentifully in Stamboul whenever the country is in the throes of turmoil or war. In old Byzantium fires were frequent, and they are no less so to-day. There was a disastrous fire during the Balkan War, and two have already occurred since Turkey began hostilities. What I greatly fear is that, on the occasion of our great advance on Constantinople, unless the greatest care and precaution is taken, incendiarism will be rampant, with terrible results to the great city on the Bosphorus. Let us hope that this danger will be averted, but it is only right that we should know what to expect.

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Cabling on August 19 from Athens, Reuter's correspondent stated that the formation of a Cabinet by M. Venizelos depended mainly "upon the solution of the financial problem and the conditions of the Entente for a loan." On the following day the *Times*' Athens correspondent stated that "it appears that M. Venizelos has demanded, in the event of his agreeing to form a Cabinet, information from the Entente Powers regarding their attitude in general, and especially whether he could rely on their support for the conclusion of a loan in Paris and London without political restrictions." Since the above two reports were published M. Venizelos has formed his Cabinet, but nothing is known as to the nature of his negotiations with the Entente Ministers, nor of the likelihood of a loan. In any case, I think it is hardly likely that, in view of Mr. Asquith's reference some time ago to possible advances out of the War Loan to prospective Allies, any future financial operations with Greece (supposing such operations to become advisable) will take the shape of a loan in the open market. An eventual advance seems to me to be the more probable procedure.

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On the other hand, the Salonika correspondent of the *Echo de Paris* telegraphs that "Great Britain has agreed to Greece's request for the reimbursement of the sums paid to British arsenals on account of the torpedo destroyers being built for her when the war broke out and subsequently requisitioned by Britain. At the request of the British Government the Banque Nationale de Grece will accordingly pay into the Greek Treasury the sum of 2½ million drachmae." There is, as yet, no confirmation of the above statement.

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The shareholders of the European Oilfields met on Tuesday to adopt the directors' report for the year. In view of the existing state of affairs in Europe, the balance-sheet must be considered as satisfactory. The gross income was roughly £62,627, of which £57,439 was derived from profits on trading. Of this, £300 has been given to war funds, the debenture service took £15,125, and the balance was carried to the profit and loss account. £25,000 has been added to the reserve for depreciation, renewals, and general purposes, bringing the total up to £110,000. Mr. Herbert Allen, the chairman of the company, in his speech referred to elsewhere, explained the situation to the shareholders and must be complimented on his able exposé. Some dissatisfaction was expressed at the meeting that no dividend was being paid, but as the chairman subsequently explained, they had redeemed a lot of debenture stock. Besides, the great rise in the Russian Exchange and the difficulty of obtaining remittances from Russia obliged the directors to keep important liquid assets in hand, and the decision had only been arrived at after consultation with some of the largest shareholders who were strongly in favour of the non-payment of a dividend. The explanation was considered satisfactory by the shareholders, there being only a few dissentient votes.

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"From the first three days of the war," writes a Neutral in the *Times*, "Americans leaving Berlin, Vienna, Budapest, Munich, Frankfurt, and elsewhere were provided with newspapers printed in English praising the German cause and denouncing that of Great Britain. In Athens I have found German newspapers printed in Greek; in Bucharest German papers printed in Roumanian; and in Sofia printed in Bulgarian. The Turks were deluged with German newspapers printed in Turkish, and a weird publication, the *Continental Times*, is printed in English and circulated for travelling Americans." What further proof is needed of the statement frequently made in these columns to the effect that Germany is a past master in the gentle art of suborning irreputable journals.

***

Those who have visited the Roumanian capital recently say that never was Bucharest more prosperous and more supplied with money than nowadays. "A journalist tells me" (says the Budapest correspondent of the *Morning Post*) "that the smallest newspaper shop proprietor could change a 1,000-fr. note, and although everything is very expensive, no one objects to paying 5 fr. for a ribbon or 30 fr. for a small room in a third-class hotel. Peasants bringing up their cattle, sheep, and pigs are getting magnificent prices for their stock from German and Austrian agents, and foodstuffs are paid for in gold and at three times as great a price as last year."

COMMENTATOR.

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Britain and the Near East.

The Scope of the Anti-German Union.

Though but recently organised, the Anti-German Union is doing solid work in furthering the organisation of all home industrial forces with a view to preparing for the great commercial campaign against German trade which is bound to ensue as soon as the purely military and political war has come to an end. The objects of the Union, together with some appropriate particulars concerning German methods in the Near East, are outlined in the following article, expressly written for THE NEAR EAST by Mr. J. M. Kennedy, secretary of the Business Committee of the Union. Editorial comments on the work of the Union will be found on a preceding page.

British Manufacturing Interests.

The Business Committee of the Anti-German Union has been formed for the purpose of protecting the interests of British manufacturers at home and abroad from foreign competition and of aiding in the extension of British trade in the international markets, especially where such trade has previously been in the hands of German and Austrian manufacturers. It is realised by the members of the committee that, when the war is over, England herself will probably have to enter upon a severe struggle for the maintenance, and even in some cases the recovery, of her foreign trade. In doing this she will have to fight against the strenuous competition of German and, no doubt, American firms also; but, in view of the economic losses which German firms will have suffered in consequence of the war, it may be taken as certain that the German Government especially will make every effort to support its own subjects in the economic sphere.

Taking all these facts into consideration, the Committee is at present making arrangements to bring together a highly organised body of British manufacturing interests—a group of producers who will be enabled, by the scientific application of co-operative methods, to meet the organised competition of alien firms. It is particularly to be noted that this body of manufacturers will be so strong as to be able to influence for their mutual benefit both the banks and the shipping companies.

Reduced British Exports.

Readers of THE NEAR EAST do not need to be reminded that the Balkan States, Turkey, Roumania, Egypt, and Persia—in fact, the areas covered by the paper itself—are countries which form particularly suitable ground for financial and commercial development. It is hardly necessary to quote actual figures on this point, for since the beginning of the war the Board of Trade has issued several pamphlets indicating the extent of German and Austrian trade in the Near East, and pointing out in which branches of it it is possible for British firms to compete with advantage. It is, nevertheless, worth while reminding even the business community interested in these markets that during the last twenty or thirty years practically every branch of the English export trade has suffered from subsidised competition by German and Austrian firms in the Near Eastern markets. To take a few instances at haphazard: The Westphalian Coal Syndicate, one of the most important German trusts, has been exporting large quantities of fuel to Greece, Roumania, Bulgaria, Serbia, and Turkey. The exports for 1913 amounted to nearly 360,000 tons—a figure which does not include exports to Asia Minor. Again, to take a branch of business in Egypt, England's participation in the export of building materials has been dwindling in almost the same proportion as German and Austrian exports to Egypt have been increasing. The two enemy countries have been sending to Egypt building materials of every description—timber, cement, paints, varnishes, tiles, drain pipes, and iron, steel and metal goods of every kind. Of this trade Great Britain's share in 1912 was only 16 per cent., and in 1913 only 14.8 per cent. In machinery Germany has, of course, become predominant in a great many Near Eastern markets. Thanks to the preferential rates allowed them by their Governments, German and Austro-Hungarian firms can export their goods at the minimum cost of transport to all the Balkan States, and at proportionately low rates to Turkey and Egypt. Throughout the Balkans, in Turkey, in Roumania, and, indeed, in Egypt and Persia as well, the traveller will find at work steam, oil, and gas engines from Germany, and ploughs, waterwheels, oil-presses, and all kinds of textile and agricultural machinery from Austria-Hungary. Even now the Central Powers have almost a monopoly of the business transacted in the Balkans in such items as iron joists, iron bars and angles, wire, and electric and gas fittings.

Baghdad Railway.

It is not in manufactured goods alone, however, that we find the full effects of our rival's abilities. In finance Germany has made herself such a power in the Ottoman Empire that until the outbreak of war competition with German banks was in many quarters regarded as all but useless. Through the system of dummy directors—which is not unassociated with German firms in this country—it became possible for German financial groups to control undertakings in the Near East which were nominally French or Turkish, Russian or Greek, as the case might be. It is sufficient to consider one notorious instance of German development in Asia Minor—viz., the Baghdad Railway. Beginning in the closing years of the last century with a comparatively small concession, the German bankers and manufacturers interested in this scheme gradually tightened their economic and political grip on the Turkish Government until one favour after another was wrung willy-nilly out of the reluctant Porte. As the concession finally stood last summer, the Baghdad Railway was not merely a line running from Constantinople to Baghdad, but a whole network of tracks covering important towns on even the Levant coast. This gigantic scheme reached its fruition thanks to the organised efforts of German financiers and manufacturers and business men, who achieved their economic ends in spite of the rather ill-organised—and, it must be confessed, ill-informed—opposition of the French and British Governments. The story of the Baghdad Railway is the story of the scientific efforts of imaginative yet practical business men directed to a common end, and of the much less able counter-efforts of ill-instructed politicians.

A glance at its constitution will show the enormous powers which German manufacturers were able to secure from the Porte. The company was authorized:—

To dig harbours and provide them with the installations and apparatus necessary for the landing of ships at the quays.

To provide warehouses for the storage of goods.

To establish steamship services on the River Tigris and the River Euphrates.

To exploit the coal, copper, and such other mines as there might be, within a radius of twenty kilometres on either side of the railway line.

To carry on as much timber cutting as desired in the adjacent forests.

To establish railway stores and warehouses, which the public could use on payment.

To build electric power-houses.

To exercise a monopoly of all brick and tile works to be founded on the territory ceded to it.

To build aqueducts and to carry water from and to certain specified points.

Banking Facilities.

It need hardly be said that the German manufacturers could not have carried such a scheme through if they had not had the cordial support of their banking institutions; and this is the point on which the Business Committee lays great stress. As a result of the extended credit facilities which the banks enable German manufacturers to offer, and of the new Currency Law passed in the United States in 1913, it happens that the foreign trade of our two greatest competitors can be financed, generally speaking, on easier terms than our own. To mention the Deutsche Bank in this connection is sufficient to remind any English oversea trader of the manner in which German financiers have consistently aided German manufacturers.

With the inevitable reconstruction of the Turkish Empire at the end of the war, many serious problems relating to finance and trade will necessarily have to be considered; and, in view of the lack of judgment which so many of our political advisers have shown in dealing with these matters during the last two decades, the Business Committee of the Anti-German Union expects to be in a position to serve its members by directing the attention of Parliament, business men, and the public generally to questions affecting British interests in Turkey and the Near East. Among these questions the Baghdad Railway naturally finds the chief place; but other important trade questions, many of which hinge upon the German scheme, will naturally be considered also.

DIRECTORY—*continued from page 474.*

SILLEY, Bernard, 37, Elliscombe Road, Charlton, S.E.
SILLEY, E. C., 37, Elliscombe Road, Charlton, S.E.
SILLEY, Mrs. Alfred C., Miss Alice, and Miss Beryl, Dedeagatch, Bulgaria.
SILLEY, Mr. and Mrs. C. C., 70, Kingsdown Avenue Ealing, W.
SILLEY, Mr. and Mrs. Walter and family, care of Imperial Ottoman Bank, Limassol, Cyprus.
SIMMONS, Albert, 84, Worple Road, Wimbledon, S.W.
SIMMONS, George H., c/o Imperial Ottoman Bank, Larnaca, Cyprus.
SKRIDSHIRE, C. R., Sand Haven, Weston-super-Mare.
SMITH, A. H., c/o Mrs. Gwilt, Hillsboro,' Jean drindod.
SMITH, F. W., "Heathcote," Bexley, Kent.
SMITH-LYTE, Mr. and Mrs. William, 30, Westbourne Terrace, Hyde Park, W. Tele., Paddington 7191.
SOPIANO, Mrs. Alexander, and sons, Rue Nikis, No. 11, Athens.
SPROWSON, Mr and Mrs. William, and family, The Ferns, Barrow-on-the-Hill
STELIANIDI, Mr. and Mrs. L. N., and family, Hôtel Métropole, Athens.
STRONG, Miss K M., Thorpe Hall, Peterborough.
STRATER, Mr and Mrs. Frank, British Consulate, Dedeagatch, Bulgaria.
STOCK, Mrs. H. W., and family, 13, Norland Sq., Holland Park, W. Tel.: Park 3770.
SUMMERS, Misses L. and M., Old Phaleron, Greece.
SWAN, Mr. and Mrs. T. Angus, 12, Ramshill Road, Scarborough.
SWAN, Mrs. Charles, 43, Lythoe Road, Finchley Road, N.W.
SYKES, Mrs. W. Norman, and family, 24, Osborne Road, Birkby, Huddersfield.
TALBOT, Miss, The Homestead, Basingstoke.
TALBOT, P. M. G., The Old Rectory, Scole, Norfolk.
THEWLIS, Frank, 33, Randolph Crescent, Maida Vale.
THOMPSON, William A., Glenmore, Avenue Road, Falmouth.
THOMPSON, Mrs Harold, Glenmore, Avenue Road, Falmouth.
THOMSON, Mrs., 124, King Henry's Road, South Hampstead, N.W.
THOMPSON, Miss C., c.o. Dr. Thompson, The Quay, Bideford.
THOMSON, Miss Gladys, 124, King Henry's Road, South Hampstead, N.W.
THOMSON, J. Crabtree, Cairo.
TRISTRAM, Mr. and Mrs. U. B., and family, 84, Worple Road, Wimbledon, S.W.
TUBINI, Mrs. T., 84, Worple Road, Wimbledon.
TUCHEN, Thomas C., and family, 13, Odos Kehaya New Phaleron, Greece.
TUCKER, Thomas J. V. Ferid, c/o A. H. Brace, Esq., 46, Goldshill Road, Handsworth.
VIDOVICH, Nicholas, and daughter Hotel Centrale, Rue du Stade, No. 22, Athens.
WATT, Mr. and Mrs. A. B., Grand Hotel, Larnaca, Cyprus.
WEAKLY, S., C.M.G., Norfolk Hotel, Kensington, W.
WEALE, W., Foreign Office S.W.
WEALE, Miss Mary, 10, Upton Road, Slough.
WEALE, Miss Norah, Lydgate House, Hunstanton.
WERNDEL, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. G., Grand Hotel Bulgarie, Sofia.
WHEATLEY, Miss N., "Falklands," Birkdale
WHITEHOUSE, Rev. Canon F. C., and family, 6, St. Andrew's Square, Surbiton.
WHITTALL, Hugh E. C., Royal Societies' Club, 63, St. James's Street, S.W.
WHITTALL, Reginald, and family, 60, Scarsdale Villas, Kensington, W.
WHITTALL, W. H. J., 1, Princes Square, Bayswater, W.
WHITTALL, Lady, Moda Cottage, Esher.
WHITTALL, Kenny, 62, Princes Square, W.
WHITTALL, Edwin, and family, Hotel Minerva, Athens.
WHITTALL, Miss Enid, 84, Worple Road, Wimbledon
WHITTALL, Miss Lucy, 60, Scarsdale Villas, South Kensington, S.W.
WHITTALL, Mrs Jack, Hotel Minerva, Athens.
WILKINSON, J. W., and family, Chios, Greece.
WOODS, Mrs. Harold, Baynton House, Westbury, Wilts.
WOODS, Harold, Continental Hotel, Cairo

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Trade Protection in Egypt.

The following are extracts from an article in the current issue of the *Monthly Journal* of the British Chamber of Commerce of Egypt:—

Piece Goods.

"Attention has been frequently drawn to the growing practice in this market of false folding of piece goods, and the marking of goods in general in such a manner as to deceive either the retailer or the consumer that the quantity of goods contained in the parcel or roll is greater than it actually is.

"The confusion arising from the diversity of the systems of weights and measures in use in Egypt and the opportunities offered thereby for fraud had the consideration of the Chamber in 1913, and a detailed report on this subject, more especially as regards the sale of piece goods was placed before Lord Kitchener. The Chamber expressed the opinion that if one system of weights and measures were adopted for the whole country, fraudulent practices of this description would become less easy, and suggested that the French metric system should be given the preference, firstly, because it was already used by some of the Government buying departments, and secondly, because the natives already knew something about it.

"In June, 1913, the draft of a new law providing for the use of the Egyptian weights and measures, as well as the metric system and the English weights and measures, was approved by the Legislative Assembly of the Mixed Tribunals, which represent the various European communities in Egypt, without any opportunity being offered for the expression of interested opinion, and this draft was subsequently sanctioned by the native Legislative Assembly and became law.

"We understand that the Alexandria Importers' Association have now recently called the attention of the Government anew to the prejudices arising out of the present confusion of weights and measures, and to the fraudulent misrepresentation of quantities which are so common in Egypt.

"Among instances cited by the Association is that of rolls of piece goods sold by the roll which are marked by the number 40, which is intended to convey the impression that the piece consists of forty yards, whereas in fact it contains considerably less. Again, a packet of straw paper marked 50, i.e., 50 kilograms, generally contains 48,47 or even 46 kilograms; boxes of starch marked 25 contain 23 or 22 kilograms; barrels of nails bearing the number 25 contain 23 or 22 kilograms; barrels of cement marked 200 contain not more than 180 kilograms, those marked 150 only 135-140 kilograms; sacks of flour supposed to contain 100 kilograms only weigh 95 kilograms, and so on.

"Even in retail trade, especially in dealings with natives, goods are weighed in a thick piece of paper approaching cardboard in texture. The Importers' Association suggest that legislation be introduced into Egypt whereby all sales should be made according to a recognised system of weights and measures and not by package, piece, sack, bale or case, and further that all merchandise imported into Egypt for the purpose of sale should bear either on the package or the article itself a clear indication of the weight, volume or length of the article. These suggestions will, we think, have the support of all respectable traders engaged in the import trade.

"Scotch" Whisky.

"But the misrepresentation of quantities forms only one part of the great and growing evil of unfair competition in Egypt. The counterfeiting of private marks is exceedingly common in Egypt, and also the use of descriptions calculated to deceive the public as to the country of origin. This is particularly the case in the liquor trade, where 'Scotch' whisky locally distilled, French and Italian wines and liquors which originate in Alexandria, are sold as the real article. In this case the authorities, for military reasons and not with a view to the protection of trade, have, under martial law, taken proceedings and have inflicted in a number of cases well deserved penalties.

Other Frauds.

"The bottles of a well-known British scent manufacturer have been for some years past refilled locally, with inferior perfume and peddled in the streets. A case in which an inferior olive oil has been bottled to imitate the product of a well-known London firm has been recently brought to our notice. Another typical fraud is that of, perhaps, the most used boot polish, which is manufactured locally, but bears prominently the word 'London.' These are a few examples amongst many, but enough has been said to show the extent of the evil.

"We are pleased to read in the report of the Judicial Adviser for 1914, which has recently been published, that modification in the laws of the country are now under consideration. We hope that now Egypt has been declared a British protectorate, the necessity of introducing legislation for the protection of trade, the prevention of unfair competition and fraudulent misrepresentation, will have the earnest attention of the authorities, and when the proper time comes the Chamber of Commerce, which is admittedly competent to give advice on this subject, will be consulted

"It would seem that the question of the preparation of legislation similar to that in force in India is deserving of the attention of the Government, subject to such modifications as local conditions require. We can assure the authorities that in this work they will have the fullest support of every respectable trader in this country. A very far-reaching and complete system of commerce protection laws exist in India under the denomination of the Indian Merchandise Marks Act. Under this act the Customs authorities have the power to stop the goods imported for sale coming under the following categories:—

(1) Goods having applied to them counterfeit trade marks or other indication that they are the manufacture or merchandise of a *person* whose manufacture or merchandise they are not.

(2) Goods having applied to them false trade descriptions or other indications in respect of the *country* in which they were made or produced.

(3) Goods having applied to them false trade descriptions that are false in other respects (this includes marks, numbers or description which are likely to deceive as to quality or quantity).

(4) Piece goods which have not the length properly stamped on each piece."

THE WORLD'S POTASH.

The potash hitherto used in this country has been chiefly derived from the enormous deposits of potash salts which occur near Stassfurt, in the north of Germany. These deposits have been systematically and economically worked and the trade so well organised that German potash, on account of its cheapness, became the almost exclusive source of the potash required throughout the world. The German source being no longer available it has become necessary to take stock of other sources of supply, and these are considered in "The World's Supply of Potash," a pamphlet just issued by the Imperial Institute.

In this pamphlet, which forms, in fact, a miniature encyclopædia of its subject, both the old and new sources of potash are described so far as details are available. Certain of these will probably only be utilised so long as the price of potash continues high, but others promise to become active competitors with the Stassfurt deposits, even when prices again fall to their usual level.

The chief use of potash, usually in the form of the chloride or sulphate, is as an artificial manure, for which purpose over 90 per cent. of the world's output is employed. But potash is also essential for numerous chemical industries carried on in this country, and for the manufacture of the finest kinds of glass, and the present scarcity is having considerable effects on these industries.

The price of "The World's Supply of Potash" is one shilling post free, and application for copies, enclosing remittance, should be made to the Imperial Institute, South Kensington, S.W.

ROUMANIAN COMMERCIAL NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Bucharest, August 17.

Presuming that the operations of the Allies at the Dardanelles will soon be crowned with success and the Black Sea again open to navigation, the position of Roumania is well worth the attention of British exporters.

There is a scarcity in this country of all goods which require to be imported, and an over-abundance of those products—cereals, petroleum, and timber—which Roumania exports.

A certain amount of trade is being carried on with Austria and Germany by the land route, but the railways are quite unable to cope with the requirements of either importers or exporters, and it is fully recognised that not until the Black Sea is again open to navigation will Roumania be able to obtain the supplies of which she stands in need, and to export her products.

British trade here has been losing ground, except in a few special branches. Two amongst the many causes are the competition of lower class German goods and the long-payment terms which have been gradually introduced and extended. These causes will disappear for the time being at least. The German and Austro-Hungarian goods cannot come in except to a very small extent, and the better-class dealer is now quite resigned to the fact that he will have to pay for his goods within a reasonable time.

It would obviously be impossible for British exporters to take orders now for delivery after the opening of the Dardanelles, but what could be done would be for exporters to have arrangements made with agents on the spot, so that operations could be commenced immediately the sea route is free. These agents should be thoroughly and regularly posted as regards prices without having to wait for information from the other side. A return letter during the war from Bucharest to London and back takes from twenty-four to forty days or more, so that there is no time to post inquiries.

Practically all kinds of goods can be sold, but a few of the bulk articles in enormous demand are: cotton yarn and piece goods; all grades of woollen piece-goods; jute sacks and piece-goods; coal (steam, household and gas), foundry coke, pig-iron, construction iron, pig lead, pipes (C.I.W.D. and steel for gas and water mains, oil lines, and oil wells); tinplates for roofing and cans; rice, tea, coffee, drugs and chemicals.

Several of the articles mentioned above are provisionally on the prohibited list, but export licences might eventually be obtained.

Roumania holds products of which Britain stands in need, and judging by her present dealings with Austria-Hungary and Germany she will not allow those products to be exported except in return for the import of goods required.

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Trade Notes.

Egypt.

The State Railways and Telegraphs Administration, Cairo Station, Cairo, calls for tenders for the supply of 970 metric tons of mineral oil. September 20, 1915.

The *Journal Officiel* for August 2 contains a notice giving the following revised tariff valuations for use in assessing duties on certain metals imported into Egypt, which came into force on August 1, and are to remain in operation until September 30, or until denunciation.

The same issue of the *Journal Officiel* contains tariff valuations for petroleum on importation into Egypt, which are to remain in force from August 1 to 31.

Tenders will be received at the Administration of the Egyptian State Railways and Telegraphs for the supply of 5,000 uniforms required for the year 1916, or 15,000 uniforms for the years 1916, 1917, and 1918. September 25.

The Economat Central, Ministry of Finance, Cairo, calls for tenders for the supply of agendas. September 16.

The War Office, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 1,200 okes of sole leather at the Citadel Stores, Cairo. September 1.

The War Office, Cairo, offers for sale a second-hand X-Ray apparatus complete, now at the Egyptian Army Hospital, Pont de Kubba. September 6.

The Director, Coast Guard Western Directorate, Alexandria, offers for sale a dahabia, with her gear, at the Coast Guard Brullos District (Borg el Brullos). Specification may be seen and all information obtained also at the Headquarters, Bab el Lûq, Cairo, as well as at the Brullos District Office. September 6.

Morocco.

H.M. Consul-General at Tangier reports that a French firm in that town wishes to represent in Morocco United Kingdom manufacturers of white shirtings; cotton and woollen tissues for men's and women's clothing; socks and stockings of cotton, wool and silk; various kinds of handkerchiefs; green tea; rice; confectionery; packing and commercial papers; preserved fish, fruit, etc.; glassware; constructional and corrugated galvanized iron; and cement. United Kingdom manufacturers and exporters of the goods mentioned should apply to the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C., for the name and address of the inquirer.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of information to the effect that an Order of the General Commander-in-Chief was published in a recent issue of the Official Bulletin of the French Zone in Morocco, prohibiting the exportation from the French Zone of French gold, silver, or nickel coins. Persons leaving the Zone by sea are allowed to take with them in cash a maximum sum of 250 fr., of which not more than 50 fr. may be in silver or 10 fr. in nickel.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of copy of an Order, dated July 12, which fixes as follows the quantity of certain cereals and pulse which may be allowed to be exported each month to Tangier, viz.:—Wheat, 4,000 quintals; barley, 3,000 quintals; maize, 1,000 quintals; flour, 1,200 quintals; semolina, 1,200 quintals; beans, 500 quintals; and chickpeas, 300 quintals.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of copy of a tariff showing the valuations of the principal articles of

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merchandise imported into Morocco. These valuations form the basis on which duty is to be assessed by the Moorish Customs Administration during the second half of the year 1915.

Tunis.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of copies of two Beylical Decrees, dated July 13 and 16, extending the prohibition to include the articles which were prohibited to be exported from France by the Presidential Decrees of July 3, viz. :—Arsenic and its salts; hydrochloric acid; sulphide of carbon, and sulphide of sodium; phosphuretted products (produits phosphorés) of all kinds; and gold, unmanufactured, in lumps, ingots, bars, powder, scrap (broken articles), and gold coins.

Tripoli.

After nearly 2½ years' perpetual drilling, an artesian flow of water has been found at a depth of 1,493 ft. in a well at Sidi Messri, a few miles from Tripoli. As this drilling has been successfully carried out, it is certain that numerous wells will be now taken up, and therefore there ought to be a good opportunity (says a Consular report) of selling drill materials to the Italian Government. The harbour is now being improved, and a firm has recently been established for credit operations and storage of goods.

Greece.

H.M. Consul at Piræus reports that tenders are invited by the Greek Ministry of Finances for the supply and delivery, at that port, of quinine required for the needs of the Government. Copies of the conditions of tender may be obtained from the "Ministère des Finances," Athens, where also sealed tenders, accompanied by samples, will be received up to September 1/14. A certificate of the deposit of 2,000 fr. (£80) with the Greek Treasury or the Greek National Bank is required to qualify any tender. A copy of the Greek *Government Gazette* of July 13/26, containing the conditions of tender and particulars of the quantities required (in French), may be consulted by United Kingdom quinine manufacturers at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

Roumania.

Commercial circles in the United States are exercising great efforts in order to establish a market for American goods in the Balkans, especially in harvesting and other agricultural machinery. An American merchant in Bucharest is advising manufacturers to consign large stocks, to be kept in readiness should the war suddenly come to an end.

Bulgaria.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of telegraphic information to the effect that the prohibition of the exportation of bran from Bulgaria has been withdrawn, and that beans, lentils, peas and millet, the produce of the 1914 crop, will in future also be allowed to be exported from Bulgaria.

WAR ON GERMAN TRADE.

In connection with the campaign undertaken by the Board of Trade, on the advice of their Advisory Committee on Commercial Intelligence, to assist British manufacturers and merchants to secure trade formerly in the hands of German or Austro-Hungarian firms, the Board continue to receive a very large number of inquiries for the names of sellers or buyers of articles of which the sources of supply or markets have been interfered with by the war.

Special arrangements have been made in the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade for dealing with these inquiries, and the weekly list of articles (No. 35) which inquirers desire to purchase is ready, and may be obtained by United Kingdom manufacturers and exporters of British goods.

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Mesopotamia Trade.

The following are extracts from a United States Consular report for 1914:—

Exports.

The principal raw articles exported from Baghdad are wools, gums, galls, sheep and goat skins, hides, licorice root, and dates (from Busreh). The wool is a strong cross-bred variety, particularly suited to the manufacture of carpets, horse cloths, blankets, and worsteds. America has been a large buyer in past years. The wool could be considerably improved by proper breeding and selection, and the quantity available for export will increase with the fertilization of the country. Gallnuts are received from Mosul and are exported in large quantities to London, Hamburg, and Marseille. Gum tragacanth is a valuable export and is an important item in the reciprocating trade with Persia. London is the principal buying market. Hides and skins of both Persian and Arabic origin are shipped to the Continent of Europe and to England. These are of good quality, but their value is reduced by defects in handling. Licorice, which grows wild in great abundance, is practically the monopoly of an American company. The growth of this article will probably be restricted as the agricultural development of the land proceeds.

Among the many agricultural products of the districts of Busreh, Baghdad, and Mosul are found considerable quantities of dates and various varieties of fruits. Exportations of dates have been made from Busreh to Europe and America for many years, but the fruits of Mesopotamia have never been exported to any considerable extent. During the winter oranges are very plentiful and very good. Around Baghdad there are many gardens full of orange trees, and these form the basis for a considerable income to local growers. It is not improbable that extensive gardens, properly managed, would develop this industry to such an extent that the exportation of oranges would be a paying business. During the summer there are large quantities of grapes placed on the market, and these also might form the basis for a considerable development in the fruit trade. Perhaps, however, were they to be grown very extensively, a wine industry of importance might be established in one of these districts.

Imports.

Cotton piece goods form the principal article of import into Baghdad. Manchester supplies the greatest proportion of this market's requirements, but in recent years India has competed successfully with gray goods. India has also captured from England extensive trade in cotton yarns and twist. The bulk of these importations are destined for the Persian markets of Kermanshah and Hamadan.

Other articles of bulk importation are: Loaf sugar, of French, Belgian and Austrian origin; crystal sugar, of French, Belgian, and Austrian origin; matches from Sweden; block tin from London and Bombay; copper sheets and bottoms from London and the Continent; candles, India and Belgium; cloth and woollens, Germany; silk piece goods and raw silk, Japan and China; window glass, Belgium; rod and bar iron, London; paints and oils, England and Germany; tea and coffee, India and England; indigo, India; grain and sacks, India.

There is also a growing trade in building materials, such as sawn wood of various kinds, iron girders, door and window fittings, and other household hardware.

Baghdad as a Distributing Centre.

Baghdad's large forwarding trade into Persia has been much hampered in past years by the lack of railways and the insecurity of caravan routes. Its position is still further threatened by the proposed Mohammerah-Khoremabad Railway, which will carry merchandise to within easy distance of Kermanshah without leaving Persian territory, and obviate the necessity for the present tedious up-river journey from Busreh to Baghdad, detention in Baghdad, and slow caravan transport with their attendant risks.

The German, or so-called "Baghdad Railway," is not likely to change traffic conditions in any way, as the working expenses of such a line will scarcely enable it to compete, so far as the southern section of the line is concerned, with cheaper, if slower, water-borne transportation of goods.

There is urgent necessity for short branch lines, to take the place of existing caravan routes by which the distribution of Baghdad's trade is effected. The main routes from Baghdad are as follows: Baghdad to Khanakin (on the Persian frontier); Baghdad to Hillah, Kerbela, and Nedjef; Baghdad to Samara (now served by rail); Baghdad to Mosul via Kerkouk and Erbil.

The first is the most important of Mesopotamian trade routes. Merchandise to the value of considerably more than £1,000,000 sterling passes over this road in the course of a year, and in addition it forms the main artery of the immense pilgrim traffic from Persia to the Mohammedan shrines of Kazimein, Kerbala, and Nedjef.

Baghdad-Mosul.

The export trade from Baghdad to Mosul is of very little importance because of the difficulty of road transport and the non-navigability of the river Tigris by steamers at certain points south of Mosul. The needs of that town are mainly supplied from the Aleppo market. Large shipments of produce, however, are made from Mosul to Baghdad by means of flat rafts formed of poles and reeds fastened to inflated sheepskins. These rafts are dismantled in Baghdad, the poles and reeds being sold and the skins being deflated and returned by road to Mosul for further use.

Owing to the swiftness of the current during the major part of the year, no mechanical impulse is needed to propel these rafts, and the two long sweeps with which each craft is furnished are merely used for steering safely through certain dangerous and rocky rapids, and past the numerous shoals in the river.

The produce which reaches Baghdad from Mosul by the means described consists chiefly of wheat, wool, galls, mohair, skins, and hides.

Oil.

There are undeveloped yet important oil wells at Gayara, in the neighbourhood of Mosul, and magnificent hot sulphur springs in the same vicinity. Further, Mosul is within reach of the rich agricultural districts of Kerkouk and Suleimania, which could be made enormously productive with improved methods. Western assistance will be required, if the vast resources of the land are to be fully utilized.

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Shipping Intelligence.

ALEXANDRIA PRIZE COURT.

In re SS. "Gutenfels" (cargo ex).

The following judgment was delivered by Judge Grain in the Alexandria Prize Court on June 18 in the above demand for the disposal of cargo on board the s.s. "Gutenfels."

Judgment.

In this case the Badische Company, Limited, a limited liability company registered under the India Companies Act, licensed at the present time to carry on business under the control of a controller appointed by the "Hostile Trading Concerns" of Bombay, instruct their director at Ludvigshafen-on-Rhine in Germany to buy aniline dyes from the Badische Anilin and Soda Fabrik at the same town. The goods, 93 cases of aniline dyes, are bought for Messrs. Dadagee Dhackjee and Co., of Bombay. They are shipped by and invoiced from the German Aniline Fabrik at Ludwigshafen to Dadagee Dhackjee and Co. on the German s.s. "Gutenfels." The Badische Co., Ltd., draw bills of exchange on Dhackjee and Co. which at the present time have not been accepted. It is urged by Mr. Booth that the property in these goods is in the Badische Co., Ltd., of Bombay, and that they should be released.

I am of opinion that the property in these goods at the time of shipment was and still is in the German firm, the Badische Anilin and Soda Fabrik. The Badische Co., Ltd., of Bombay, appear to me to be merely buying agents. The goods were bought from the German firm of Ludwigshafen, and there is no evidence before me that they have as yet been paid for, certainly Dadagee Dhackjee and Co. have not paid for them as they have not yet accepted the drafts. I therefore hold that these goods are the property of the Badische Anilin and Soda Fabrik of Ludwigshafen-on-Rhine and are therefore enemy goods.

Order.

Condemnation and delivery under order of March 5 of s.s. "Gutenfels" (cargo ex); application for admission of appeal adjourned for one month; security for appeal £250. (If no deposit has been made before end of month, application for admission of appeal lapses); stay of execution granted for fourteen days.

SALONIKA'S FREE ZONE.

The commercial area of Salonika is almost unrestricted, says a writer in *Kelly's Monthly Trade Review*. As Hinterland there are the Greek Macedonia and Epirus territories, with nearly 1½ million inhabitants. Tobacco is the principal article of production and exported from Salonika, the annual value of same being about £4,000,000. For the time being the Salonika market seems to be in a depressed state, owing to the uncertainty of the nearest future of Greece. The importance of the place, however, cannot be over-rated, and undoubtedly commercial houses would do well to secure local agents, and, generally speaking, prepare matters so as to be ready to start when the war is over.

The Greek *Official Gazette* has recently published a law providing for the establishment of a free zone at the port of Salonika. A summary of the principal features is of interest: Merchandise stored in any part of the free zone shall not be liable to any Customs duty or to any other dues, except harbour and warehouse dues. All kinds of merchandise, except those to be specified by royal decree, may be stored in the warehouse of the free zone. Such storing and preservation and the handling of merchandise are to be executed without the intervention of Customs' officials. The Royal decree to be issued shall fix the conditions governing the Customs' supervision of certain goods brought into the free zone, and superintendence of loading and unloading. Only merchandise coming from countries entitled to the Greek "conventional" Customs tariff may be unloaded and stored in the free zone. Conditions and regulations governing the operations of the Government warehouses and the various storage fees to be charged are to be fixed by Royal decree. A Royal decree may be issued to gratify the convention respecting the concession to a company or to the municipality of Salonika, for a period not exceeding ten years, of a total or partial exploitation of the free-zone warehouse. We would remark, however, that so far no actual work has been commenced on this proposed free zone. As far as we are able to judge, this free zone—or, rather, free harbour—will be established on very much the same lines as the Copenhagen free harbour, and, if carried on on the same principles, it will no doubt turn out to be of considerable commercial importance. The present time is suitable for establishing connections in the Salonika district. It should not be overlooked that the Greek Macedonia and Epirus represent more than 70 per cent. of the territory recently added to the Greek kingdom as a result of the late war, and it can safely be said that this territory is of greater economic value to the kingdom than all of the Old Greece. Very soon the railway connection between Athens and Salonika will be repaired, and then the chance of Salonika will have come.

ADEN SHIPPING.

The merchants at Aden are complaining bitterly of the lack of shipping facilities between Aden and America (says the U.S. Consul). Many merchants have had to discontinue buying, as their warehouses are full, and they have no way of shipping the contents thereof to the United States. The Italian vessels are giving preference to shipments to Italy. As there is plenty of cargo for Italy there is, therefore, no space for cargo to be transhipped to the United States. The Italian lines have increased their freight rates 100 per cent. and their passenger rates 33⅓ per cent. over *ante bellum* prices.

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Agents in Cairo: Messrs. SAYER & COLLEY, Savoy Chambers.

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O. B. 117. Telg.: "Sulzer, Alexandria." Tel. No. 738.
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57,000 Tons of Nitrate of Soda were consumed in Egypt in 1913.
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Engineering Notes.

Modern Machine Tools.

With the apparent influx of American machinery and tools into British workshops at the present time, in order to cope with the urgent demand for munitions, there is also a hope that the proverbial disinclination of the average British manufacturer to the adoption of modern machine tools or devices of foreign construction will be relaxed. It is admitted that the time and labour saving capstan and turret lathes and other milling machines have revolutionised the productive capacity of factories in which such machines are used. But a considerable time passed before they were adopted in England. However, at present many British firms are making such machines, but as the demand for that class of machinery, as well as for all kinds of lathes, boring, milling, and other machines for munition work is enormous, a considerable number is being imported from America.

A New Lathe.

A lathe which has recently been placed on the market is worth mentioning, for it embodies a number of improvements that enable it to render much more efficient service than the ordinary machine of this description. By means of a gear arrangement in the head it is possible to select at once any speed desired; and as there is only a single-speed driving pulley running at a high belt velocity, the delivery of ample power to the cutting tool is assured. This feature of instantaneous speed selection enables a great saving of time to be effected when running on different classes of work, and is also a notable advantage when the diameter of the metal in the lathe is subject to sharp variations, as it saves wear on the tools and bearings and renders possible the production of extremely well-finished work. There are twelve speed changes in the head of this lathe, six of which are obtained in the gear-box. The entire speed-changing mechanism, except the back gears of the headstock proper, is contained in the gear-box, which is an independent unit, tongued and bolted to the back of the headstock. It can be removed at any time without affecting the other working parts. The six speeds obtained by the gear-box are controlled by two conveniently situated levers, and a plate on the front of the headstock gives a complete list of all speeds and shows the proper position for producing them. Quick-change gears for feeds and threads are located beneath the headstock and firmly supported in the walls of the bed. All changes of feed or thread can be easily and readily made while the lathe is in operation. Other equipments consisting of multiple stops for length and cross feeds, connected compound and plain rests, and other valuable appliances for repetition turning, etc., accompany this lathe, which, owing to the above-mentioned improvements, is easily handled by an ordinary turner.

Small Agricultural Motor.

The reason for recommending and importing American agricultural motors was once given to us by an engineer and machinery importer in the Near East, who said that the smallest British-made agricultural motor and cultivator was too large for the Oriental agriculturist and required two or three men to attend to it, while the American machine was small, light, and compact, and required only one man to operate it. It is probable that his personal interests were better served by feigning ignorance of facts which prove that such is not the case, and which, were they known to buyers, would make the latter insist on having a British-made machine. For instance, the other day we observed the wonderful work being done in English farms by a small agricultural motor. At the time it was driving some barn machinery, and was prepared to start soon after on field work. This machine allows a two-furrow plough, a cultivator, or other implement to be hinged behind in such a manner that it can be operated and lifted by the motor driver. Work with this motor, therefore, becomes a one-man proposition, and its suitability for employment on small farms cannot be gainsaid. Owing to its light weight it can be used for seeding or harrowing, and its power is fully equal to the rapid harvesting of grain with a 6 ft. binder. Its width is 4 ft., three speeds of 2, 3 and 5 miles per hour, and a reverse are provided; force pump lubrication with an indicator on the front dashboard is supplied, and a well-made magneto ensures regular ignition of the fuel. Cooling of the engine cylinder is effected by a thermo-syphon and tank with very large water pipes arranged on a new principle giving, it is claimed, unusual efficiency and ample facility for cleaning. The engine starts on petrol, but works on paraffin, one minute's run on the spirit being sufficient to obtain the heat necessary for vaporising the more ordinary fuel. It is mounted on steel travelling wheels, and is fitted with a belt pulley and friction clutch from which barn machinery requiring up to 10 h.p. can be driven. For transporting farm produce, it is said, this motor will do the work of at least four horses, hauling three tons at five miles per hour on roads with reasonable gradients. It is to be regretted that such machines have not been brought to the notice of buyers in the East.

Pumps in Mesopotamia.

The introduction of pumping machinery into Mesopotamia has shown the profitable possibilities of modern methods, and within the last ten years upward of 800 irrigation plants have been erected upon the banks of the Euphrates and Tigris, says the U.S. Consul at Baghdad. These plants consist of internal-combustion engines with a centrifugal pump as a separate unit. The engines vary from 5 to 40 brake horsepower, but the economy and efficiency of the higher powers is now recognized, and, the experimental stage having been passed, landowners do not hesitate to invest in a power which will develop the resources of their land to the utmost. The fuel consumed in the engines is ordinary kerosene, and the importation of this article has in the last few years increased in consequence from 3,000 cases to about 100,000 cases per year (a case contains two tins of four gallons each).

A Farmer's Engine.

There is no farmer, especially in the East, who does not desire the possession of an engine that could be employed in the farm for pumping water, driving barn machinery, a small flour mill, or a threshing machine, etc. But, as a rule, the fulfilment of such a desire is often barred by the purchase cost of the engine, which is sometimes beyond the means of the average farmer. A little engine which has recently been exhibited at work would just meet the requirements of the small farmer or the Oriental coffee-grinder, paint-mixer, cotton and silk spinner, etc., for it is small and easy to manage. The smallest 1½ h.p. four-cycle horizontal engine is listed at £10 (250 fr.), and another 2½ h.p., with throttle governor, is listed £15 (375 fr.). These little engines are reversible, and will work equally well with paraffin or petrol without change of equipment. It is said that they consume a little less than a pint of fuel for each horse-power per hour. They are practically noiseless in their action, free from vibration, and have only three moving parts and one adjustment for wear. An even power is obtainable from these engines, as they are fitted with a sensitive governor and two flywheels.

A Surgical Magnet.

The risks run by mechanics and others employed in engineering works from flying small pieces of metal are not known to the layman, but those who know them will be glad to hear that a device has been discovered by which prompt assistance can be offered to those who may meet with accidents from such pieces of metal. It consists, according to the *Royal Society of Arts Journal*, of a powerful magnet, and has already been successfully installed by the Westinghouse and Electric Manufacturing Company in the relief department of its East Pittsburg works. This magnet removes pieces of metal from flesh, and is a boon to iron and steel workers, who frequently get small pieces of metal in their eyes or hands. The portion of the body in which the metal is embedded is placed near the pole tip of the magnet, and the necessary electric current is switched on. The magnet does the rest. Some remarkably small pieces have been extracted in this way.

ROYAUME DE BULGARIE.

MINISTERE DES CHEMINS DE FER, POSTES et TELEGRAPHES

Direction Générale de la Construction des Chemins de fer et des Ports.

AVIS.

No. 5565.

Le 31 Août / 13 Septembre, 1915, à 10 heures du matin, il sera procédé au Palais de l'Assemblée Nationale à l'adjudication, sous pli cacheté, de la construction par entreprise générale à forfait des chemins de fer: "Radomir - Doubnitza - Gorna Djoumaya" et de son embranchement "Doubnitza-Bobov-dol" d'une longueur totale de 90.1 kilomètres, "Pleven-Lovetch," d'une longueur de 52.5 klms., et "Gabrovo-Sevlievo," d'une longueur de 29.75 klms.

Les cautionnements qui devront être déposés pour être admis à l'adjudication sont fixés conformément à la Loi sur les entreprises publiques comme suit: leva or 741,000 pour la ligne Radomir-Doubnitza-Gorna Djoumaya et son embranchement Doubnitza-Bobov-dol; leva or 320,000 pour le tronçon Pleven-Lovetch et leva or 160,000 pour celui de Gabrovo-Sevlievo.

Le cahier des charges, les plans et la collection des types pour chacune des lignes susmentionnées, se vendent à la Direction Générale des Constructions, 4, Rue Preslav, au prix de frs. or 80.

Les offres devront être conformes au modèle de soumission et porteront sur chaque ligne séparément et non sur les trois ensemble.

Les plis contenant les offres devront être remis jusqu'au 31 Août, 1915, 10 heures du matin, au plus tard et porteront l'inscription: "Offre pour la construction du chemin de fer..... ....." Les offres faites après cette heure ne seront pas prises en considération.

La Direction
Générale des Constructions.

Sofia, le 9/22 Juillet,
1915.

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Near East Markets.

VITICULTURE IN ROUMANIA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, July 30.

The direction of the Credit Viticole has taken the excellent measure of distributing sulphate of copper among the peasant vine-growers. Under the supervision of M. Opran, the director, more than 30 tons of sulphate have been distributed among more than 500 peasants, the chemical being delivered to them gratis.

So far, the state of the wine harvest is very satisfactory, taking it all round, and this distribution of sulphate of copper, at a time when it was extremely scarce in the country, will be of great service to the small vine growers.

CROP PROSPECTS.

Sudan.

Arrivals from the Gezira inform us that the rains which fell there during the last few days were so copious and general that the natives declare that another such rain will be sufficient to ensure good crops for this year.—*Sudan Times.*

Egypt.

The Egyptian Public Works Ministry has issued the following notice :—

"The Ministry of Public Works announce that the Nile at Khartoum attained only 14.18 metres on the 13th inst., whereas in normal circumstances it should have reached 15.20 metres by that date. Low levels in the river during September can now be averted only by a sudden and well-sustained rise on the Blue Nile and the Atbara. There being little reason to anticipate such rise, the Ministry declare the coming to be a low flood, and cultivators are hereby warned that, despite all measures taken by the Irrigation Department, certain lands and islands in Upper Egypt are liable to remain unirrigated. The indications are that the flood will be not as low as that which passed in 1913, but will approximate in level to that of 1907."

Tripoli.

Under date of June 28, the U.S. Consul in Tripoli says that the harvest of both barley and wheat in Tripolitania is finished. The barley crop was the most abundant in many years. Unfortunately, native uprisings interfered greatly with gathering. At certain points whole areas were burned to prevent the ripened grain falling to the sickles of the rebels, who, on the other hand, more frequently gained possession and carried all away, thereby, it is said, gaining supplies sufficient for two years.

In consequence of all this, arrivals in the Tripoli market have failed to reach expectations. Wheat, the less important cereal, has been similarly affected.

EGYPTIAN WHEAT.

The Commercial Intelligence Bureau of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture sends the following :—

In view of the interest which has recently been shown with respect to the experimental shipments of Egyptian wheat made to the English markets, and the readiness with which these shipment have been sold, in spite of the temporary depression in wheat values at the time of their offer, it may be of some additional value to review a few other points in connection with the export trade in wheat from Egypt, to which it may, at some future time, be necessary to turn on the occasion of a surplus crop causing the local prices to fall sufficiently low to leave a margin of profit.

On looking through the price list for wheat in the June Bulletin of Agricultural and Commercial Statistics, published by the International Institute of Agriculture, Rome, one is struck by the fact that prices ruling in Italy are, just now, considerably higher than those in other countries. As far as Egypt is concerned, it must, however, be remembered that Italy as well as most of the Mediterranean regions, is in need of hard macaroni wheat, the Egyptian semi-hard wheats finding little favour. The Algerian type of wheat grown in Upper Egypt under the name of "Gawi," is suitable for the Mediterranean demand, and its cultivation might, with advantage, be extended if the wheat area produces at any time in excess of the actual requirements of the country. This type of wheat finds no favour in England, where, however, the ordinary Egyptian native wheats seem to be easily saleable.

The prices per quintal given in the Rome Bulletin above referred to show that while No. 2 Northern Manitoba and No. 2 Hard Winter were at 31.80 and 31.28 ft. respectively in Liverpool on June 11, No. 1 Manitoba was quoted in Genoa at 40.50 fr. On the same date, White Karachi (the wheat with which Egyptian Hindi wheat is classified), was selling at 32.09 fr. per quintal. From this it will be seen that the semi-hard Indian wheat sold at a higher figure than the hard wheats from North America in Liverpool, whereas a much higher price was paid for similar hard wheat in Italy, where, as has been ascertained by correspondence, Egyptian ordinary or Hindi wheat is not a desirable kind.

PRODUCE REPORT.

London, August 26.

Currants.

The market continues very strong, and a little dearer. Amalias was sold at 28s. 6d. to 31s., and Island from 28s. to 29s. 6d. Vostizzas are practically cleared from 37s. to 39s. New fruit is also dearer, with fair business passing in medium qualities. Shipments of new crop, "primaroli," begin this week, and first arrivals of same will be in about three weeks' time. What we predicted, months ago, with regard to the wood for boxes, has occurred. Owing to the war the usual supplies of boxwood from the Austrian Adriatic ports could not be obtained this year, and such is the scarcity that quarter cases which in normal times cost 8d. each cannot be obtained for less than 1s. 8d. to 1s. 10d. each; and so it is expected that most of the lower grades of fruit will come in bags this year. With regard to the new crop, according to official information recently received in the Ministry of Finance in Athens, it is calculated between 136 and 137 thousand tons. To this quantity must be added about 14,000 tons which remained undisposed during the year ending this month. The retention this year will be 35 per cent.

Sultanas.

Fair business has been done this past week at rather high prices. Some Smyrna fruit was sold from 64s. to 68s., while some common in bags was offered at 60s. There are no Greek sultanas in the market, and according to recent information from Greece the new crop is smaller than usual. Afghans are selling, in ½ cases, at 63s.

In Liverpool prices continue advancing. Smyrna fruit, common, has been quoted 61s. to 62s., colory 64s. to 65s., and fine grades from 70s. and upwards.

Figs.

There has been a good opportunity for Greek figs this year, and a fair demand was created, but the high prices asked for new crop to arrive, it is feared, will diminish the demand. Some good business, however, has been done in Calamata new crop this past week.

Dates.

There is a good demand for new crop, while old fruit is selling slowly at recent prices.

Seeds.

Linseed is quiet, and prices fairly steady. London-Calcutta spot is quoted 55s. 3d., afloat, and Sept.-Oct. ditto, while Aug.-Sept. was sold 55s. Rapeseed is firm, but inactive. Yellow Cawnpore, Sept.-Oct., is quoted 57s. 6d.; Guzerat 59s., and brown Cawnpore, Aug.-Sept., 53s. Cotton-seed remains quiet. London-Egyptian, spot, is quoted £9 15s.; Sept., £9 12s. 6d.; Oct., £9 7s. 6d. per ton.

COTTON MARKET.

Liverpool.

August 26.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report :—

Egyptian Spot.—There has been a fair general inquiry, and good business has resulted. Sales include 550 bales of Sudan cotton. Quantities show an advance of 5 points for the week. Sales are estimated at 4,400 bales, as against 3,300 bales last week.

Manchester.

The general conditions of trade this week do not show any improvement on the previous few weeks. There continues to be a moderate miscellaneous business, and the prices, we understand, are being maintained.

EGYPTIAN COTTON.

A correspondent writes to the *Financial Times* :—

The latest news from Egypt relating to the cotton crop is of an encouraging nature, the month of June having witnessed a decided improvement in most districts, with the result that the statistical position of the crop in Lower Egypt is now above the average, while in Upper Egypt, although the ratio is still a little below the normal, the probability is that a recovery to the mean level of past years will be witnessed before very long. It will be recalled that in November, 1914, the Egyptian Government issued a decree limiting the area to be placed under cotton cultivation in respect of the 1915 season, in order to avoid any tendency towards overproduction, and the coming crop will, therefore, be of no more than moderate dimensions, although the yield per acre may, it is hoped, be a little higher than usual. The point to which importance is attached in Egyptian official circles is, however, that, at a time when the loyalty of the natives in the Nile Valley is being tested, they will have no cause for discontent in regard to the outcome of their agricultural operations. In order to obtain the best prices for the 1914 crop the Government last year created a series of Egyptian Treasury bills, which enabled the fellaheen to dispose of their output at leisure, instead of forcing it on the market at the earliest possible moment. This principle worked very well and could doubtless be adopted again if necessary. It will be time enough, however, to consider this matter when the crop is being gathered, and by then the effect of placing cotton on the contraband list, which step is believed to be imminent, will have made itself felt. The probability is that this policy would tend to reduce prices, and should this prove to be the case the Government will, it is to be hoped, once more come to the rescue of the native cultivators of the cotton-growing areas of Egypt.

COTTON THREAD IN EGYPT.

H.M. Consul at Cairo reports that ordinary cotton thread on reels is in normal years imported into Egypt to the value of some £75,000, about one-third of which formerly came from Austria. At present there is a considerable demand, and prices have shown a marked increase since the beginning of the war. A type of cotton used in tailoring for stitching clothes previous to finish, known as "No. 12 doubled" or "sewing," is imported to the value of about £4,000 to £5,000 annually.

YARN EXPORT RESTRICTIONS.

Early last month the Manchester Chamber of Commerce suggested to the Government Cotton Exports Committee that Declaration A should be modified. In recent regulations it was required that the consumer of cotton yarn, proposed to be shipped from this country, should state on Declaration A that the goods would be consumed in his own mill. The Chamber pointed out that this requirement was virtually impracticable in Near Eastern markets, where the yarn is generally sold to wholesale merchants, who in their turn either sell to the shopkeepers or retail it in establishments of their own.

A reply has now been received from the Committee to the effect that "they are unable at present to recommend the issue of any licences for exportation to Bulgaria and Roumania."

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NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES

According to information received at the office of H.M. Trade Commissioner for South Africa from the Commissioner of Customs and Excise at Pretoria, the production of Turkish tobacco in the Western Province of the Union is an industry of comparatively recent growth, but it has developed with extraordinary rapidity, especially in the French Hoek Valley, where the soil and climate appear to approximate closely to the native conditions of the best varieties of Turkish tobacco. In several instances farmers have uprooted their vineyards in order to plant tobacco. The number of growers is about 70 and the area under cultivation 530 acres, with a yield of 250,000 lbs. annually. The average price for the 1913 crop was 1s. 8d. per lb.

By Proclamation of the High Commissioner of Cyprus dated August 2, the exportation of goods from Cyprus to Italian ports is allowed. Since March 15 exportation has been prohibited, except to countries of the Allied Powers (save Baltic ports), Spain, and Portugal.

The Royal Commercial Agent of Serbia, in Egypt, announces that the prune and plum crops have been excellent, both in quantity and quality. These fruits make delicious jams. For further particulars intending buyers in Egypt are requested to address themselves to 5, Shariah el Manakh, Cairo.

Mr. Thomas Usborne, of Writtle, Chelmsford, Conservative M.P. for Mid-Essex, 1892-1902, chairman of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited, who died on June 8 last, aged seventy-five, gave £5,000 in trust for each of his daughters Mary Elizabeth Collier and Margaret Ann; and £5,000 to his step-daughter Phyllis Treffry. His wife and other children being provided for by gifts and settlements, he left the residue of the property to his daughter Mabel Alexina Usborne, desiring her to make pecuniary payments to those in his employ as she knew he would desire. The value of the estate is £116,554, with net personalty £110,362.

The Postmaster-General wishes to call the attention of the public to the desirability of registering letters containing currency notes. Full particulars in regard to registration and compensation are given in the Post Office Guide.

The Egyptian Ministry of Finance has opened a credit of £E6,000 for work on the Aboukir railway. A new station will be built at Mamoura.

According to information received from the American Consul at Athens, dated July 10, 1915, magnesite ore, crude and calcined, has been added to the embargo list of Greece.

The *Busreh Times*, Arabic edition, of May 31, has reproduced one of the Arabic poems which recently appeared in THE NEAR EAST.

Two Roumanian subjects became naturalised in Great Britain in July last.

ROUMANIAN OIL SUPPLIES.

The editor of *Petroleum World* writes:—

"In justice to the Roumanian Government and to British oil companies operating in Roumania, it should be stated that our enemies are not being supplied from this source with oil. The export from Roumania of the petroleum products of principal use in warfare—namely, petrol and fuel oil—has been prohibited for many months past, and the only oil exports now permitted have little or no military importance. Roumania's action in this respect has practically paralysed her own petroleum industry, and considerable German pressure has been brought to bear to alter the position, but hitherto Roumania has stood firm.

"The production of crude oil, some figures of which are quoted by your correspondent, is a very different thing from the marketing of the refined products. On account of the prohibition above mentioned, all storage in Roumania is full, and excavations are being made in the earth to hold some of the surplus. I estimated some time ago that there was a stock of 1,000,000 tons of oil products in Roumania waiting for the embargo to be raised. The value of these products is probably £5,000,000, and stocks are constantly being added to."

COMPANY MEETING.

EUROPEAN OILFIELDS CORPORATION LIMITED.

Mr. Herbert Allen, presiding at the annual general meeting of this company on August 24, said that having regard to the fact that for six weeks the Baku properties were idle owing to a general strike of workmen throughout the district, and that for five months of the year they had been working under war conditions, he thought it would be generally conceded that the result of the year's working must be regarded as being very satisfactory. Notwithstanding the strike and other adverse factors the gross profits on trading, at £57,400, were only £10,300 short of those of the previous year, although the price realised for their oil was only 34.05 copecks per pood as against 36.06 copecks in the previous year. These unfavourable conditions had, however, been largely offset by a reduction in the cost of production, brought about largely by the further economies they had effected in the quantity of oil used as fuel. Miscellaneous receipts, consisting of interest and profits on investments, brought the entire gross profits for the year up to £62,600, and, after deducting £4,453 for London and other expenses and £15,125 for debenture interest and redemption, they were left with a balance of £43,048. Of this sum £25,000 had been added to reserve for depreciation, renewals, and general purposes (bringing the total of that fund up to the respectable figure of £110,000), and one-fifth of the remaining £18,048 (i.e., £3,609) had to be applied to the redemption of profit-sharing notes. The directors proposed to carry forward the remaining balance of £14,439. If all went well in the future they should have no difficulty in distributing the surplus profits, whereas,

AGRICULTURAL BANK OF BULGARIA

(BANQUE AGRICOLE DE BULGARIE).

PRIVILEGED CREDIT ESTABLISHMENT.

ESTABLISHED IN 1864.

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RESERVE FUNDS	-	-	**,, 14,500,000**

Head Office: SOFIA.

85 Branches and 100 Agencies in all the principal centres of Bulgaria.
Banking and Stock Exchange Operations undertaken. Special Service for Debt Collection Transfers. Letters of Credit, etc.

NATIONAL BANK OF BULGARIA.

State Bank of Emission. *Established 1879.*

Head Office - - SOPHIA.

Branches at Sophia, Roustschouk, Varna, Philippopolis, Tirnovo, Burgas, Widin, Plevna, Sistov, Sliven, T.-Pazardjic, Shumla, Stara-Zagora, Gabrovo, Dede-Agatch, Xanthie, Gumuldjina, and 70 agencies.

Capital - 20,000,000 leva gold = £800,000. Reserve Funds - 10,500,000 leva gold = £420,000

EVERY KIND OF BANKING BUSINESS TRANSACTED.

Governor, CHR. TCHAKALOFF.

NATIONAL BANK OF GREECE.

ESTABLISHED IN 1841.

CAPITAL - Dr. 20,000,000. RESERVES - Dr. 13,500,000.

Head Office: ATHENS.

BRANCHES.

Aegion, Agrinion, Almyros, Amalias, Amphissa, Arta, Atalante, Calamata, Calavryta, Céphalonia, Chalkis, Corfu, Corinth, Cythère, Dimitzana, Gythium, Ithaque, Janina, Karditza, Kyparissia, Lamia, Larissa, Lévadia, Mégalopoli, Messina, Missolonghi, Naupacta, Nauplia, Patras, Paxos, Piræus, Poros, Pylos, Pyrgos, St. Maure, Salonika, Santorin, Sparta, Syra, Thèbes, Trikkala, Tripoli, Volo, Zante,

Every kind of Banking Business Transacted.
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Correspondents in all Parts of the World.
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on the other hand, if they once parted with cash, it was difficult to see how they could replenish the coffers of the company except by bringing remittances from Russia, and as that operation would, at present rates of exchange, entail a loss of over 30 per cent., the directors did not feel justified in making the sacrifice. Meantime, the company had sufficient funds in London to meet the entire debenture service and other expenses for at least a year ahead. That was a strong and very satisfactory position to be in, and one that many companies must envy them. The feeling of the directors was that the reserve fund of £110,000 was well in excess of the actual depreciation, and left a generous margin for what might be called general purposes or contingencies. In association with the Russian Petroleum Co. and the Baku Russian Petroleum Co. they were experimenting with the American rotary system, which was practically new to the Baku district, and if the work finished up as well as it had started it would effect a great saving in the time and cost of drilling wells. Their interests in California and Roumania had felt the effects of the war. In proportion to their magnitude few oil concerns in Baku had got through the year 1914 better than this company, and, as regarded the current year, the net result of their operations for the first three months had been very satisfactory, the figures comparing well with those of the corresponding months last year.

Mr. A. G. Parker seconded the motion.

An amendment that the meeting be adjourned and a committee of inquiry be appointed was lost on a show of hands, and the motion for the adoption of the report and accounts was then put to the meeting and carried.

The retiring director (Mr. Herbert Allen) and the auditors (Messrs. Price Waterhouse and Co.) were re-elected, and the meeting terminated.

We are asked by the European Oilfields Corporation, Limited, to state that the aggregate holding of those who voted against the adoption of the report and accounts is 3,596 shares. The aggregate holding of the other shareholders present at the meeting is 238,402 shares. The proxies held by the directors represented a total of 306,439 shares, some of which formed part of the above 238,402.

COMPANY RESULTS, &c.

ANGLO-ROUMANIAN.—Production of crude oil for week ending 14th inst., 160 tons.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN OILFIELDS. — Production for the week :—Gemsah, 344 tons (last week 150 tons); Hurgada, 247 tons (last week 247 tons).

European Oilfields.—Production for week ending 22nd inst., 89,000 poods. Price of crude oil at Blacktown, 42 copecks per pood.

Maikop Premier.—Production of crude oil for week ending 21st inst., 1,904 poods (31 tons).

ROUMANIAN CONSOLIDATED.—Production for the week ending August 14, 1,572 tons. Moreni wells Nos. 30 and 49 still flowing steadily.

RUSSIAN PETROLEUM.—Estimated production of crude oil for week ending August 21, 91,323 poods. Price of crude, 47 copecks per pood.

FINANCIAL MISSION TO NEW YORK.

The intention of the Government to send three financial envoys to New York (says *The Times*) to put into operation the policy concerted on in London and agreed on by France and Russia for dealing with the American exchange problem, has already been mooted. One of those envoys will be Sir Edward Holden, and Lord Reading is fully expected to be another.

We understand that the party will probably be completed by Sir Henry Babington Smith, who, originally at the Treasury, was secretary to the Brussels monetary conference in 1892, and subsequently became Secretary to the Post Office (1903-9) and then President of the National Bank of Turkey from 1909 till the outbreak of war.

EGYPTIAN TRIBUTE.

It will be interesting to see (says the *Financier*) what happens at the next Egyptian Tribute drawing, as one of the conditions pertaining thereto is that the Turkish Ambassador shall be present. Doubtless this contretemps accounts for the delay; as, although the bonds are not payable till October, the drawing has hitherto always taken place in July. I gather the Government has been approached with a view to removing the difficulty, but so far no decision has been arrived at.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Situation au 30 Juin, 1915, publiée en conformité de l'Article 8 des Statuts.

SERVICE DE BANQUE.

		£E.
Titres d'Etat et Titres garantis par le Gouvernement Egyptien		795,920
Titres divers		389,228
Comptes-Courants		338,273
Avances sur Marchandises		754,792
Avances sur Titres Locaux et Etrangers		1,546,002
Avances sur d'autres garanties		1,136,286
Effets sur l'Etranger		1,750,413
Effets sur l'Egypte		373,231
Immeubles et mobilier		244,620
Placements à courte échéance		1,925,625
Comptes Banquiers		779,628
Gouvernement du Soudan		346,886
Encaisse:		
Espèces:		
Or	£E.134,689	
Argent et nickel	£E.125,905	
	£E.260,594	
Billets de Banque	£E.610,518	871,112
Divers		136,806
		£E.11,388,822
		£E.
Capital		2,925,000
Réserve:—		
Statutaire		1,267,500
Comptes-Courants, Dépôts et autres		4,110,680
Tribunaux Mixtes		1,334,001
Ministère des Finances		1,103,959
Ministère Compte spécial		5,828
Comptes Banquiers		146,838
Chèques et effets à payer		158,693
Divers		336,323
		£E.11,388,822

SERVICE D'EMISSION DE BILLETS DE BANQUE.

Espèces	£E.3,682,861
Titres	3,317,139
	£E.7,000,000
Billets émis	£E.7,000,000
	£E.7,000,000

NATIONAL BANK OF ROUMANIA.

BALANCE-SHEET, JULY 18/31, 1915.

ASSETS.

Metallic reserve	Gold (specie)	165,493,242	
	On deposit	25,220,000	
	Gold (bars)	205,000	
	Foreign bills payable in gold	73,814,560	264,732,802
Silver and other coins			515,014
Roumanian and foreign bills			209,319,466
Advances against Government securities		25,166,600	
On current account	48,876,800		
Unused balance	23,875,723	25,001,077	50,167,677
Loan of 15 millions to the State			11,273,958
Loan to Government on 4 per cent. Treasury Bonds (1914)			223,974,938
Bank's capital invested in Government stock			10,699,576
Reserve invested in Government stock			16,411,177
Reserve, depreciation of buildings, furniture and printing machinery			3,956,681
Premises			6,738,003
Furniture and printing machinery			1,110,861
General expenses			212,735
Government and other securities deposited			138,043,141
Four per Cent. Gold Treasury Bonds as security for loan to State			300,000,000
Securities held against advances or temporarily lodged			158,207,369
Current accounts			17,102,585
Security accounts			21,973,412
Sundry accounts			34,217,273
Total Lei			1,468,656,668

LIABILITIES.

Capital	12,000,000
Reserve	39,780,616
Reserve, depreciation of buildings, furniture and printing machinery	5,907,700
Notes in circulation	670,553,767
Profit and loss account	4,902,667
Interest and various earnings	786,832
Current accounts and drafts at sight	67,848,592
Securities, etc., held on account of customers	596,250,510
Sundry accounts	70,625,984
Total Lei	1,468,656,668

Bank Rate, 6 per cent.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE	Mean Price. July 27.	Min. Price. Mar. 20.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	—	89½xd
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907	82	—	
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909	80	—	66
City of Alexandria 5%, 1909	99	—	90½
City of Constantinople 4% Bnds	96	—	—
Egypt, Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan	93½	87⅛	87½
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	85	85
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	88	78	78
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82⅛	73½	78⅜
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	80⅛	75	75½
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	52	57½
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	52	56½
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	45	48
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	40	42½
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	52	54
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	—	51⅛
Do. 4 % Rails. Loan, 1902	77	—	65
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	94	—	92
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	—	76
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	91	—	80
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £60p.	92	—	85
Servian 4 % Unified Bonds	67	—	—xd
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855	103	97	—
Do. 4 %, 1891	94¼	—	83
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	—	73½
Do. 4 % Loan, 1902	82⅛	—	—
Do. 4 % Unified	79	—	54
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	65½	—	49
Do. 4 %, 1909	69	—	47⅛
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4⅛	—	2⅜
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7⅜	—	6⅜
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.	80	—	73
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red.	83	—	75
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	—	9⅜
Bank of Abyssinia	⅛	—	—
Bank of Athens	£2	—	1½
Bank of Roumania	8½	—	—
Eastern Bank	5	—	82/6
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅜	—	6
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	—	—
Ionian Bank, Limited	3½	—	3½
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	—	4½
National Bank of Egypt	13½	—	10½
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½% C.P.	8	—	no m. 6
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8½	—	5⅜
Do. do. 5 % Debs., Red.	98	—	95
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I.	89⅛	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88⅛	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17⅜	—	13
Do. do. 6 % Cum. Pref.	22	—	13½
Do. do. 4 % 1st Deb.	87	—	57
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb.	101	—	69
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	—	—
Pirsus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	90	—	—
Do. do. 3 % Bonds	61	—	—
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1⅛	—	⅝
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	—	95
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	¼	—	—
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	—	2
Do. Do. Def.	¼	—	—
Béhéra Co.	8½	—	7
Do. Pref.	4⅜	—	3½
Daira Sanieh	2/2	—	2/6
Do. Def.	⅜	—	20/-
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	9/-	—	6/-
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tst.	98	—	90
Do and Foreign Trust	5/-	—	2/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	—	1
,, ,, Founders	¼	—	—
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—	—
Do. 5 % Debs. Red.	—	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	9⅜	—	7⅛
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	—	87½xd
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	—	⅝
Sidi Salem Co.	⅛	—	⅛
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	—	¼
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	—	-/9
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	—	10⅞
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt	97	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	—	—
Egyptian Hotels	1½	—	—
Do. 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—	—
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅛	—	1⅛
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	99⅜	—	95
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	⅛	—	14/3
Do. 5 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	96	—	95
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	—	9/-
Do. do. Prefs.	3⅜	—	3xd
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt.	90	—	85
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (fr. 500)	£179½	—	£—
Upper Egypt Hotels	2½	—	—

OIL.	Price on July 30.	Aug. 25.
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	⅜	4/6
Anglo-Persian	22/1⅜	⅜xr
Cyprus Oil Trust	2/3	2/3
European Oilfields	4/9	3/6
Roumanian	20/-	13/6

PARIS BOURSE.

	Jan. 4.	Aug. 25.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane	—	440
Canal de Suez	4050	3900
Credit Foncier Egyptien	639	553
Turkish Unified 4%	61.50	57.90
Egyptian Unified 4%	87.75	88.40
Serbian, 1895	—	61

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 226.—Vol. IX. FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1915.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The situation in the Near East remains indeterminate. During the past week it has undergone, outwardly at least, no change either from a military or from a political point of view, and it would seem as if we must reconcile ourselves to seeing the present state of affairs last for some little time yet. So long as the Russians continue to withdraw and the Turco-German forces are able to hold out at the Dardanelles, we need not expect to see either Bulgaria or Roumania abandon neutrality for intervention. M. Venizelos, too, will want to have ample time given him, in order that he may master the details of the international position as it presents itself to-day, and that he may establish himself more firmly in the saddle in his own country. The Allied Powers, having found Greece during the last few months somewhat *difficile* without M. Venizelos at the head of the Government, will want to meet his wishes as far as possible. It looks, therefore, as if the military position in Europe, as well as at the Dardanelles, will have to be subordinated to a tardy diplomacy.

In a message from Bucharest the correspondent of *The Times* in the Balkan Peninsula states that M. Venizelos is reported to favour the idea of an arrangement by negotiation between Greece, Serbia, and Bulgaria; but, he adds, the exigencies of the situation will hardly allow time for discussions, which, in any case, would seem to offer little prospect of success. "The ultimate settlement will inevitably be imposed by the Entente Powers, if not now, at the close of the war." This contention has been repeated in these columns times without number during the current year. The truth of it has been known to everyone in a position to form an accurate opinion of the condition of things in the Balkans; but at the eleventh hour the Allied Governments are still to be found wasting valuable time in the hope that the impossible will be achieved. The course of the negotiations, the domestic difficulties with which each of the Balkan Governments has to contend, ought to satisfy the Entente Powers that settlement by voluntary agreement is out of the question.

The correct attitude suddenly shown by Serbia, which found expression in the significant resolution passed by the Skupshtina, lent some colour to the belief that the Balkan States in their own interests would voluntarily adopt the only policy open to them. But as the Serbian decision was not taken until after a long sitting of the Chamber *in camera*, following upon the concentration of Austro-German troops on the Danube, there will not be much temptation in Serbia to labour the voluntary nature of the step taken. Opinions on the subject of the intentions of Germany in regard to Serbia may differ. There can, however, be no question that any movement of troops to the Serbian frontier constituted a distinct menace to the country in view of the Austro-German successes against the Russians. The Serbians have acted rightly in regarding the danger as possible, if not imminent, and in making their dispositions accordingly. In this matter the initiative lies with the enemy, and the best way of encouraging him to take the threatened step would have been to ignore its gravity and to adopt no precautionary measures. Serbia's military arrangements are probably the best that could be devised with the resources at her disposal; but she is in no position to withstand single-handed a serious Austro-German attack. She has, therefore, indicated her willingness to make the sacrifices required of her to ensure the support of her Balkan neighbours. It is for the Allied Governments to see that advantage is taken at once of this new attitude on Serbia's part.

An Austro-German invasion in force of the Balkans would be a serious thing, if it found the different countries still at cross-purposes with one another. We are confident, however, that it would be the signal for the immediate burying of the hatchet and an improvised federation for common action against the invaders. Only if the Central Powers were sure of Bulgarian co-operation could the expedition have the least chance of success. German intrigue and cajolery can achieve much, but we are inclined to believe that they have been superseded in the Balkans by blunt threats. That Bulgaria should be intimidated into supporting Germany in an irruption into Bulgarian territory is unthinkable at this stage. But so long as its terms for co-operation with the Quadruple Entente are not accepted instincts of self-preservation will prompt the Bulgarian Government to cling to neutrality. The despatch of troops to the Danube is the best step that the Central Powers can take in the circumstances. At any moment, if events

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elsewhere are favourable, an actual expedition could be set in motion. While the force remains stationary, it will form a powerful argument for German agents in the Balkan Peninsula. The Bulgarian Government will again hesitate; the fears that seem to possess the higher military command in Greece lest the Greek army should have to fight will be redoubled. Above all the Turks at the Dardanelles will be heartened, and Germany will gain what is all-important for her in the Balkans, time.

As far as Bulgaria is concerned, there can be little doubt that her attitude has been affected by events in Russia. Considerable impetus was given to the policy of intervention by the prospect that the Allies might accomplish their purpose in Turkey and on the other fronts without any assistance from the Bulgarians. In the event of this happening, there was little chance of Bulgaria's obtaining any consideration when the terms of peace came to be arranged. The tide of battle has set against the Allies in the East, while in the Dardanelles there has been nothing to shake belief in the German assertions of the impregnability of the Turkish positions. In this country we may hear of the Turks being short of ammunition, of feeling against the Germans being strong in Constantinople and in the army, but we may be confident that such stories, if allowed to appear in Bulgaria, have been discounted beforehand by the Germans. It is not surprising, therefore, to learn that the interventionists in Bulgaria have lately lost ground. The best way of assisting them is to bring them news of successes on the part of the Allies, and there can be little doubt that if the control of the Allied operations were vested in a single command much would be hazarded at this moment to bring off a *coup* that would impress the Balkan States. In the absence of such a stroke, steps might be taken to give the Bulgarian interventionists what support is in our power. If their policy is checkmated to a large extent by Germany's control of Bulgarian news sources, it becomes the duty of the Allies, and particularly of the British and French Governments, however much they may affect to despise such methods, to see that German machinations in this direction are counteracted. It argues a profound ignorance of the Balkan peoples and their affairs to deal with them solely on lines which may suffice to bring about an understanding on any given point, say, between Great Britain and the United States.

If it should ever be possible to record accurately the diplomatic history of the last twelve months in the Balkans, we may expect to find that the situation has been dominated by ignorance of local conditions. The indifference shown at first to the Balkan States, and particularly to Bulgaria, arose from ignorance of their potentialities as a factor in the European war. When indifference gives way to a feverish anxiety to secure the co-operation of the Balkan States, we meet with similar ignorance of all the conditions which are necessary for such co-operation. In the first place, the diplomatic negotiations were left to Russia. When, finally, it was found more desirable that Great Britain should take a hand, the British Government appears to have set out to learn for the first time what ought to have been axioms to British diplomacy for the last twenty years. Even now we are handicapped by a reluctance to recognize that the leisurely and meticulous methods of procedure more or less justifiable in peace times are unsuitable to war conditions, when every twenty-four hours sees formidable additions to the toll of life taken at the Dardanelles.

The work of correcting the mistake made when the attacks on the Turkish positions after the fresh landings at Suvla Bay were not pressed home without interruption, is being continued. Sir Ian Hamilton reports that, as a result of further fighting on August 27 and 28, an important tactical feature, commanding the Biyuk Anafarta Valley to the east and north, has been captured. The advance represents an appreciable gain in the ground occupied by the Australasian Army Corps. The enemy's losses are stated to have been very heavy, and we cannot expect that our own troops have been let off lightly. As the strength of the Turkish defence and the configuration of the country do not lend themselves to any decisive action on the part of the Allies, the best alternative is that we should show our determination to win through at all costs by maintaining these resolute attacks on the enemy's positions. Each further success in the northern section extends our "elbow room" on the Peninsula, and reduces the advantages on the side of the Turks. At the same time, the thrust from Suvla threatens to flank the important height of Sari Bair, which has for so long defied the attempts of the Australasian troops to capture it. These operations, it will be noted, are taking place to the north of the narrow portion of the Peninsula between Gaba Tepe and the Narrows. The maximum strength of the Turkish position lies between Achi Baba and Sari Bair. If a force could be thrown across the Peninsula to the immediate north of this section, the Turkish defence would probably collapse at once.

That defence, as we know from experience elsewhere, depends in the long run more on the supply of munitions than on the heroism of the Turkish army. The output of the German factory near Constantinople, supplemented by the amount that has been steadily smuggled through to Turkey, has been sufficient hitherto to eke out the large stock accumulated before the outbreak of war between Turkey and the Allied Powers. But the contraband traffic may now be regarded as at an end, and it would be a marvellous performance if one or two factories in Turkey proved equal to the task of coping with the prodigious expenditure of munitions required by the exigencies of modern warfare. The Roumanian Government has been able to plead its friendship with Italy as an excuse for refusing to allow German munitions to be transported over its railways to Turkey. The existence of a state of war between Italy and Turkey, she pleads, renders it necessary that Roumania should maintain strict neutrality. Thus does diplomacy save its face, but the situation would seem to have required a more resolute reply to the threat contained in the German request.

So far Italy's declaration of war on Turkey, apart from providing the Roumanian Government with a reason for not submitting to German dictation, has only affected the Italian position in Tripoli. It has been necessary to recall all the garrisons from the interior to the coast in view of the possibility of the Arabs advancing in force upon the colony in obedience to instructions from Constantinople. Any attack by the Arabs will be awaited on the coast line, which the Italians are now confident has been rendered strong enough for all eventualities.

The Turks do not seem to have waited for the Italian declaration of war before attempting to stir up the Arabs against the Italians. It was probably a German idea that unrest in Libya might prove of use to weigh down the scale for Italy against intervention in the war. With this end in view bribes and blandishments, with possibly a few Turkish officers, have been sent to the Arabs to encourage them to occupy Italy's attention in Libya. The gem of all such efforts, however, is a letter in Arabic from the Emperor William to the chief of the Senussi, which is said to have been captured on a Greek sailing vessel near Tripoli. The letter is represented as being enclosed in an embossed casket, and was found on board with £4,000 in gold, a number of scimitars, and other Oriental gifts. After including among his titles the terms Allah's Envoy and Islam's Protector, the most Christian German Emperor states that it is his will that the Senussi's valorous warriors should expel infidels from territory that belongs to the true believers and their commander. There is no need to insist upon the verbal accuracy of the translation. There would seem to be little doubt that the Emperor William has taken a personal share in instigating the Moslems of all parts of the world against their Christian neighbours. His chief success so far has been achieved in Armenia and Persia, where thousands of defenceless people have been massacred, in accordance with the pious wish he expresses to his potential Allies that Allah should annihilate their common enemies to the last man, and, he will have added to himself, the last woman and child.

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Germany is evidently determined that as many countries as possible shall be involved in her own débâcle. Nothing that her agents could achieve in Persia was likely to have any effect upon the military position in Asia or in Europe, but it was calculated to have injurious, if not fatal, results for the Persians. This consideration, however, would not deter the Germans from carrying out their settled policy. Readers of THE NEAR EAST are familiar with the course of German intrigue in Persia since the outbreak of war. The chief result, as far as Great Britain is concerned, has been to bring about an increase in British garrisons in the Persian Gulf; and it is obvious that if the situation in the country passes beyond the control of the Teheran Government the degree of intervention necessary to restore order will be enhanced. According to recent reports brigandage in Luristan has reached such proportions that it is now able to inflict losses on the gendarmerie. At Burujird, it is stated, the gendarmes suffered a severe defeat, losing two guns and munitions, and the Swedish officer barely succeeded in escaping with his life. If the gendarmerie is unequal to the task of keeping order in the districts where it is permanently established, other steps will have to be taken to enforce the authority of the Persian Government.

The latest exploit accredited to Germany's agents in Persia is a minor essay in brigandage. According to a Reuter message from Petrograd, while the British and Russian Consuls, with their military escorts, were withdrawing from Kenghever to Khamadas (? Hamadan) they were attacked by a band of armed men, under the leadership of Herr Schönemann, the German Consular Agent at Tabriz. The escorts of the British and Russian Consuls, it is stated, used their rifles in defence, but suffered some loss. It may be as well to wait for the official account of this incident before we accept its accuracy in every detail. But even if Herr Schönemann is able to exonerate himself personally, it will be difficult to believe that German influence had nothing to do with the attack on the two Consuls. By itself the incident has no more bearing on the course of events in Europe than the sinking of a fishing boat in the North Sea; but these German exploits in Persia are likely to exercise for some time a bad effect on the native mind, which is not critical enough to distinguish between different codes of honour accepted by different nations in Europe. If the real interests of Persia could be studied after the war, it would be found necessary to enact in the peace settlement that, for a certain period of years, no German should be allowed to set foot in the country.

We welcome the announcement in the *London Gazette* recording the grant of the Victoria Cross to the late Major G. G. M. Wheeler for most conspicuous bravery at Shaiba, near Busreh. On April 12 he had asked permission to take out his squadron and attempt to capture a flag which was the centre point of a group of the enemy, who were firing on one of our pickets. He advanced and attacked the enemy's infantry with the lance, doing considerable execution among them. Unfortunately this gallant officer met his death on the following day when leading his squadron in an attack on the "North Mound." The bestowal of this award will serve as a reminder to our Mesopotamian forces that they are not forgotten in the Mother Country. Details of the fighting in which Major Wheeler lost his life are now known, and it has been placed on record that the work done by the troops on that and other occasions at the head of the Persian Gulf was equal to the best traditions of the British Army. No body of troops looks for higher praise than that.

EGYPT AND THE DARDANELLES.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, August 19.

Events in Russia are followed with the keenest interest, and speculation is rife as to the ultimate aim of the Germans and Austrians. The chief point of interest to the observer here is the moral effect which the German success has had in this country. It is not unlikely that the enemy advance in Poland has encouraged a certain section in Egypt in their vain attempt to cause trouble.

But although the Russian campaign has left the deepest impression on all classes, yet everybody feels that the fighting at the Dardanelles is a much more important affair, and that it will have a far-reaching effect on the peoples of the Near East. In addition to the native Egyptians who manifest a deep interest in the subject, there are in Egypt large numbers of Syrians, Greeks, Armenians, and Ottoman Arabs who are keenly watching the development of operations at the gates of Constantinople, and anxiously waiting for good news from that quarter. Every day thousands upon thousands take up their morning papers in the hope of reading some official announcement of a definite success or defeat. The latest report of Sir Ian Hamilton, published here last Thursday, brought relief to many a heart, as it showed what Herculean efforts are being made to hack a way through to Constantinople, and that success is now in view. The final result of the Dardanelles operations will have a tremendous effect in this country.

SUDAN TAXATION.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

Notwithstanding the great necessity occasioned by the falling-off of most of the Sudan Government's usual sources of revenue, consequent on the outbreak of the war, and in spite of the excellent flood and the copious rains in the autumn of 1914, the Administration has studiously refrained from imposing a single new tax upon the people, if an exception is made in the case of fees for native liquor licences, which was fully justified by the cheapness of dura—at once the staple food of the native and the grain from which the native beer, "merissa," is made. Thus, the solemn pledge that was given by Lord Cromer as far back as 1898, and often reiterated by the Governor-General of the Sudan in his speeches to native chiefs, "not to overwhelm the country with taxation," has been redeemed.

It has been remembered that the people of the Sudan have for the last two years been passing through a period of great depression; not only are there at present considerable arrears of taxes unpaid, but the inhabitants are otherwise heavily indebted, and certainly in no condition to bear the burden of additional taxation. Then, again, the possible field for the increase of taxes is also restricted by the fact that the Animal Tax, royalties on both gum and ivory, and import duties on alcoholic beverages have been already raised, while the Traders' Tax has been put into force since the commencement of 1913. Still, again, there have been strong political reasons why there should be no extra taxation at present. Additionally, it is probable that trade may not immediately recover after the conclusion of the war, and that the revenue may, in consequence, be for the time reduced.

The only remedy left, therefore, has been to still further curtail the expenditure, and this—in the face of the almost impossible—has been done. Low as was the estimate made for the 1915 Budget as compared with that of 1914, a further reduction of £E143,000 has been managed. While the 1914 revenue and expenditure showed an even balance of £E1,644,000, the figures submitted for 1915 stood at £E1,501,000. The course pursued by the Administration in this matter is worthy of the highest commendation.

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ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, August 22.

Opening of the Chamber.

The opening of the Chamber, after the aggrandizement of Greece, offered a most imposing spectacle. It was with great difficulty that the hall was able to hold all the representatives of the new and old provinces. The attention of all was attracted to the costumes of some of the deputies of Crete and to those wearing the *palikare;* and above all to the scarlet fezzes worn by the Turkish deputies of Salonika, among whom was to be distinguished the deputy for Epirus, an old Hodja, with his white turban.

The presence in the Greek Chamber of so many Turkish deputies, elected by the illegal methods of the Gounaris Cabinet, created a feeling of repugnance, which took the shape of a demonstration on the part of certain deputies during the initial prayer. From all parts were heard voices crying, "Bas les fez." However, in the end, their national costume was respected. Immediately afterwards the Turkish deputies had to swear on the Koran, and four Jewish deputies on the Old Testament. M. Venizelos' appearance in the hall was greeted by frantic acclamations of joy, both from the deputies and from the galleries.

Fall of the Gounaris Cabinet.

The election of a President resulted in a victory for the Venizelist candidate, M. Zavitzianos, who obtained 182 votes. The Government candidate having gained only 92 votes, M. Gounaris announced that he would submit his resignation to the King.

After this first meeting of the Cabinet, M. Venizelos was made the object of a great demonstration on the part of a huge crowd which had been assembled outside the building since the early hours of the day, and which accompanied him to his house.

The King, being still convalescent, was not able to be present at the opening of the Chamber.

The fourteen deputies of Upper Epirus, which has not yet been definitely annexed by Greece, and those of the two small islands ceded to Turkey, not having been elected according to the laws of the kingdom, were not able to take part in the official opening.

The Ministerial Crisis.

Until the very moment of the Government's fall in the Chamber, the Ministerial party attempted to make the readers of their papers believe that the King would not call M. Venizelos, or that he would, in any case, show himself to be entirely opposed to his policy, with the result that there would be a second dissolution of the Chamber. It was pointed out that this would be the best solution of the crisis. By this means it was intended to induce the King to violate the Constitution, with a view to enable the Gounaris Cabinet to manipulate the new elections. On the other hand, the Venizelist Press, in a series of articles published during the last few days, pointed out that such a course of action would constitute a *coup d'état*, in which case the people would have to defend their constitutional rights.

Immediately after having received the resignation of the Gounaris Cabinet the King sent one of his aides-de-camp to M. Venizelos, asking him to call on the following morning at the Tatoi Palace. The interview was a very short one of not more than a quarter of an hour. It now appears certain that both the Sovereign and M. Venizelos, without having discussed the situation in detail, because at that moment it would have been useless, maintained their different points of view concerning Greece's foreign policy. The reason is that the King still believes, without going so far as to say that he desires it, that Germany will emerge victorious from the present war, whereas M. Venizelos has still the firm conviction that the Entente Powers will win. It appears even, according to the *Hestia*, one of M. Venizelos' Press organs, that the latter, in expressing his views to his Sovereign, did not hesitate to tell him that, if Greece had abandoned her neutrality when he advised it last February, the situation to-day would have been quite different.

Nevertheless, as M. Venizelos is of the opinion that, in the present circumstances, Greece cannot abandon her neutrality, the King, in spite of his disagreement with the statesman on the general lines of Greece's foreign policy, declared that he was disposed to trust him with the formation of the Cabinet on the condition that he would continue to maintain a benevolent neutrality towards the Triple Entente and would refuse all territorial concessions. M. Venizelos demanded and obtained from the King a delay of five days in order to give him a definite reply.

The Balkan League.

The reconstitution of the Balkan League continues to form the principal objective of the Balkan policies of the Entente Powers. It is, however, generally believed here that the unreadiness shown by Bulgaria to accept the last proposals of the Entente and the resignation of the Ministers Fitcheff and Apostoloff, both of them fervent partisans of the Entente group, have contributed to make the four Powers more benevolent towards Greece, and obliged them to abandon the hopes they placed on Bulgaria, and to recognize the necessity of preserving the political bonds uniting Greece and Serbia. The last article in *The Times* on the exorbitant pretensions of Bulgaria at the expense of Serbia has been interpreted here as indicating the official tendency of Great Britain in the direction referred to above.

M. Venizelos in Power.

Finding there was no obstacle in the way of the formation of a Cabinet, M. Venizelos this morning definitely accepted the offer made him by the King, and has submitted the list of new Ministers, who are practically the same as those who were in his previous Cabinet. The Ministry of War has been entrusted to General Danglis, who was Chief of the General Staff during the first Balkan War, and the Ministry of Marine to M. Miaoulis. The Chamber will meet again on Wednesday.

It is recognized that the conditions upon which M. Venizelos consented to return to power are not very satisfactory in the present critical circumstances, and it must be admitted that in accepting the responsibility he gave proof of great political abnegation solely with a view to avoiding a new crisis for the country. But the situation cannot be regarded as having been definitely settled. It is, however, very possible that it will be modified and consolidated by the turn events will take. In this connection it must be remembered that the people, who are very intelligent, and not to be deceived by the German propaganda, have already openly shown dissatisfaction at the Germanophil policy followed by the Gounaris Cabinet.

Public Opinion and the Cabinet.

The return to power of M. Venizelos seems to have created an atmosphere of greater ease and general satisfaction. He is the only statesman in whom the people have complete faith. The Gounarist Press think that, given the conditions under which M. Venizelos returns to power, the Entente Powers can reap no benefit from the new political situation, considering that Greece must remain neutral and make no territorial concession, as otherwise the King will withdraw his confidence; the same Press organs foresee that it will be impossible for him to reconcile the conditions imposed on him with his pro-Entente policy for any length of time.

The Venizelist Press organs blame the Gounaris Cabinet for having issued, without any popular authorization, a violent protest, in the name of the people, against any territorial concessions, whereby they have created a position of difficulty for M. Venizelos. It is not by taking a hostile and insolent attitude *vis-à-vis* the Entente Powers—remarks the *Patris*—that the danger will be avoided, and that the Allies will change their decision. On the contrary, any such attitude will create new dangers. The Gounarist Press, replying to these accusations, pretends that the mere discussion of the question will induce Germany to consider herself in a position, in view of Greece's supposed tacit approval, to offer Kavalla to Bulgaria as compensation for her neutrality; in which case Bulgaria would be only too willing to accept the offer.

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NEWS FROM TURKEY.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Athens, August 25.

Tension at Constantinople.

Arrivals this week from Constantinople say the situation there is verging on the desperate, and the unnerved condition of travellers is sufficient indication that life in the capital is becoming unbearable. The continuous rumours of coming evil and the daily expectation of trouble cannot but produce a feeling of extreme tension. One can well understand the apparent desire of the American Ambassador to lessen his burden of responsibility by getting out of the country as many of the belligerents under his care as possible. All the English women and children are being advised to leave, and Mr. Morgenthau appears to be doing his utmost to get permission for them to do so. Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Sellar, Mrs. Rowell, and Master Seager have been able to get away, and have arrived in Athens.

There are rumours that all the Armenians are to be expelled from Constantinople, and the general feeling of alarm and uneasiness is greater than ever. In fact, the situation is acute, and many people are of opinion that there will be trouble in Constantinople when the Dardanelles are forced: there is the fear that the Turks, when they find the game is up, will, under the fiendish influence of the Germans, go in for rioting and looting.

The Cost of Living.

There is now very little gas, and the streets in town are in semi-darkness, while the country villages are practically without any lighting at night. Living has become extremely expensive. There is very little petroleum, and £1 a tin has been paid; but a Roumanian steamer arrived from Roumania last week with 50,000 tins. Sugar and rice are selling at 12 piastres the oke, and bread is only obtained with difficulty. Stocks of coal were almost exhausted last week; but six colliers, escorted by the Goeben, went to Zunguldak, and two returned with coal. Thus, contrary to general opinion, there is still some life in the Goeben, but it is said she cannot go at a high speed, or fire her big guns.

Turks Naval Losses.

The loss of the Barbarossa has upset the Turks very much. About 400 men were drowned and wounded, of which number many were Germans. The destroyer Berki Shefket was badly damaged, but was taken to Constantinople. The Hamidieh was hit off Zunguldak, but no serious damage was done; though she had a few men killed and wounded. It is reported that she has no more ammunition. More guns and men from the Breslau have been sent to the Dardanelles, and soldiers with their wounds still unhealed are being sent back to the front in their old clothing.

Over fifty transports have been lost in the Marmora and the Black Sea, and there are not now many available in Constantinople. The wounded are being conveyed to Constantinople by Bosphorus steamers and the old Channel steamer Cambridge, which are painted white with the Red Cross. Twelve thousand wounded are said to have arrived in Constantinople last week. Men and munitions are being regularly sent to the Dardanelles by steamers and lighters, in spite of the Allies' submarines; but it is reported that three or four transports with troops and munitions have recently been torpedoed.

Recruits from Anatolia continue to arrive, but there are neither uniforms nor rifles for them. In fact, the army appears to be in a most deplorable condition, and the continued resistance at the Dardanelles is extraordinary.

Our Submarines' Exploits.

The exploits of the British submarines in the Marmora and at Constantinople have, as was expected, done more to impress the Turks than anything else. They have not only considerably embarrassed the military and naval authorities in keeping up their communications with the Dardanelles, but they have made much impression on the populace. It is to be hoped that they will continue their skilful and plucky exploits, and that, in addition to these disconcerting incidents, the Allies' aeroplanes will meet with equal success.

In their *communiqué* of the 7th, the Turks say that they took 60 English prisoners, and the following day they said they took 110 prisoners at the Dardanelles.

Persecution of Armenians.

The Armenian atrocities in Asia Minor baffle description. It is doubtful whether in the whole history of the world any race has ever suffered persecution, atrocities, and savage extermination such as, under German dictates, are now taking place in Asia Minor. It is a terrible indictment, and will remain an indelible stain on the history of the German Empire. The Armenians are now being persecuted everywhere. They have been driven away from all the Black Sea ports and from Adabazar and the surrounding villages, and have been brutally treated. Those at Ismid and Bachdijik have also been told to go, and the Armenians in Constantinople are in an extremely nervous condition, fearing they will meet the same fate.

The papers publish a notice from the Court-Martial calling upon Boghos Nubar Pasha to attend the Court within ten days, to be tried for conspiring to create an independent Armenia and for providing funds to assist the Armenians in revolting against the Government, etc., etc. Failing his appearance, he will be tried in default, and his goods and property will be seized.

Minor Evils.

Much private property has been appropriated by the authorities without any notice. Houses have been seized, and their contents distributed amongst the poor; and in many houses occupied by the military the rooms in which the household goods had been stored have been broken open and the contents appropriated. Those who find their houses intact on their return from Constantinople will be extremely fortunate!

The censorship is stricter than ever, and all newspapers are now being opened, evidently to see if they contain letters.

It is said that £300,000 worth of Government notes have so far been put into circulation. Salaries and other payments are being made in this currency. Turkey's indebtedness to Germany is now said to be £27,000,000. These notes are printed entirely in Turkish, the only European characters about them being the number of the note and the name of the printers, a German establishment. Outside of Turkey the notes are not accepted.

Turkey and Bulgaria.

Whatever may be the terms of the Turco-Bulgarian agreement, the fact remains that the Bulgarians have not taken possession of the territory in question. At the time of writing Demotika is still in the occupation of the Turks, and travellers still undergo their examination there.

Smyrna is tranquil, but almost in darkness, and hungry.

Our Countrymen in Constantinople.

My attention has been called to certain erroneous statements which have appeared in the London Press in a telegram from Athens, dated August 15, respecting the English in Constantinople.

It was stated that there are only a few Englishmen remaining in Constantinople, whereas the number of English, men, women, and children, there now is about 150. It is hardly correct to say that a large number have been exiled to the provinces, for, as a matter of fact, very few have been sent there, with the exception of naval and military prisoners. Again, it is hardly accurate that those in the capital are restricted in their movements, and that wrongdoers have been flogged. Not one single case of really bad treatment of an Englishman has been reported from Constantinople; in fact, although several of them have been summoned by the police on trivial matters, on the whole the English who have remained in Constantinople have not been seriously inconvenienced or molested by the Turkish authorities.

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SERBIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Belgrade, August 18.

A Useless Bombardment.

Although in the war zone and more exposed to attack than any other town in Serbia, Belgrade had not been bombarded by the enemy since last March until last Thursday, the 12th inst. On that day, without any known cause, the Austro-Hungarian artillery began to bombard this city with a howitzer, or with several howitzers, of heavy calibre. The shells fell on our already half-ruined town at several points, increasing the ruin of property, but without causing loss of life. In the latter respect we were more fortunate than on the last occasion, and the duration of our bombardment was also much shorter. It was not much more than half an hour, and proceeded from Kota 109, west of Semlin, on the other side of the river Save.

The tactics the Serbians adopted on the last occasion were on this occasion again reverted to, and proved as before, most efficacious. Our artillery replied briskly, hammering Semlin from one side of Belgrade and Panchova from another, but only for a very short time. The aim from both sides of the city being very accurate, our short bombardment was effective, and had the desired effect: Belgrade was no longer disturbed by the enemy's wanton and useless firing.

The north and north-west parts of Semlin were fired on, where the enemy's reserves were concentrated, and thick smoke was seen to rise from those parts of the town. In Panchova there was a panic and the inhabitants fled from the town on foot and in vehicles.

Artillery Activities.

At other parts of the frontier along the Save and the Danube the enemy has been busy. On August 12 the fire of the Serbian artillery and infantry prevented the enemy in their attempts to fortify the left side of the Save and Danube at several points. Two days later the enemy tried to cross the Danube into our territory near Golubatz fortress. Our guards allowed their boats to approach to within 15 metres, and then fired on them, compelling them to return to their own side with heavy losses.

Again, on August 14, our artillery hindered the enemy in their attempts to fortify their frontier in the neighbourhood of Dobra, on the Danube On the same day there was an artillery duel between the Serbian and the enemy's batteries at Veliko Selo, near Belgrade. The enemy fired 60 rounds on the Serbian positions, whilst the Serbian silenced his battery with twelve rounds.

On August 15 our firing prevented the enemy fortifying the Danube front between Panchova and Starchevo, and on the same day prevented them fortifying the Save front by Hrtkovatz.

The State of Belgrade.

The state of Belgrade is to-day much the same as it was when I was last here, in February. Many of the shops still remain closed, many are ruined and uninhabitable, some are opened spasmodically, either in the forenoon or afternoon, and not on all days, and in the others very little business is done Stocks are daily reduced, and are not renewed, there is nowhere any assortment of manufactured goods, and most of those businesses which are regularly opened are almost sold out Many articles usually to be bought in provision shops and grocers' are now not to be bought there, and can only be obtained from the municipal stores by special permits. The markets are open, and vegetables are plentiful.

In walking through the town one observes the neglected ruins and the many hotels, restaurants, and cafés closed; theatres, concerts, and amusements there are none; but those of the people who have anything to do go about their vacations unconcernedly, and without fear, as if accustomed to this state of things.

The Skuptshina.

The sittings of the Skuptshina were reopened on Monday, August 16. On the following day there was a secret sitting, at which the Government laid before the deputies the proposal of the Quadruple Entente with reference to Serbia and the neutral Balkan States, and the views and intentions of the Serbian Government in connection therewith.

The Serbian Debt.

On January 1, 1913, the Serbian external debt amounted to £26,360,000. Up to that date the yearly Budget was comparatively small, and the external debt had grown to the extent mentioned principally on account of the yearly deficits through expenses considerably exceeding revenue; but this mismanagement was remedied, and since 1904 the Budgets have regularly yielded a slight surplus. The financial position of the country improved, permitting larger State loans to be contracted for State requirements and Public Works, but even under the improved circumstances a State loan of 100 million francs (£4,000,000) was regarded as a considerable amount. Now, however, what was lately considered a large loan sinks into insignificance. The war with Turkey necessitated the voting by Parliament of an immense credit, which was the first great jump, and now Parliament is granting a credit of 250 million francs (£10,000,000) which the country needs. The second reading of the Bill was passed yesterday

It must be borne in mind that Serbia, as an ally in the present war, is receiving much help from the Powers of the Triple Entente, financially and otherwise. This it appears enables her to do more for herself than she would otherwise have been able to do.

For Soldier's Orphans.

France and England propose establishing orphanages for Serbian children, but independently thereof it is proposed, in the Serbian Parliament, to establish a national orphanage for the children of soldiers who have been killed in the late and present wars.

Grant to Marshal Putnik.

On August 16 two members of Parliament gave notice of a proposal to make a parliamentary grant of 250,000 francs (£10,000) to Field Marshal Putnik, the Commander-in-Chief of the Serbian Army, as a token of gratitude for his services to the country This sum is to be paid him within one month from the date when the King signs the decree.

SERBIA'S SACRIFICE.

The following extracts from a leading article in the semi-official *Samouprava* are forwarded from Nish by Reuter's correspondent:—

In its sitting of August 23 the Skupshtina, by a crushing majority, voted an expression of confidence in the Government's policy. To realise the sacred ideals of civilised humanity still further sacrifices must be made. These sacrifices will be agreed to and supported by all the Allies, and consequently by Serbia too. By such sacrifices, as is shown by the pages of history, one regains the right to live a free existence.

When it is sought, by asking Serbia, Greece, and Roumania to sacrifice their previous gains in order to achieve the principal part of their national ideals by the extensive compensation which they will receive, it would be incompetence and lack of foresight not to agree to such sacrifices. The representatives of the people, by voting confidence in the Government, performed an act of sound sense, which places the fate of the people and the country in experienced and safe hands.

This action becomes of an historic importance—from this action will arise developments of the highest importance in the life of the Serbians and Serbia.

"AN INSOLUBLE PROBLEM"?

Reuter's correspondent at Sofia forwards (August 29) the following:—

The semi-official *Echo de Bulgarie*, discussing the return of M. Venizelos to power, draws attention to the outstanding differences of opinion which existed between the Premier and King Constantine on two essential points, namely, the restoration of the Balkan Alliance, to be achieved by means of territorial concession, and close co-operation with the Entente Powers. The journal concludes:—"Had the incompatibility of their political views continued to exist a solution of the Greek Ministerial crisis would have been impossible. Now, it is notorious that the King, while he agreed to the formation of a Venizelist Ministry because he had no alternative, did not accept M. Venizelos's programme. Therefore, M. Venizelos succeeds to the legacy left by M. Gounaris intact, and will, like his predecessor, seek a solution for an insoluble problem."

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ROUMANIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, August 12.

The Export of Cereals.

During the past eight or nine days no less than four Cabinet Councils have taken place. The principal object of these meetings has been the discussion of measures that can be taken in order to facilitate the export of cereals. It has now been decided that the export of wheat—and of other kinds of grain the export of which is prohibited—cannot be permitted until at least the cereals already loaded on railway trucks have been passed over the frontier. Large quantities of maize and some small lots of prohibited articles which have been passed for export, in exchange for sugar and other much-needed goods, are standing in the sidings awaiting their turn to be conveyed to the frontier stations, and until this accumulation is cleared no fresh decision can be taken.

It is generally believed here that the reason for the Government's refusal to permit the exportation of wheat—the demands for which, it is well known, are being pressed forward by German agents here—is that the opening of the Dardanelles by the Allies will be obtained at no distant date. Everybody here—except, of course, the German agents above mentioned—sees that nothing but good for this country can arise from the opening of the Dardanelles; and this is in itself a proof of the incorrectness of the many rumours as to munitions being passed through to Turkey.

The Austro-German Demands.

A semi-official paper publishes the following:—In well-informed circles it is declared that during the four recent Cabinet Councils held by M. Jon Bratiano, President of the Council, the demand made with such vigour by the German Government for the permission to pass munitions destined for Turkey was discussed. M. Bratiano and all the other Ministers opposed themselves with great energy to this demand. The question is therefore settled once and for all.

The manner in which the question has been settled reflects honour on the Roumanian Government, which has resisted with dignity above all praise the menacing demands of the Austro-German Governments.

A German Failure.

One of the most dangerous of German agents lately arrived here is M. Spiess, a former director of the Steaua Romana Oil Company, which, although organized as a Roumanian concern, is known to be run entirely with German capital. This individual has been most active in endeavouring to obtain permission for the passage of munitions to Turkey, and has not made much effort to conceal his chagrin at his non-success.

Primary Education.

A very important problem for this country, primary education, is now being discussed at the Ministry of Public Instruction. It is desired to ascertain under what conditions the primary schools here can be increased in number, those actually existing being insufficient for the population of seven to fourteen years of age. There are in Bucharest only seventy primary schools for a population of 350,000 inhabitants—that is to say, only one school to every 5,000 inhabitants, which is woefully inadequate. More than 30,000 scholars attend these schools, which is, again, far too many, one school for 425 scholars, when, according to the generally accepted rules of education and hygiene, a school should be provided for every 200 scholars at most. Steps will be taken to bring up the number of schools to the required quantity.

Military Precautions.

All excursions into the Carpathians have been forbidden, much to the chagrin of the many visitors at Sinaia and the other summer resorts nearer the frontier. The reason for this prohibition is that a large number of artillery regiments, mountain batteries and others, are located there, and the military authorities naturally have no wish that the exact positions should be known and communicated to the Austro-Hungarian commanders. The order followed the mysterious case of losing his way by the former Bulgarian Secretary of Legation, doubt being thrown on the story of his companions, who returned without him without making much search, and the fact that, after being "lost" and wandering all night, the gentleman in question suddenly arrived home, little the worse for his adventure.

The 1st Regiment of siege artillery, raised some months ago, was lately inspected by a Commission consisting of General Iliescu and some other officers. The training of the regiment exceeded all expectations, and the Commission was more than satisfied with the manner in which it passed all tests.

A group of ladies have hit on the excellent plan of raising a fund for purchasing masks against asphyxiating gases for the Roumanian army. Up to the present 30,000 frs. have been collected, and subscriptions are coming in rapidly.

A Tribute to King Carol.

The respectful remembrance with which the Roumanian army regards its creator is shown by the following touching anecdote. Every Roumanian soldier in war time wears attached round his neck a little metal cross, on which is engraved the number of the wearer, so that if he be killed his identity may be established. One day a captain came and knelt before the grave of the late King Carol, remaining for more than an hour. When he left, in tears, one of these crosses attached to a small bouquet of flowers was found on the grave. On the cross was engraved: "To our brave captain, whom we shall never forget."

Queen Elisabeth was much moved when she heard of this incident, and gave orders that the identity of the officer should be discovered; this, however, has proved impossible. She has now given orders that the flowers with the cross shall remain always where the officer placed them.

AUSTRO-GERMAN INTRIGUES.

The *Morning Post* has received from M. Take Jonescu a cablegram in which the Roumanian statesman exposes some of "the extraordinary perversions of the truth contained in the speech to the Reichstag of Dr. von Bethmann Hollweg, the German Chancellor." The first part of the message refers to the question of naval armaments, and M. Jonescu states positively that in November, 1911, Herr von Kiderlen-Waechter, the then Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, told him at Berlin that it had been his desire to arrive at an arrangement with Great Britain with regard to the limitation of naval armaments, but that he was opposed in this matter by Admiral von Tirpitz, whose attitude had the approval of the German Emperor, and that for this reason the policy of armaments *à outrance* must continue.

The following year, M. Jonescu goes on to relate, Count Berchtold explained to him at Vienna "that Austrian naval plans were directed against England," and that Germany and Austria-Hungary were looking forward to the day when, England finding herself short of bluejackets, they would be able to "take the lead." The Count apparently failed to specify which of the partners would actually lead and which would play second fiddle!

Finally, M. Jonescu says: "With regard to the Serbo-Bulgarian rupture of 1913, I was in a position, as a member of the Roumanian Government, to know what strenuous efforts Russia made to avoid a rupture. I also know that the quarrel was due to Austrian intrigues, and I remember how, the day after the rupture, or within a very few days after, Prince Fürstenberg, the Austro-Hungarian Minister at Bucharest, said to me, rubbing his hands with glee: 'We have done a good stroke of business.'"

"GALLIPOLISSON."

"Another must be added to the numerous trench publications," writes the Paris correspondent of the *Evening Standard*, "although because of lack of necessary equipment copies of his latest newspaper have as yet failed to appear in Paris, since they must be laboriously copied by hand. The editorial rooms are situated in the ruins of Sed-ul-Bahr, Gallipoli; but, despite the dismal surroundings, the publication is a humorous daily, as its title *Gallipolisson* clearly indicates, polisson being the French equivalent for 'fun-maker.'"

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THE URMIA CRISIS.

(From a Correspondent.)

Urmia, July 26.

The Russian troops left Urmia on January 2 and returned on May 24; the Turkish troops arrived on January 4 and left on May 20. During that period more than 100 Christian villages were looted and destroyed, and the Christian population lost about 1,000 killed and 4,000 by death from disease. These figures, though given in round numbers, are not mere guesswork, but are based on careful investigations and records.

Of some 30,000 native Christians nearly 10,000 had fled to Russia; of the remainder nearly 18,000 took refuge in the American Mission, while the rest were either massacred or found sanctuary with their Moslem friends. The native Moslems, combining with the Turks and Kurds, were bent upon exterminating every Christian in Urmia; but the American flag, under which the destined victims took shelter, protected them through the five months' siege.

The Kurds arrived two days after the withdrawal of the Russian troops, and the Christians of Googtapa made a stout resistance; but later the Kurds were reinforced, and the inhabitants of the village gave up all hope of escaping. About 300 were killed. The women and children were crowded into the churches. At that critical moment Dr. H. P. Packard, of the American Mission, at the risk of his life, made a heroic dash through a hail of bullets, and pleaded with the Kurdish chief to spare the people. The Sheikh agreed to let them go after they had delivered up their weapons, and over 1,000 people were thus saved from death, and were taken to the Mission premises in the city.

A massacre took place in the village of Gulpashan, where fifty men, after being tied arm to arm by the Turkish soldiers, aided by the native Moslems, were taken out to the graveyards, and were there butchered like animals. In another case some forty-six men were taken out from the French Mission. After the Turkish authorities had given assurance that they were to be transported to Turkey they were tied together, and were shot at a place about two miles from the city. They were killed in cold blood, without any pretence at any kind of trial. One of them who escaped told the following story:—"We were tied together arm to arm, and made to kneel and await our doom. They fired at each one of us. Soon after the firing I began to feel around my body to see whether I was shot. I finally came to the conclusion I was not hit, but I fell with the rest, making pretence that I was dead. After we had all fallen they came near, and stabbed every one who seemed to be still breathing or showing the slightest sign of life in him. As they came near me they could not find any sign of life, for I made believe I was dead long ago, and, giving me a kick, they left us. After they had departed a long way from us I got up and made my way to the American Mission."

As stated before, most of the Christians died of disease. This was a natural result of so many thousands being crowded into the mission yards, with poor sanitation, and of famine and cold. The rooms, halls, and corridors were crowded. Two thousand were lodged in the church for weeks and months without room to lie down. One of the missionaries entered the school-room, that was crowded with people who for months had been sitting up day and night, and had not taken a bath or changed their clothes. There he saw a woman sitting in one of the seats holding the usual child in her arm, looking weary and sad. "How long have you been here?" he asked. "From the beginning," she replied (then about three months). "Have you been in this place all this time?" "Yes," she said; "this is my place." It was a narrow wooden seat. When he began to inquire if she was not tired of that place, she interrupted: "Oh, no, this is a good place. See, I have a place for my head." And she laid her head back against a pillar. Hers was a choice seat. There were others worse off than she.

It is no wonder that in such conditions disease should spread and kill so many people. At one time the death-rate in the Mission yards went up to forty per day. And the missionaries had a hard time in obtaining permission to take the dead out and bury them. The Turks would only grant such leave in return for payment. The numbers of dead were so large that they had to be buried in huge graves, about 20 yards by 10, which were filled in by degrees.

At one time during the siege nearly all the doctors and nurses were down with typhus or typhoid, and few were left to tend the sick. Hundreds died, for no one went near them to give them food or even water.

The problem of feeding so many thousands was a difficult one for the missionaries, for their funds were low; but they faced it and kept the poor people from starvation, even though each refugee could have only about one pound of bread each day. The heroic and self-sacrificing work of these American missionaries in contending with the Turks and Kurds for the saving of these Christians from massacre cannot be described here; but it could not be praised too highly, and they have earned for themselves the heartfelt gratitude of all their *protégés*. It is certain that but for the American Mission and the American flag every Christian in Urmia would have been massacred.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

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

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

THE FUTURE OF CYPRUS.

To the Editor of The Near East.

Sir,—I have read with interest the several letters recently published in The Near East regarding the future of Cyprus.

With reference to Mr. Kenneth Ledward, I can at once say that if all Britons had been inspired by the same sentiments we should not have seen the present world-wide British Empire. Mr. Ledward disqualifies himself in writing as he does on Cyprus—a place where he has evidently never been—when he persistently speaks of frequent famines in the island, thus manifesting his own complete ignorance and that of his informants. As a resident of Cyprus, I can assure Mr. Ledward, with due regard to his knowledge, that he is greatly mistaken and misled on this and on other points dealt with in his letter to The Near East.

In opposition to the opinions expressed by Mr. Houston, Mr. Ledward holds that, now more than ever, the cession of Cyprus to Greece is justifiable, basing his arguments on the principle of Nationality, which, I am afraid, is being much abused. As the true "Briton" points out, in his very able exposition of Cyprus affairs in his letter to The Near East of June 30, the map of the British Empire would undergo very considerable shrinkage if England were to follow that principle too closely.

Mr. Ledward seems to consider the Moslems of Cyprus a negligible quantity, and recklessly and unscrupulously suggests that the problem might be solved by the expatriation of the Moslem community. My answer to this ridiculous suggestion is that the Moslems of Cyprus are neither materially nor morally a negligible quantity, and I can hardly conceive that 60,000 loyal British subjects could be sacrificed to the whims of a few agitators by an Empire which is itself largely Moslem, and is justly proud of the strength it derives from the loyal co-operation of the British Mohammedans. Indeed, Mr. Ledward might have wisely suggested that if the small number of Greeks under the British flag are dissatisfied with the British rule they might be exchanged with Moslems under Greek rule in Crete, for example, who would be only too glad to exchange Greek rule for that of Great Britain.

Now, as regards Mr. Lanitis' letter of July 10 to The Near East. Mr. Lanitis argues:—

1. That Cyprus is a Greek island, and as such it should be ceded to Greece, which has become stronger.

2. Now that the Treaty obligations have been done away with, there is no obstacle in the way of ceding the island to Greece.

My reply to the first of these points is that Greece is not strong enough to hold and protect the island against an external foe, and that Cyprus is historically no more a Greek island than Egypt is a Greek country, as is proved by the investigations of an eminent archæologist. And to the second, I contend that by the annexation of the island to the British Empire England has undertaken a greater responsibility, which is the addition of 60,000 more loyal Mohammedans to its rule, the security and satisfaction of whom, I submit, vitally concerns the British Empire as a great Mohammedan Power.

As "Briton," in his letter of June 30, rightly maintains, I also submit that full regard is due to the Moslems of Cyprus for their consistent and genuine loyalty to the British Government, in marked contrast to the Greeks, as set out in the letter above referred to.

I shall be much obliged if you will kindly publish this letter in your esteemed paper.—I am, etc.,

M. Irfan,

Member of the Executive and Legislative Councils, Central Board of Education, etc., etc.

Nicosia, Cyprus, August 14, 1915.

MARTYRED ARMENIA AND ITS CAUSE.

To the Editor of The Near East.

Sir,—A gigantic struggle, unprecedented in the annals of civilisation, is raging furiously from the snow-clad, frozen heights of the Vosges to the burning sandy deserts of the Nile and the Euphrates. The great Allies, with their unlimited supply of material and moral force, the small Allies with their ravished hearths, but with fortitude and endurance that entitle them to eternal admiration, are all fighting with one solid purpose—to

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give a crushing blow to the Teuton Dragon and its helpers. The lion of Britain, with tiny Belgium, and the eagle of Russia, with old Armenia, have declared that might does not make right; that the honour of a nation is the highest, the most sacred treasure its people possess, which treasure they should hand down to posterity unspotted and unblemished, cost what it may.

For over forty years the quiet, peace-loving Armenian population of Asia Minor, under the terror of the *yataghan*, has prayed for *safety of life and of honour;* and it has been denied them. Its humble supplications have been answered with blood and iron; its weak protests have been checked by martyrdom that surpassed the Inquisition of the Middle Ages. Poor and wretched country! How did she bleed in 1894-95-96, and again in 1904 and 1908. And the emperors of Central Europe encouraged the martyrdom of a whole nation! Cruel fortune, how is Armenia bleeding to-day in her loneliness!

The Christians of Turkey, cut off from the rest of the world by the great war, are left altogether at the mercy of their fanatical neighbours. No European ambassador can speak to the leaders of the tottering Ottoman Empire words of counsel or of threat.

Devastation and havoc have been haunting the plains of Mush and Bitlis; a reign of terror has extended from the gates of Stamboul to the walls of Diarbekir, the seat of the regular visitation of the Kurdish hordes. The blood of tens of thousands of starving peasants is constantly flowing; the intellectual class *en masse* is imprisoned; the flower of the new generation is being hung in daylight in the market places of Byzantine, Erzeroum, and Kaiserieh. Avenge, O Lord, the sufferings of thy innocent flock! Armenia is in grim anguish. Are there none to staunch her wounds?

Rich towns and villages are destroyed, monasteries with their singular architecture, historic manuscripts and holy relics are given to the flame, women and girls are violated. . . . My pen refuses to describe any further deeds of inhuman character.

If there is anything that is soothing to the hearts of the sorrow-stricken Armenians, it is the fact that over 50,000 of their gallant brothers, enlisted as regular soldiers under the Russian flag, are fighting gloriously in Poland and in the Caucasus. And about 20,000 volunteers, supported chiefly by the gifts of Russian Armenians, under the "Dashnagist" and "Huntchagist" leaders are marching side by side with Russian soldiers from victory to victory. The whole vilayet of Van, one-third of the vilayet of Bitlis, and one-fourth of the vilayet of Erzeroum are in our hands now. Antranik, the idol of the revolutionary Armenians, is marching on Mush. On the other hand, Boghos Nubar, Pasha of Egypt, well known to the Chancellors of the Allies, and enjoying their full confidence, at the head of an Armenian diplomatic delegation appointed by the Katholiks, is working in Europe to ensure the demands of four million Armenians.

These things give us hope that very soon, with the help of the Allies, we shall conquer the land of our forefathers that has been ours for four thousand years; the land, every inch of which has been dyed by the red blood of its heroes. Yes: we shall conquer, and an autonomous Armenia will no more be only a rosy dream.

When the war broke out, big and small States had long, back-and-forth communications as to future allotment of territories and arrangement of frontiers. But Armenians, the world over made no bargain, had no hesitation in joining the Allies, not because they could not speak by diplomatic mouths, but because their cause of action for universal peace was clear.

Will the mighty and noble Allies forsake us when the Angel of Peace gives them the laurel of victory? Will Russia and England, who unsheathed their swords for the rights of the weak and the honour of treaties, forget the 61st article of the Berlin Treaty and make it a "scrap of paper"? We Armenians can never believe it!—I am, etc.,

ARTI.

Nicosia, Cyprus,
August 7, 1915.

THE FUTURE OF SYRIA.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—By Syrians, at least, much attention has long been bestowed on the question of Syria and Palestine, and amazement, not uncoupled with dissatisfaction and anxiety, has been expressed by the rank and file of the extensive Syrian communities in Egypt and the Sudan, as well as the numerous Syrian refugees at present in Egypt, at the delay in the anticipated occupation by the Allies. It may, therefore, be opportune to examine the causes of this dilatoriness, as doubtless some onlookers are distressed by the attitude of the Allies towards Syria. Will an occupation take place, and when? Those are the questions which are uppermost in one's mind.

Everybody recognises that the Allies were averse to a war with Turkey. They did not entertain any unfriendly intentions towards the Ottoman Empire; on the contrary, they volunteered to preserve its integrity. The Turks, however, refused. What is more, they sided with the Prussians and forced the Allies into war. Despite Turkey's action in following such a lamentable course, the Allies continued to pursue an attitude of friendship towards Turkey. They sought to establish that they possessed no ill feelings towards the unfortunate house of Osman, and consequently refrained from undertaking any hostile operations against Turkey in order to demonstrate this attitude. But at last the operations in the Dardanelles were embarked upon, as an indispensable necessity in order to open a free passage to Russia. Upon the opening of the Straits a vital issue of the war depends. It has not been undertaken for the sake of fighting against Turkey. Such an illusion should be dispelled.

The war against Turkey, therefore, is assuredly of minor importance. The future of the Ottoman Empire depends upon the final issue of the war. If the Allies are successful—as will undoubtedly be the case—the partition of Turkey may be effected without bloodshed. The occupation of Syria may thus be assumed to be a foregone conclusion. I will not deal with the subject of Turkey's partition. It may or may not take place; that depends entirely upon the attitude of the Turks—the real Turks. But punishment of some sort must be meted out to Turkey, and Syria may be involved in the penalty.

No likelihood, it is believed, exists to warrant the belief that an occupation of Syria is forthcoming in the immediate future. But once the capital falls, the rest follows suit.—I am, etc.,

SYRIAN.

Egypt, August 10, 1915.

"X.X.X."—Will the correspondent who sent us from Geneva, under date of August 18, a letter, signed "X.X.X.," on the subject of the evils inflicted upon the Armenians by the Turks, kindly forward his name and address? The Editor desires this information solely for his own guidance, and "X.X.X." may rest assured that it will on no account be published or divulged to any other person. But THE NEAR EAST cannot depart from its rule of not publishing any letter without knowing the identity of the writer.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

Though we are at war with Austria-Hungary and Turkey as well as with Germany, we have, I think, very little of the bitter and contemptuous feeling for the Turks or the Hungarians that we have for the Germans. They have shown themselves cleaner fighters than the Huns, and their treatment of enemy subjects is infinitely superior to that meted out by their allies. Now, I am glad to see, the Hungarian Minister of Public Instruction has taken a step which does him great credit. He has issued a circular calling upon all teachers to pay special attention to educating the children in their charge to give their enemies the respect and honour that are their due. Hate and contempt, he says, are not to be cultivated in the youthful mind, and the children should not learn to regard "the brave men with whom their fathers are in deadly combat" with such feelings. On the contrary, teachers should aim at dispelling the idea that enemies are not men and can hardly be considered as human beings, that they should be exterminated; for it is unworthy of any nation to foster such ideas. The circular, it is pleasant to read, has created a favourable impression. So that the Hungarians would seem to be worthy of their Minister of Public Instruction—whose ideas one would like to commend to a certain other (Most Exalted) person, who is fond of airing his views, which are far less worthy of being aired than those in this truly admirable circular.

***

Under the heading "Another Black Sea Collier Sunk," the *Egyptian Gazette* publishes the following:—

PETROGRAD, August 18.

We have sunk a collier in the Black Sea.

Havas.

I congratulate the Havas Agency on its naval enterprise.

***

A day or two ago I was shown a letter written by a young Artillery officer now serving on the Gallipoli Peninsula, and I found it so interesting that I asked for, and obtained, permission to reproduce two passages from it. Here is the first:—

> We came opposite this part of the world about a fortnight ago in an ordinary steamship in the middle of the night. Lighters came up out of the darkness and took us and our guns ashore. It is rather a job landing guns, especially at night. And the lighters didn't treat us very well either. One of the brutes sank in shallow water, and we simply could not get one gun off that night. So we covered it up with sacking, and hoped it would not be seen.

The writer does not mention whether it *was* seen or not. To the uninitiated the chance of a sacking-covered gun protruding from the water being overlooked, or mistaken for a seaweed-draped rock, hardly looks a good one. But I hope the Turko-Germs were duly duped; for the writer evidently loves his guns, as all good Gunners do. One of them, he admits elsewhere in the letter, they "used to despise rather," but it has proved "a beautiful machine for this kind of work," and he anticipates that it "will make the Turks thoughtful when we advance."

***

The second passage I am tempted to reproduce touches lightly on an incident that can hardly have proved as amusing as the writer's style of describing it:—

> I am writing from the ruins of my house. Once upon a time it was a fine place to live in—six feet deep, corrugated roofing, splendid sandstone soil, cold water laid on in very limited quantities; in fact, all the latest conveniences . . . . improvements were being added daily, such as a cupboard excavated in the wall with a door of sacking. . . . I should like to tell you that the havoc which has been wrought was the work of a single shell. But I am afraid it was only a digging party. They were very sorry, but they were terracing this gully, and they were afraid they would have to knock the walls in. So that is how it stands now. Most of the walls are gone. Spadefuls of earth are hurled in every now and then by energetic diggers, and sand is absorbed with our meals in very generous quantities. However, as soon as new territory is allowed to us we are going to dig out a new and even more luxurious place for ourselves.

I have suffered from sand in my food myself, and I am afraid I did not find it the least bit amusing. But then I was not taking my meals to the accompaniment of the music of the guns. Which possibly accounts for the difference. Up against such very real facts as is this officer—who writes cheerily of dodging the shells—one is not going to be greatly perturbed about a few pecks of sand more or less.

***

In reviewing a book ("An Introduction to the Study of African Languages," by Professor Meinhof), the *Athenæum* has a good deal to say—and it is very well worth saying—about "the urgent need to study language *before* proceeding to Africa, and its collateral, the imperative necessity of an Oriental School in London, if England is to occupy the foremost place in the development of her African colonies and protectorates." I read the review with deep interest, and it has set me wondering how soon our London School of Oriental Studies will be ready to get to work. At present the prospect does not look a hopeful one, judging by the state of the building in Finsbury Circus, which, I believe, is to house the School. But perhaps things are more advanced than they look. I hope so, for I agree with the *Athenæum's* reviewer as to the "crying need for an Oriental School in London." We are promised one, I know; but I fear the war may cause the scheme to drag. And it seems to me that that would be a great pity. We ought to make an extra effort now. We do not want "to ignore what Germany has done" in this field. We want—or ought to want—to excel it, and to be as independent as possible in the future of German scholarship, as of everything else German.

***

I see that, added to the ordinary horrors of war, the troops at the Dardanelles are now being assailed by new and scarcely less terrible enemies. Millions of flies, we are told, have arrived upon the scene of battle, and are rendering life well-nigh intolerable to our soldiers even during their hours of rest and leisure. I experienced a plague of flies myself on one occasion, and the memory of it is with me yet, although it was many years ago. On that occasion there was no battle, apparently there was nothing to attract the flies save for the water that was daily carted to the railhead of a new railway across the desert. And they came suddenly, as though they were born of the sand. One night when we went to bed the conditions were normal; the following morning when we woke it was to find everything black with the new plague. I recollect well the beastliness of trying to get through one's meals without swallowing some of the crawling, buzzing insects that attacked us. At first we kept boys busily at work whisking them off, but this was by no means efficacious. Eventually we had to dine under mosquito curtains, but even so it was quite impossible to get through the meal without some of the invaders obtaining an entrance. And if in times of peace, when everything was to one's hand and when servants were constantly in attendance, the plague could be so terrible as I knew it to be, then what must it be now when the few hours' rest from the trenches is disturbed, even when it is not utterly destroyed, by the attentions of these disease-carrying insects? The Turks are, of course, more or less used to them. It is considered unlucky to brush them from the eyes of infants, for instance, so their advent in increased numbers will not appear in the light of much more than an added inconvenience. With our own men it is different, but the greatest heat of summer is mercifully drawing to a close, and long before the New Year comes in I hope that the fighting in Gallipoli will be merely a memory placed among the records of our most glorious achievements.

***

Perhaps the Turk feared that he would be forced to adopt the language of the Teuton when he threw cold water upon the suggestion that the Germans should take over the administrative work in the Government offices of Constantinople the other day. Already his children are being given the inestimable advantage of hearing the German tongue in Turkish schools, but the thoroughness of German purpose is becoming a little disconcerting, and if reports from various sources are to be relied upon, the Turk is daily showing signs of increased restiveness.

***

On the other hand, our soldiers are, we are told in the provincial papers, eagerly picking up the scraps of new languages which fall from the lips of prisoners and others. Our men in the Sudan, in writing to their local papers, intersperse their English with words of Arabic, and some of these are singularly useful words, too. What an attractive word is "afsh," for instance, compared to our "luggage" or "baggage." "Maleesh," too, the word that means almost anything under the sun in the way of apology, sympathy, or resignation. A servant breaks your favourite pipe, and his apology is *maleesh*. You condole with a bereaved parent in the same word. It is a sort of universal "never mind," with its character altered according to the intonation of the speaker. "Baeed," which means "far," is another word which may mean anything from one mile to a hundred, according to the manner of its pronunciation. "Baeed," one mile; "Ba-eed," more than one mile; "Ba-*eed*," a very long way, and so on. I often wonder that we do not more frequently hear words and expressions of Arabic upon the lips of those who have spent many years in the Sudan or Egypt, where these words are common among Englishmen even when they converse among themselves.

CORSAIR.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE DARDANELLES IN 1740.

At a time when our thoughts turn so often to the Dardanelles it will, we think, interest many of our readers to have a description of the famous Straits as given by Dr. Richard Pococke, a traveller who visited them in 1740. It is taken, we understand, from a book of travel, entitled, quaintly, "Description of the East and Some Other Countries," written by Dr. Pococke, and published in 1745; and we are indebted for it to Mr. William Habakkuk, M.I.M.M., formerly of Constantinople:—

"On July 24 I embarked at Gallipoli and sailed to the Dardanels on the Asia side; it is called twelve leagues, but it is no more than twelve miles, being so far by land from Lamsac, near opposite to Gallipoli. The Hellespont was so called by the ancients because Helle, attempting to swim over here on the Ram with the Golden Fleece, was drowned. The Europeans call it the Dardanels, as well as the castles about the middle of it; the Turks give it the name of Bogas (the mouth or entrance). The entrance from the Dardanels is now to be computed from the Asia lighthouse, about a league without Lamsac, and from the Europe lighthouse, half a league to the north of Gallipoli; the whole length is about twenty-six miles, the broadest part is not computed to be above four miles over, though at Gallipoli it was judged by the ancients to be five miles, and from Sestus to Abydus only seven stadia. They also computed it a hundred and seventy stadia from Lamsacum to Abydus, seventy from that place to Dardanels, the distance from which to Rhaeteum is not mentioned, which may be twenty, but from Rhaeteum to Sigeum was thirty, in all thirty miles and a-half, excepting the distance between Dardanels and Rhaeteum, so that it is probable they measured round by the bays on the sea. The land on each side of the Hellespont is mostly hilly, especially to the west. About three leagues from Gallipoli the passage is wide and the land looking into the south, it appears like a large basin; then follows the narrow streight, which is about a league in length; at the south end of it are the Dardanel castles, near the middle of the Dardanels passage. They have been thought by many to be on the site of Sestus and Abydus, though some have conjectured that these places were at the north entrance of the narrow passage, where, on the Asia side, there is a long mound or rampart with a barrow at each end like the remains of a castle. On the Europe side there is a hill, and to the north of it a ruined castle, called Acbash, which is at present the habitation of a Dervise, and may be some remains of Sestus, though the passage over the streight might be to the south-east at some little distance from it. What induces me to think that those towns were here is the distance mentioned between Abydus and Dardanus, which is eight miles and three-quarters, for the promontory Dardanium, and the city Dardanus, must have been the cape called by the Franks Cap Barbiere or Barbieri, only a league from the present castle, which some suppose to have been Abydus. The river Rhodius also is said to have been between Abydus and Dardanus, which seems to be the river called Chaie, that falls into the sea at the castle, washing the walls of it when it overflows, so that if Abydus have been there it would have been said that the river, though south of the town, fell into the river at Abydus, and not between that place and Dardanus. Strabo also says that Abydus is at the mouth of the Hellespont and Propontis, from which one may argue that it was rather at the north end of the streight towards the Propontis. Wherever it was, it is remarkable on account of the bridge which Xerxes made there from Asia into Europe. The Rhodius, therefore, falling in at the old castle of the Dardanels on the Asia side, we are to conclude that Cynosema, the tomb of Hecuba, was at the opposite castle, being described to be over against the mouth of the Rhodius. Abydus was built by the Milesians with the permission of Gyges, King of Lydia, to whom it was then subject. The people of this place made a stout resistance against Philip the King of Macedon, and destroyed themselves when they could hold out no longer.

"The castles are sometimes called by the Turks Bogas Hissar (the castles of the entrance); but that to the east is called Natoli Eski hissar (the old Asia castle). It is a big square building, encompassed with an outer wall and turrets; there are fourteen large brass cannon* without carriages on the seashore. They are always loaded with stone-ball ready to sink any ship that would offer to pass without coming to anchor in order to be searched. They fire likewise with ball in answer to any ship that salutes the castles; as this does so much damage when they fall, so the lands directly opposite commonly pay no rent; there are eight other cannon towards the south. I saw among them two very fine ones, one is twenty-five feet long and adorned with flower-de-luces, which they say was a decoration anciently used by the emperors of the East before the French took those arms; and I have seen them in many parts. The other cannon is of brass, twenty feet long, but in two parts, after the old way of making cannon or iron of several pieces; the bore of this is about two feet, so that a man may very well sit in it; two quintals and a-half of powder are required to load it, and it carries a ball of stone of fourteen quintals. The town on the north side of the castle is a mile and a-half in circumference, and has in it twelve hundred houses, two hundred of which are Greeks, a hundred Armenians, and fifty of Jews. They have a great manufacture both here and on the other side of cotton and sailcloth, and they make here a sort of ware like Delft, which is exported to the value of fifteen thousand dollars a year; they also send out some wax, oil, wool, cotton, and cotton yarn, and build small ships. The town is situated in a plain, which begins about two miles to the north and extends to the promontory Dardanium, being about a league broad. I crossed it going near to the east by the river, and went in between the hills to Jaur-Kala, situate on a high hill. It is said to have been built in haste, and did not appear to be of any great antiquity. A French Consul resides at the Castle of the Dardanels, and a droggerman for the English and Dutch, who is a Jew. The other castle, called Rumeli-Eski-Hissar (the old castle of Rumelia), has in it twenty large brass cannon, one of which is of a great size, but not so large as that on the other side. The town is near a mile round in compass, stands on the side of the hill, and is inhabited only by Turks, who carry on a great manufacture of sailcloth."

*"Brass Cannon." These were undoubtedly "Bronze Cannon," and their composition would be somewhere about 9 parts "Copper" and 1 part "Tin."—W.H.

NEAR EAST BOOK NOTES.

The Bucharest correspondent of the *Secolo* announces that the Queen Dowager of Roumania, "Carmen Sylva," is now working on a new romance, which is entitled "Hilderic," and deals with an incident of the Crusades.

We have received from the *African World* a copy of a new marching song, entitled "When Botha Comes Marching Home." The words are by Mostyn Piggott, the music is arranged by C. D. Brownfield, and the covers are decorated with photographs of General Botha and some of his chief officers. At the published price—which is sixpence—the work is a marvel of cheapness; and as two-thirds of the gross profits are to be divided amongst three deserving funds (the National Relief, the Governor-General's Fund for South Africa, and the *African World* Red Cross work), we trust they will benefit substantially. Over 10,000 copies have been ordered for distribution amongst our forces in Flanders, France, and the Dardanelles, so the song has every chance of making its way to "the Front."

A LETTER FROM GENERAL GORDON.

A correspondent has sent to the *Morning Post* the following extract from a letter written by General Gordon in 1882 to Mr. James R. Purdy:—

Every Briton should think of the future of his country and cause each one to insist on the Government passing a measure for compulsory universal military training! So far as England is concerned, she need not, for the next quarter of a century, be under any apprehension of serious difficulties arising with any of her European neighbours, *but in 1910 or thereabouts* there will have arisen a naval Power which may prove mightier than she, and should she (Germany) gain the supremacy, England will become extinct both as a sea and a land Power, and all her dependencies, including India, will fall into Germany's clutches. You may live to see this. I shall not, but when that time comes, remember my words.

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JOHN LANE: THE BODLEY HEAD, W

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1915. Sept.	1915. August		1333. Shawwal	5675. Ellul
3	21	Friday	23	24
4	22	Saturday.....	24	25
5	23	Sunday	25	26
6	24	Monday	26	27
7	25	Tuesday	27	28
8	26	Wednesday	28	29
				5676. Tisri.
9	27	Thursday	29	1

To-morrow is the birthday of H.M. Olga, Queen-Dowager of the Hellenes.

Thursday is the birthday of H.R.H. Prince George of Serbia, elder son of King Peter, who was born at Rieka, Montenegro, in 1887, and who renounced his rights as Crown Prince, in favour of Prince Alexander, in 1909.

The Crown Prince and Princess of Montenegro arrived in Athens, on their way to Italy, on Thursday of last week, meeting with a very cordial reception in the Greek capital.

H.E. the Greek Minister left London last Friday for Hampshire.

The Serbian and Roumanian Ministers were among the callers at the Foregn Office last Friday.

The Serbian Government has presented to the Victoria and Albert Museum and to the British public the marble torso of Strahinic Ban, by Ivan Mestrovic, in proof of their appreciation of the interest shown in the recent exhibition of his work. The torso is on view in the Central Hall of the Museum; the remainder of the exhibition is now closed.

The *Gazette* announces that the King has been graciously pleased to give directions for the following appointment to the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George: To be an Honorary Member of the Third Class, or Companions, of the said Most Distinguished Order: General de Division Serdar Janko Voukotitch, Prime Minister of Montenegro, Commanding the Montenegrin Army in Herzegovina.

Sir Alexander Baird, who is home on his annual visit from Egypt, is making a short stay at Urie House, in Kincardineshire, of which county he is Lord-Lieutenant.

Squadron Commander F. H. K. Edmonds, R.N., D.S.O., who won the distinction in the Cuxhaven raid, and has more recently been making the Turks extremely unhappy by dropping bombs on their transports in the Dardanelles, is, we are informed, a brother of Mr. W. S. Edmonds, of the Levant Consular Service.

Mr. Charles A. M. van Millingen, Cadet Officer of the Uppingham O.T.C., eldest son of the Rev. Professor var Millingen, D.D., of Robert College, Constantinople, has received a commission as second lieutenant in the 14th Rifle Brigade (August 18).

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Miss Thomson, The Hall, Bexhill on-Sea.

Mr. Arthur Baker having been called away from London on business, Mr. Middleton Edwards has taken over the work of hon. treasurer to the British Refugees from Turkey Relief Fund.

Second Lieutenant F. C. N. Raymond, 1/8th Hampshire Regiment, T.F., who is officially reported missing, and is feared to have been killed in the Dardanelles fighting on August 12, is the second son of Mr. George Raymond, of Corfu, Greece.

A marriage will shortly take place, quietly, between George Bettesworth Piggott, formerly a Judge of his Majesty's Supreme Court for the Ottoman Dominions, son of Fraser Piggott, J.P., of Fitzhall, Midhurst, and Nadine, younger daughter of the late Sir Reginald Beauchamp, Bart., of Langley Park, Norwich.

Major the Hon. Alexander Hore Ruthven, V.C., who has been wounded at the Dardanelles, is the second son of the eighth Lord Ruthven, and was born in 1872. He served as a captain in the 1st Dragoon Guards in the Nile Expedition of 1898, and commanded the Camel Corps at the capture of Gedaref. For his services in this campaign he was mentioned in despatches, and received the 4th Class of the Osmanieh and the Egyptian medal with clasp. Major Hore Ruthven earned his Victoria Cross in 1899 when serving with the Nile Expedition. The decoration was awarded him for great gallantry in saving the life of a wounded soldier under heavy fire. During the present campaign he has served with the Welsh Guards.

Major E. H. Lewis, 8th Battalion Hampshire Regiment (Princess Beatrice's Isle of Wight Rifles), who is reported missing and is believed to have been killed, had seen much active service in cavalry regiments in the Sudan, Ashanti, and Nigeria. He was gazetted a second lieutenant in the 21st Hussars on December 17, 1892, lieutenant on August 12, 1896, and captain in the 21st Lancers on December 30, 1899. In the Sudan Campaign (1898) he was present at the battle of Omdurman, for which he received the medal and also the Khedive's medal and clasp. He joined the 8th Hants two years ago.

Major William Frederick Walter, Lancashire Fusiliers (killed in action), had retired from the Lancashire Fusiliers in 1903, but rejoined the Service for the war. He was born in February, 1863, and received his commission in 1882; his substantive rank of major was gazetted in July, 1900. He was gazetted to the Staff in August of last year. Major Walter, who was a graduate of the Staff College, had seen a great deal of active service. He was in the Expedition to Dongola in 1896, and was decorated with the Egyptian medal with two clasps. He won another clasp for work with the Nile Expedition of 1897. In the Nile Expedition of 1898 he fought in the battles of Atbara (where he was slightly wounded) and Khartoum. He was twice mentioned in despatches, and received the Khartoum medal as well as two clasps to the Egyptian medal. In the South African War (1899-1900) he was a Special Service officer. He was at the relief of Ladysmith, and in the action at Spion Kop, where he was severely wounded. He was again mentioned in despatches, and received the Queen's medal with clasp.

Some interesting particulars regarding the late Mr. T. B. Etherington Smith, Sub-Director-General of Accounts in the Egyptian Ministry of Finance, whose death was reported in these columns last week, are given in the *Daily Telegraph*. The writer says:—Mr. Etherington Smith, who was only thirty-six years of age, was in his day a fine oarsman, though he scarcely equalled his brother, the late Dr. R. B. Etherington Smith. T. B., who was an Oriel man, rowed No. 7 in the Oxford boat stroked by C. P. Rowley in 1900, R. B. being No. 5 in the successful Cambridge boat. The following year the Oxford crew, stroked by R. H. Culme-Seymour, were the winners, T. B. Etherington Smith again being at No. 7. In 1900, with F. W. Warre, of Balliol, as partner, he won the Oxford University pairs. It will be recalled that his elder brother died two years ago, at the same age, from blood-poisoning, which developed as the sequel to a surgical operation which he had performed. The brothers were the sons of Mr. J. H. Etherington Smith, Recorder of Derby.

The *Egyptian Gazette* reports that Mr. Sydney A. Moseley, who has been representing the Central News and the Exchange Telegraph Company on the Gallipoli Peninsula, is now at the Ras-el-Tin military hospital, having been obliged to return from the theatre of hostilities owing to an illness, which necessitates his return to England.

Dr. Herbert Adams Gibbons, who was formerly Assistant Professor of History at Robert College, Constantinople, is now resident in Paris. His latest book, "A New Map of Europe," has met with much success. It has been adopted as a text book in many of the leading American colleges and universities, and though only published two months ago is now in its second edition.

Our Bucharest Correspondent writes (August 12):—

M. J. Cruppi, the former French Minister, who has been sent on a special mission by the French Government to the Balkan States, arrived some days ago from Sofia. M. Cruppi, who is accompanied by Mme. Cruppi, has paid a number of visits to their many former acquaintances in the capital, and besides having had long interviews with M. Bratiano, and other Ministers, has had long audiences with the King and Queen. They left for Jassy and Petersburg yesterday.

Lieutenant-Colonel J. P. Finley, United States Army, who has written a monograph on the Mohammedan Moros of the Philippines, was formerly Governor of Zamboanga, Philippine Islands. In 1913 he visited Constantinople in order to obtain the appointment of some *hodjas*, or teachers, to instruct the Moros regarding the Moslem faith, which they professed, but did not honour. At first he encountered a good many difficulties in connection with this mission, the Turks being, apparently, nonplussed by the proposal; though the Sheikh-ul-Islam was enthusiastic in his support. Afterwards, Colonel Finley was able to enlist the sympathy of some of the leading Turks, including Riza Tewfik Bey, and having obtained interviews with the Grand Vizier, Mahmud Shevket Pasha, the Heir Apparent, Prince Yussuf Izzeddin, and the Sultan himself, he finally accomplished his purpose. Colonel Finley had at that time been nearly twelve years in the Philippines. He has now returned to the United States, and is stationed at Fort Crockett, Galveston, Texas.

Mrs. Winifred S. Monkhouse, The Cliffe, Seaton Carew, has heard from a friend fighting with the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force that there is great need in the hospitals for mosquito nets, fly swatters, etc., as the plague of flies is terrible. Mrs. Monkhouse has received donations for nets., etc., which she has purchased and sent out, but as so many more are needed she makes an appeal for further assistance.

The Rev. J. H. Little, Senior Chaplain to the Forces in Egypt, appeals in the Egyptian papers for illustrated magazines, books, etc., for the wounded in hospital in Egypt. Parcels and boxes, addressed to The Senior Chaplain, Headquarters Office, Abbassia, will be sorted and distributed thence to the hospitals.

Although the typhus epidemic in Serbia has been effectively mastered, the country is still suffering in a manner little realized by the British public. The doctor in charge of the Wounded Allies' Relief Committee's Unit at Kragujevatz states that, by reasons of war and pestilence, Serbia has lost half her doctors, while the remaining half is mobilised with the Army. In Kragujevatz, which has a population of 50,000, there is only one Serbian civil practitioner. The conditions among civilians are therefore terrible and the Wounded Allies' Unit has opened a dispensary in the town. The committee is still in need of funds for its work, and all contributions will be welcomed by the hon. treasurer, Mr. T. O. Roberts, manager of the London County and Westminster Bank, 217 Strand, W.C.

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APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, etc.

Under date August 18, our Serbian Correspondent reports :—

Dr. Sondermeier, Colonel and Surgeon in the Serbian Army, has been sent on a special mission to Albania, as sanitary delegate, to inspect the hospitals there. He has already visited Tirana and Durazzo, and is now in Elbassan.

It is officially announced that his Highness the Sultan of Egypt has been pleased to approve the promotion of the following officers to the rank of Kaimakam in the Egyptian Army :—

Bimbashi (temp. Kaimakam) D. C. Percy-Smith, D.S.O., Officer Commanding Nuba Territorials, Bimbashi A. Craufurd, 13th Sudanese; Bimbashi H. V. V. Kyrke, Deputy Assistant Adjutant-General; Bimbashi G. R. Worthington-Wilmer, 9th Sudanese.

ROLL OF HONOUR.

British Subjects from Turkey in H.M.'s Forces.

ASHE, Lance-Corp. R., R.E.
ATKINSON, Bombardier G. M., 266th Battery, 85th Brigade, R.F.A., Colchester.
ATKINSON, Gunner T., "A" Co., Royal Field Artillery.
BAKER, Captain A. Warden, 7th Royal Scots Fusiliers.
BARRON, Sergeant J. B., First Canadian Contingent (formerly of the St. George's Boys' School, Jerusalem).
BINNS, Bombardier Harold H. (49,567), Battery Office, 34th Reserve Battery, R.F.A., 6b Reserve Brigade, Piershill Barracks, Edinburgh.
BINNS, Lieut. C. E., R.M. (Interpreter to Mediterranean Forces).
BOLTON, Alfred, Naval Brigade.
BOND, Private H. C., 7th (Reserve) City of London Regt.
BOND, Gladwyn J. T., Inns of Court O.T.C.
BOND, Trooper S. (1779), Royal Horse Guards.
BOND, Corporal R., Royal Field Artillery, Durlston House, Park Road, Swanage.
BORRELL, Rifleman Alfred, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
BOWMAN, Private Henry J., R.A.M.C., Duke of York's Barracks, Chelsea.
BROOKS, Corporal G., Royal Field Artillery, Swanage.
BURN, E. R., 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
BURNS, Rifleman Edward, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade. (*Accidentally Killed.*)
CASTELL, Rifleman Henry, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
CAUCHI, Act. Corporal Henry (6113), 19th Service Battalion, C. Company, Royal Fusiliers, Epsom, Surrey.
CLIFTON, Capt. Ernest H., Durham Light Infantry.
COLES, Dr. D. A., R.A.M.C. (formerly of the English Hospital. Haifa).
COLLEY, Trooper Isaac E., Royal Horse Guards.
CRAWFORD, Private James, 7th (Reserve) City of London Regiment.
CUMBERBATCH, Lieut. A. Noël, 9th East Yorkshire Regiment, Fulford Barracks, York.
CUMBERBATCH, 2nd Lieut. H. D., 9th Batt. the Buffs.
CUMBERBATCH, Lieut. and Adjutant R. C., 7th Batt. Rifle Brigade.
CUMING, Bombardier A. C., 262nd Battery, R.F.A., 84th Brigade, Colchester.
DAVIDSON, Bombardier C. T., 266th Battery, 85th Brigade, R.F.A., Colchester.
ELLIOTT, Eric C., 2nd Lieut., Essex Regiment, 11th Battalion.
ELLIOTT, Flight Sub-Lieut. Clifford W., R.N.A.S.
EPPSTEIN, Lieut. W R., Durham Light Infantry.
FAULKNER, Lieut. M., Admiralty House, Malta.
FROMANT, Private F., Grenadier Guards.
GALLIA, Rifleman M., 7th (S) Batt. Rifle Brigade.
GOODACRE, Miss C., Red Cross, Shoreham.
GOUT, Lieut. Charles L., 4th (R) King's Own Yorkshire L.I., Drill Hall, Bank Street, Wakefield.
GOUT, Rifleman Evelyn, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
GOUT, Rifleman Richard, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
HADKINSON, Rifleman Vivian H., "A" Co., 7th Batt. Rifle Brigade, Queen's E1 Ward, Bed 40, Graylingwell War Hospital, Chichester. (*Wounded.*)
HIGGS, Private J., 6th Dragoon Guards.
HOLTON, Corporal Alfred, Royal Naval Division, Divisional Engineers.
HOLTON, Trooper John, B. Squadron, Essex Yeomanry.
HOYLAND, 2nd Lieut., H.A.D. (Interpreter to the Mediterranean Forces).
IRELAND, Private D. J. (3346), 15th County of London Regiment.
JACKSON, Rifleman Edward, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
KERR, Miss E., Army Nursing Corps, France.
KEYSER, Lieut. A. G., 8th Batt. King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry.
KEYSER, 2nd Lieut. R. N., 10th Batt. East Lancashire Regiment.
KEYSER, 2nd Lieut. Henry, 2/10th Batt. Middlesex Regiment.
KEYSER, 2nd Lieut. J. C., 2/9th Batt. (D.C.O.) Middlesex Regiment.
LA FONTAINE, Rifleman Fred., 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
LA FONTAINE, 1st Lieut. Hugh, 2/7th City of London Regiment.
LA FONTAINE, Sub-Lieut. J. S., R.N.V.R., Hawke Battalion. (*Wounded.*)
LANDER, 2nd Lieut. Arthur.
LE BAILLY, Lieutenant R. F., R.N.V.R., Recruiting Officer for Royal Naval Air Service, Brook Green Road, Hammersmith.
LORIMER, Private D., Army Service Corps, Aldershot.
MACKINNON, Private Eric, 9th Royal Scots Highlanders.
MACKINNON, Dr. J. M., Captain E.A.M.S., British East Africa.
MACKINNON, Patrick, Sapper, Divisional Engineers, 1st Canadian Contingent.
MACKRAY, E. D., Dardanelles Expeditionary Force.
MICHEU, Bombardier C. G., Royal Field Artillery.
MOORE, Miss K. M., Royal Red Cross, Serbia.
MORRISON, J., 2/4th Seaforth Highlanders.
MORTON, Private Stanley, 2nd Sportsman's Battalion.
MOSS, 2nd Lieut., Public Schools Battalion.
MUMFORD, P. F., Army Service Corps, R.E., Baldock.
MUNRO, 2nd Lieut. J. G., 4th Scottish Rifles, Fort Matilda, Greenock.
NOWILL, 1st Lieut. Sidney I. P., 2/7th City of London Regiment.
PARKER, Trooper G., Royal Horse Guards.
PATERSON, Lieut. Alexander, R.A.M.C., 3rd Batt. Black Watch, Tain, N.B.
PEACOCK, Sapper Frank, R.E.
PENGELLEY, Sapper Walter, R.E.
POYNTER, Lieutenant H. E., Army Service Corps.
RAMSAY, Corporal F. R. F., 14th Service Batt. Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.
REES, Trooper R. (1709), Squadron D (in Egypt), Herts Yeomanry, c.o. G.P.O., Southampton.
ROBINSON, Lance,Corporal J. E., Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment (formerly of the C.M.S. College, Jerusalem).
RICE, Rifleman Cecil, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade. (*Died from Wounds.*)
ROUTH, 2nd Lieut. C., 3rd/8th (D.C.O.) Middlesex Regiment.
SACKVILLE-WEST, 2nd Lieut. Hon. B., R.N.V.R.
SAMSON, Seaman George McKenzie, V.C., R.N.R. (*Seriously Wounded.*)
SEAGER, Lieut. John Owen, B. Co., Public Schools Batt., 16th Middlesex Regiment, Woldingham.
SHAW, 2nd Lieut. T., R.E.
SIMMONS, Gunner H. C., 123rd Heavy Battery, R.G.A. (*Died from Wounds.*)
STOCK, Lieut. H. W., Royal Marines. (Serving abroad.)
SUMMERS, Lieut. H. C., R.N.V.R., H.M.S. "Europa."
SUNDERLAND, Interpreter (at the front).
THOMPSON, Lieut. Harold H., R.N.V.R.
THOMPSON, Commander W. A., R.N.V.R., H.M.S. "Egmont."
THWAITES, Dr. H., R.A.M.C., Wareham.
TRENTER, Trooper T., Household Cavalry.
VAN LENNEP, Private E., 2nd Sportsman's Battalion.
VAN MILLINGEN, Private R. G. C., 3rd Batt. London Scottish.
VEDOVA, Rifleman Eghbert, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
VEDOVA, Rifleman Lionel, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade. (*Killed in Action.*)
VERE, Lieut.-Commander Harry, R.N.
WARREN, Act.-Corporal R. M., 7th (S) Batt. Rifle Brigade. (*Killed in Action.*)
WHEATLEY, Miss, Sister Q.A.I.M.N.S.R., No. 3 General Hospital, British Expeditionary Force.
WHEELER, Captain P. F. C. d'Erf, 1st Dorset Regiment.
WHITTALL, Captain G., 1st Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry.
WHITTALL, 2nd Lieut. Arthur, 7th (Res.) City of London Regiment.
WHITTALL, Lieut. Hugh, Royal Marines. (Serving abroad.)
WHITTALL, Private Kenneth, 10th Batt. Royal Fusiliers, Colchester.
WHITTALL, Private Roland, 10th Batt. Royal Fusiliers. (*Died from Wounds.*)
WHITTALL, Rifleman Walter, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade. (*Wounded.*)
WRATISLAW, Lieutenant J. C., 8th Leicestershire Regiment, No. 9 Camp, Perham Down, near Andover, Hants.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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

BIRTH.

BOYCOTT.—At Burlingham Lodge, Norwich, to Evelyn Mary, the wife of A. G. Boycott, Private, R.A.M.C., and of the Ministry of Public Instruction, Cairo, Egypt—a son.

DEATHS.

CHOLMONDELEY-PENNELL.—On the 22nd ult., at Palace Mansions, W., Henry Cholmondeley-Pennell, late H.M. Inspector of Fisheries and Director of Egyptian Commerce, elder son of Sir Henry Pennell, of the Admiralty, in his eightieth

SAUNDERS.—On August 29, at Hythe, Frederick William Saunders, M.B., late of Donnington Hurst, Newbury, and Assouan, Egypt, youngest son of the late Deputy Inspector George Saunders, C.B., aged 52.

IN MEMORIAM.

WOOLLATT.—Percy Christopher Parkes Woollatt, the dearly beloved eldest son of Lilian and Percy Woollatt, who was accidentally drowned at Shiraz, Persia, on August 27, 1914, aged 6½ years.

Peace, Peace! He is not dead, he doth not sleep—
He hath awakened from the dream of life—
'Tis we who, lost in stormy visions, keep
With phantoms an unprofitable strife.

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1915.

EGYPT AND THE WAR.

Nowhere has the year of war that has just been completed had more far-reaching effects or made more radical changes than in Egypt. A year ago Egypt was still a vassal State of the Ottoman Empire, with certain autonomous privileges, but in the military occupation of Great Britain. Everyone was looking forward to Lord Kitchener's return in the autumn, when, it was understood, he would deal drastically with the Khedive, who, always a disturbing and uncertain factor, had been troublesome during the early part of the year. At that time the day seemed yet far distant when Egypt would be relieved from all the disadvantages which her anomalous political status bestowed upon her. Suddenly the situation changed. The dogs of war were let slip in Europe; Lord Kitchener was called in to take charge of the War Office; and Egypt was left in the hands of the General Commanding the Army of Occupation and of the Acting British Agent. Her sovereign remained at Stamboul, where he was recovering from the attempt made but a week or so before on his life. Abbas Hilmy Pasha's strong anti-British feelings caused him, however, quickly to forget that he owed this attempt to the machinations of the camarilla in power in Constantinople, which had its own reasons for wishing his undoing. Ever lacking in political prescience, the Khedive at once burned his boats by throwing in his lot wholeheartedly with the Young Turks and their Teuton friends, who within three months succeeded in dragging the Ottoman Empire into the fray on their side. By November events had developed so definitely that General Maxwell was ordered to assume military control of Egypt. The following month Great Britain cut the Gordian knot by declaring the rights over Egypt both of the Sultan and of the Khedive forfeit to his Majesty King George; she announced that she had taken the country under her protection, and that the ex-Khedive's uncle, Prince Hussein Pasha, had been appointed ruler in his stead, with the title of Sultan of Egypt. No more dramatic turn could have been given to events than that which the concluding months of 1914 witnessed. Not the least remarkable aspect of the course of events is the fact that this reversal of the old order of things has been achieved without any fuss and without arousing any untoward incidents of any real importance; for the two attempts on the life of the new Sultan cannot, and indeed must not, be regarded as symptomatic of the feeling of the people. There is little doubt that whilst the first was the act of a madman, the second was the outcome of a plot engineered by either the Young Turks or the ex-Khedive; in neither case can the country as an entity be held to account for such actions.

To convey a true impression of what has been achieved it is necessary briefly to restate the position when war broke out last August. It was obviously the game of the Teuton Powers to occupy our attention and our energies by the fomentation of trouble in the outlying parts of the Empire. While the Emden and her consorts endeavoured to harry our convoys local agents were used for the purpose of creating disturbances at important points. The world knows now what was attempted in other parts of Africa and in India, and how the danger was averted. Egypt was one of the points where the Empire was most vulnerable, for there was the doorway through which the reinforcements offered by loyal Australasia and India had to pass. The country had a large Teuton population, which had immigrated for apparently purely commercial motives, but which had been encouraged to settle on the banks of the Nile by Wilhelmstrasse solely in anticipation that the day might dawn when the Vaterland would be at war with the occupying Power, and they could by their presence very actively assist their country's cause in Egypt. When war broke out, it must be admitted, the British Government had no plan of campaign ready for dealing with the situation created in Egypt by the European crisis; and no attempt was made for some time to stop the departure of German and Austrian reservists or to restrict the liberty of those enemy subjects who remained. This unreadiness is, however, a point in favour of the sincerity of our efforts for peace. The position was rendered all the more delicate at the outset owing to the fact that Turkey, Egypt's suzerain, was still neutral. It was, however, not long before the authorities found that they could not allow things to continue as they had been doing, since the enemy subjects and their consular representatives were hard at work trying to make local trouble for us, and the country was overrun with Turkish agents, who made common cause with the Teutons. Few people realise—it is no indiscretion to speak about it to-day—how strenuously and systematically the Turkish and Khedivial agents and the German element worked. The Mors affair and other incidents, since revealed, convey but an inkling of what has really taken place. The most fantastic rumours, calculated to impress the credulous mind of the Egyptian, were put into circulation; no effort was spared to set in motion a wave of fanaticism and a spirit of dissatisfaction with the actual Government; plots were made for the wrecking of public property, and the consequent creation of a panic. Yet, although from time to time economic affairs have assumed an aspect that lent an air of accuracy to the rumours put about; despite the fact that the Turks actually invaded Egyptian territory with the avowed object of resetting the "Jewel" of the Turkish Empire in the casket of Othman, from which the unbelieving British had stolen it, and of granting the Egyptians the independence for which they had so long clamoured in vain; and notwithstanding that the declaration of a British Protectorate entailed the overthrow of the Turkish suzerainty, which, however much veiled politically, had in the eyes of many quite an important religious aspect, the country remained throughout perfectly calm. Indeed, far from the insinuations and provocations of the agitators receiving attention, there swept over the land, from Alexandria right down to the Bahr el-Ghazal, a wave of loyalty to and of sympathy with the British overlord, which was as spontaneous as it was satisfactory.

While this attitude is a tribute to the sound common sense of the Egyptians, of which Lord Kitchener has so often spoken, there is little doubt that the successful steering of the Egyptian barque through such troubled waters was due to the skill and tact with which the military and civil authorities handled a situation as delicate as it was unprecedented. Their task was complicated by the fact that the world-wide economic and financial problems which the war had created had had their repercussion in Egypt. The cotton position in particular caused much preoccupation and controversy; for Egypt depended entirely on the sale of this, her only crop, for the means to meet her obligations to Europe and to keep the administrative wheels oiled. The measures taken by the local financial authorities with the very generous assistance of the British Government helped somewhat to relieve matters, and, Egypt's proverbial luck coming to her rescue, she has managed with comparative ease to survive the crisis that lay before her. The revenue returns, to which we referred recently, show that the country is speedily recovering ground, whilst the Customs' statistics indicate that the balance of trade has made a substantial swing in the country's favour. Indeed, strange as it may sound, Egypt has actually benefited by the war. In the first place, while her political status has been settled for all time, the outbreak of war has also witnessed the disappearance, let us hope for good, of a political element that has ever sapped the nation's life blood, the while its activities unduly distracted the attention of the authorities. In the second place, at the end of a year of war conditions, we find her economic position on a

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very much firmer basis; for the restriction of the cotton area and the enforced growing of an increased quantity of cereals required by the country for its own consumption will place it less at the mercy of climatic and economic conditions, which, influencing the fate of the cotton crop, have most certainly reacted to the country's detriment in the past. Egypt has come through her political and economic crises with a success that serves as an earnest of what we may expect in the future; and when peace once again reigns throughout the world, it is to be hoped that the Egyptians will realise what a benefit the change wrought in their political status has conferred upon them by bringing them within the precincts of the British Empire. Already Egypt has played a part in the destiny of that Empire, for it has been the arena where the first act in the most moving pageant of Empire ever conceived has been performed. The banks of the Nile have been the training ground for contingents from the overseas Dominions; and the Turkish invasion afforded the unique spectacle of British, Australasian, Indian, Imperial Service, and Egyptian troops taking the field side by side in defence of the Empire, to which one and all equally belonged. Surely that was an eventuality, cementing and consecrating in everyone's eyes the Imperial bond, that the Germans never for one instant foresaw. May this early association with the other members of the Empire into which they had so recently been admitted enable the Egyptians to find in that Empire both the security they need for their national development and the incentive to aspire to a higher destiny than has been theirs for many centuries past.

OLD SAYINGS FROM THE NEAR EAST.

Were it not for the fires of Constantinople, the threshold of its houses would be of gold.

Measure a thousand times and cut once.

Before you enter, think of your coming out.

That which is written comes on the head.

The end of a bad dream is good.

There is no bargaining for the fish that is in the sea.

In forty years he made one wise remark, and that by mistake.

Like the Imam's lantern, he turns in every direction.

My enemy who is far from me may live a thousand years.

There are many to put on the saddle if I become a donkey.

Let him who tells the truth have a swift horse that he may ride and escape.

Let him who would steal a minaret first prepare a hiding place for it.

It is better to be ashamed below the mountain than on its top.

Experience is like a valuable comb given us when our hair is all gone.

Said the crab: "Daughter, why do you walk crooked?" —"Mother," replied the daughter, "show me how to walk straight."

At Aya Sophia he begs, at Sultan Achmet he gives alms. (These two mosques in Constantinople are within a stone's throw of each other.)

Before you understand a thing, do not catch fire and flash like Albanian powder.

Fort Tchanak (one of the forts at the Dardanelles) is a pot (tchanak) from which the secret comes not forth.

M. M. P.

SYRIAN REFUGEES IN CRETE.

Under date of August 31, Reuter's correspondent at Athens reports:—A telegram from Canea (Crete) states that the American cruiser Chester has arrived there from Beyrout with 470 refugees, French, British, Russian, and Italian. The cruiser is leaving again for Beyrout, where she will ship a further batch of refugees. Another American cruiser is expected at Canea with refugees from Alexandretta.

LIFE IN SYRIA.

(By a Former Resident.)

The Question of Language.

To the student of Oriental manners and customs Syria is, indeed, a land of glorious possibilities, for its people are responsive to friendly overtures, and once the difficulties of language have been mastered, an entrance is easily gained into every house. The best way to learn the language is undoubtedly to live amongst the people, for Arabic learned only from books is very unsatisfactory, a wrong pronunciation being often picked up in this way, which it is difficult afterwards to lose. A teacher who knows no English, or next to none, is the ideal, for thus Arabic can be, and, indeed, has to be, absorbed from the beginning. The great thing for the beginner to do is to make use of what he or she knows and not to fear being laughed at. The Syrians themselves are too polite to laugh at the efforts of a European to speak their language, though often enough it must be rather trying to them to hear their beautiful Arabic mauled by the tyro. Ludicrous mistakes are, of course, frequently made, as, for instance. that of the lady who, wishing to buy walnuts, asked for a husband; but the fear of making such mistakes must not be allowed to deter the learner from venturing.

There are some letters in the Arabic alphabet for which it is absolutely impossible to find an equivalent in English; and that is why Arabic words written in English are apt to mislead the reader as to their meaning.

As the learner will soon discover, there are many graceful sayings in Arabic, appropriate to special occasions. Syrians are noted for saying "the right thing at the right moment," and to be able to do likewise the European must not only know something of the language, but also be conversant with the etiquette of the country—knowledge which comes gradually from intercourse with the people. Thus it is usual when you have partaken of any hospitality to bow to your host or hostess, as the case may be, and use a word which being interpreted means, "May you always have——" whatever you have eaten at the time. But this only applies in the case of ordinary visits and joyful occasions. I well remember visiting a house of mourning with two young Syrians not long after I had arrived in the land, and the care one of them took to impress upon me that I must on no account make use of the expression just referred to. To have done so would have been a terrible mistake, for it would have been equivalent to saying: "May you always have sorrow!" Syrians are naturally very courteous and hospitable, and it is a great pleasure to them to entertain strangers, especially when these show that they are really friendly.

The Simple Life.

The Syrian peasant's life is a very healthy one. He is up with the sun, tilling his land, ploughing, sowing, or reaping, according to the season, and never eating his "morsel" until the sun is high in the sky. The said "morsel" commonly consists of bread and olives in the winter, and of bread and grapes, or whatever other fruit is easily procurable in his district, in the summer; his drink is pure water, ice-cold in the hottest weather, bubbling up out of the many springs that "run among the hills." The way to gain the heart of the peasants is to eat with them. If you come upon a group of them at their morning meal, the polite thing to do is to say, "May you be blessed!" to which they will reply "Take." You then answer with a word meaning "two healths." Naturally, with strangers this interchange of compliments is mere politeness, for if every one who was invited accepted the invitation the peasant would often have nothing for himself. But any one with a little tact will be able to judge when to accept and when to refuse such offers.

In the mountains the women work quite as hard as the men, if not harder. In the early spring they may be seen breaking their backs in weeding in the fields under the burning sun. They are rarely allowed the privilege of a ride: their lords and masters amble along lazily, while their poor women-folk trudge up and down the mountain passes, laden with faggots for firing, or any other loads of household necessaries. In regard to fuel, it may be noted, they are very thrifty, using even the olive stones; but they have always a plentiful supply of wood, mulberry, pine,

WHITE HORSE WHISKY.
GREAT AGE AND BOUQUET.
By Appointment to

KING GEORGE.

H.M. KING OF SPAIN.

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fig, and vine branches, also the stunted evergreen oak, from which they make charcoal. The women are clever with their hands, making their own little fireplaces with clay, also trays and baskets of coloured straws and rushes, which are very pretty, and which they are only too glad to sell.

Most people in Syria have their own vine and fig tree—some have many. There does not appear to be much ready money amongst them; but many of them own a fair amount of land, which they turn into cash when they wish to emigrate, or to obtain exemption from conscription for their sons. As in many other parts of the East, the peasant's home frequently consists of only one room, which serves for eating and sleeping in, the beds being just mattresses, which are stored away in a recess in the day time, and brought out and spread on the floor when the household retires to rest at night. Sometimes these rooms have no window at all, the only means of ventilation being the doorway, and, as may be readily understood in these circumstances, when sitting round a fire burning on a clay hearth, the occupants are nearly blinded by smoke. A tiny lamp, burning either olive oil or paraffin, is commonly kept burning all night, to keep away evil spirits.

Western Influence.

The "one-roomed house" is, however, not so often seen in Syria nowadays, except in remote districts. Western civilisation has brought in its train many changes, including tiled roofs, tables, chairs, and iron bedsteads. These are, no doubt, distinct improvements; yet the things that are disappearing had a picturesqueness and charm of their own; and, sitting on a mat by the clay hearth, in a one-roomed house, one often seems to get more to the root of the native character, to be more closely in touch with the simple life, than is possible amidst the more elaborate arrangements imported from the West. The distinctive costume is also dying out in the towns, and in order to see the truly Eastern dress as it was worn throughout Syria not many years ago, it is necessary now to go into the remote districts.

Market days are full of interest for a European, for a traveller especially. But here again the influence of the West has made itself strongly felt, and in the coast towns you rarely find a real "market day." Farther inland, however, notably in the vilayet of Damascus, most villages have their own market days, on which you may see strings of camels, donkeys, mules, and "stock," in the shape of cows, sheep, and goats, wending their way to the market, accompanied by men and women in their picturesque dress, the women often carrying baskets of fruit and vegetables, that lend delightful touches of colour to the animated scene. In the market itself there is a recognized quarter for everything: here, fruit; there, vegetables; yonder, pottery, the browns and greens of which harmonize well with the indigo dresses and white veils of the Druse women. There is, of course, much bargaining, and even more talking and gossiping. The women make good use of the opportunity for gathering and passing on news, and the men are by no means above following their example in this respect at least.

The Season's Employments.

The people are hard-working and always busy. January and February are the slackest months of the year for them, but even then they are occupied in making charcoal and in replenishing their supply of wood—the charcoal for use in braziers, or on the open hearths, the wood cut up into logs for burning in stoves made on the American pattern.

The next business in the calendar is the rearing of silkworms, which begins early in March, as a rule, but varies according to temperature. This is an important industry, and in many houses a room, or if a larger crop is wanted, more than one room, is given up entirely to it. The eggs are often put in the churches "for luck," and much care is devoted to the preparation of the implements used. A scaffolding, or framework, of bamboo canes is erected, on which are placed trays made of basket-work or dried manure, and sacks of mulberry leaves are brought in and spread on these trays for the worms to feed upon. Except when they are fasting, it keeps the family busy bringing in supplies of leaves, for the silkworm is a most voracious feeder, and until the worms are reared the people hardly give themselves time to eat. This is, indeed, a very anxious time for them. The next stage is the spinning of the cocoons. Branches of shrubs—usually wild broom, which is found all over the mountains in the Lebanon—are fixed to the bamboos, and on these the worms spin their cocoons. The cocoons are sold to silk factories, and then the silk is wound off, the cocoon being first placed in boiling water. While the worms are being reared one is often asked to "pray for them" by the owners.

The next business of the Syrian is the harvesting. All the men, women, and children turn out for this, and booths are erected near the threshing floors, where the owners temporarily take up their abode, in order to prevent theft of their corn. Threshing is done by oxen, and "handfuls" of sheaves are left in the corners of the fields for the widow and the fatherless, just as in the days of the Old Testament. In similar fashion "gleanings" are left of fruit as well as of grain.

After the harvest, which usually takes place in June, the watchmen guard the vineyards until the grapes are ripe. In the high lands this is usually in late August or early September, but in warmer districts the grapes ripen in July. The scent of the blossom of the vines is very sweet, and in walking through the vineyards just after dawn, towards the end of July, one is sometimes surprised by the fragrant smell, for the flower is so microscopic that it is often overlooked.

Early in October raisin making begins in Lebanon. The process is a curious one, though simple. The grapes are spread out on patches of stone-laid pavement in the vineyards; a preparation of charcoal and olive oil is then brushed over them, and the sun does the rest. About the same time, also the "dibs" is prepared. This is made by boiling down the juice of the grape and leaving it to cool. It is a delicious sweetmeat, and is very often spread on one of the thin, flat native "loaves" for the children to take to school. When thus spread the loaf is often rolled up, in the style of the "cornucopia" dear to the heart of the Swiss and Italian pastrycook. It is then called "a bride"—it being customary in Syria to compare everything very nice to a bride. "Dibs" is also eaten with lettuce. The juice of the grape is also used, of course, in making the native wine, and from it is distilled the *arack* spirit, much used at feasts.

Sheep-fattening is another not unimportant occupation in the mountains. In the early autumn each householder who can afford it buys a sheep, and the process of stuffing—no other word will serve—the animal with mulberry leaves begins forthwith. When the poor animal can eat no more, it is killed by its owner himself, and then joints are to be seen hanging outside each house. The fat is boiled down and kept for cooking purposes, being used either in soup or for frying in the winter months. It is good eating, and much nicer than *semin*, a kind of coarse butter made from camel's milk.

Lace-making is now quite an industry in Syria, and much lace is sent both to England and to America. The making is a very simple process, no pillow or bobbins being employed. The Syrian girl provides herself with a needle and an ordinary reel of cotton—Coats's machine cotton being preferred—which can be procured in most of the village shops. Although the method employed is so simple—just threading the needle and "working"—the patterns produced are often complicated. Collars are made with a strip of ordinary tape, or "batista," into which the "needle lace," as it is called, is most deftly worked with the finger, and d'oyleys, borders for handkerchiefs, etc., are made, the patterns being sometimes most minute.

The Spread of Education.

Syrian children are very fascinating. They have wonderful memories, and do not easily forget what they have once learned. This remark applies to the girls as well as the boys; and whereas it was formerly only the boys who received any education, the parents are now beginning to see that their daughters ought to enjoy the same advantages as their sons, and they are in many instances willing to pay for them to do so. Even taking the lowest view of the case, they begin to see that a girl who has been educated will have a much better chance of marrying than one who has not, since an educated man naturally prefers an educated wife; and all Syrian parents most earnestly desire their daughters to marry. Schools are springing up all over the land, and all sects and creeds are to-day realizing the importance of education.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Leading of Turkey.

"A Neutral," contributing his eighth article to *The Times* (August 26), devoted considerable attention to the activities of Germany in neutral countries. By the use of an untiring propaganda Germany, it is shown, has gained since the declaration of war an advantage among neutral nations that has almost, if not quite, counterbalanced the effects of her faulty diplomacy prior to the outbreak of hostilities. She was not only prepared with the munitions of war:—

She had entrenched herself in the Press of every neutral country, and, according to statements made in Germany, she had greatly influenced a portion of the British Press. I believe investigation of the affairs of the Hamburg-Amerika Steamship Company and hospitality to British newspaper editors would yield fruitful, if distasteful, results.

The German inspired Press is shown to have been particularly active in relation to the British Fleet. It was at first thought by the "men in the streets" of the smaller neutral nations that the British Fleet would literally do what Mr. Winston Churchill hinted at, and that the German vessels would be dug out of their hiding-places; when it was found that nothing of this nature occurred, Germany saw her opportunity, and grasped it. Our Fleet was reported to be bottled up, the exploits of German raiders were "boomed." In regard to Turkey the writer says:—

It has been said that Turkey's support was lost to Great Britain owing to some negligence by which the Goeben and the Breslau eluded capture or destruction in the Mediterranean. That I do not for one moment believe. Turkey was lost to the Allies' cause owing to German pressure and propaganda. That propaganda was, to my knowledge, conducted by an extremely astute newspaper manipulator—formerly in London—Baron von Kühlmann. The arrival of the Goeben and Breslau, no doubt, assisted, but for weeks disgraceful lies were disseminated through Turkey about the Allies, accompanied by bribes and threats. The Turks, who had hitherto been admirers of the English, were told that the British Fleet was interned, that London was in a state of terror from Zeppelins, and even more fantastic lies—such as the statement that King George was begging for peace from the Emperor William. It is idle to pretend that such propaganda is beneath notice.

The German Road.

The *Morning Post* (August 27), in treating of the question of Germanic ambition in the Balkans, says that the little Balkan Powers are faced by the need of a great decision, and that if they allow either bribery or fear to influence them against their own interests, then they are traitors to their own cause. In emphasising the fact that national freedom is the cause best worth fighting for in the world, the *Post* points the moral with the sad case of Hungary, a country that has given of its best in a cause "whose victory means for Hungary only defeat." And in the German penetration of Eastern Europe lies the great danger to the Balkans. "If Germany should win one thing is certain: she will make for herself a road to the Levant: she will seize Salonika, and the freedom of the Balkan States will then be at an end."

In reference to the position of the neutral Balkan States, and of Bulgaria in particular, the article says that, as without Russia she never could have been, so without Russia she has no security for her future existence.

If she hopes to find that security in an alliance between Germany on the one side and Turkey on the other, she is like a measure of corn hoping for an alliance between the upper and the nether millstone. There can be no true friendship for Bulgaria either in Germany, which threatens her from the one side, or in Turkey, which will always seek her ruin from the other. Fair words and promises do not alter hard facts: the Turk and the German do not change in a day or a year, and if German gold is thrown in the balance it is only to betray. As for England, it must be her policy to stand by those who stand by her.

The Balkan Situation.

The *Daily Chronicle* (August 28) concludes a leading article on the Balkan neutrals by pointing out that Germany seeks to weaken the Balkan nations in order that Austria may gain the Vardar Valley and Salonika, and herself a high road to Constantinople, while, on the other hand, the Entente Powers have "no such ambitions hostile to the free development of the Balkans":—

Slowly as things have moved, we may yet hope that this basic and unalterable fact will determine the final attitude of the Balkan peoples; and that it may do so before it is too late for them to win the rewards of co-operating in their own salvation.

The *Spectator* (August 28), in referring to the reported threat of Germany towards Bulgaria, remarks:—

If Germany really means to treat Bulgaria as she treated Belgium, we can only say that she proposes to do for the cause of Britain, France, and Russia what their own diplomacy has hitherto failed to do for them. She would show Bulgaria where her true interests lie. Bulgaria, by submitting, would once for all lose her independence. Against that loss she would be able to count a promise—a German promise. . . . Is it probable that the alert, proud, and high-mettled Bulgarians will tamely sit down under the German threat? We do not believe it. We think better of them. What the Belgians did the Bulgarians are surely proud enough also to do.

The Bulgarian.

An article under the above head, contributed by "One Who Knows Him" to the *Westminster Gazette* (August 27), contains a very faithful picture of the Bulgarian of to-day:—

He is worthy of study, being one of Nature's dominants. There is nothing recessive about him. Hammered, trod down, maltreated for a millennium, he confronts you to-day the stubborn, resilient fellow who handsomely thrashed the Turk at his chosen game, and, when overwhelmed two years ago by a confederacy of five nations, kept himself intact, saved his honour, and has lived to be very much in request to-day.

Having dealt with the personal appearance of the Bulgar, the writer continues:—

Compared with ourselves, he is unemotional, or keeps himself better in hand. During the long strain and frightful losses of the First War one witnessed no scenes in the streets. Not even the women would give way in public, exhibiting extraordinary self-control. The crowd of the capital heard of victory with composure; the storming of Adrianople, for instance, was accepted with proud impassiveness. . . . I have attended sessions of Town Councils in times of dearth, once when crowds of foodless women besieged the doors, and the last coin in the municipal chest was gone, but neither within nor without was clamour or declamation; pallid, governed grief, if you will—no more. Nor was relief accepted with cheering; they reserve the *Hurrah* for the final charge with the bayonet (*na nodj*=the knife).

An interesting article concludes with the following paragraph:—

The Power which invades Bulgaria will find itself up against a tough proposition, for the Bulgar, though the freest man in Europe, and the most naturally democratic, is absolutely homogeneous. Four and a-half millions of educated people (95 per cent. literate), steadily pursuing the same ideal, form a formidable factor in any equation. And this ideal is the unification of their race.

The True Turk.

A recent issue of the *Edinburgh Evening Dispatch* contained a very interesting article concerning the Turks as fighters. The conclusions of that paper have been arrived at by a careful consideration of evidence advanced by credible witnesses, and in them we find absolute support of the view which we have consistently emphasized in the columns of this paper.

"The real true-born Turks have been fighting like gentlemen," says one witness, an officer. "They have not shelled our hospital ship, and have been most kind to our wounded." Another instance of the courtesy and chivalry of the Turk, as opposed to the savagery of the German, was related a few days ago, also from the Dardanelles. Some shells having fallen upon a hospital ship, the British signalled the enemy, and immediately the fire was diverted to a legitimate target; a lesson to the Turks' Christian Allies, who have committed every atrocity that could be conceived against helpless civilians and still more helpless wounded.

The *Dispatch* calls attention to the reservation made

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by the officer in the statement. His eulogy is for the true-born Turk, not for the sweepings of the Turkish Empire—"the men who are mainly responsible for the evil odour that hangs round the name of the Sultan's soldiery." We quote from a further paragraph in reference to these men:—

Unbiassed persons at divers campaigns—British officers and war correspondents and others—have testified to the gallantry and soldierly courtesy of the Turks; but at the same time they have protested against the policy of the Turkish Government in making use of the services of irregular troops, Kurds and Circassians, who have earned in every field the reputation of being cruel and faithless ruffians. Even Turkish officers have condemned the use of these men. But official indolence and corruption will not be moved. No effort is made to control those bandits; and the latest stories from the region of the unhappy Armenians show that the Young Turk, the so-called Progressive, is as indifferent as the Old Turk to the excesses that may be committed in the name of the Turkish Government.

Turk and German.

The following quotations from a leaderette in the *Globe* (August 28) show that yet another British paper has recognized the true relative standards of Turkish and German soldiers:—

In the heat of battle the Turk remembers that he is a gentleman, while the German too often forgets that he is a man. The Christian German murders the wounded on the field; the Mohammedan Turk dresses their injuries and carries them into our lines. The Christian German bombards cathedrals and hospitals, and chuckles on his cleverness in deceiving the stupid British by the use of the Red Cross flag. The Mohammedan Turk, fighting in Gallipoli for the safety of his capital and the very existence of his nation, takes care to avoid hitting our dressing stations or hospital bases. We only regret that he is fighting on the wrong side. But, poor fellow, that is not his fault; it is the evil deed of an intriguer who is not even of his own race. We shall remember that he fought fairly when we enter Constantinople.

Germans and Armenia.

The *Manchester Guardian* (August 25), in the course of a leading article, reviewed the Armenian question from the year 1896, when the first of a series of massacres took place. It is shown that German apathy was responsible for the delay in carrying through the proposed scheme of ameliorating the Armenian cause which was voiced by Russia some time ago, and which was ultimately shelved on the outbreak of the present war. From the sentences which we quote below it will be seen that the *Guardian* is more generous in its tone towards Germany than most of our leading papers; more generous indeed than circumstances, or our newly bought experience of German methods, would appear to warrant:—

One of the most unhappy features of the present crime against the Armenians is the connivance of German officers and officials. Whether the German Government itself is responsible for this attitude of its servants is not yet established, but the German Government has the power if it has the will to persuade the Ottoman Government to better courses. If it does not use its power to that end, it becomes a partner in the guilt of the Turks.

The paper appears to imagine that the anxiety of German-Americans to vindicate their country in the eyes of the world will be sufficient to induce them to bring pressure upon Berlin in order to check the wild orgy of murder in Armenia. In referring to these sons of Germany, who have looked with equanimity upon their country's actions in Belgium and upon the high seas, the writer says:—

What more signal demonstration of their sincerity could they give than by urging the German Government to do all in its power to stop the Armenian massacres and persecutions? It is only public opinion which can effect such a result, and there is no opinion which would carry greater weight with the German Government than that of the German-Americans.

Italy and Turkey.

In an article upon Italy's declaration of war upon Turkey the *Journal de Geneve* (August 24) sums up the situation thus created in the following paragraph:—

On pourrait soutenir aussi que la nouvelle déclaration de guerre a plus de portée par son influence indirecte, influence politico-militaire, que par son action stratégique immédiate. Le partage des dépouilles se fera, nécessairement, entre ceux qui auront contribué à la victoire. On n'est pas à l'honneur si l'on n'a pas été à la peine. L'Italie sera partie prenante sûrement puisqu'elle s'est déclarée participante. La Grèce, par exemple, qui a beaucoup tergiversé, est, dans ce moment-ci en moins favorable posture. L'entrée en ligne de l'Italie contre la Turquie est de nature à le lui faire sentir. Les autres Etats balkaniques croiront aussi devoir précipiter leurs réflexions. C'est en ce sens que l'on est autorisé à dire les perspectives ouvertes par la déclaration de guerre indirectes et à échéance, plutôt que directes et immédiates

Articles to Note.

"Bulgaria's Choice," in the *Nation* (August 28).

"What I Think of the Serbs," by Crawfurd Price, in the *Outlook* (August 28).

"The Week in Foreign Affairs," by J. Coudrier de Chassaigne, in the *Sunday Times* (August 29).

"With a British Hospital in Serbia" (illustrated), by Walter Mead, in the *World's Work* (August).

"Modern Greece in War," in the *Scotsman* (August 26).

"Problem of the Balkans: Bulgaria's Claims," in *The Times* (September 1).

"The Occupation of Scutari," in the *Morning Post* (September 1).

"A Definite Policy in the Balkans," by Sir Alfred Sharpe; and "Some Recent Experiences in Serbia," by Captain E. N. Bennett, in the *Nineteenth Century* (September).

"The Balkans and the War: II., the Rôle of Serbia," by Crawfurd Price; III., "The Serbo-Bulgarian Situation," by A. H. E. Taylor, in the *British Review* (September).

"Cyprus: Its Present and its Future," by J. R. van Millingen; and "French Claims on Syria," by T. F. Farman, in the *Contemporary* (September).

"The Situation in the Near East," by H. Charles Woods, in the *Fortnightly* (September).

"An Egean Voyage," by W. J. C., in *Blackwood's Magazine* (August).

"The Restoration of Mesopotamia," by H. J. Shepstone, in the *Millgate Monthly* (August).

THE SULTAN AND THE BRIDGE.

(From a Correspondent.)

Shawky Bey, the Poet Laureate at the late Khedivial Court, whose writings have on several occasions been referred to in The Near East in connection with the present War, is not only a sonorous poet, but a fellow of infinite jest. He invariably accompanied the ex-Khedive Abbas on his annual visits to Constantinople, and had an excellent store of amusing stories to relate of the deposed Sultan, Abdul Hamid. I recollect one which he told with a shiver, and which I believe to be absolutely true.

Arriving one evening at the Sublime Porte on the Khedivial yacht, he wandered into the city, having in his possession the usual poetical tribute of homage to the Sultan, which was to be read to his Majesty two days later. Falling in with a number of officials of the *entourage* of the Sultan, he read to them his poetical effort, and as the evening wore on he, by request, improvised a second poem, which he put into writing, and which was a perfect gem of satire and parody on his original work.

Those who knew Constantinople in the old days will remember the decrepit bridge, which looked, and probably was, hundreds of years old. The structure wheezed and trembled ominously whenever a vehicle passed over it, but it had the merit of bringing into the Imperial coffers thousands of pounds annually, as every pedestrian or vehicle had to pay a toll for the privilege of crossing. This relic of old Stamboul was the subject of Shawky's satirical lines, and the officials, whilst they roared with laughter, warned the poet of the dire consequences of such an affront coming to the ears of the Sultan, as Abdul Hamid was singularly proud and childishly jealous of anything and everything appertaining to the Sublime Porte. The rest of the story shall be given as nearly as possible in the words employed by Shawky Bey himself in telling it to the writer, to whom he translated the epic on his return to Egypt:—

"On being admitted into the presence two days afterwards, I saw what I took to be my first poem of adulation lying in an envelope on a small gilt table in the Throne Room, and after the usual elaborate formula of presentation was graciously commanded to read it. As soon as I took the MS. from the envelope I trembled in every limb, for I knew instinctively that it was not the metrical tribute intended for the ears of his Majesty.

"It commenced in the same manner, favourably contrasting the Sultan with all contemporary rulers, extolling his every movement and thought from the moment of birth to the present all-glorious day. 'May,' it demanded, sonorously, 'the name of any mortal or sacred monument of present history, or even of the remote past, be mentioned in the same breath as that of the Kaliph, or compared in majesty, glory, magnificence, and power with Abdul Hamid, whose reign shall be everlasting, built on the sure foundations of the world, etc., etc.? And then came the terrible words: 'Yes! yes! *the* bridge, that mighty symbol of eternity' . . . and the poem transcended into poetic frenzy about the virtues of the old bridge, much on the same lines as those familiar to most school children in 'The Falls of Lodore,' interpolated with what looked like translations of extracts from the 'Pied Piper of Hamelin.'

"Once embarked on the reading, I infused into it all the poetic fervour I could summon, and I really believe the Sultan had tears in his eyes when I resoundingly concluded. His Majesty shook hands with me when the audience terminated. . . . But it was a narrow escape!"

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

We publish on another page some of the clauses of the contract signed between the Government of the Island of Cyprus and the Cairo Motor Company for the running of a service of motor mail cars between Larnaca, Limassol, Nicosia, and Famagusta. The Cyprus Government is to be unreservedly congratulated on having come to an agreement which will keep alive the much-wanted motor-car service in the island. For, as I have frequently pointed out in these columns, nothing would have been worse for the true interests of Cyprus than the abolition of motor traffic between the principal towns, principally owing to the fact that railway lines are scarce rather than numerous. There was, I am afraid, danger at a certain moment that the service, owing to difficulties in finding a concessionaire, was doomed to lapse, but I am glad to see that all difficulties have been overcome. I wish the new venture every success. Should the fates not be propitious to it, the Cairo Motor Company will doubtless have to renounce its concession, because no business concern can work continually at a loss, as the Cyprus Motor Transport and Development Company found out to its cost. Any such renunciation on the part of the Cairo Motor Company would have a disappointing effect on the economic development of the Island.

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One point in connection with the new contract is worthy of a passing comment, namely, that the concessionaire is an Egyptian Company. It may have headquarters in London, as well as in Cairo and Alexandria, but its activities are essentially Egyptian, and the fact that it now extends its sphere to Cyprus is significant. It is to be hoped that the relations between the two new members of our Empire in the Eastern Mediterranean will become closer than ever as time goes on. We already have the Khedivial Mail Line's service between the two serving as a useful link, and now another has been forged. Tourism will, I think, be a third, and then—— But, who knows? What is really wanted is a big British steamship service with headquarters at Alexandria, covering the whole of the Eastern Mediterranean. The concern must, however, command a big fleet, and its policy must be a go-ahead one. Any such development, on rational business lines, will be a boon to our little island, coveted by so many foreigners, and a blessing likewise to British Imperial interests in the Near East. Incidentally, I refer my readers to a paragraph on "Shipping Facilities" contained in our Cyprus Notes on page 510.

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During the past week news from Turkey has been contradictory, and what little there is of it, unreliable. Of interest only was a message in the *Morning Post* from its Athens correspondent to the effect that the shortage of coal, owing to the successful bombardment of Zunguldak, was beginning to make itself felt in the capital. So many times have similar reports been scattered through the Press that they must, until confirmed, continue to be regarded askance. According to the correspondent in question, the shortage is so great that the gasworks are reducing their supply of gas, with the result that Constantinople is a dark city at night. Is this not, perhaps, a military measure? Further, flour mills are reported to have closed down for lack of coal, a circumstance that will throw all the work on the rustic mills, the majority of which had been abandoned when steam became generally used, but which, given adequate labour, could be worked again, presumably satisfactorily. Where the shortage of coal is likely to be felt most keenly is in connection with military operations, but if the civil population is only just beginning to feel the pinch, it is likely that the military authorities are only now commencing to draw on their reserves, having up to the present drawn from the public stock. It is essential, therefore, that coal should continue to be prevented from going down the Bosphorus.

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In this connection a correspondent points out that by the bombardment of Zunguldak (supposing it to have been successfully bombarded) the Turks have lost the only coaling port where it was possible for them to ship coal in good and bad weather. There remain, however, numerous open roadsteads along the coast in close proximity to the Heraclea mines, where ships can load in fine weather and succeed in reaching Constantinople. The mines themselves are, in the opinion of my correspondent, not likely to be damaged by the Russian guns. Therefore, if coal is not to reach the capital, the coast to the east and the west of the mining district must be continually patrolled by Russian destroyers and light cruisers. No half-measures will do.

***

Since writing the above, Our Special Correspondent in Athens gives further particulars concerning the last Constantinople conflagration (page 512), as well as particulars regarding the latest phase of coal-running (page 489) through the Bosphorus. Our Correspondent's remarks bear out the suggestion put forth by my correspondent in the previous paragraph.

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The reported Turco-Bulgarian treaty concerning the cession of the Turkish section of the Dedeagatch-Sofia railway to Bulgaria continues in a state of coma—or of report. The protocol, we understand, has been signed; we are, on the other hand, informed that the Turks are already preparing for the evacuation of the territory ceded by them. The first report we believe to be true; the second is premature, not to say unreliable. As for the treaty itself, we do not believe that the Radoslavoff Cabinet has definitely sold its country's birthright for a mess of pottage.

***

Bulgaria, in which country I have always had, and continue to have, complete faith, has too much common sense to throw in its lot with a group of Powers which openly confess that their ambition is to carve a way through the Balkans to Constantinople (I pity the Balkan States if the Teutonic War Lord should succeed!). In view of which I do not believe that we should attach too much importance to the Turco-Bulgarian agreement. It is an economic arrangement which will facilitate our trade with Bulgaria and Roumania. On paper it seems easy of realisation—merely the transfer of a given stretch of rails from one Government to another. So it would be in ordinary cases, but in the case of Turkey it is very doubtful whether the authorities will comply with the clauses of their agreement—and then there will be trouble. This the Bulgarian statesmen must know. Besides—and this makes my case all the stronger—they likewise know that at the present stage of diplomatic negotiations they would not deserve well of their country if they came to a hasty decision, which would involve their joining our enemies without waiting for an amicable settlement of their Macedonian claims.

***

The liquidation of the Sudd Fuel Company, referred to elsewhere, is to be regretted, just as was the liquidation announced some weeks ago of the Corporation of Western Egypt. Both schemes were ventures on a gigantic scale which, if successful, would have increased the resources of the Sudan and Egypt respectively. The main idea of the Corporation of Western Egypt was to open up, by means of a light railway and irrigation works, the oases in the Western Desert. The plan failed for reasons foreign to these comments, but I maintain—and I am not alone in doing so—that if the company's interests had, in the first place, been better looked after, the venture might have proved profitable both to the shareholders and to Egypt. The financial crash of 1906 seriously affected the company's prospects as regards converting Khargeh into a touring centre, and the failure (so far) to locate the Wadi Maluk rendered sterile one of the clauses of their concession, but, in spite of this, there still remained the exploitation of the railway line and the agricultural development of the oases. Money was spent with largesse to boom the company's prospects in the early days, but when it was needed for settling down and exploiting the fields of Dakhla and Khargeh, funds were no longer forthcoming, and matters went from bad to worse, until——

***

The history of the Sudd Fuel Company is a different one. The company was formed for the exploitation of a concession (was it not originally granted to a German subject?) for cutting sudd in the upper reaches of the Nile and transforming it into fuel briquettes. The promoters and directors were very sanguine about the company's prospects, and reckoned deliveries of briquettes by hundreds of thousands of tons. If their hopes had been realised, the advantages to the Sudan of locally produced fuel would have been immense, the more so considering that the sudd supply is practically inexhaustible. However, it appears that for some reason or other (has it anything to do with the low calorific properties of sudd, which makes it a more expensive fuel than coal, even in a country like the Sudan, which has to import every ton from outside?), the venture has not proved a profitable one, with unfortunate results for the shareholders. Not for this, however, have I lost my faith in the ultimate utility of sudd, if not for fuel, then for some other purpose, such as paper-making, for instance. When the supply of wood-pulp, continually on the decrease, will have stopped entirely, then sudd is likely to come to the front as a valuable substitute. Its pulp has, I know, been satisfactorily bleached (without, I believe, destroying or burning the fibre), and if it has not been put on the market it is most likely due to economic reasons, or to the natural opposition of the great wood pulp trust.

COMMENTATOR.

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Cyprus Motor Mail Service.

The New Contract.

The new Cyprus Motor Mail Service, previously referred to by THE NEAR EAST, was timed to begin on Wednesday.

The issue of the *Cyprus Gazette* to hand contains the contract signed between the Cairo Motor Company, Limited, of London, Cairo, and Alexandria, on the one hand, and the Cyprus Government on the other, for the carrying of certain mails and other services on behalf of the Government of the Island. The following are some of the more important clauses of the contract :—

1. The contractors hereby covenant that they will from the first day of September, 1915, and until August 31, 1916, convey or cause to be conveyed his Majesty's mails (which mails shall for the purpose of this contract be considered to include all letters, newspapers, bags and boxes of letters, newspapers, packets, parcels, and other things sent by the authority of the Postmaster) from and to the places and during the times and at the hours and rates of speed severally specified in the first schedule hereto annexed.

2. The contractors hereby covenant that on the sections specified in the said first schedule the mail shall be carried by effective motor-cars to be approved by the Postmaster.

3. The contractors hereby covenant that they will convey by such motor-cars on the sections specified in the said first schedule at a reduction of 25 per centum on the regular fares in force from time to time any duly accredited officer of the Cyprus Public Service when such officer is travelling on such sections in the discharge of his official duties.

4. The contractors hereby covenant that for the purpose of this contract they will at their own cost and charge provide an adequate number of effective motor-cars with a minimum number of five cars of standard touring design supplied with a sufficient number of spare tyres, duplicate parts, and other requisites, and competent, steady, and sober chauffeurs to be respectively approved by the Postmaster.

8. The contractors hereby covenant that the motor-cars shall start from and arrive at the post offices of the towns respectively specified in the first schedule hereto annexed.

9. The contractors hereby covenant that the motor-cars shall provide suitable accommodation for the licensed number of passengers (each passenger being allowed to take with him free personal luggage not exceeding 20 lbs.) at the tariffs not greater than those severally specified in the second schedule hereto annexed.

11. The contractors hereby covenant that in the case of any serious accident to any motor-car occurring during a journey they will forward the mails by the first available means of transport, and the Postmaster hereby covenants that no fine shall be inflicted for any such delay if such accident is not attributable to the neglect or negligence of the contractors or their chauffeurs or defective tyres or motors.

15. The Postmaster hereby covenants that he will during the continuance of this contract pay or cause to be paid to them on the first day of every month the amount due to them for the conveyance of the mails during the previous month according to the scale set forth in the third schedule hereto annexed. Provided that if through the negligence or carelessness of any chauffeur any mail is delivered at the post office to which it was addressed or despatched later than the time at which it should have been delivered the fines stipulated in the third schedule shall be imposed. And provided further that if a chauffeur or motor-car shall at any time carry letters or parcels of any kind other than a mail in the pursuance of this contract (save and except personal luggage under Clause 10 of these presents and matter not capable of being sent through the post), then and in each of such cases the sum which would otherwise be payable to the contractors in respect of such mail shall be forfeited.

It is hereby mutually declared and agreed between the parties :—

(*b*) That it shall be lawful for either of the parties hereto at any time to determine this indenture by giving six months' notice of such determination in writing to the other party hereto.

First Schedule.

SCHEDULE OF MAILS.

Sections.	Times of despatch.	Hours allowed.	Number of intermediate villages at which the motor cars shall call.
From to Limassol-Larnaca	Six mails per week in each direction with special mails as under—(*a*)	4½	4

(*a*) A special car shall be available for the conveyance of the Inward Mails when first landed at Limassol at such time as they are ready for despatch, also the ordinary motor from Larnaca for Nicosia shall leave as soon as possible after the arrival of the motor with Inward Mails from Limassol.

A special car shall be also available at Larnaca to convey the Outward Mails received from Nicosia fortnightly by the afternoon motor on to Limassol.

Larnaca-Nicosia	Twice a day in each direction	2¼	2
Famagusta-Larnaca-Limassol	When Inward Mails are first landed at Famagusta as under (*b*)	3½	2

(*b*) A special car shall be available at Famagusta for the conveyance of the Inward Mails to Larnaca and Limassol on the day they are first landed at Famagusta.

The special car will be allowed 1 hour's extra time if it performs the journey from Larnaca to Limassol at night time.

Second Schedule.

SCHEDULE OF CHARGES FOR EACH PASSENGER BY MAIL MOTOR-CARS TO BE LEVIED BY THE CONTRACTORS.

	Not exceeding
From Larnaca to Limassol or *vice versa* ..	15s.
From Larnaca to Nicosia or *vice versa*....	6s.
From Limassol to Nicosia or *vice versa* ..	16s.
From Famagusta to Larnaca or *vice versa*	8s.

Third Schedule.

RATES TO BE PAID BY THE POSTMASTER TO THE CONTRACTORS FOR THE CONVEYANCE OF MAILS BY MAIL MOTOR CARS AND FINES FOR THE LATE DELIVERY THEREOF:—

Rates.

Per annum. Payable monthly.

Fines.

For each journey actually traversed by any Mail under the provisions of this indenture.

	Fine.
(*a*) When such mail is delivered at the Post Office to which it was addressed within fifteen (15) minutes of the scheduled time	4s.
(*b*) When such mail is so delivered within more than fifteen (15) and not more than thirty (30) minutes of the scheduled time	8s.
(*c*) When such mail is so delivered within more than thirty (30) and not more than forty-five (45) minutes of the scheduled time	12s.
(*d*) When such mail is so delivered within more than forty-five (45) minutes and not more than one hour of the scheduled time	16s.
(*e*) When such mail is so delivered within more than one hour and not more than two hours	20s.

N.B.—In view of the large margin of time allowed on the journeys fines will be inflicted in all cases of minor accidents or delays on account of bad roads or weather, etc.

In the event of carriages being permitted at any time to be substituted for motors half the above rates of fines will be imposed for delays thereof.

It will be seen that Clause 15 relates to the monthly payment of a grant in aid by the Cyprus Government, "according to the scales set forth in the third schedule hereto annexed." The published schedule does not, however, contain any indication as to what these rates are.

On May 17, the NEAR EAST published an article from a Correspondent giving some particulars of the working of the previous concession, held and exploited by the Cyprus Motor Transport and Development Company. According to this information, the Government subvention, starting at £400 per annum, rose to £720, but in spite of this the company's losses in one year, May 1, 1913, to April 30, 1914, rose to £1,258. Unable to obtain a satisfactory rise in their subvention, the company renounced its concession.

In February, 1915, the Cyprus Government invited tenders for the running of the service, and tenderers should offer to exploit the concession either for "a fixed sum per annum for the whole service," or "a rate per mile in accordance with the number of miles run." The Cyprus Motor Transport Company tendered, to the best of our belief, for a fixed sum of £2,000 per annum, which would have left them a small margin of profit.

The tender having given no results (March 8 was the date fixed for receiving the tenders), a second was published in March, to close on April 28, but it was likewise fruitless. The Cyprus Motor Transport Company reduced its demand to £1,450 a year, "hoping that increased passanger traffic might enable them to avoid further loss," to which the Government responded by offering £750, or an increase of £30 on their previous grant. No formula of compromise having been found, negotiations were abandoned. Incidentally it may be remembered that in the second invitation for tenders tenderers could only offer for "a fixed sum per annum," the alternative of "a rate per mile" having been eliminated.

The new contract with the Cairo Motor Company shows that the fixed sum per annum mode of payment has in its turn been abandoned for a "scale of rates." As the scale has not been made public property, we must necessarily believe that the sum total thereof will not cost the Government, in subsidy, more than £1,450 a year, or, roughly, £120 per month. Nor is it likely to be less than £750 per annum or approximately £60 per month. If much higher than £60 per month it is regrettable that the services of the Cyprus Motor Transport Company—which, after all, has dropped about £5,000 in Cyprus (exclusive of what its assets in the way of rolling stock may realise) doing useful spadework and is now in liquidation—were not retained. On the other hand, if the subsidy is not higher than that offered to the company in question, we fail to see how the Cairo Motor Company can show profits at the end of the year, and if they do not, it is likely that further tenders will have to be invited by the Cyprus Government when the present contract (which is for a year's duration) terminates. This would be most regrettable, as an effective and lasting motor service is essential to the welfare of the island, lacking, as it does, a comprehensive railway system. It is to be hoped, therefore, that the present contract will be favourable to the mutual interests of both contracting parties, in which case the Cyprus Government is to be unreservedly congratulated.

WAR ON GERMAN TRADE.

In connection with the campaign undertaken by the Board of Trade, on the advice of their Advisory Committee on Commercial Intelligence, to assist British manufacturers and merchants to secure trade formerly in the hands of German or Austro-Hungarian firms, the Board continue to receive a very large numbers of inquiries for the names of sellers or buyers of articles.

Special arrangements have been made in the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade for dealing with these inquiries, and the weekly list of articles (No. 36) which inquirers desire to purchase is ready, and may be obtained by United Kingdom manufacturers and exporters of British goods.

DELICIOUS COFFEE.
RED WHITE & BLUE
For Breakfast & after Dinner.
Wholesale, of Hanson's, London, England.

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Arabistan Trade.

The following are extracts from the report, just published, on the trade and commerce of the province of Arabistan (Persia) for the year ending March 20, 1914, by H.M. Consul for Arabistan:—

Imports.

Imports show an increase of £205,432 over those of 1912-13. Out of the total imports, amounting to £812,096, the share of the United Kingdom and India is £612,354, or 75 per cent. The imports shown in the tables include material to the value of over £200,000 imported by the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, Limited; of this £188,000 was from the United Kingdom and £22,000 from British India. The principal increases and decreases are:—

Wood (£20,627).—An increase of £5,172. This commodity shows an annual increase, and should continue to do so owing to increase in building in the province.

Sugar, Loaf (£127,183).—An increase of £63,245. Very large imports were made, and the market was flooded.

Sugar, Crystal (£84,774).—An increase of £22,881. Very large imports were made, and the market was flooded.

Rice (£46,076).—An increase of £32,925, due to a bad local crop.

Tea (£10,435).—A decrease of £191. The customs statistics only give a vague idea of the quantity of tea imported, as large quantities are smuggled. At Basrah the duty was only 11 per cent., while at Mohammerah the duty is 6 krans (about 2s. 2d.) per batman (6.54 lbs.)—that is, about 4d. per lb.—which is considerably over 50 per cent. on the value of the cheaper qualities. Further, only about fifteen miles below Basrah, the left bank of the Shatt-al-Arab is Persian territory. In the circumstances, therefore, it is very easy and profitable to import tea destined for Persia into Basrah and have it smuggled across the river.

Enamelled Iron.—This shows a small decrease, but the demand for enamelled ware seems likely to increase. Nearly all the enamelled ware came from Austria-Hungary, as in other Persian Gulf ports.

Manufactures (£58,255).—An increase of £8,859 over 1912-13, but still a good deal less than 1911-12.

Textile Products (£237,057).—An increase of £22,863.

Exports.

The principal exports are wheat, dates, and wool, which are exports from Arabistan itself; and opium, gum, and tobacco, which are sent down for export from the interior.

The grain harvest of 1913 was a bad one, and this has shown its effects on the exports, which have decreased by £17,541.

The principal increases and decreases are:—

Wheat (£24,530).—A decrease of £22,732, due to the bad harvest.

Barley (£703).—A decrease of £9,934, due to the bad harvest.

Gums (£13,005).—A decrease of £1,306, due to ordinary fluctuations of trade.

Wool, Raw (£22,562).—An increase of £9,089. The export of wool seems to be increasing steadily. It is chiefly sent to India.

Opium (£140,602).—A decrease of £15,557. The export last year was exceptionally large.

Tobacco (£17,549).—An increase of £5,432. This is sent down from Isfahan.

Openings for British Trade.

No considerable opening is apparent, unless British or Indian manufacturers can produce sugar of suitable quality at a cheap rate. At present British-made sugar is a little too expensive, while Indian cane sugar is not appreciated. The people like a very white sugar, whether loaf or crystal, and do not seem to mind if its sweetening quality is inferior. A great deal of the sugar imported came from Austria-Hungary and Germany. An Indian trader might be able to do profitable business in wood. Enamelled iron, glass, and cheap lamps were imported from Austria-Hungary and Germany; possibly British manufacturers could compete in the market for these commodities.

Hindrances to Trade.

The principal hindrance to British trade is the Customs tariff, which is so high on certain classes of goods that it puts a premium on smuggling. Traders who import by legitimate means cannot compete in the sale of tea, coffee, spirits, and various other commodities. The other well-known hindrance to trade in Persia—viz., the lack of proper communication with the interior—affects Mohammerah, as well as the rest of South Persia, but not quite so badly, as the Ahwaz-Isfahan road is safer than the other roads from the south.

Exchange.

The fluctuations in exchange are also an impediment to trade. The following remarks on the subject have been kindly communicated by Mr. A. L. Simpson, the manager of the Imperial Bank of Persia, at Mohammerah: "Demand bank sterling exchange fluctuated between 56.25 and 58.25 krans, the average being slightly below 57 krans. These rates are higher than those ruling in the north of Persia, and are to be accounted for by the fact of the failure of the grain crops, and the usual impossibility of moving excess coins from these parts into the interior of the country. Only in a good grain season is the kran, the legal currency of the place, in demand. The crops having failed, krans were not in demand, and the aforesaid impossibility of transporting the coin to other parts (due to the state of the roads) caused a large number of krans to remain in this district and thereby enhanced the rate of exchange. Rupees and Turkish lire are preferred, as a rule, to the kran, and in many instances operations go through without any bearing to the kran at all, although the kran is, strictly speaking, the legal tender of the place. This is doubtless due to the close proximity of this place to Busreh, and many of the merchants here being closely connected with agents or others in Busreh.

Customs Department.

The enclosing of the Customs yard was begun during the year and finished some time after the end of it. This gives some slight protection against pilfering to goods lying in the yard. The warehouse accommodation, however, is still deficient, and when trade is brisk nearly all the merchandise has to lie in the open, which results in a good deal of pilfering. The condition of affairs at Ahwaz is similar. During the year there was a Belgian official in charge at both Mohammerah and Ahwaz. On the whole, the relations between the Customs Department and the merchants were good, though sometimes the subordinate officials of the department are inclined to show their authority by petty annoyances.

Competition.

During the year the German Shipping and Trading Company made a strong effort to get a footing in the carrying trade on the Karun between Mohammerah and Ahwaz, and obtained considerable success, as, in order to do so, they offered the Persian merchants better terms than the British company could afford to do. A tug with barges made frequent trips up and down the river during the year. The firm has also done a good deal of grain exporting. An increased number of steamers of the Hamburg-Amerika Line came out to bring the plant for the Baghdad Railway, and the shipping company were glad to take grain at special low freights in order to get return cargo. The German firm were thus able to export wheat when the low rates prevailing in Europe did not permit British firms to do so after paying the normal freight charges.

Methods of Transport

From the United Kingdom by steamer—

Journey from London to Mohammerah, 27 to 35 days.

Average rate of freight on general cargo, £1 10s. per ton; grain, £1 2s. 6d. per ton.

Lines running from Europe—Bucknall Steamship Lines, Limited, Ellerman Lines, Limited, the Anglo-Algerian Steamship Company, Limited, the Hamburg-Amerika Line, and the Russian Steam Navigation and Trading Company, Odessa.

From Bombay to Mohammerah by steamer—

Journey by fast mail, 7 days; other ships, 10 to 15 days.

Average rate of freight on general cargo, 10s. per ton.

Lines running from Bombay under British flag—British India Steam Navigation Company, Limited, Bombay Persian Steam Navigation Company, Limited, and the Arab Steamship Company, Limited.

From Mohammerah to Ahwaz—

By Messrs. Lynch Brothers' river steamers.—Freight per ton about 14s. on general cargo for the upward journey; 13s. per ton on general cargo and 7s. per ton on grain for the downward journey.

By Messrs. Wonkhaus and Co.'s steamers and Nasiri Co.'s steamers.—Freight per ton 13s. on general cargo for the upward journey; 12s. per ton on general cargo and 6s. per ton on grain for the downward journey. Time taken about 30 hours upstream to Ahwaz and 14 hours return.

By native sailing boat.—Time taken 4 to 7 days; return journey 2 days; freight 9s. per ton on general cargo for the upward journey; 7s. per ton on general cargo and 5s. per ton on grain on the downward journey.

From Ahwaz to Shushtâr—

By Messrs. Lynch's steamer (under Persian flag).—Freight per ton 15s. on general cargo for the upward journey; 13s. per ton on general cargo and 6s. per ton on grain for the downward journey.

By Nasiri Co.'s steamers.—Freight per ton 14s. on general cargo for the upward journey; 12s. per ton on general cargo and 6s. per ton on grain for the downward journey. Journey 2 days up and 1 day down.

Native dhows from Karachi and Kutch—

A large number of dhows from India, averaging from 80 to 100 tons burthen, visit Mohammerah in the date season in September and October. Freight by these boats is cheap, but they are unreliable.

Busreh and Mohammerah—

There is a regular service of launches between these two places. Fares, 1 rupee and 8 a. (1s. 4d. and 8d.).

Internal Transport.

From Ahwaz to Isfahan—

By the Bakhtiari road by mule. Rate varies; £19 to £20 per ton. Packages must not exceed 3 by 2 by 1½ ft. in size, or cases 150 lbs. and bales 200 lbs. in weight, the lesser weight being the better. Goods must be strongly packed; otherwise charges will be made for re-packing.

Forwarding agents, Messrs. Lynch Brothers, Ahwaz. Road is sometimes closed for short periods in the winter owing to snow.

British Firms in Mohammerah.

The Imperial Bank of Persia.

Messrs. Lynch Brothers, merchants, exporters and importers, shipping agents. Agents for the Euphrates and Tigris Steam Navigation Company, running between Busreh and Baghdad on the Tigris, and between Mohammerah and Ahwaz on the Karun, also on behalf of the Persian Government between Ahwaz and Shuster on the Upper Karun. Head offices, 3, Salter's Hall Court, London, E.C.

Messrs. Gray, Mackenzie and Co., general agents, merchants and importers. Agents for the British India Steam Navigation Company; the Bucknall Steamship Lines, Limited; the Ellerman Lines, Limited. London firm, Messrs. Gray, Dawes and Co., 23, Great Winchester Street, London, E.C.

Messrs. Strick, Scott and Co., general agents, importers and merchants. Agents for the Anglo-Algerian Steamship Company and for the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (as below).

The Anglo-Persian Oil Company, Limited. Agents, Messrs. Strick, Scott and Co., Mohammerah Refinery and Works at Abadan, on Shatt-al-Arab River, 10½ miles below Mohammerah; oilfields at Masjid-es-Suleiman, 150 miles inland.

SETTLEMEN OF FOREIGN CLAIMS.

The Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade is notified that a special office has been established for the purpose of dealing with all claims arising out of the war for the settlement of which no satisfactory machinery has existed hitherto, and which are foreign in the sense that they are claims by British subjects against a foreign Government, or by foreign nationals against H.M. Government.

The new office is entitled the "Foreign Claims Office," and all communications relative to claims such as those referred to in the preceding paragraph should be addressed by claimants direct to the Secretary, Foreign Claims Office, c/o Foreign Office, London, S.W.

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Trade Notes.

Egypt.

The Army Finance Department, Cairo, invites tenders for the purchase of a second-hand X-ray apparatus complete, existing at the Egyptian Army Hospital, Pont de Kuleba, September 6.

The Army Finance Department, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 100 okes of soup Naboulsy, and 3,000 reels of black silk thread for buttons, to be delivered at the Citadel stores, Cairo, September 15.

The Army Finance Department, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of cotton, hair, raw; crem vegatable; canvas sail, native; leather, Kusla; nails, wire, French; ropes; beeswax, etc., to the Citadel Stores, Cairo, September 15.

H.M. Consul at Cairo reports that a firm of commission agents in that city, claiming 18 years' experience in the Egyptian markets, during which time it has represented many German firms, wishes to secure the representation of United Kingdom manufacturers of the following articles :—Hardware, locks, tools and implements; enamelled holloware; china and porcelain, earthenware; novelties for suitings; shirts, cotton and woollen hoseiry, and underwear; cotton, linen and woollen web bings for all purposes; laces and trimmings; ladies', gentlemen's and boys' boots and shoes; glazed kid, leather and all articles relating to shoe manufacturing; biscuits; and Yorkshire hams.

United Kingdom manufacturers of the goods mentioned should apply to the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C., for the name and addresse of the enquirer.

The result of the adjudication of July 22, 1915, for the supply of coal to the Egyptian State Railways is as follows: Six offers were received for Welsh coal. Seven offers were received for American coal. Contracts, as under, have been placed for a total quantity of 150,000 metrical tons only, viz. :—

Messrs. Watts, Watts and Co., Ltd., 7, Whittington Avenue, Leadenhall Street, London, E.C., 60,000 metrical tons of Welsh Colliery screened steam coal derived from any of the collieries mentioned in the Administration's specification, at suppliers' option, at the price of 47s. per metrical ton of 1,000 kilogs. net weight, delivered c.i.f., Railway Quay, Gabbary, Alexandria. Export tax, if any, to be borne by the Administration.

Messrs. William Milburn and Co., 71-73, Merchants' Exchange, Cardiff, Wales, 30,000 metrical tons of Welsh Colliery screened steam coal, derived from any of the collieries mentioned in the Administration's specification, at suppliers' option, at the price of 25s. 10d. per metrical ton of 1,000 kilogs. net weight, delivered f.o.b. Welsh Port, at suppliers' option. Wharfage dues will be paid by the Administration.

Messrs. The Consolidation Coal Co., Billiter Square Buildings, London, E.C., 60,000 metrical tons "Fairmont" 1. 1/2 double-screened steam coal, derived from the Fairmont Region of West Virginia, at the price of 55s. per metrical ton of 1,000 kilogs. net weight, deliverd c.i.f., Railway Quay, Gabbary, Alexandria.

Sudan.

The *Sudan Government Gazette* of July 31, 1915, contains certain Regulations, dated July 14, 1915, which have been under the "Customs Ordinance, 1913," as subsequently amended, and which are applicable to the Sudan Customs shed at Gambella .

These Regulations, which came into force on August 1, 1915, specify the warehouse rents chargeable on goods received into the Customs shed at Gambella for import into and export from Abyssinia.

Malta.

The Crown Agents for the Colonies notify that tenders for the supply of from 3,000 to 4,000 tons of steam coal, to be delivered at Malta in one shipment not later than October 7, will be received at the Offices of the Crown Agents for the Colonies, Whitehall Gardens, London, S.W., up to 10 a.m. on September 2.

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Gibraltar.

With reference to previous notices respecting the prohibition of the exportation of various articles to certain destinations from Gibraltar under a Proclamation of March 19 last, as subsequently amended, the Board of Trade have now received, through the Colonial Office, copy of a further Proclamation, dated July 23, 1915, which amends the above-mentioned Proclamation of March 19 last with the effect that certain articles which were previously prohibited from exportation to Italy under Schedule II. are now permitted to be exported to that country.

The amended heading for Schedule II. now reads :—

List of articles of which exportation or removal is forbidden to all foreign ports in Europe and on the Mediterranean and Black Seas, other than those of France, Russia (except Baltic ports), Italy, Spain, and Portugal.

Morocco.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of copy of an Order of the General Commander-in-Chief in the French Zone in Morocco, dated July 30, which provides that, as from August 1, the following articles shall, on importation through the ports of the French Zone in Morocco, be exempted from the Customs duty of 10 per cent. *ad valorem*. Such articles are, however, to continue to be subject to the special tax of 2½ per cent. *ad valorem* prescribed by Article 65 of the Act of Algeciras :—Seed sowing machines, manure distributors, ploughs, ridge ploughs, harrows, rollers, hoes, scarifiers and cultivators of all kinds, chaff-cutters, root-cutters, sickles and rakes, forage presses, reaping machines, threshing machines and motors to operate them (both being imported at the same time), winnowing machines, shellers, seed crushers and flatteners, sprayers and apparatus for treating with sulphur, irrigation pumps and windmills to operate them (both being imported at the same time), casks for watering, and ploughs without mould-boards (*défonceuses*) and motors to operate them (when the combined apparatus is imported at one and the same time).

The July issue of the *Boletin de las Camaras de Comercia* (Madrid) contains the following particulars regarding agriculture in the Spanish Zone of Morocco :—

In the Spanish Zone, as in the whole of the Rif country, arable land is more abundant than irrigated land. This fact and the natural aversion of the Riffian to preparing the land, owing more to lack of agricultural knowledge than to apathy, account for the fact that barley and wheat are the principal crops cultivated. The land is prepared for sowing at the end of October or the beginning of November, and then after the first rains have fallen the seed is sown.

At the end of May the harvest commences. It is impossible to give an estimate of the 1914-15 crops, although, on account of the drought, it is certain that the harvest will be less satisfactory than that of the previous season.

In the neighbourhood of Melilla there are plots of land, sown mostly with barley and wheat, which have yielded very satisfactorily, owing to the fact that they are cultivated by Spaniards. The production of cereals in the vast zone occupied by Spain in the "Kábilas" of Guelaia, Quebdana, Ulad Setut, and Beni bu Yahi will continue to increase the more the natives reform their methods of cultivation.

Bulgaria.

The British Vice-Consul at Sofia reports that a firm in that city, with an office in Manchester, and claiming to have been established in Bulgaria for nearly forty years, wishes to secure the representation there of United Kingdom manufacturers of cotton and other goods.

United Kingdom manufacturers and exporters of cotton goods, etc., should apply to the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C., for the name and address of the enquirer.

Greece.

The Times correspondent in Athens, cabling last Friday, said: "Negotiations between the Greek Government and Great Britain for the control of exports of contraband are making good progress, and are expected very shortly to result in an agreement which will relieve Greek shipping from the inconveniences to which it is exposed at present."

The Athens correspondent of the *Morning Post*, cabling on Sunday, said that the British Legation, in the Press of that date, had informed Greek importers that "from the present time onwards every order for British goods for Greece must be accompanied by a declaration, made by the importer and backed by a bank guarantee, that the goods are intended for local consumption, and that these declarations, if approved by the Legation, will be forwarded to London, where the authorities will come to a decision regarding them."

On Wednesday, Reuter's Agency reported that the Government had laid before the Chamber on Tuesday a Bill prohibiting trade in contraband of war, and inflicting very severe penalties on offenders. The object of the Bill is to remove the difficulties which are at present besetting the Greek mercantile marine.

A correspondent writes :—

An agreement is in course of preparation between the Ministers of the Entente Powers and the Greek Government with a view of controlling the imports and exports, thus suppressing the obstacles which, by embarrassing transactions, had an unhappy repercussion on public opinion.

Henceforth, it is said, imports will be made freely on the basis of statistics. Transits and consignments for Serbia and Bulgaria will be equally free. The Hellenic Government, taking all measures to prevent contraband with the enemy's country, will appoint special officers to control all Customs' operations, these officials acquainting the Government of any irregularities.

Dried raisins and tobacco (Greek) may be exported to enemy countries on condition that the discharge is effected at neutral ports.

Throughout all Hellenic centres favourable to the Entente, satisfaction is expressed with this arrangement, which will constitute the first act of the Venizelos Cabinet by re-establishing the cordial relations of Greece with the Entente Powers. This measure will be also (says a Marseilles contemporary) of a nature to facilitate other interesting accords in the future.

MOHAMMERAH SHIPPING.

The following steam vessels entered and cleared (according to our Consul in Arabistan) in the port of Mohammerah, Persian Gulf, during the year 1913-1914 (March 20) :—

British.

ENTERED (with Cargo).

From—	Vessels.		Net Tonnage.
United Kingdom	26	....	64,967
India	112	....	142,008
Red Sea ports	2	....	2,542
New York	2	....	5,153
Total	142	....	214,670

CLEARED (with Cargo).

To—	Vessels.		Net Tonnage.
United Kingdom	5	....	11,354
India	102	....	127,373
Red Sea ports	2	....	3,380
Total	109	....	142,107

All Nationalities.

ENTERED (with Cargo).

	Vessels.		Tonnage.
British	142	....	214,670
German	22	....	61,350
Russian	6	....	12,057
Total	170	....	288,077

CLEARED (with Cargo).

	Vessels.		Tonnage.
British	109	....	142,107
German	8	....	22,785
Russian	4	....	7,512
Total	121	....	172,404

NOTE.—Ships without cargo do not stop at Mohammerah, but proceed direct to and from Basrah.

H.M. Minister at Bucharest telegraphs that the Roumanian Moratorium in respect of debts due abroad has been further extended for a period of four months.

SUDAN TRADE.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

Just before the war broke out the trade of the Sudan, with at least two out of the three belligerent countries—viz., Germany and Austria (Turkey being the exception) had commenced to show a marked improvement, and under normal conditions might well have resulted in the largest volume of exports yet experienced. If the relative figures covering the period January 1 to September 30, 1913, be compared with those of 1914, this will become quite clear. For the first of the two periods mentioned the trade with Germany amounted to £18,519, or, say 1.1 per cent. of the whole; for 1914, the volume had increased to £29,891, or, say, a percentage of 1.9. In the case of Austria, the 1913 figures were £40,946, or a percentage of 2.6, while in 1914 the total showed an advance to £52,487, or a percentage of 3.3. In the matter of Turkey the trading figures had already commenced to mark a decline. While in 1913 they had amounted to the small total of £29,321, or, say, a percentage of but 1.8, by the end of September, 1914, they had dwindled to £19,717, or a percentage of 1.3.

Naturally the outbreak of war has played havoc with the Sudan's trade in other directions, but a falling-off had already commenced to assert itself with Great Britain notwithstanding the fact that the volume still remained far ahead of that shown by any other country. From the first of January, 1913, the total fell by as much as £220,000, the exact figures being for 1913, £690,195; for 1914, £469,228.

Those countries which showed the most marked improvement in their trading accounts with the Sudan were Italy, which scored an advance from £47,801 (a percentage of 3 per cent.) in 1913 to £58,184 (a percentage of 3.7 per cent. in 1914; Russia, from £19,864 (a percentage of 1.2 per cent.) to £24,596 (a percentage of 1.6); and Greece, from £11,010 to £21,510. The most noteworthy advance was chronicled by the British Possessions of India and Aden, whose combined trade showed a total of £345,105—or, say, a percentage of 21.8 per cent.—as against £205,168, or a percentage of 12.9 shown for the first nine months of the year 1913.

From the figures above quoted it would seem that the Sudan is practically independent of German and Austrian sources of supply; while, as regards exports, it must find markets for £102,641 worth of produce if it is to make good the loss of markets in Germany and Austria owing to the war. It is, perhaps, well to point out in this connection that out of the total mentioned as exports no less than £86,027 is represented by the export of gum.

During the first five months of the current year, Egypt imported to the value of £6,713,000, and exported to the value of £12,405,000. The corresponding figures for 1914 are £11,988,000 and £14,025,000; and for 1913 they are £11,241,000 and £12,930,000.

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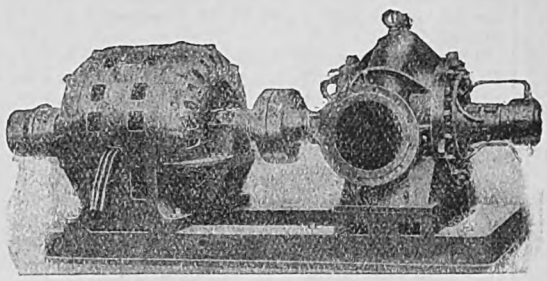

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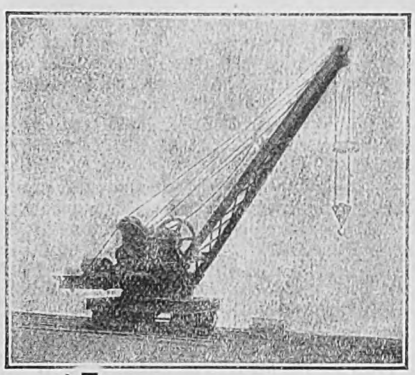

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Engineering Notes.

Telephone Troubles.

Telephone companies in some districts of the Near East have often to put up with a great amount of grumbling from authorities and subscribers, who (especially the latter), at the least apparent failing of the instruments, rush to the Press to protest against the "inefficiency" of the whole system. The trouble is, apparently, worse in systems connecting distant towns. In such cases the dissatisfied parties are probably not aware that in tropical as well as in semi-tropical countries the efficiency of a telephonic system is more often affected by atmospheric and other natural conditions than by any apparent technical deficiency. In a very interesting paper recently read before the Institution of Electrical Engineers by Mr. Llewellen Preece it was explained that telephone troubles in the tropics arise from such causes as damp, vegetation, animals, and insects. The heat is in itself not responsible for much trouble, but when this is combined with an atmospheric humidity varying between 80 and 90 per cent. it is possible to appreciate the reasons for the telephone engineers' complaints. When, in addition, it is realised that this damp heat produces a marvellous growth of vegetation, so dense that it is impossible to pierce through it, and when again it is learnt that insect life is as prolific as vegetation, and sometimes even more trying, then we are in a position to understand the difficulties and to sympathise with the tropical engineers. With regard to insects, Mr. Preece explained how these creatures will attack both instruments and lines. The spider is a real pest; it delights to retreat into the telephone case and there to build to itself a nest, so that it is no uncommon experience to find instruments entirely put out of action owing to the diligent work of this insect. To circumvent the insect plague it is essential that the telephone cases should be sealed up as closely as possible. The switch hook should carry a brass plate, which keeps the slot in which the arm work is entirely covered. It is also advisable to have no terminals above the instruments, but to take the conductors through holes into the case and seal up these holes. It has been discovered that whereas insects will nest in porcelain insulators—which are dark inside—they refuse to inhabit the transparent glass insulators, which, if made of the oil type, should, Mr. Preece said, bring about considerable improvement in the insulation. The above remarks and suggestions of Mr. Preece may bring some relief to the attacked telephone companies if perused by the protesting authorities in the Near East.

A Useful Oil Pump.

Olive oil has an aptitude to take, as well as to give, the odour, either bad or good, of any liquid or solid substance with which it may come into contact. Many olive oil growers, and merchants, in the Near East, are often disappointed when an otherwise excellent quality of oil has been tainted in its transference from reservoirs, barrels, or earthenware tubs, to smaller vessels through the use of a pump which has, previously, been used in the same way for common oils, and sometimes for paraffin! In such cases a great drop of value is the result. It will, therefore, interest olive-oil mill owners, merchants, and farmers in the oil districts of the Near East to know that a useful oil-pump of British design and construction has, recently, been brought out, the efficiency and cheapness of which will tend to ameliorate the unsatisfactory practice of using one pump for all kinds of oils. This oil-pump is an inexpensive mechanism intended to facilitate the transference of oil and other liquids from large to smaller receptacles, and *vice versâ*. The idea is that each class of oil or liquid should have its own pump, which can be readily removed when one supply is exhausted, and another to be started; or in warehouses when a barrel is emptied and a fresh one is placed on the stand. The pump has a funnel head and a strong, simple plunger, which will lift the thickest of cylinder oil or such thin liquids as petrol or water. It is, also, suitable for a variety of purposes on the farm and in the garden, whilst its price is only 18s.

British Scientific Instruments.

Hitherto Germany has led the world in the manufacture of scientific instruments and apparatus (says the Engineering Supplement of the *Times*). An analysis of the trade returns up to the outbreak of war indicates that if the volume of British exports of this class of goods was not small, that of Germany was on a far larger scale, attaining its greatest value in telescopes, field-glasses, microscopes, and other optical apparatus, and in recording and measuring instruments. There are signs that this supremacy is not likely to be retained by Germany after the war. British manufacturers, even if it needed the dislocation of trade caused by the war to enable them to demonstrate the fact, are able to supply the present needs for scientific instruments in workshops and manufacturing laboratories, and have also lately given evidence of their capacity to design new types of instruments for research work. It would be easy to multiply instances of the important part which such apparatus plays in modern manufacture; one example will, however, suffice. It is recognized that in the manufacture of steel for armour plate, guns, and projectiles the physical properties of the steel are absolutely dependent upon accurate measurements of temperature, owing to the important changes which take place within a comparatively small range. Sir Robert Hadfield, whose views on such a subject carry weight, recently stated before the Society of Arts that there is no longer any need to rely on foreign manufacturers for pyrometers or similar apparatus, the best types of which are now produced in British workshops. It is hoped that in the near future it may be possible to make a similar statement in connection with all the scientific instruments which are such important weapons in the hands of the modern manufacturer.

Roumania's Chemical Industry.

The chemical industry of Roumania is of comparatively recent origin, says the *Pall Mall Gazette*, and is in course of development; but it has been impossible for the interested firms to take steps fully to control their own market and conquer the neighbouring Balkan markets during the course of the European conflict. In this connection the *Zeitschrift für Angewandte Chemie* states that Roumania lacks the necessary raw materials, machinery, and technical men, and it happens, therefore, that the country suffers from the accompaniments of the great war without being able to find an abundant sale for its products, despite the absence of the most important competitors. Above all, the country is lacking in alkalies, caustic soda, ammonia, soda, and potash, together with mineral acids, as the land is still unable to meet the domestic requirements. Moreover, the chemical industry is in many ways dependent upon the imports of Spanish and Portuguese pyrites, the supply of which has now become so irregular that the mineral acids branch has had to introduce restrictions in working.

Demand for Motor Boats.

Two weeks ago (says *Motor Boat*) mention was made of the fact that motor boats were required for carrying the wounded in the Persian Gulf. Two have now been despatched, and others have been sent to the Dardanelles to carry the wounded from the Gallipoli Peninsula to Mudros. Two motor boats, fitted respectively with 20 h.p. and 25 h.p. motors, have been sent out, and a third is about to go, or has already been despatched. The largest one is a twin-screw vessel with 32 h.p. motors, which will be used for towing a barge that has been provided by the well-known poet, Mr. John Masefield. This barge is 44 ft. in length, with a beam of 12 ft. 6 ins., and will shortly be sent out after being properly fitted up. It is possible that there may be a call for more motor boats in the near future; perhaps owners will note this.

Bulgarian Mining Concessions.

From May 1 to June 30 the Bulgarian Minister of Commerce and Industry granted twenty-nine prospecting licences, of which fourteen were for oil, two for talc, two for talc and asbestos, one for asbestos, three for copper, one for copper and lead, two for iron, and one for graphite.

ROUMANIAN TRADE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, August 12.

In Transit from Bulgaria.

A large quantity of Bulgarian merchandise destined for Germany and Austria-Hungary has accumulated in this country, on account of the difficulty of passing railway waggons across the frontier. No Roumanian trucks are allowed out, as they have a habit of not returning, whilst those put at the disposal of the Roumanian authorities by Germany and Austria-Hungary are quite inadequate.

At Ramadan (Gingevo) there are at present 700 trucks (7,000 tons) of merchandise of various descriptions. As many complaints come daily from Bulgaria, it has been decided to devote twenty-five trucks daily to transporting these goods to the frontier at Predeal, from whence they will be carried by German and Austrian waggons. At least another 1,000 waggons of goods remain in lighter at Ramadan, awaiting means of transport.

Bucharest, August 17.

Grain Exports.

The Cabinet Council held on the 13th inst. occupied itself principally with the question of raising the prohibition of cereals. After long deliberations it was finally decided to do so.

The actual permission does not really give greater opportunities to exporters, principally the puppets of the German Government buyers. Large quantities of grain of various descriptions from last year's crops have first to be exported before permission will be given for the export of this season's crops. The most that can be sent out of the country daily by all frontier stations is 300 trucks, or 3,000 tons; as, however, other merchandise may have to be exported, it is safe to say that on an average 2,500 tons daily will be the maximum export.

The taxes for exportation decided on are as follows:—Wheat. rye, and flour therefrom, 600 frs. per wagon; barley, oats, and flour, 500 frs. per wagon; maize and meal from maize, 400 frs. per wagon; peas, beans, and lentils, 900 frs. per wagon; linseed, colza, and other oil seeds, 1,000 frs. per wagon; millet and various wild seeds, 300 frs. per wagon; cattle cake from the above, 200 frs. per wagon; linseed oil and other oils, 1,000 frs. per wagon.

Export viâ the frontiers by carts is authorised, a tax of 200 frs. per wagon for agriculturists and 500 frs. for dealers being levied. Transport by cart is, of course, only to frontier stations, where the grain must be transported to Austrian and German railway trucks.

Bonus to Farmers.

The Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Constantinesco, has proposed the following arrangement for furthering the interests of agriculturists:—

1. To grant proprietors of grain deposited at the different railway stations 60 per cent. of the value until transported to the frontiers.

2. The amount placed at the disposal of all the local credit banks to be 100 million francs, and if necessary the National Bank to make the local banks further advances. The grain to be in itself a sufficient guarantee for advances.

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Near East Markets.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Olive Cultivation.

The scarcity of olive oil and the high price of island olives have been increasingly felt. Both are used largely by the Cypriot peasantry for food. Fortunately, the exportation of considerable quantities of oil consigned by Cyprus merchants, which have been detained in the Custom House of Alexandria, has now been allowed by the Egyptian Government. The present situation emphasises the need of an extension of olive cultivation, which could be increased on a very large scale in many parts of the island, and has been strongly advocated by the Directors of Agriculture. As regards the culture of the trees, which is as bad as it can be, the Agricultural Department has wisely taken the matter in hand, and some improvements have already been effected. Olive oil presses are still very primitive, and are being gradually superseded by those of modern type.

Shipping Facilities.

Complaints are raised as to the insufficiency of steamboat communication and of facilities for exporting goods, especially fruit and vegetables, to Egypt. On several occasions consignments of potatoes and other produce have been refused by the steamers of the Khedivial Company, which receives a Government subsidy for its regular weekly service. It is argued by complainants that the agreement implies, or ought to imply, that there should be full accommodation not only for mails, passengers, and goods according to circumstances, but that if one steamer is not sufficient during the busy season of the year, the company should provide two, in order that trade and the interests of merchants should not suffer as they have done.

Demand for Mules.

Island mules are again in request for purposes of war. Five hundred are about to be purchased, and it is probable that much larger numbers will soon be sought in Cyprus on account of the British and Allied armies. The Near East has before now pointed out that the breeding of mules in the island is one of the enterprises in which capital might perhaps be profitably employed, in farming.

Copper Mines.

The preliminary work of the American company in connection with the projected copper mining at Skouriotissa is progressing. Machinery and plant will be imported from America. The operations will include the construction of a railway line to the port of Karavostási in the bay of Morphou for transport of the ore. As regards the appropriation of properties for the line, a matter which always presents difficulties in Cyprus, it is probable—in view of the formalities which the existing law involves—that the cost will be undertaken on account of the Government, which will in that case lease the line to the company for a long term of years. If all goes well, as all hope will be the case, this new enterprise will be watched with great interest. One important benefit will be that it will afford relief at a very opportune moment to thousands of hands.

BAGHDAD DATES.

The U.S. Consul at Baghdad reports (June 10):—

"During 1914 the date harvest in and around Baghdad was good—in fact, better than the average—but, in the absence of a foreign market—the exportation of foodstuffs from this district being prohibited—prices ruled low, and there were no general sales, as in other years. The prospects for the 1915 crop in the vicinity of Baghdad are for a diminished yield, due to lack of labour and an apparent lack of a market. However, the crop could not be classed as 'poor,' and it is expected that local dealers will be well supplied with fruit.

"Practically all of the dates shipped from Turkish Arabia are collected, prepared, and exported from Busreh. It was reported that the Busreh yield for 1914 was good, but, owing to interruption to communication, no information has been received in Baghdad as to the crop for 1915. This consulate has received a letter from the New York office of an American date-exporting firm in Busreh, stating that it sent two shiploads of dates from the latter city to the United States, but no mention is made of the quantity shipped, nor is any information given as to prices."

PRODUCE REPORT.

London, September 2.

Currants.

There has been only a moderate demand this past week, but owing to reports from Greece of damage to the crop by rain quotations have advanced. A fair quantity of new fruit to arrive has been sold at also advanced prices. The same, almost, condition prevails in the Liverpool market.

Sultanas.

There is a fair demand for Smyrna fruit, and prices are unchanged; while in the Liverpool market, owing to the extreme prices demanded by the holders of the remaining very small stock, business is about at a standstill condition.

Figs.

Calamata figs continue to attract attention, and prices for new crop to arrive have advanced 2s. in the week.

Dates.

There has been only a moderate demand this past week, with limited sales at recent values.

Seeds.

Linseed is still quiet, with 56s. the nearest quotations for London-Calcutta spot, afloat and Aug.-Sept. Cottonseed remains inactive, London-Egyptian spot quoted £9 15s., Sept. £9 12s. 6d. and Oct. £9 5s. per ton. Rapeseed is firm but quiet; Toria, Sept.-Oct. is quoted 52s. 6d.; Guzerat, ditto, 59s.; brown Cawnpore, pure basis, Aug.-Sept., 53s. Mustard seed keeps firm, very little of the new crop being yet available. Rangoon beans are £17 10s. to £18 per ton, c.i.f. terms.

Oils.

Linseed oil is quiet and rather easier forward; spot pipes, £25 5s.; barrels, month, and Sept.-Dec., £26; Jan.-April, £27. Cotton oil is quiet, crude, spot, in pipes, £26 15s. to £27; refined pale pipes, £30; and barrels sweet, £34 to £35.

Oilcakes.

Egyptian cotton cakes on spot are practically exhausted, but quotations are £8 per ton, ex quay, and £7 10s. per ton for Nov.-April shipment. English makes are £7 17s. 6d. to £8 per ton ex mill. Linseed cakes are rather quiet, with only little business doing, but prices remain firm at recent rates. Greek linseed cakes on passage have been sold at £11 per ton c.i.f., while Calcuttas went at £11 10s. per ton ex ship. English makes are quoted £11 12s. 6d. to £11 15s. ex mill.

Locust Beans.

There are no stocks on spot, but nominal quotations are £8 per ton for whole and £8 10s. for kibbled, while Cypros are offered at £6 15s. ex ship terms.

EGYPTIAN COTTON CROP.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, August 19.

The crop, so far, promises well, but it is too early to foretell what the final result will be. The boll-worm has to be taken into consideration. Its ravages in past years have been such that cultivators cannot feel safe until the end of September.

It remains to be seen what effect the new steps taken by the Allies with reference to cotton export to Germany and the proposed agreement with the United States will have on the prices of Egyptian cotton. The question is one of vital interest to Egypt, and it is confidently hoped that Egyptian interests will not be overlooked by the protecting Power.

The Nile flood is very poor. A statement by the Minister of Public Works says that this year's flood is similar to that of 1907.

There is a dearth of sacks for the cotton, and prices rule high. The Government has been asked to import a large quantity from India to be distributed among the fellaheen, the price to be collected later with the land taxes.

MANCHESTER TRADE WITH EGYPT.

The *Daily Dispatch* says:—

In view of the desirability of increasing the nation's exports, leading commercial men are already actively looking for new openings for trade.

A Lancashire manufacturer writes, pointing out that for years there have been opportunities for extending our Egyptian textile trade, and he thinks the time is now opportune. "I mean, of course, for textile firms in Lancashire and Yorkshire, as the Egyptian merchants want variety, and we are able to supply them with that," he writes.

"For some time our foreign rivals in that country have," he adds, "been most active in pushing their goods, and if our own manufacturers would push things a little, I think they would be able to get hold of new markets."

The paper adds that one of its representatives has discussed the question with a few Egyptian merchants and shippers in Manchester, and they all agreed that there were big openings out there. "A certain amount of foreign competition there will," said one informant, "be gradually eliminated owing to the war, and merchants here will take advantage of that wherever they can.

"We have the bulk of the best textile trade in Egypt, and you may depend upon it we shall retain that. A large quantity of the material which Germany and Austria sends there is so poor that manufacturers on this side of the water will not attempt to compete with them on that class of goods."

"English manufacturers would not be able to do a direct trade unless they were prepared to give a long credit," said another informant.

"This they do not intend to do. We deal fairly and give a little credit, and under this system British manufacturers have kept up an excellent trade.

"We are all fully alive to new openings in Egyptian trade, and know how to develop them. Whenever foreign samples which are worth dealing with have been sent to us, we have invariably been able to match them or produce something better. The British trade with Egypt will keep on growing, in spite of the German manufacturers being well backed up by their Government."

DATES.

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COMPANY MEETING.

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.

The annual general meeting of the above company was held on Monday at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Sir William Garstin, G.C.M.G. (chairman), presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. F. J. Horne) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—You will, I am sure, permit me to take as read the directors' report and the accounts circulated therewith. Before proceeding to the business of this meeting I have to refer, with deep sorrow, to the loss we have sustained in the death of the Hon. Sir Charles W. Fremantle, K.C.B., who had been Deputy-Chairman of the Board from the commencement of the company until the time of his death, and had on various occasions ably presided at the company's annual meetings. It will probably be convenient if at this stage I also refer to other changes which, in consequence of the existing conditions, have taken place in the directorate. At the time of the outbreak of the war the section of our Board in Egypt consisted of four directors; of these, one was an Egyptian, one a German, and two were Austrians. The German and Austrian directors, being enemy subjects, were requested to vacate their seats, and have done so; consequently the Board in Egypt is now represented by H.E. Scander Pasha Fehmy, as director resident. The Board has decided, at all events for the time being, not to replace the vacancies that have occurred in the number of directors. The amount of £2,000 fixed by our articles of association as distributable among the directors as fees is, in consequence, reduced. This will result in a present saving to the company of £850 per annum. I do not propose, gentlemen, to detain you long on this occasion. I am sure that you will share my opinion that no useful purpose can be served by a minute consideration of our affairs while governed by circumstances so abnormal and so entirely beyond our control as are those existing at the present moment. Any comparison with previous years would be of little value, and I do not propose to take up your time by attempting to make one. A year ago it was my privilege to describe to you the advantages which had accrued to this company from the important modifications which had been granted to us in the terms of our new concession by the Government of Egypt. I was able, at the same time, to explain how our position had been strengthened and our prospects improved, and how we had thus been enabled to consider extensions and ameliorations of our system of light railways upon a considerable scale. Our prospects at that time appeared very satisfactory, and we certainly had good reason to look forward to an assured and prosperous future. During the four months of last year prior to the outbreak of war our receipts from all sources were well maintained, and were slightly in excess of those for the same period in the year preceding.

You may perhaps recollect that in my last year's speech, when alluding to the balance that we then proposed to carry forward, instead of distributing it as dividend, I made a few remarks in favour of a cautious policy. I said: "Under these circumstances, although our future appears to be a very satisfactory one, I am sure you will agree with me in advocating a policy of prudence. It will be well to see how our new arrangement actually works before we calculate upon any large increase in our dividends." I little thought at that moment, gentlemen, how speedily my words would be justified. My speech was made to you on July 14 of last year, and that day three weeks—namely, on August 4—war was declared with Germany. With this declaration our bright prospects faded, and I fear there is little hope of improvement until the war is over. I fear, moreover, that even the advent of peace will not at once materially improve our position. Egypt has great recuperative powers—more, indeed, than most countries—but even Egypt must, I think, feel the effects of this war for a considerable period of time. I make these remarks because I think it best that you should realise that the bad times through which we are at present passing are likely to endure for some time to come. I do not make them because I feel in the slightest degree despondent as regards the future of our undertaking. On the contrary, I have never felt more confident as to this future than I do at this moment. In these Delta Railways you possess a thoroughly sound property, which will undoubtedly, when these evil times have passed away, bring you in a regular and safe return for the capital that you have invested in it. We must, then, determine to carry on, enforcing every economy in our working that is possible, and consistent with the requirements of the public and the Government, and await the return of prosperity and security to Egypt—a return which is I repeat, certain to arrive. Meanwhile, we have reason to congratulate ourselves that the modifications in our concessions were granted to us by the Government before the present crisis occurred. Had we still been under the old concession our position at this moment would have been a far less satisfactory one than is actually the case.

We are only going through what every company in Egypt is now going through—namely, a period of serious diminution in our receipts. The figures in the directors' report show you how great has been the falling off of our receipts in passenger and goods traffic, and, consequently, how the proportion between our gross earnings and our costs of working has risen. This result is unavoidable, I am sorry to say. The lines must be kept up and maintained in good working order, even though the receipts fall off. You can, however, count upon our exercising the strictest control over our expenditure and not allowing anything to be spent that is not absolutely necessary for the efficiency of our system. By so doing we shall, I am convinced, weather the storm, and, when it has passed away, be able to take full advantage of the return of prosperity. I regret greatly that we have been obliged to suspend entirely the

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construction of our new lines. From these we had every reason to expect a good return for our money, but, of course, until the war is over there can be no question of carrying out new works, even were the money available for their construction. As soon as war became a certainty we took steps for the curtailment of our expenditure in every branch of our enterprise, even to the cancelling of engagements entered into, wherever this could be effected without loss. To the special conditions existing in Egypt are due the delay in the transfer of the Helouan Railway and its dependencies to the Government. To the same cause is due the non-removal of the Cairo Quarry Lines. This delay has, however, caused us no injury. It has, on the contrary, proved rather to our advantage than otherwise, as we have continued to work the Helouan Railway at a small profit. It has, moreover, provided employment for some of our staff, who would otherwise have been in excess of the requirements of our light lines, owing to the extensions of these latter having been suspended. The removal of the Cairo Quarry Lines is now arranged for, and can be completed as soon as the materials can be utilised elsewhere. Turning to the accounts for the year under review, we find that the steady annual increase of earnings of some £13,000 per annum, to which we had become accustomed and for which we had good reason to hope, has this year been converted into a decrease of £60,844—a reduction of 24 per cent. as compared with the receipts of the previous year. Although this loss is partly due to the fall in our passenger receipts and in our goods receipts to other items as well as cotton, it is mainly due to the collapse of the cotton market that took place on the outbreak of war and that has existed ever since. In spite of the fact that the yield of the cotton crop in Egypt for 1914 was considerably below that of recent years, the demand for this article was so largely reduced throughout the world that the price dropped for a time to little over 50 per cent. of that to which the market had become accustomed. The Egyptian Government, with the aid of that of England, afforded early and valuable assistance. With the time thus gained, the position has recently improved considerably. It will, I think, interest you to know that our ratio of loss compares favourably with that suffered by those Departments of the State which are as dependent as ourselves upon the prevailing business conditions. This is due to the loyal way in which our staff in Egypt, under the control of our able agent, have worked throughout the whole of this trying period.

Our working expenses were reduced by over £13,000, or 9 per cent., but still attained to 72.31 per cent. of our much-reduced gross earnings. In accordance with the modified terms of our concession these have been written down to 64 per cent. of our gross earnings, by debit, so far as it would admit, to the reserve specially created for such purpose last year. The excess has been placed to a suspense account, pending adjustment by short outlay in subsequent years. We have decided to recommend a dividend of only 2½ per cent. and increase our carry forward by the sum of over £7,000. I feel certain that you will agree with us in this policy in view of the uncertainty of the duration of this war and of the possibly even more serious consequences that it may yet entail. It must not be forgotten that, in the year under discussion, we had four months of good earnings and only eight months of bad returns. In the current year we shall have an entire twelve months affected by the war. Our latest traffic returns point to the probability of our losing at least £20,000. or the equivalent of 2 per cent., from this fact. I fear also that we may be adversely affected by the restrictions that have wisely —I may indeed say necessarily—been placed by the Government of Egypt upon the cultivation of cotton. In arriving at our present decision, gentlemen, we are only continuing the conservative policy adopted by this Board of recent years, to which is due the fact that our present position is not much worse than is actually the case. I am glad to be able to tell you that, fortunately, as matters have turned out, we have been able to dispose of over £100,000 of our debentures and £35,000 Bengal and North-Western Railway Three per Cent. Debenture stock, which were left to us by our former sinking funds. Thus, without any undue sacrifice, we are in possession of sufficient cash for our present requirements, whatever may happen. I am also pleased to tell you that we are able to be of assistance to the Government at the present time in the manufacture of munitions of war, so far as the capacity of our workshops will permit. We do not regard this work as remunerative, but it helps to keep our staff together and affords us satisfaction to be of such use in the present emergency. In conclusion, I would ask you once more to share the confidence that I have already expressed, and that I so strongly feel, in the future of our railways. The calamity that has affected Egypt, in common with a great part of the civilized world, must one day pass away. When that shall happen prosperity will, I feel assured, return to our undertaking, and will, I trust, be afterwards maintained. Should any shareholder desire to ask questions, I shall be happy to reply to the best of my ability. I now move: "That the report of the directors, dated August 10, 1915, together with the statement of accounts and balance-sheet for the year ended March 31, 1915, be and they are hereby approved, confirmed, and adopted."

Mr. Montagu Sharpe seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

The Chairman next moved: "That a dividend of 2½ per cent. for the year ended March 31, 1915, on the preference share capital of the company be and it is hereby declared, to be paid to the holders of preference shares standing on the registers of the company at August 10, 1915, and to holders of preference share warrants to bearer."

This was seconded by Mr. Robert Miller and agreed to.

H.E. Scander Pasha Fahmy, the director retiring by rotation, was re-elected.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman concluded the proceedings.

CONSTANTINOPLE FIRE.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Athens, August 25.

The number of houses destroyed in the second conflagration is reported to be 1,194; of which 134 were stone and the remainder timber. The insurance companies are said to be involved to the extent of £200,000, the Ottoman Insurance Company being the greatest sufferer. Permission has been given by the Board of Trade to English offices to pay their claims out of funds in Constantinople, but no money must be remitted to Turkey. Those agencies who have insufficient funds in hand are meeting their losses by giving the claimant's bills on their head offices in England, which will only be paid after the war.

COMPANY RESULTS, &c.

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields.—Gemsah production for the week, 164 tons (last week 344 tons); Hurgada production for the week, 238 tons (last week 247 tons).

Egyptian Delta Light Railways.—Receipts for the ten days ended August 10 amount to £E.4,211, as against £E.4,739 for the corresponding period of last year.

Notice is given that Dividend No. 29, Bearer Warrant Coupon No. 26, for a dividend of 2½ per cent. for the year ended March 31, 1915, on the preference share capital of the company, less income-tax, at 1s. 8d. in the £, is payable at the National Bank of Egypt, London, Cairo, and Alexandria, at the current rate of exchange.

Greek Government 5 per cent. Loan of 1914.—The coupons falling due on September 1 should be presented for payment between the hours of 11 and 2, at the office of Messrs. C. J. Hambro and Son, 70, Old Broad Street, or at the office of Messrs. Emile Erlanger and Co., 8, Crosby Square, E.C., or at the London County and Westminster Bank, Limited, Lothbury, where lists may be obtained. Coupons must be left three clear days for examination.

Sudd-Fuel (Suddite), Ltd.—Mr. J. E. Ward, of 44, Bedford Row, W.C., has been appointed receiver, July 23.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE	Mean Price. July 27.	Min. Price. Mar. 20.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	—	89½xd
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907..	82	—	—
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909..	80	—	66
City of Alexandria 5%, 1909	99	—	90½
City of Constantinople 4% Bnds	96	—	—
Egypt. Gov. 5 % Guar. Loan	93½	87⅛	87½
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	85	85
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	88	78	78
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82½	73½	78⅛
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	80⅛	75	75⅛
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	52	57
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	52	56
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	45	46½
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	40	42
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	52	53⅜
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	—	50
Do. 4 % Baffa Loan, 1902	77	—	65
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	94	—	92
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	—	73xd
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	91	—	80
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £60p.	92	—	85
Servian 4 % Unified Bonds	67	—	—xd
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855..	103	97	—
Do. 4 %, 1891	94½	—	83
Do. 3½ % Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	—	73½
Do. 4 % Loan, 1902	82½	—	—
Do. 4 % Unified	79	—	54
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	65⅛	—	49
Do. 4 %, 1909	69	—	47⅛
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)..	4½	—	2⅜
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	—	6⅛
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.	80	—	73
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red...	83	—	75
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	—	9
Bank of Abyssinia	½	—	—
Bank of Athens	£2	—	1½
Bank of Roumania	8½	—	—
Eastern Bank	5	—	82/6
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅜	—	6
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	—	—
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅛	—	3⅛
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	—	4½
National Bank of Egypt	13⅜	—	10½
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½% C.P.	8	—	no m.6
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8½	—	5⅜
Do. do. 5 % Debs., Red.	98	—	96
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I.	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88⅜	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17⅜	—	13
Do. do. 6 % Cum. Pref.	22	—	14⅛
Do. do. 4 % 1st Deb. ..	87	—	57
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb...	101	—	69
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4 %	80	—	—
Pirseus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	90	—	—
Do. do. 3 % Bonds..	61	—	—
LAND.			
Abonkir Co. (Bearer Shares) ..	1⅛	—	⅞
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	—	95
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt....	¼	—	—
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	—	2
Do. Do. Def.	¼	—	—
Béhéra Co.	8½	—	7
Do. Pref.	4⅜	—	3½
Daira Sanieh	2/2	—	2/6
Do. Def.	⅞	—	20/-
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	9/-	—	6/9
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tst.	98	—	90
Do and Foreign Trust ..	5/-	—	2/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	—	1
" " Founders	¼	—	—
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—	—
Do 5 % Debs. Red.	—	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5 % Cum. Pref.	9⅜	—	7⅛
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	—	87½xd
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	—	⅛
Sidi Salem Co.	⅛	—	⅛
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	—	⅜
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	—	-/9
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	—	10⅜
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt..	97	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	—	—
Egyptian Hotels	1½	—	—
Do. 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—	—
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅛	—	1½
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	99½	—	95
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	⅛	—	14/3
Do. 5 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	96	—	96
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅝	—	9/3
Do. do. Prefs.	3⅜	—	3xd
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt. ..	90	—	85
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (£100)	£179½	—	£—
Upper Egypt Hotels	2½	—	—

OIL.	Price on July 30.	Aug. 25.
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	⅝	4/6
Anglo-Persian	22/1⅜	⅜
Cyprus Oil Trust	2/3	2/3
European Oilfields	4/9	3/6
Roumanian	20/-	13/6

PARIS BOURSE.

	Jan. 4.	Aug. 25.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane ..	—	440
Canal de Suez	4050	3900
Credit Foncier Egyptien	639	553
Turkish Unified 4%	61.50	57.90
Egyptian Unified 4%	87.75	88.40
Serbian, 1895	—	61

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 227.—Vol. IX. FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1915.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Expectation is running high in connection with every theatre of this wide-flung war. The Tsar has placed himself at the head of his army, and the Grand Duke Nicholas becomes Commander-in-Chief on the Caucasian front and Viceroy of the Caucasus. In his rescript to the Grand Duke Nicholas the Tsar states that, whereas at the beginning of the war he was unavoidably prevented from following his inclination to put himself at the head of the army, his duty to the country impels him to-day, when the enemy has penetrated into the interior of the Empire, to take supreme command of the active forces and to share with his army the fatigues of war and to safeguard with it Russian soil from the attempts of the enemy. This step has a much wider significance than a change in the highest command in another country would have. The Grand Duke Nicholas finds himself superseded; but he is superseded by one who is not only Chief of the State, but also the religious head of the nation, whom the Russian nation might have expected to see assuming the duties of Commander-in-Chief at such a crisis. To this extent the change is an admission that the state of affairs on the eastern front calls for drastic measures. At the same time, it is hardly to be supposed that the Tsar would be allowed to take the step which he has taken, if there were no other prospect before the Russian armies than a continuance of the retreat that has been in progress for so many weeks. The German thrust may still be able to make good at certain points in the long eastern battle-front; but expectation will be seriously at fault, if the Russians do not prove able now to do more than hold the Austro-German forces.

On the western front, we know from official statements, a steady bombardment of the whole line has been in progress for a fortnight. That fact alone shows that the Allies are now abreast of their requirements in munitions, but it must also herald an attempt to assume the offensive on a scale that has not been possible since the opposing forces "dug themselves in." The British Fleet has renewed the bombardment of the Belgian coast; the French air fleet has never been so energetic. What the results of these activities will be is still a sealed book; but expectation is surely justified.

Finally, in the Near East, where the prospect of any immediate change is faintest of all, hope refuses to be banished. No sooner have we schooled ourselves to believe that there is no chance of Roumanian or Bulgarian intervention before the fall of Constantinople than the most optimistic opinions regarding the operations on Gallipoli Peninsula begin to reassert themselves. We know at least that while the military efforts at the Dardanelles have not been slackened, the steady pressure of diplomacy, now working on right lines, has been maintained at the Balkan capitals. A distinct stage has been reached with the delivery of Serbia's reply to the representations of the Quadruple Entente. Its tenour has not been revealed officially, but there is no ground for supposing that the Serbian Government is not ready to fall in with the wishes of the Allies. If this should prove to be the case, the Balkan question will have advanced a long way toward settlement. Military considerations may still counsel a postponement of Roumanian and Bulgarian co-operation in the field, but at any moment events in another theatre of the war may brush aside the need for excessive caution.

It is noticeable that a stiffening has gradually taken place in the attitude of Roumania towards the Central Powers. German efforts to smuggle contraband of war over the Roumanian railway system have been frustrated before, but apparently sufficient success has been achieved to justify the continuance of attempts to evade the vigilance of the Roumanian Customs authorities. The further seizure of twenty truck-loads of alleged hospital material, which, on examination, was found to contain explosives and materials for manufacturing asphyxiating gases, should convince the Central Powers of the hopelessness of these tactics of despair. But the Roumanian Government has dealt a still harder blow to Germany in prohibiting the transit of gold through the country. Turkey is now cut off not only from her supply of munitions, but also from her banker.

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We have always been inclined to discount reports of Turkey's embarrassments. It is so easy to find one section of the people dismayed by the activities of submarines, another by a shortage of bread or coal, or yet a third section indignant over the shortcomings of their rulers. But so long as the strength and the discipline of the army were maintained, particularly in a country of despotic traditions, there was little likelihood of these popular symptoms influencing the conduct of military affairs. Constantinople might be plunged in darkness, the price of provisions might be uncomfortably high, but the determining factor in the situation remained the prodigious strength of the Turkish positions on Gallipoli Peninsula. It would, however, be a mistake to suppose that the moral stamina of the Turks is going to prove as high as that of the Germans in this war. In the case of the latter the heart of the nation is in the struggle, although it has been deceived by the crudest misrepresentations. By no stretch of the imagination can it be pretended that the Turks have made the quarrel of the Committee of Union and Progress with the Quadruple Entente a national one. The time must come, therefore, when the national acquiescence in things as they are found will break down under the terrible strain of modern warfare. We have no means of knowing when that stage will be reached; but there can be no harm in noting various indications that seem to point to its gradual approach, not the least of which is the resignation, announced to-day, of the Sheikh-ul-Islam.

Information of the state of affairs in Constantinople can only reach us by devious channels. Most of these will labour under the disadvantage of a desire to make their reports as agreeable as possible to the recipients; others will be at pains to manufacture their intelligence entirely out of their own imagination. With such mental reservations as the situation requires, however, we may follow with some interest the steady accumulation of evidence of the discomfiture of the Turks. The most picturesque of these reports purports to give the gist of the first interview between the new German Plenipotentiary to the Sublime Porte and the Sultan. Prince Hohenlohe is represented as having been taken completely aback by the outspokenness of the Sultan, who indulged in a series of complaints and reproaches against his German allies. He is said to have taxed Germany with indifference to the fate of the Ottoman Empire, "which had been abandoned by its allies, and, bereft of munitions and of money, was sustaining, single-handed, a desperate and unequal struggle in the Dardanelles and in the Caucasus, whereas the Kaiser had promised to come to the aid of Turkey." If such views are entertained in high places, it is not difficult to imagine that the country, as a whole, is discontented and miserable.

That the inhabitants of Constantinople are suffering the full inconvenience of a shortage of coal is apparent from the elaborate arrangements made to maintain the supply which reaches the capital from the Anatolian coast. With the establishment of Russian control over the Black Sea this supply became endangered. When the vigilance of the Russian fleet made large colliers an easy prey, and the bombardment of Zunguldak, without interfering with the coal output of the district, had probably affected the shipping facilities of the harbour, enormous fleets of sailing vessels were employed to smuggle the coal through the Bosphorus. But more than a month ago the Russian authorities announced that, as the result of a systematic search of the whole coast, they had accounted for over 150 of these craft, and we may infer that the Turks found themselves compelled to resort once more to the large transports, this time with a naval convoy. On September 6 two Russian torpedo-boat destroyers sighted the cruiser Hamidieh and two torpedo-boats convoying four colliers from Anatolia. The Russians at once gave battle and succeeded in damaging the Hamidieh and putting the three Turkish ships to flight. When the latter gained the refuge of the Bosphorus the destroyers returned and sank the colliers off Zunguldak. A fiasco of this nature and the steady arrival of large batches of wounded from Gallipoli are significant factors in a situation dominated by an entire absence of any national enthusiasm for the war.

In a varying degree it would be thought that moral considerations would tell in the long run on the attitude of the Balkan States towards the war. It is not difficult to see how the different countries have been obsessed by the glamour of Germany's military prowess. So long as German successes have been the outstanding feature of the war—and it must be remembered that the German news service has been careful to represent the course of the war as a long series of German victories—we had to expect that feeling in the neutral countries would take on a very strong German bias. By the irony of fate the first real doubts regarding the invincibility of Germany follow hard upon a really brilliant sequence of German successes in the Eastern theatre. It is seen, in some cases for the first time, that what the Germans have hitherto claimed as victories have been at best partial successes marked by no definite results. In the light of this discovery a different complexion is placed on the whole course of the European struggle. Germany's failure to achieve decisive results implies distinct success for the Allied Powers, the more so as her strength can be shown to be on the decline, while that of her enemies may reasonably be supposed to be increasing. That the neutral States of the Balkans should have maintained their neutrality up to this stage is the strongest possible argument against any one of them making common cause with the Central Powers. If German diplomacy ever entertained the idea of winning over these States to its side, it has since abandoned it, for its efforts are now directed to persuade the respective Governments by threats or cajolery to maintain their unnatural neutrality. Sooner or later, however, moral considerations may be expected to override the sensational appeal made by Germany's military strength, and then the Balkan States will adopt a policy that is alone consonant with their interests and their honour.

Some weeks ago it was announced, on the authority of the *Times* correspondent in the Balkan Peninsula, that an agreement had been signed between Turkey and Bulgaria providing for the surrender to the latter of that part of the Dedeagatch railway which runs through Turkey, together with all Turkish territory west of the Maritza. Later information revealed the fact that, whereas an understanding in principle had been reached by the two Governments, it had not been possible to settle the details. Now at last a formal agreement has been signed and the transfer of territory is announced to take place next week. There is no need to lay much stress on the political aspect of the agreement. It represents a diplomatic success for Bulgaria; from a practical point of view it has no permanent value. If the Central Powers and Turkey were to be victorious in this war, Bulgaria's enjoyment of her new possession would be short-lived. On the other hand, if the Bulgarian Government cares to join the Allied Powers it will have not only the part of Turkey west of the Maritza, but will be confirmed in the possession of Turkish territory up to the Enos-Midia line.

Egypt has again been the scene of an attempted assassination. Fathi Pasha, Minister of Wakfs, was attacked on September 4 by a Government employee, who drove a dagger into his left shoulder and stabbed him in both cheeks. The Minister fired at his assailant, but missed him. The latter, however, was subsequently arrested. Fathi Pasha's condition is not serious. Until the result of the inquiry now in progress is known it is impossible to tell whether the outrage has any political significance, or is to be regarded as a personal matter. Unfortunately, political murder has to be reckoned with as a means that will be employed whenever possible by Germany and Turkey to foment unrest in Egypt. That their efforts have not been more successful since the establishment of the Protectorate must be attributed to the vigilance and good fortune of the Anglo-Egyptian authorities rather than to any lack of effort on the part of Turco-German agents.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Correspondent.)

Cairo, August 26.

The Holiday Season.

One of the features of this summer in Egypt has been the large number of persons staying in the country who are in the habit of spending the hot months in cooler climates. It will be remembered that last summer, when the war suddenly broke out, thousands of Egyptians in France, England, Germany, Switzerland, Constantinople, and Syria were almost stranded. A general rush was made for the Nile Valley, and great difficulties were experienced in some cases. The lesson has not been quickly forgotten, and, with the exception of a limited number of Government officials and business men, mostly Europeans, the majority of would-be summer tourists have preferred to remain here, with the result that the few Egyptian summer resorts are crowded. This is especially the case in Alexandria, where, owing to the Court being in residence and the Residency and Diplomatic Agencies being in full force, the *élite* of Egyptian Society are staying. Hotels and houses in the suburbs are at a premium, and the trains to Alexandria are quite full. It will be interesting to know the financial profit that will accrue to Egypt from the enforced economy caused by this change. It is claimed in some quarters that the gain is represented by a sum bordering on half a million sterling. Some people have gone to Cyprus, where at Mount Troödos the cool breezes and the change of scenery are said to be more beneficial than a stay at the seaside in Egypt. But the voyage to the "Enchanted Island" is long and tedious. This is to be regretted, as Cyprus may in future enter the lists as a good competitor with some claim to favour.

Egypt as a Summer Resort.

Some local organs have taken the present opportunity to preach to the Egyptian the advisability of spending summer on his native soil, and thus saving the money and trouble of the annual summer trip to Europe on the plea of escaping from the excessive heat of the Nile Valley. It has, however, been pointed out before now that, where rest and cooler climates are the object, it is cheaper to go to Europe than spend the summer, say, at Alexandria, where rents or hotel charges are so much higher than in Europe that the difference more than covers the expenses of the trip by land and water, to say nothing of the superiority of European places over the actual Egyptian summer resorts, some of which are in a very primitive condition. Much could be done to improve the Egyptian resorts and make them more attractive and more accessible to people of modest means who, either through lack of fairly long holidays or business pressure, cannot very well leave the country for remote watering places. A movement was initiated by a young Egyptian doctor to popularize Egyptian resorts, but it has met with only qualified success.

Egyptian Politics.

Several persons who were arrested recently by the Government for political reasons, and not in connection with the bomb outrage, have been released. Among those set free are a member of the Legislative Assembly and the omda of a large provincial town. It is believed that others will be similarly treated. But the rest will be kept at present under restraint until the investigation which is being conducted at the Cairo Governorat is completed, when a final decision will be arrived at.

It will be remembered that some time during the past winter seventeen students of the Egyptian School of Law were expelled for intentionally absenting themselves during a visit of the Sultan to that school. These seventeen students have now been arrested, and an inquiry has been opened in their case.

Several well-known persons have written to the native Press deprecating and condemning the folly of short-sighted persons who fail to appreciate Egypt's fortune and disregard the signs of the times. They express the greatest abhorrence of the deeds of *exaltés* and contempt of their methods. This is significant, as it shows that honest persons are beginning to display moral courage—a quality which might be developed with advantage here; and that these people are having a chance of being heard now. The time is past when such persons would have been howled down by the alleged "patriots" of the Nationalist Party.

Express Train Derailed.

What might have proved to be a disaster, but was fortunately averted in time, occurred on the Egyptian State Railway line of Upper Egypt. When the Cairo-Luxor express, which left Cairo on Monday at 8 p.m., reached a point between Abu Kirkas and Itlidim, in the Minia Province, it was derailed. The driver noticed that the line ahead was irregularly placed and stopped his engine, but not before the train had left the rails and run some fifty yards, the brake van only being left on the line. The wheels of the engine and cars fortunately stuck in the sand, for otherwise the whole train would have been hurled into a large irrigation canal near by. None of the passengers were injured. The Railway Administration sent trains to convey them, and porters to unload the train. This was speedily carried out, and on Wednesday morning the line was repaired and the trains resumed their normal movements. A semi-official statement appeared in to-day's morning papers. It states that the perpetrators of this outrage were actuated by lust of revenge on the omda of a neighbouring village. This fact was elicited at the inquiry, and the culprits have been arrested.

Cutting the Khalig.

The annual and traditional ceremony of "Cutting the Khalig" was celebrated with the usual pomp on Wednesday evening, and was presided over by the Governor of Cairo, representing his Highness the Sultan. No fireworks were displayed, an omission due to present circumstances. This resulted in reducing the number of accidents which annually marked this ceremony, but otherwise the usual proceedings were observed. The Hojja of the Nile was duly written and attested by the Cadis, and signed by the Governor. Guns were fired, and the Egyptian National Anthem was played by the military band in attendance. The usual distribution of pelisses among Cadis and Sheikhs took place.

Forged Bank Notes.

A forged £E5 National Bank note was found among a bundle of notes in the State Railways Administration. The National Bank and Parquet were informed, and an inquiry has been instituted. It proves that the note in question is one of the old issue. It is not really forged, but is one of the specimen notes sent by the Bank to Government departments and financial institutions. Some one apparently had added a number and date and circulated it. It is believed that the case is unique, but an inquiry is proceeding.

The New Court Dress.

It is now stated that the new Court dresses or uniforms for his Highness the Sultan, the Princes, and Ministers have been decided upon, and that the final specimens submitted to his Highness were approved by him. It is said that these uniforms will be worn for the first time at the reception to be held on the occasion of the Grand Bairam, some time in October.

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NEWS FROM TURKEY.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Athens, August 30.

Scarcity of Food Supplies.

The Greek papers announce that Constantinople is in darkness, and that the Galata Bridge has been destroyed by a submarine, but there is so far no confirmation of these reports. The former is not at all improbable, as the stocks of coal in Constantinople are daily becoming less, and no fresh arrivals from the Black Sea have been announced lately. It is rumoured the gas-works have been obliged to stop, and the recent scarcity of bread makes it look as if the mills are not able to produce flour in sufficient quantity.

The Municipal Council held a special meeting last week to consider the question of the shortage of the principal necessaries of life. A law has been passed giving the police power to adopt measures regarding the sale of articles which they consider to be of first necessity.

The Prefect of the city explained the position of several articles, and in reference to bread said the shortage was not due to want of wheat, but rather to insufficient transport to convey the grain from Anatolia to Constantinople, but now that the military authorities have placed thirty wagons per day at their disposal, there would be no further difficulty in this respect.

The inferior quality of bread is due to the mixing of Anatolian flour with that produced in Constantinople. The flour mills are now under the control of the Municipality, but the Prefect is silent as to what he intends doing when fuel for the mills is no longer obtainable.

Sugar Stocktaking.

With regard to sugar, the Municipality has called upon all dealers in this article to declare their stocks within twenty-four hours, and, pending this stocktaking, has prohibited the sale of the article. The Prefect of the City stated that he hoped that very soon some hundreds of wagons of sugar would arrive in Constantinople.

As regards petroleum, the Prefect said that the difficulty of importing this article had been overcome, and that they had succeeded in importing a quantity which would enable this to be sold at 47 piastres per tin.

To meet the shortage of firewood, the woods at Riva and Beicos are to be cut, and it is expected the supply will be nearly sufficient for the city's requirements; the sale will be under the control of the Municipality, who have fixed the price at 30 piastres per cheki.

Charcoal, the Prefect admitted, was more difficult to find, but he hoped to meet the need of the poor by obtaining 3,000 okes a day from the gasworks, where wood is being burnt with coal, and from the Beicos Forest when the trees are cut.

During the month of July the production of vegetables was nine thousand tons short of the normal supply, and this deficiency had naturally been the cause of the increase in prices.

In spite of the optimistic views of the Prefect, it is evident that the scarcity of the necessaries of life in Constantinople is pre-occupying the authorities, and the stoppage of supplies is likely to place Constantinople in a state of famine and great misery this winter if the present condition of things continues till then.

Cabinet Dissensions.

There are rumours of dissension in the Cabinet, and it is said the Sheikh-ul-Islam does not attend.

There is much movement of soldiers. Recruits continue to arrive from Konia, and they cross from Scutari to Cabatash during the night, for fear of being torpedoed by a submarine. These recruits have no uniform, and are armed with Schneider and Winchester rifles. Large forces appear to be concentrated at Ouzoun Keupru, from which point they can be sent either to Gallipoli, Adrianople, or Constantinople. Many German officers have arrived to fill vacancies caused by losses at the Dardanelles. It is said there is a shortage of materials in Constantinople for making munitions.

The *Hilal* announces that 143 prisoners arrived in Constantinople from the Dardanelles on the 22nd, and were taken to the Taxim Barracks. There are over 250 prisoners in the Admiralty Hospital, and some are kept on the "General."

Relations with Italy.

The *Hilal* of the 22nd publishes a communiqué to the effect that the Italian Ambassador had notified the Sublime Porte that Italy had broken off its relations with the Turkish Government, and that the Marquis Garroni had asked for his passports, in consequence of which the Turkish Government had recalled its Ambassador from Rome. The Marquis Garroni left Constantinople on August 21 by special train.

In a leading article on this subject, the *Hilal* expresses a sigh of relief, and says the Italian Ambassador's departure has not surprised anyone, as it was evident that when Italy declared war on Austria she would also break off relations with Turkey. The Ambassador's departure clears the situation, it says, and removes the inconvenience which his continued presence in Constantinople had created! The article then indulges in its usual invectives against the perfidy of Italy.

Smyrna Quiet.

Smyrna is quiet, but in darkness. There is practically no light of any sort, and tea, coffee, and sugar are unobtainable.

DISCORD AT CONSTANTINOPLE.

In connection with our Special Correspondent's reference to the absence of the Sheikh-ul-Islam from the meetings of the Cabinet, the following Reuter's telegram from Athens, dated September 9, will be of interest:—

Trustworthy advices from Constantinople report the resignation of the Sheikh-ul-Islam and the Prefect of the City. The latter resigns as a protest against malversations to the amount of 300,000 liras made by a section of the Provisions Committee of National Defence, of which he was President. The Sheikh-ul-Islam's decision is due to the favouritism shown to Mussulmans and Jews, to the detriment of other citizens. The Prefect has been forcibly compelled to remain in office. No decision has yet been taken regarding the Sheikh-ul-Islam's resignation.

GERMAN INTRIGUES IN PERSIA.

Reuter's Agency understands that there is no truth in the German report sent through the Wireless Press that the British lost over 2,000 men while attempting to take possession of Bushire. As a result of the killing of two British officers on July 12 near Bushire by tribesmen, Bushire was occupied by the British on August 8 without opposition. This was as a protest against the failure of the Persian Government to punish the tribal chiefs who, it is known, were acting assisted by Germans. Reuter's Agency learns that according to private intelligence from Teheran a fresh Cabinet crisis occurred early in August. Letters received in London described the situation on August 19 as going from bad to worse. The Central Persian telegraph line had been cut since August 15, and at that time there was no news from Europe. The Bushire road was completely blocked and, according to the writer, the Persian Government had done absolutely nothing to prevent German intrigues. The gendarmerie had become disaffected through not having been paid, and there was reported fighting among the tribes outside Kashan, between Teheran and Ispahan.

The same agency is informed that the Persian Government, on hearing of the attack on the British Consul-General at Ispahan, instructed the Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs to call at the British Legation in Teheran and express its great regret at the incident. The Minister added that every means would be taken to apprehend the culprit and to make full reparation. The Persian Government also instructed its Minister in London to take similar action at the Foreign Office. The Persian telegram states that owing to the unrest at Ispahan the Government had offered the British Consul-General the services of a guard of gendarmerie.

Reuter's Agency also learns from a foreign diplomatic source in London that the latest outrage on the British Consul-General at Ispahan has rendered critical a situation already serious, and the steps that it may be necessary to take are forming the subject of discussion among the Entente Powers.

MOTOR-BOATS IN THE DARDANELLES.

Among the sums acknowledged yesterday by *The Times* Fund for the Sick and Wounded is one of £1,600 raised by the efforts of Mr. Masefield, Mr. Galsworthy, and their friends, to provide a picket-boat and a lighter for Red Cross work in the Mediterranean. An editorial in the paper alluded to, refers to the demand for motor-boats in the Dardanelles in the following terms:—

"We have already drawn attention to the urgent need for motor-boats as a means of transporting the wounded of the Dardanelles Expeditionary Force, and this gift, with the personal service of Mr. Masefield, is invaluable. Our appeal is corroborated in the strongest terms by Sir Courtauld Thomson, the Joint Committee's Commissioner for the Near East, who recently wrote from on board a hospital ship in the Mediterranean. The whole situation here turns on motor-boats. They are, in fact, to the Dardanelles forces what the motor-ambulance and the motor-lorry is to Red Cross work on the Western front. Sir Courtauld Thomson adds, 'Masefield's picket-boat will be worth its weight in gold.'

"Subscriptions should be sent to 83, Pall Mall, S.W., cheques being drawn to the Joint War Committee and crossed 'Bank of England.'"

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ABOUT JERUSALEM.

Since the participation of Turkey in the present war tidings from and of Jerusalem have been miserably scanty. Palestine is almost entirely cut off from all communication with the outer world, for the majority of the ships calling at Jaffa were Russian, British (Khedivial), French, Austrian, and Italian; there were occasional Greek steamers, and one Bulgarian, in whose advent last May we were all deeply interested, but which, apparently, came but once. Jerusalem, therefore, has become more and more isolated, and we at home are cut off from all communication with the few English people still out there and with our many Syrian friends. Communication with the latter, through neutral countries, has been tried, but even if it were always successful, it would be most unfair on them to arouse the suspicion of the authorities by their being known to receive letters from English sources; their case is hard enough already without adding to it this entirely unnecessary and useless risk. The few facts I am able to give here have been gleaned from many sources during some months, and are put together for the information of those who may be completely out of touch with Jerusalem.

Life, on the surface, proceeds much as usual at Jerusalem, but there is undoubtedly a great deal of distress everywhere. For instance, the poor—Christian, Moslem, and Jewish—depend so much on the individual charity of foreigners, and this is now lost to them; while the foreign schools and hospitals, which are the backbone of the country, are shut. Many of these buildings are now being occupied by the Turks; the Russian buildings near the Jaffa Gate, the big Latin school of St. Peter (Ratisbon), the Bishop's House, St. George's Boys' School, St. Mary's Home, St. Anne's (Bethesda), and St. Stephen's, are certainly all being used.

A curious story is told about the present occupation of St. Anne's, whose beautiful old Crusading Church was once used by Saladin as a college for the sons of his nobles, and still bears the tablet he placed over the west door; it was taken over for the use of the military, but the soldiers soon protested violently against being quartered here, saying that it was full of spirits, and that they were disturbed by most horrible dreams. After a while the Turks offered to give it back to the monks, but they refused, and very rightly, to receive it back except with proper formality through their respective Governments.

Turkish Courtesy.

The Turkish authorities seem to have behaved with courtesy in all cases that we know of, as when they took over the medical stores from St. Helena's Nursing Home and Dispensary, they first offered Canon Hichens, of St. George's, a choice of some of the things for use in the Boys' School, which was then open. Again, when taking possession of the Bishop's house in February, due order was observed, and the furniture was moved by permission into one room, under the supervision of one of the Syrian masters of St. George's. The Cathedral and the College Library were intact up to the end of April, under the American Consular seal. The young Turkish officer who conducted the search in the Cathedral in November last was a stranger to the place, and was evidently anxious to display his authority; the old officials who had known Bishop Blyth remained outside in the gateway, and were plainly sorry and ashamed of the whole affair. The L.J.S. Hospital, the largest English hospital in Palestine, and Bishop Gobat's School have both been annexed, I believe; and "Abraham's Vineyard" is being used for a typhus hospital; but, so far as is known, the British Ophthalmic Hospital has not yet been taken over; no English hospital in Palestine shows a finer record than this one, and that is saying much, for they are all splendid.

Though Jerusalem is reported as being quiet, there is undoubtedly a great deal of suffering amongst the people. All foreign supplies are in suspense, the oranges could not be exported last year, and the total absence of pilgrims and tourists spells ruin for many and many a shop, not only in Jerusalem; numbers of families must be enduring great privations, if not actually starving. The drain of recruits for the army continues, and even the most urgent and valid reasons against service are rejected. I know of two men, Christians, one being over age, while the other had paid the exemption tax twice in one year, who have been taken; and a carpenter, the eldest son of a widowed mother, with five young sisters, who was slowly building up a good business after many misfortunes, has been seized and sent to Ama'an as a military baker.

Of the majority of our Jerusalem friends, Christian or Moslem, we know nothing—except that they are suffering. In the early summer a terrible plague of locusts swept over the land; anyone who remembers a similar visitation which took place some ten or twelve years ago will know what an appalling thing it is. The land is described as having been stripped bare from Tiberias to Bethlehem, not a leaf left on fig-tree or vine. Mercifully, the harvest had been gathered in, and corn and bread are said to be plentiful still in Jerusalem. Little has been said about the water supply, always one of our greatest anxieties out there, but up to the end of December the rainfall was unusually good.

In melancholy contrast to the general good behaviour of the Turkish authorities has been that of their German colleagues, or, rather, task-masters. Everyone knows that it was not the will of Turkey as a country to go to war with England, but German gold and German lies, and the selfishness of a bought pro-German clique at the Porte have driven Turkey to her doom. There is no love lost between the Turks and the Germans, and there has been at least one stand-up fight at Fast's Hotel (the German headquarters at Jerusalem) between the overbearing Germans and the Turks. The brutal, bullying character of German officialism is loathed and resented by the Turks, who are powerless under it, however. The Germans triumph and bluster in the Holy City, on which the crowning indignity of a German governor, someone called Kauffmann, has now been laid. It is sad to think also that the German Consul at Jerusalem, so much liked and respected by us all for many years, could actually stand at the Jaffa Gate and distribute leaflets of German "news," printed in Arabic, disseminating those amazing lies about the Allied forces and German successes, which have made the German communiqués the mock of the civilised world; no doubt it was done under orders, but the thought that he, a Christian and a Western, could condescend to such an act comes like a blow. At the very time that the Indian troops were landing at Marseilles, the walls of Jerusalem were placarded with the announcement that India was in open revolt against British rule.

"Kultur" in the Holy City.

The Germans are said to be "improving" the Holy City by widening the streets and introducing sanitary measures. Heaven grant that their "improvements" stop at that! So far, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and the Mosque are safe, and there is very little fear that the Turks will harm or destroy them, or any other of the many treasures of the city, but who dare say as much for the Germans, with memories of Louvain, and Aerschott, and Malines, and Rheims burning in us still? At present these priceless treasures of Christendom, the Churches of the Holy Sepulchre and of the Nativity, are safe in the guardianship of neutral Greece.

For months past the Germans have been importing arms and ammunition and artillery into Jerusalem, and, indeed, at least four years ago there was good reason to believe that guns were brought in sections, secretly, to a German hospice at Jerusalem. From the building on the Mount of Olives the Germans command the city and most of the buildings belonging to the Allied nations. We can, and we do, hope for the safety and preservation of the Holy City from German lust and "frightfulness," but its salvation lies not in any "soul of goodness in things" German.

Darkness, silence, and fear surround the Holy City now; we cannot help her, however much we long to do so; but most surely the faith and service of many creeds and many generations are helping her through the present distress; she stands midway between the ages, and belongs to all alike. At present we can but keep sad vigil with her from without, not letting go our belief in her glorious future; and ever

"My face is towards Jerusalem,
My heart remembers it."

ESTELLE BLYTH.

ENEMY SUBJECTS IN EGYPT.

An order has been sent by the General Officer Commanding the Forces in Egypt to the Egyptian civil authorities that until further notice no permits to change residence or to travel in Egypt outside the district in which they are registered will be given to any enemy subject, either male or female.

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P.G.B.

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SERBIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Nish, August 28.

Life in Belgrade.

Although, as a matter of fact, a real state of war has not existed in Serbia during the last nine months, the cannonading frequently taking place between Belgrade and positions on the Austro-Hungarian frontier show that the capital is in the war zone, and suffers most in Serbia from the existing European war.

Certainly Belgrade is no longer bombarded as it was at the beginning of the war. Thanks to the heavy cannon brought for the defence of the town and served by British and French artillerymen, and the defensive works carried on by the Russians, Austrian river warships have been chased away beyond the precincts of the town, and the Austrian land batteries silenced each time they begin to speak.

Whenever the town is disturbed by the enemy's cannonading some of the inhabitants leave; nevertheless, there is a continual influx of inhabitants who at the beginning of the war had sought refuge in other parts of Serbia. At one time 90 per cent. had fled, and there were hardly 10,000 inhabitants, mostly of the poorer class, who remained. Now it is computed that there are again 50,000 inhabitants in the capital.

There is, as might be expected, a great deal of misery, but much is done to alleviate the distress. The Belgrade municipality has distributed for the support of needy sufferers since the beginning of hostilities 878,800 fr., and advanced loans amounting to 60,000 fr. to property holders who have ceased to derive incomes from their properties.

A Parliamentary Committee was nominated in March last, which, in combination with local committees throughout the country, made pecuniary grants to families who had lost relations serving in the defence of their country, and were not receiving any local relief from their respective municipalities. But the Serbian Press to-day states that this very small help on the part of the Central Government has been suspended, presumably for want of sufficient funds, or because the Government deems it more expedient to employ its money for other and more pressing purposes.

Relief Measures.

Still, if one source of relief fails others appear to take its place. The Russians have established a free kitchen at Belgrade, from which the very poor daily obtain rations of good food. The British have established at Belgrade an asylum for children which is attended to by British nurses, and British doctors at Belgrade receive outdoor patients daily, prescribe for them, and give them medicine gratis.

There has been a scarcity of salt, petroleum, firewood, sugar, rice, matches, oil, soap, and shoes in all the villages and in most of the towns of Serbia; but the Belgrade municipality strives with all its might to alleviate the pressing wants of the citizens. It has established centres which supply the public with firewood, coal, groceries, and other stores which cannot or which can only with difficulty be procured from retail shops. The citizens have only to provide themselves with a legitimation card from the Belgrade municipality, and can then, at reduced prices, procure to a limited extent all the scarcer commodities.

Ten trucks of salt, a great quantity of sugar and rice, and a considerable amount of firewood and coal have just been brought to Belgrade by the municipality for distribution to the citizens at moderate prices.

It is, however, to be regretted that bread, the staff of life, though not so scarce at Belgrade as it was a short time ago, is of bad quality and very expensive.

As regards meat, beef can only be procured at Belgrade one day a week, whereas mutton and pork can be bought every day.

Boots and shoes are double the price they were before the war, and as regards spectacles and eyeglasses, it would require Aladdin's wonderful lamp to discover and procure them. A friend of mine now residing at Belgrade broke his eyeglass, and hunted through the whole town to procure another pair, but in vain: the spectacle shops were all closed, and glasses were nowhere obtainable! Yet, wonderful to relate, there is one enterprising confectioner, but only one, and he seems to do a flourishing business.

Sir Ralph Paget, formerly British Minister Plenipotentiary in Serbia, has made a gift of 5,000 fr. for the sufferers at Podringa. This district possessed the richest and most thriving fields in Serbia, and was utterly devastated by the Austrian Army at the time of their invasion of Serbia.

The Harvest.

The greater part of the land in Serbia formerly planted with maize and wheat remains unplanted, so that the next harvest will be considerably less than it formerly was: hence the necessity of sowing the fields is keenly felt. Abundance of seed has been sent from the United States of America, and ought to be liberally distributed under vigilant Government control.

There are no cattle to plough the land. Great Britain has made lavish pecuniary grants to this country. Cannot steam ploughs be bought with part of this money and be distributed among the Serbian farmers?

In consequence of the danger arising from any sudden bombardment by the Austrians, the trains to Belgrade do not go beyond ——, a distant suburb of Belgrade, and travellers have to drive along an indirect route from the station to the town, keeping always at a distance from the Save. This enables them to have a good view of the surrounding hills and fields, which, instead of being, as is usual at this time of the year, golden bright with ripe wheat, are clad in the green verdure of wild bushes and grass.

These are the first symptoms of desolation which meet the eye when approaching the capital of Serbia, and when the town is reached the animation of cabs, carts, and vehicles is no more seen as of yore, but a new life supplants the past. The presence of British, French, and Russian Missions, and soldiers and officers of the allied countries, enliven the otherwise deserted streets, while the motor-cars belonging to the Allies go frequently dashing along the roads in the pursuit of the good work and the charitable designs which have brought them together in this once flourishing town.

HOSPITAL WORK IN SERBIA.

A representative of The Near East called the other day at the office of the Wounded Allies' Relief Committee, Sardinia House, Kingsway, and in an interview with Miss R. M. Morrison, the publicity agent of the committee, gleaned the following interesting particulars of the work done for Serbia and Montenegro. Of course, this is only one branch of the committee's activities; besides what has been done in the Balkans, work has been done for Belgian and French sick, wounded, and disabled soldiers in England and elsewhere.

The Serbian unit went out early in April and started work in May. It was in charge of two Belgian doctors, Dr. René Lauwens and Dr. Camille Veunens, and there were a dozen nurses. By desire of the Serbian Government it was stationed at Kragujevatz. At the time Serbia was in the grip of typhus, and it was in the first place with a view to dealing with this scourge that the hospital unit was sent out. The hospital had about two hundred cases under its care before the epidemic was suppressed. It is now adapted for the reception of the wounded, and its staff has been given charge by the Serbian Government of two additional hospitals on adjoining or practically adjoining sites.

The three hospitals thus combined into one form the third base hospital for Serbia, and have six hundred beds, which are under the direction of Dr. W. Graham Aspland. The work at present being done is practically that of a civil hospital, for the conditions among the civil population of Serbia, so far as concerns medical assistance, are worse than among the military. Kragujevatz is a town of 50,000 inhabitants, but has only one civil doctor; though in order to make things a little better the Wounded Allies' Relief Committee opened a dispensary in the town. Some similar organisations have opened dispensaries also. Bad as things are in Kragujevatz they are yet worse in the villages and small towns, where, of course, there are no doctors at all.

With regard to Montenegro, as soon as it became known in England that there was great need for help the committee despatched a sanitary commission to the country. This was headed by a lady, Dr. Isabel Ormiston, a specialist in sanitation and Chief Medical Inspector of Schools to the Govern-

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ment of Tasmania. The purpose of the commission was to report on what the situation required, and its report was to the effect that the Montenegrin Government made an urgent request for a hospital with two hundred beds to deal with typhus cases, and that it would be necessary for this unit to bring not only hospital supplies of every sort but even food. Accordingly fifty tons of stores—of a value of £2,500—was despatched with the unit. The hospital is stationed at Podgoritza. Like the hospital in Serbia, it is fitted to deal with both fever cases and surgical, and is doing various kinds of work. According to latest advices (end of July) there were still a few cases of typhus in the fever wards, as well as some of malaria and dysentery. Dr. Isabel Ormiston returned after making her report, but it is interesting to note that there are two lady doctors on the staff of the Montenegro unit. These are Doctors Constance B. Slater and Lillias Hamilton. The latter when in England is warden of the Studley Horticultural College in Warwickshire, and is a doctor of long experience, having, in fact, served in the Afghan War of about thirty-five years ago.

It will easily be understood that life in the backward communities of south-eastern Europe has its special hardships for people reared among the more advanced communities of the West, and that these hardships are often of a sort to fall with greatest weight upon women. Recently the committee sent out a gentleman, Dr. V. H. Rutherford (he is, we are informed, the Liberal candidate for the Bishop Auckland division), to inspect and report on the state of things obtaining. Describing his experiences and speaking of the difficulties of getting about the country, he said that in Serbia trains run at an average speed of about five miles an hour; but, unfortunately, the railway authorities have no idea of so arranging time-tables that trains on one branch of the railway shall meet those on another. Thus the traveller arriving at a junction may find he has to wait several hours before he is able to resume his journey. In Montenegro he is saved this petty annoyance, for there are no railways whatever. All travelling is by road, but the roads in Montenegro consist of mountain tracks usually traversed on muleback. Sometimes the track is cut in the face of a cliff, which towers above the traveller on the one hand while it slopes away below to the bed of a mountain torrent on the other side. Great is the danger when in such a place two mule trains meet on a path which is not more than wide enough for one. Over such roads the members of the Montenegrin Hospital unit had to travel, however; and it might happen that after a very long day, perhaps of fourteen hours, almost without food, they would find at the end no refreshment but coffee and black bread and no beds to sleep on. Where possible motors are used in Montenegro, but this is very dangerous, for even the best of the roads are strewn with large, loose stones.

Serbian conditions, as has been indicated, are nothing like so bad as this; but even there a motor ambulance that was sent out by the committee was found unsuited to the roads of the country, and R.C.H. touring motor-cars were substituted.

It is interesting to note, in conclusion, how well all those connected with the Wounded Allies' Relief Committee who have visited these countries speak of the people. Dr. Rutherford expressed himself as particularly struck not only with the smartness and efficiency of the Serbian soldiers, but also with the high intelligence and general culture of the Serbian officials. He noted a growth of education and that ideas of sanitation and hygiene are now making their way into the minds of the people. Naturally enough, Montenegro lags behind Serbia in these respects.

Our readers will forgive us for adding that the committee is still in need of funds for the extensive work it is performing in the Balkans, and that all contributions will be gratefully received by the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. T. O. Roberts (manager), London County and Westminster Bank, 217, Strand, W.C.

SOME OLD NEAR EASTERN PROVERBS OF THE SWORD.

The sword cannot be lent in time of war.

The sword is not to be used against him who asks forgiveness.

A sharp sword does not cut its own scabbard.

You can make a fan out of iron, but not a sword out of silk.

The sword cuts, but the arm boasts about it.

The tongue slays quicker than the sword.

Two swords cannot be put into one sheath.

Double-faced, like a Persian sword.

A good sword cannot be made from base iron.

Even though your sword be of Damascus, sell it and buy a gun.

M. M. P.

ROUMANIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, August 19

More Munitions of War Confiscated.

In spite of their continued lack of success, the Germans do not, after all, appear to be discouraged in their attempts to smuggle munitions of war through to Turkey. Warning having been given that twenty trucks full of munitions were to be passed, the authorities were even more on the alert than ever; and on examination at the frontier station of Predeal six trucks containing "bales of cotton" were found to have melinite, asphyxiating gas, and various explosives stowed away in the middle of the bales. The trucks, as well as their contents, have been confiscated.

In connection with this subject I may pass on a story which is vouched for by those who tell it. It is to the effect that the German Minister, in the course of an interview with a certain high functionary, pressed for permission for munitions of war from Germany to pass through this country for Turkey. He was told that such permission could not be granted, whereupon, with true German truculence, he declared, "We shall pass them through anyhow!" "Indeed!" retorted the Roumanian functionary. "But if you are so determined about it, why not send them through Serbia?" And at this the diplomatist, his feelings quite beyond his powers of expressing them, took his departure.

Franco-Roumanian Friendship.

A young Roumanian named Georges Teodorescu, who some time ago joined the Foreign Legion in France, and is now a captain of Zouaves, has sent to his friends a letter which shows the intense love of and admiration for France that exists in this country. In one passage he writes: "On June 9 we had the great honour of fighting for France, we 250 Roumanians, commanded by our captain, Roman Butnariu, lieutenant in the Roumanian Army, who led us to the attack like a hero. Our victory was complete, and the next day General Joffre noticed us all in the orders of the day. It is right to say that at the end of this combat, which lasted forty-eight hours, of the 250 Roumanians only thirty-four remained alive. Lieutenant Butnariu, seriously wounded, was decorated in the hospital with the Legion of Honour. We find comfort for the loss of our comrades in the love of the French. At Lyons, where we went later, everybody embraced us and cried, 'Vive la Roumanie.'"

THE BALKAN DIFFICULTIES.

To the *Manchester Dispatch* Count Cheddo Miyatovitch has contributed a most interesting exposition of his views regarding the difficulties which confront the Balkan States in this war, and of the manner in which he imagines they may be the best overcome. His leanings are naturally to Serbia, but he has in no way allowed this fact to blur his judgment in his examination of the question as a whole. He points out that other countries beside Serbia stand in the way of Bulgaria's entry into the war arena on the side of the Allies. Serbia is willing to make concessions provided that she received adequate compensation; this compensation the other Powers concerned are unable to guarantee. We quote one of his paragraphs dealing with the all-important question of Serbian Macedonia:—

If we cede Macedonia to Bulgaria immediately we run the risk of mutiny in our ranks and civil war, for thousands of Macedonian Serbians are fighting in our army, and they would naturally resent, in the keenest manner possible, what they would consider to be their desertion by our Government, for which they have shown themselves willing to shed their blood.

He thinks, however, that the difficulties are by no means insuperable, but holds the opinion that the influence of Potsdam is apparent in the demands which Bulgaria has hitherto made as the price of the abandonment of her neutrality. We quote from the concluding passages of his article:—

I can see no reason to believe that Bulgaria will come into the struggle on either side until the Allies have demonstrated in an unmistakable manner that victory is assured to them. The forcing of the Dardanelles and the fall of Constantinople would, I believe, be sufficient to persuade all the Balkan Powers of this.

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BULGARIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Sofia, August 21.

The Political Situation.

The recent Russian reverses in Poland have wrought a sudden change in the Bulgarian Government's policy. Austro-German diplomacy has lost no time in profiting by the present state of indecision, and has attempted to influence the Government with a view to obtaining from it a decision that it will at least uphold its policy of neutrality. Lieut.-General Fitcheff, who is considered to be one of the most pronounced advocates of Bulgaria joining the Entente Powers, has been deprived of his portfolio of Minister of War. Last Wednesday an official communication wap issued to the effect that General Fitcheff had resigned on account of illness, and that Major-General Jekoff had been appointed to succeed him.

The Crisis at the War Office.

The news of General Fitcheff's resignation is commented on here with lively interest. The general opinion is that the resigning Minister leaves the War Office at a time when his services are sorely needed by the army. As Minister of War, General Fitcheff worked continuously and with energy for the restoration of discipline and for the consolidation of the military power. His untiring efforts for the preparedness of his country for war were most valuable and fruitful, and through his resignation the army loses one of its best organisers. The new Minister of War, Major-General Jekoff, obtained his company in 1887. He graduated in the academy of the General Staff, and studied likewise in Turin. During the Balkan wars he was Chief of Staff of the Second Army, which captured Adrianople by assault. After the war he was appointed assistant chief officer of the General Staff, subsequently being made commander of the 7th Tundja Division, in which capacity he served in Constantinople as military expert on the Bulgarian Commission, conducting the Turco-Bulgarian negotiations concerned with the settlement of the Dedeagatch railway question. Last Friday he returned here to report on the negotiations, together with the other delegate, Dr. Tochkoff. Last Sunday, on the occasion of the anniversary of the King's accession to the throne, he was promoted to the rank of major-general. On Tuesday, Djavid Bey, formerly Turkish Minister of Finance, arrived in Sofia from Berlin on his way to Constantinople, and, accompanied by Fethi Bey, the Turkish Minister here, and the Bulgarian delegates of the Turco-Bulgarian Commission, he visited Dr. Radoslavoff, with whom he had an interview lasting two hours. On the following day General Fitcheff resigned, and was succeeded by General Jekoff.

Anniversary of King Ferdinand's Accession.

On Sunday, August 15, His Majesty Tsar Ferdinand celebrated the twenty-eighth anniversary of his accession to the Bulgarian throne. The occasion was celebrated by a Te Deum at the cathedral church of Sveta Nedelia, the Archbishop of Sofia, Mgr. Parthenius, officiating, assisted by all the clergy. Among those present were the Royal suite, the Cabinet Ministers, headed by Dr. Radoslavoff, the diplomatic body, the Mayor of Sofia, the General Staff, etc. After the service, the Cabinet Ministers, several ex-Ministers, the diplomats and officers proceeded to the Palace, where they signed the visitors' book. The Prime Minister in the name of the Government, General Fitcheff in that of the army, and the Mayor of Sofia in that of the citizens of the capital, sent congratulatory messages to his Majesty.

Promotions.

On the same day, the following colonels were promoted to the rank of generals: Jekoff, Jostoff, Topeloff, Nerezoff, Zagorsky and Burneff. The Chief of the Army Staff, Major-General Boyadjieff, was promoted to the rank of lieut.-general, and so was Major-General Todoroff, Chief Officer of the 2nd Inspectional District.

The Opposition.

The leaders of the Opposition, Messrs. Gueshoff and Malinoff, and Drs. Daneff and Kosturcoff, had an interview during the beginning of the week with Dr. Radoslavoff, who explained the political situation to them.

Messages of Condolence.

Since the news was received here of the death on the battlefield of M. Milakoff's son, M. Milakoff has been the recipient of a great number of messages of condolence from numerous people throughout Bulgaria, including the Macedo-Adrianople group of students. In the telegrams mention is made of the noble services of M. Milakoff in the Macedonian cause.

Dr. Gretzer's Dismissal.

Dr. Gretzer, for many years Court physician, has been relieved of his post. This has been widely commented on, but, it is officially stated, the rumours of his removal from the Court on account of his being a greater German than a doctor, are without foundation.

Armenian Immigrants.

Every day a number of notable Armenian families, expelled from Constantinople, arrive here. They consist of women, children and old men, the younger men having been sent into the interior of Turkey.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Colonial Office Circular.

A circular of the Colonial Secretary of State, Mr. Bonar Law, warns all officials that, in the interests of the Service, no resignation of his appointment by an official, with a view to military service, can be accepted unless submitted by permission of the authorities first obtained, and that any official who does not comply with the order will have no claim to reinstatement, but will be regarded as having quitted the Service without leave. In a crisis like the present it would rather seem expedient that any official of suitable age and qualifications, in our Colonies and possessions, should have every facility given to him to offer his services to the Empire. In almost all cases arrangements could be made for carrying on the work of such an official without detriment to the public service.

Technical Education.

The village schoolmasters who have volunteered for the educational course in elementary agriculture and in gymnastics under Mr. Nikolaïdes, have shown great zeal and interest in the work, which has included a visit to the Experimental Farm at Athalassa, near Nicosia. This movement cannot fail to have increasingly good effects in rural districts. There is a general desire that the position of village schoolmasters and mistresses should be improved, and that some provision should be made for pensions on retirement through age or ill-health.

Bishopric of Famagusta.

The Greek Archbishop, Cyril, has decided upon the appointment of an Assistant Bishop for the District of Famagusta in the person of the Archimandrite Makarios Myrianthers, a cousin of the Primate. The appointment is said to be by request of the town and district of Famagusta, and it is believed that this will strengthen both the ecclesiastical and lay interests of the division. It is probable that there will be similar appointments of coadjutors in the other towns of Cyprus. This indicates a movement which aims at the extension of Greek Church influence throughout Cyprus. The bishops and abbots in some cases not only exercise influence over their flocks in matters appertaining to the Church and local education, but in their tours they take up grievances and complaints of villagers, which—if necessary—are brought before the Legislative Council.

THE KING AND CYPRUS WOUNDED.

The *Cyprus Gazette* reproduces the following telegram, dated August 10, 1915, and dispatched by H.E. the High Commissioner of Cyprus to the Rt. Hon. the Secretary of State for the Colonies:—

"Sick and wounded from the Dardanelles at the Convalescent Camp on Mount Troödos, who are benefiting from the mountain climate of Cyprus and receiving kindnesses from all classes of his Majesty's subjects in this newly annexed part of his Majesty's Dominions, beg to be allowed to submit their humble duty to his Majesty the King."

The following reply, dated August 12, 1915, was received from the Right Honourable A. Bonar Law, M.P.:—

"His Majesty the King commands me to express his pleasure on receipt of the loyal message from the sick and wounded on Mount Troödos. He wishes them speedy recovery."

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SUDAN EXPLORATION.

(From a Correspondent.)

It will be learned with some regret that Professor Llewellyn Griffith, of Oxford University, the well-known Egyptologist and excavator of Nubian antiquities, has no intention of renewing his research work in the Sudan. At the present time the Professor is devoting himself to the completion of memoirs, that have been for some time in preparation, upon the results of his labours—records which will undoubtedly prove extremely valuable and interesting.

It was some nine years after his appointment to the post of Reader in Egyptology at the University of Oxford—1910—that Professor Griffith took charge of the excavation work in Nubia. He had previously been editor of the Archæological Survey and Archæological Reports of the Egypt Exploration Fund, and long recognised as an authority upon Egyptology generally. The four seasons which the Professor had passed in Egypt—1884-1888—in archæological work, in the company of Professor Flinders Petrie and M. Naville, were profitably employed, and upon his return to England he was appointed Assistant in the Department of Medical Antiquities and Ethnography of the British Museum, a position which he continued to fill between 1888 and 1896, when he became Honorary Lecturer in Egyptology at the University of Manchester.

Professor Griffith's Sudan explorations were commenced in 1910, and devoted to discoveries at Faras. The results of the first season's work showed that Faras occupies the site of the Meroitic and Nubian city of Pakhôras, and, further, that it is identical with the mediæval city of Bergrash, capital of the northern province of the Christian kingdom of Nubia. A large amount of interesting information was gleaned relating to the inscribed stones, weapons and stone implements, pottery and bronze vessels, beads, finger rings, and miscellaneous articles uncovered. The total amount of funds subscribed through the University of Oxford for the work in connection with the 1910 excavations came to about £1,350, while for the second season's work the subscriptions amounted to £1,250. The results of the two seasons' work were considered both satisfactory and encouraging, as the memoirs will show. Towards the cost of publishing these memoirs the University Press has voted the sum of £250.

The work of the third season—to carry on which various contributors subscribed a little over £930—was devoted to the historic site of Napata, the northern Meroë, where many very interesting and valuable monuments were found. Over 1,500 graves were also revealed, many proving to be cave-graves cut in compact sand and approached from the surface by a flight of steps. Other large graves were rectangular pits of some depth, lined with crude brick. The usual assortment of vessels, weapons, instruments, and ornaments were discovered in generous quantities; among the latter some amulets have been deemed of great importance for dating purposes.

FOR THE SOLDIERS IN EGYPT.

At the weekly united war service held in the United Free Assembly Hall, Edinburgh, last Thursday night, the speaker was Mr. William Oatts, of Glasgow. Speaking on his recent work among the troops in Egypt, he said that the conditions of troop life out there were very different from those at home. He had had a letter from one fellow who said that in his tent the temperature was 128 degrees One of the most troublesome things the soldiers had to face was the plague of flies. They were told to "kill that fly," but they would be doing nothing else in Egypt if they tried to kill the flies. This year had been an especially bad one for locusts. There was no higher service than encouraging the men to keep in touch with home. The presence of ladies in the tents had a refining and elevating influence. They were told that New Zealanders could talk as strongly as anyone, but in the three months he had never heard an unparliamentary word spoken in the tent, and he put it down to the presence of the lady in the tent. He made an appeal for newspapers to be sent to the soldiers.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

Subscribers to "The Near East" who have left the Ottoman Dominions since the war will oblige by notifying the Manager of their new address as early as possible, so that the supply of the paper should not be unduly interrupted.

"The Near East" has largely increased its circulation in the United Kingdom since the war, and the Management is convinced that there are many people still who would be glad to know of its existence. Specimen copies will be forwarded post free if the names and addresses of friends are sent to the Manager, at 16-17, Devonshire Square, E.C.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

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

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

A PLEA FOR BULGARIA.

To the Editor of The Near East.

Sir,—In your issue of July 30, dealing with the relations between Bulgaria and Turkey, you allude to the effect produced upon the attitude of Roumania by the observance, on the part of Bulgaria, of a neutrality unfriendly to the Entente Powers, inasmuch as she has allowed the passage to Turkey of supplies of ammunition and material from Germany.

I do not wish to deny the truth of your allusion that Bulgaria has aided Turkey in the way referred to. I have lived in this country for some considerable time, and have had more than one painful opportunity of observing, incidentally during my travels, how convenient Bulgaria's neutrality must have been to our enemies at the Dardanelles.

The phantom of Bulgaria has certainly played a most important rôle, if not in reality, at least in the Press, and presumably in the diplomacy, both of Roumania and Greece, ever since the outbreak of the great war. Yet, judging by the threats which the Greek Press so frequently addresses to Bulgaria, with the idea, no doubt, of keeping the latter in "her place," one would suppose that the phantom was in reality as lifeless as a scarecrow. Nevertheless, both Roumania and Greece have found in the supposed Bulgarian danger a useful opportunity for postponing their entry into action and displaying their valour for their respective national unities.

The opportunity for attacking Bulgaria for facilitating the passage of munitions to Turkey on a large scale has been made ample use of by the Greek, Serbian, and Roumanian Press. At the time, no doubt, these attacks had the effect of creating a mistrust of Bulgaria on the part of the Allies, and presenting her neighbours in a more sympathetic light. But the effect has been outlived, for, in the meantime, the real stumbling-blocks to a united action on the part of the Balkan States have been discovered, and it is clearly seen that, just as in 1913, Bulgaria has been made the scapegoat for the hypocrisy of her neighbours.

It might perhaps be interesting to examine to what extent the hesitation of Greece and Roumania to join the Entente may be explained and justified by Bulgaria's apparently friendly attitude towards Turkey. The only route by which Germany can supply Turkey with materials has, since the outbreak of war, been viâ Roumania and Bulgaria. Therefore, all accusations which Roumania may bring against Bulgaria in respect of aiding Turkey turn also against herself. Bulgaria has probably had as much reason to mistrust the intentions of her neighbours as the latter have had to be suspicious of hers. Until the Allies began to show some active sympathy towards Bulgaria's aspirations, which are so unmistakably based on the principle of nationalities, it was probably for a long time, especially before Italy joined in the war, far from being clear to Bulgaria, who had been exposed to the full influence of the German Press propaganda, that the Entente must finally win. Under these circumstances, it would seem only natural that Bulgaria should have found it unwise to declare prematurely her sympathy with the Entente, which she certainly would have done if she had refused to pass on to Turkey the German material which Roumania had presumably already accepted to transport to the Bulgarian frontier.

If the Entente have been similarly accommodated by Greece with regard to the transport of material to Serbia, this display of sympathy has not, in certain instances, prevented the Greeks from obliging the Germans also. Bulgaria would probably also have accommodated the Entente, if her geographical situation had enabled her to do so. It should be remembered, moreover, that Greece has all along been backed up by the friendship of at least France and England, whereas Bulgaria—surrounded, as she is, by neighbours she has no reason to trust—has, since her misfortunes of the second Balkan War, been unfriended by any of the Great Powers. It is therefore not difficult to understand the position in which Bulgaria was placed when requested by Germany to transit to Turkey the material which would already have crossed Roumania. The only practical alternative to accepting Germany's demand would have been to declare war on Turkey and the Central Powers; but so long

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as Bulgaria had not sufficient guarantee that her own national aspirations would be satisfied, she could scarcely be expected to espouse a cause involving unlimited sacrifices and relatively small gain to her, while exposing her to innumerable dangers, and assuring, at the same time, incalculable advantages to the Allies. In the absence of such guarantees, she could not, from her point of view, wisely have done other than to observe an attitude as conciliatory as possible to both parties of belligerents, while preserving her forces intact for all eventualities.

It might be remarked that, notwithstanding that Bulgaria has, during this time, participated with Roumania in affording facilities to Turkey, she has given unmistakable signs of confidence in the Entente, for it is hardly to be supposed that Germany has not offered her all she claims, and more, of Macedonia, in return for her intervention on the side of the Central Powers. Bulgaria has also manifested the same spirit towards the Entente in resisting the provocations which have frequently been tendered to her by those who would have liked to force her to take the side of Germany. In such an eventuality the necessity for a just revision of the Treaty of Bucharest in favour of Bulgaria would no longer have existed, and this circumstance would no doubt have removed the only obstacle against Roumania and Greece taking action on the side of the Entente.

All lovers of right will not fail to admire Bulgaria's forbearance and wisdom in stemming successfully the crisis she has undergone; and now that the principal difficulties in the way of Bulgaria's entry into action with the Allies seem likely to be removed, and the value of her co-operation generally appreciated, it remains for the fair-minded Press to rectify, so far as is possible, the unjust impressions which certain interested and unscrupulous organs have lost no opportunity of creating in respect of Bulgaria's attitude towards the Entente, and some of the latter's professed friends, since the beginning of the war.—I am, etc.,

H. L. Andrews.

Sofia, August 22, 1915.

SERBIA AND BULGARIA.

To the Editor of The Near East.

Sir,—The Macedonian question has again come on the order of the day, and it is only fair to hear both sides. The friends of Bulgaria, exploiting a temporary "necessity," have got ample opportunity for exposing their point of view; therefore, I hope that your Serbian Allies will be allowed to expose their cause before the British public, the more so as the Serbians were fighting on the side of the Allies at the time when the Bulgarians allowed the German officers and ammunition to reach Turkey and to make the Dardanelles impregnable.

The scientists have already stated that, ethnographically and historically, Macedonia belongs more to Serbia than to Bulgaria. If Serbia used the same arguments as Bulgarians use in the defence of their aspirations on Macedonia, Serbia might claim Sofia and its environs. Among Serbians, only over-zealous patriots are putting forward such exorbitant claims, whereas the Bulgarian Government takes such claims as the basis of its policy towards Serbia and the Allies.

The complete control of the Valley of the Vardar is necessary to Serbia as the only means for the defence of her western provinces. Besides, the Valley of the Vardar affords her the only access to the sea. Italy already possesses Valona, and claims Trieste and Pola, with the Dalmatian Archipelago, and has the complete control of the Adriatic, having made of it a closed Italian sea. Italy's mistrust of Serbia has dictated her some other demands concerning the settlement of the Southern Slav question.

If you are to deny to Serbia the alternative access to Salonika she must have full liberty in the Adriatic. Such Serbian claims would be in complete accordance with the Serbo-Bulgarian Treaty of 1912, which Treaty is often quoted by Bulgarians and their friends in Italy.

After her diplomatic defeat during the annexation crisis Serbia wanted to secure for herself the whole of the eastern coast of the Adriatic as far as the Greek frontier, but even the Treaty of 1912 she signed as willingly as Bulgaria did the Treaty of Bucharest, with the difference that the first Treaty was preceded by a diplomatic defeat of Serbia and the second one by a military defeat of Bulgaria.

The natural consequence of the Treaty of 1912 is the realization of all Serbian national claims in the western half of the Balkans. Bulgaria undertook obligations to assist Serbia with an army 200,000 strong for the realization of those claims. Now she cannot give them as she did not give them then. Will Great Powers, which appeal to the Treaty of 1912, supply that assistance and accept all political consequences of that Treaty?

The diplomacy of the Great Powers has always failed in the Balkans, and the best course is to let Balkan people settle their differences for themselves. The Balkan nation have their own peculiar psychology, and the failure of the European diplomacy is quite a natural one. Finally, let us ask, do the Great Powers consider that the declaration of war and the mobilization of the army represent also a real help and co-operation with the Allies?—Yours, etc.,

(Dr.) N. Stojanovic.

London, September 6, 1915.

*** When communicating with Advertisers, Readers will greatly oblige by mentioning

"THE NEAR EAST."

THE FUTURE OF CYPRUS.

To the Editor of The Near East.

Sir,—I had not intended to say anything further about the Cyprian question, but my remarks seem to have caused a great amount of unnecessary alarm to the Moslem members of the Legislative Council, to judge by the piteous letter of Mr. Irfan in your last number. Though he gave no arguments in support of his views, and indulged a little in unwarrantable personalities, as well as a misconception of the word "frequent," I must congratulate Mr. Irfan on his loyalty to the British Empire. In order to spare him further anxiety about the future of the Moslem community, I should like to append a translation from a local paper, the *Aletheia*, criticising my letter. It will be observed that the Greeks of Cyprus reject the "transfer" if accompanied by the surrender of Kavalla, and thus the whole condition is voided:—

". . . If there be one question on which we differ from the writer (myself!), it is when he took up a paradoxical and egoistic point of view on the question of Kavalla, forgetting that in this he is arguing exactly contrary to the principles expressed in his article, seeing that the return of Kavalla to Bulgaria, even in exchange for Cyprus, is directly opposed to the principle of nationality.

"Apart from this point, we Cypriots can show ourselves most grateful to Mr. L. for having taken up the cudgels for a small nation, but we plainly assert that we would rather not have the proffered freedom if the price to be paid for it were so cherished a part of the mother country—*i.e.*, Kavalla.

"As to the Turkish minority in the island, we deem that there need be no expatriation, as we feel convinced that our Mohammedan fellow-citizens will experience under Greek rule the same justice that they have met with elsewhere under the Greek flag, unless the fanaticism of a few should lead them to act contrary to the laws of the country."—I am, etc.,

Kenneth Ledward, F.R.G.S.

London, September 8, 1915.

LADY GRAY-HILL'S PICTURES.

A correspondent writes:—The little exhibition of Lady Gray-Hill's work now on view at Walker's Galleries in New Bond Street will bring back happy memories to many travellers in the Near East. There are some of us to whom the desert will always remain an unforgettable memory. Its charm is a thing apart. Lady Gray-Hill has probably seen as much of its unfrequented parts as any English traveller, and in "Reuben's Shrine" (2) we get the clear desert atmosphere at its truest. The artist gets the same effect, this time in oils, in "Wayfarers in the Desert" (13). Perhaps the most attractive picture of all is that entitled "On the Red Sea Shore" (8), where one solitary Bedouin on his camel follows the shore during the wonderful golden afterglow of sunset. The scenery of the "Wady Gharandel" (4) is probably unique in the world, while the "Loot of Camels in the Desert of Palmyra" (6) depicts a scene unknown to most Europeans. The market boats scudding before the wind to Damietta (11) is a vivid bit of colouring in oils, especially attractive to Anglo-Egyptians. The pictures vary in price from seven to twelve guineas, and it is to be hoped that Lady Gray-Hill's effort to aid the French Red Cross Funds (to which the whole proceeds of the sale will be devoted) will meet with the success it deserves.

"ANZAC" READING ROOMS.

The London branch of the Australian Natives' Association has arranged to open free reading, writing, rest and refreshment rooms for wounded Australian and New Zealand soldiers in London. The rooms, which have been named "Anzac," adjoin the Commonwealth offices in Victoria Street, S.W. Contributions for maintenance may be sent to Mr. H. Kneebone, 72, Victoria Street, S.W.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

If the suave expressions of regret for the loss of American lives and Count Bernstorff's assurances regarding the future behaviour of German submarines are, as now seems probable, to be taken by America as being sufficient to condone for the "deliberately unfriendly" act of murder on the high seas, it is possible that the tourist season in Egypt may profit by the presence of many rich Americans this winter. It is hardly probable that they will be able to resist the lure of the country where, to its already boundless store of attractions, there have now been added new mementoes in the shape of fragments of shells used by the Turks in their great invasion. It is pleasant, indeed, to think of this new source of wealth which has been given to the traders of the Egyptian bazaars for future centuries. Prices will probably run high at the beginning because Birmingham is far too busy in the manufacture of live munitions to assist the Cairo Mousky in the matter of *débris*, but the necessarily limited demand will doubtless be met by fragments gathered from the practice fields of the Australian and other troops in the early days of their training. And, later, when things have settled down a bit, Birmingham will be able to resume her accustomed place, to the mutual satisfaction of all concerned. For as long as tourists are tourists, things will remain much the same as they were in the days long ago, when an unnamed poet wrote the following lines, which have run in my head ever since:—

Abdul Ben Haden—may his tribe grow clean!
Awoke one day, for he to sleep had been,
And in the neighbourhood of his tent descried
Two Yankee travellers, in the pride
Of plaided suits and martial helmets white,
And loud he chuckled at the welcome sight.
A parcel fresh from Birmingham he took,
And laid out brazen things of ancient look:
French coffee boiled he in a salmon tin,
And then strolled out and asked the strangers in.
They came, and with this swarthy Desert's son,
Drank mocha, bought his curios, every one,
And as he onward suffered them to stray,
He softly sang, "Ta-ra-ra-boom-de-ay.'

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As they fall back before the invasion of the Huns, the Russians are carefully removing all bells from the churches, lest the enemy, who is notoriously hard up for suitable metals, should capture them and convert them into munitions of war. Now, I see, it is reported that the Austrian Government also has decided to remove a famous bell and turn it into guns and ammunition of one kind or another. But, candidly, I can hardly credit the report; for the bell in question is that of St. Stephen's, Vienna, which has—or ought to have—altogether exceptional value for our friend the enemy, if the history of it that was given to me when I was in Vienna is a true one. For, I was told, it was cast, early in the eighteenth century, out of 200 cannon captured from the Turks by the redoubtable Prince Eugene. The story suggests some obvious reflections upon the strange freaks of Circumstance. The guns, which were intended to aid in the victory of the Crescent, tamed into pealing out the summons to hear the message of the Cross; and then, after two centuries, reverting to their former character once more—perhaps to find Turkish gunners handling them again and placing their hopes of victory in the metal that has so long been useful in spreading the message of Peace. I wonder whether such reflections will occur to the aged Franz Josef, or that remarkably versatile ally of his, Kaiser Hajji Wilhelm.

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Some time ago I saw a statement in one of the London journals that none of our nursery rhymes was without some historical or traditional fact behind it. I have been reminded of this by a tale which has just reached me from the Dinka country, in the Sudan. It appears that, according to the Dinka teaching, all the animals which at present inhabit our globe were given places in the upper regions prior to the making of the world. Things were, however, growing a bit crowded in those regions, and when the earth was made it was decided to dispatch several of each kind below to take up their residence on the new estate. Now the Dinkas have it that the dog was one of the first animals to fall, and having reached the earth in safety, sat on his haunches and awaited the arrival of the next animal. This proved to be a cow. But a cow is a clumsy beast at the best, and, losing her equilibrium in her descent, she landed head foremost, flattening her forehead in consequence, and causing the dog so much merriment that its mouth split with laughing. To the support of which tale the Dinkas produce the cow and the dog as evidence. This tale is not an invention, it is the truth regarding Dinka belief, and I cannot help wondering whether our *Hey-Diddle-Diddle* may not have had something to do with a similar legend in other lands. It is true that neither the Cat, the Fiddle, the Dish, nor the Spoon has any place in the story which I have quoted; but it seems to me that there is still left sufficient similarity in the thing to court inquiry. I wish I could remember the paper in which the statement to which I have alluded appeared; it is possible that the writer might be able to tell me more about it.

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In one of our British newspapers I recently noticed a reference to the fact that the gypsies of Serbia had been called to arms, and that, notwithstanding their hatred of discipline and ordered living, they had joined heartily as one man eager to serve their fatherland. This is just as it should be, and from my knowledge of the gypsies in England I may say that it is no more than I would have expected. Since the outbreak of war I have talked with many classes of people, high and low, and for pure patriotism, unalloyed by any thought of personal gain, I give the palm to our gypsies. At first hearing it seems extraordinary that these folk, unaccustomed to the pressure of any of those fetters with which civilisation has grown familiar, should be willing to barter their freedom for the discipline of his Majesty's Army. And yet, when one comes to think it over, it is the most natural thing in the world. Your "traveller" does not moralise, but in his heart he has one great and undying ideal—freedom; when this is threatened he would go through Hades to preserve it. Illiterate, owning to few friends outside those of his own way of thinking, he yet in some strange way manages to keep keenly *au fâit* with affairs of the moment, and this war has seared his very soul. The young man who is fit and untied, and who refuses to join the Army, is not tolerated among the tents and vans of the loyal. They regard the war with eyes unblinded by any scales of political consideration; England, their mother, who has given them life and freedom, is assailed: what is there for her sons to do but to fight? To this question they will admit of no reply.

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In England the gypsy stock has become hopelessly mixed by intermarriages with house-dwellers, but the spirit of the Romany is under all. And if these men and boys jump to arms at the first call for voluntary aid that reaches them from their country, it is not surprising that the pure-bred Romany of Serbia should also go with his heart in the job when his nation hailed him. After the war they will cast off their uniforms and in a month's time no one will be able to tell by their gait or manner that they once fought as soldiers. Until that time they will fight grimly and to the last man, knowing instinctively that they are fighting for everything that is dear to the heart of a free-born man.

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According to a story told by the celebrated French writer, General Cherfils, in the *People* newspaper, the last word concerning Fashoda has been spoken between France and England. Years, indeed, have passed since all bitterness was buried, but the story told by the General concerns two of the protagonists who faced each other in the swamps of the Upper Nile in those almost forgotten days when France and England frowned gloomily one at the other across the narrow waters of the Channel. I give the story below in the gallant General's own words:—

The recent visit to both the British and French fronts of Lord Kitchener has given great pleasure to France. Everyone was tickled by the British War Minister's meeting with General Baratier, who, when still a captain, was Colonel Marchand's second-in-command at Fashoda. At the same time as Lord Kitchener met Gen. Baratier, another similar meeting took place at another point on the front. The incident was so characteristic of the delicacy of our British friends that I cannot refrain from recounting it. Gen. Douvier was lunching with a British general. In the course of conversation Gen. Douvier slyly remarked to his host: "General, I think you may have already met my brother-in-law; he once in years gone by had a little difference, may I say, with the English."

"Indeed, General," replied the British commander, "who may your brother-in-law be?"

"General Baratier," answered Gen. Douvier.

The British general smiled, looked Gen. Douvier in the face and said: "Oh, only a 'little difference.' How well you phrase things in French." Then, assuming a graver look and speaking with some solemnity, the British general added: "Well, general, tell your brother-in-law that we have done our best to efface the souvenir of that 'little difference.' We have changed the name of Fashoda on the map."

This little incident will touch the heart of every Frenchman. The British general's remark is a delicate reply to our "mot" of the Battle of Fontenoy: "Gentleman of England, you fire first!" As adversaries or friends, both British and French have always fought as gentlemen.

CORSAIR.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE PROPHETIC TOUCH.*

Although without knowledge of any languages other than Armenian and Syriac, the late Khrimean Hairik, head of the Armenian Church, must have not only thought deeply, but at the same time have been gifted with powers which almost amounted to those of a prophetic nature, when in the year 1900 he wrote his poem, "The Meeting of the Kings." In that year there were few among us who would have accorded to the King of the Belgians so important a place as that assigned to him by Hairik, yet in the light of the events which have been crowded into the nightmare months of the past year or so, it becomes increasingly apparent that in the gallant resistance of Belgium lie the germs of our ultimate victory.

The poem, which is quite short, has been published in the form of a brochure, which gives both the Armenian text and its English version. For the latter we are indebted to Mr. Laurence Binyon, who has given a rhythmical clothing to a word-for-word translation of the original. The identity of the writer of the foreword, or preface to the little work, is not made plain, but it was in the year 1903, while staying at Edjmiatsin, that the manuscript which is now published for the first time fell into his hands. "During my short stay there," he writes, "I passed many evenings in conversation with his Holiness, who, notwithstanding his great age of eighty-three years, was still full of his natural spirit and wit. One day he handed me a manuscript, saying, 'This cannot be published now in Russia. Take it to your free England; peradventure you will one day publish it there.'"

The argument of the poem is given in the first verse:—

"How it befell I know not,
Whether by challenge or invitation.
On a day the kings of the world
Assembled and came together.
Each in his turn to speak
And to question, one of another.
Which of them all has peace
And sweet slumber in the night-time.
With cares and perplexities infinite
How shall sleep not be troubled?"

Britain is the first to speak:—

"First spoke the Lord of Britain,
The mighty ruler of the ocean.
'Sweet is my sleep and peaceful,
I have armed ships without number,
I am invincible on the sea.'"

After detailing some of the glories which have come to him through this mastery of the ocean, the King refers to his unbounded riches:—

"'On a pillow of gold I lay my head,
And sleep secure in the night.'"

* * * * *

"Then was the turn of the German,
The self-glorious, arrogant Kaiser,
He spoke: 'No pillow of gold have I,
But I have drilled battalions,
An army unconquered and terrible.'"

To him the bed which brings rest untroubled is Krupp's "dreadful cannon." He proceeds:—

"Now one desire of my heart
I will reveal among you;
That Eastern Riddle which perplext our fathers,
Is the knot untied, is the question answered?
They who met in Congress at Berlin,
Left they not half the knot unravelled?
That Article, the sixty-first,
The hope and trust of Armenia,
Was reversed in act; a hundred thousand
Armenians perished and were sacrificed.
Turkey, men say, is sick unto death.
Physician am I; suffer me, therefore,
To cherish and tend that afflicted one."

France and Austria next speak: France of the bitterness by which her soul is wrung in the thought of Alsace and Lorraine, Austria of the dread sorrows which had overtaken his house. The Tsar speaks next with the peril of China looming heavily ahead, and then the Sovereign of Turkey is given place. The prediction in this case seems to have been touched with the light of prophecy, for it holds that this terrible struggle will end by the fall of Turkey at the shores of the Bosphorus, and that peace will then be to the world. It is, however, impossible to piece the arguments of this poem together in such a manner that its prophetic tendencies will be apparent and yet not over-emphasised in the short space of a review. But we predict for it a popularity that will certainly be well deserved.

Inspiration was surely behind the pen that gave proud place to the King of the Belgians at this meeting of fifteen years ago, and which gave him for his pillow "the heart of his people." He is the last monarch to speak, and the keynote of his desire is Peace. This is a powerful piece of work, but the last line of the following quotation will show that the author was under no delusions concerning the attitude of the nations to whom it was uttered:—

"The Masters of the World stood up.
'Hail to Belgium's King!' they cried.
'He has spoken the words of righteousness;
God's message was in his mouth.'
. . . But each to his own work!"

* "The Meeting of the Kings." By Khrimean Hairik, the Katholikos of All Armenians. Armenian text and English version by P. Tonapetean and Laurence Binyon; with a biographical sketch of the Author. (London: William Clowes and Sons, Limited. 1s.)

SUDANESE LOYALTY.

With the official concurrence of Sir F. Reginald Wingate, Governor-General of the Sudan, the very happy idea has been hit upon of collecting and publishing in the form of an attractive pamphlet the principal declarations made by the religious and tribal chiefs of the Sudan to the head of the Administration upon the outbreak of the war in Europe. That occasion, one which even the least nervous and pessimistic considered to be fraught with extreme danger to the non-Moslem governing classes, brought forth strong sentiments of loyalty from all sections and classes of the population of the Sudan, and thus not alone furnished one of the many bright pages in the history of the British Empire, but provided a striking testimony to the superiority of the principles upon which British rule is founded and the solidarity upon which this vast Empire is based.

On the day following the declaration of war between Great Britain and Turkey the Governor-General of the Sudan called together a number of leading religious chiefs in Khartoum and the vicinity, and explained to them the precise state of affairs. Immediately afterwards these notables met together on their own account, drawing up a declaration of their loyalty to Great Britain and their repudiation of the action of Turkey. This declaration, which forms an altogether unique historical document, was signed by every one of the chiefs with much Oriental solemnity. But the capital of the Sudan stood by no means alone in taking this gratifying action. As soon as the news of the outbreak of the war was communicated to the provinces the Administration commenced to receive telegrams and letters expressing the unswerving loyalty of the senders and of their followers. First among these was El Sayed Ali El-Mirghani, C.M.G., Chief of the Mirghani Tarika in the Sudan, who was then at Kassala. Then followed telegrams from El Sayed Ahmed El-Mirghani, his brother, and from other religious and tribal chiefs—all breathing the same clearly honest and sincere expressions. Most of these remarkable communications—remarkable chiefly because they were so entirely spontaneous—were published as they were received in the columns of the local newspapers; the idea of now collecting them in pamphlet form originated with M. L. B. Jureidini, the editor of the *Sudan Times*. The publication is in both English and Arabic, and is presented in tasteful covers of white and gold. All proceeds of the sale which accrue will be devoted to the fund of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales for the relief of the sufferers from the war. The price of the brochure is 5 piastres tariff (about one shilling).

BOOK RECEIVED.

"The Furnace of Iron." By Andrew Firth. T. Fisher Unwin. 6s.

AN IMPORTANT NEW BOOK ABOUT EGYPT.

By BARON DE KUSEL (Bey),

Sometime English Controller-General of Egyptian Customs.

AN ENGLISHMAN'S RECOLLECTIONS OF EGYPT. 1863 to 1887.

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JOHN LANE: THE BODLEY HEAD, W

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Situation in the Near East.

Writing in the *Fortnightly Review* (September), Mr. H. Charles Woods reviews the situation in the Near East. His article is prefaced by a quotation which appeared in the May number of the same review, and which stated that although the much-talked-of war was at last in progress, little had really been done to "solve the countless problems which for years have not only endangered the peace of the Near East, but that of all Europe." The same thing applies to-day, and Mr. Woods, after recapitulating the various changes which have come about since the first article was penned—especially regarding the operations in the Dardanelles—goes on to consider the manner in which our interests and the interests of Europe generally could best be served in the Balkans. In regard to the Dardanelles, he considers that one of the following three plans will be necessary in order quickly to secure the desired results: "1st, by endeavouring to exhaust the Ottoman garrison of the Peninsula and to cut off its means of reinforcements and supply; 2nd, by undertaking landings in areas which we have not so far attacked; 3rd, by bringing Bulgaria into the war." He favours the latter course as being the quickest, and after detailing his reasons for this opinion he writes:—

The above remarks are sufficient to indicate not only the importance of Bulgaria in reference to the Dardanelles, but also that her position enables her practically to immobilize the military forces of her neighbours. They therefore prove that we should be justified in making considerable sacrifices and in asking our friends to make considerable sacrifices in order to secure for Bulgaria the conditions which would induce her to throw in her lot against the Turco-German enemy.

After stating that "instead of the events which take place from time to time in the Near East being accepted in proportion to their proper importance and meaning, the public mind is impregnated with information entirely detrimental to Bulgaria," the writer enters at some length into an examination of the events which followed the first Balkan war, and refers to the recent German loan, or advance, to Bulgaria. He shows the first to have been at least partially justified, and the latter to be without any feature which should justify the argument that because of it Germany has been given either a political or military *quid pro quo* by King Ferdinand's Government. In writing of Serbia, Mr. Woods says:—

The Serbians are passing through a most critical period in their history, because they do not seem to have realized that, in order to safeguard their eventual interests, it may be advisable for them to make concessions in Macedonia. Victorious as they have been, the advantages to be secured by and as a result of this war cannot be attained by Serbian arms alone. Their real, and consequently their primary interest must be an allied rather than a local victory. They can play their part in achieving this object not only upon the field of battle, but also in the arena of diplomacy. By agreeing to give to Bulgaria certain areas of Macedonia which now belong to her, Serbia may be making a temporary sacrifice. But she would be far more than repaid for a loss of territory brought about as a result of her recognition of the Serbo-Bulgarian Treaty and Conventions signed before the outbreak of the first Balkan war, by the annexation of territory which she is certain to secure in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and by the possession of a proper outlet upon the Adriatic.

Roumania, in the writer's opinion, has already recognised, or is at least fast recognising, that as a result of the present war the maintenance of the Treaty of Bucharest is becoming no longer necessary, and points to the significant fact, in support of his assertion, that this year there were no rejoicings in Roumania upon the anniversary of the fatal document.

The United Balkan States.

The ignorance of a large number of influential Britishers regarding the Balkan States forms one of the chief objects of condemnation in an article contributed by Mr. Oliver Bainbridge to the *Asiatic Review* (August 16) under the above heading:—

Their impressions on international questions may be quite honest, but the confusion that has arisen in the Balkans from such vague and loose notions cannot be gauged by any known measures of human computation. The impressions which they have of these States are not their possession in any true sense of the word.

The writer thinks that few, even of our Members of Parliament, recognise fairly the difficult part that these States have played, and are still playing, in history. Alone among the Great Powers he considers that Britain would be sufficiently trusted by the people of the Balkans to enable her to bring about the construction of a new and solid Balkan League—the United Balkan States—which would at once be recognised as a powerful factor in the calculations of the world. In his remarks regarding the attitude of the Balkan statesmen themselves, the writer says:—

It is time that the statesmen of the Balkans ceased to be "politicians" and became patriots, ceased groping about in a state of blindness, and correctly estimated the position of their countries in the European world, for their enemies are planning to wipe them out from the list of nations. They are spending their energy in thinking what they ought to have done, and chiding themselves for not having done it instead of planning how to do it.

The Position of Greece.

The position of Greece, from the point of view of her King and those of her people who were instrumental in over-riding Mr. Venizelos's desire for intervention, is fully discussed by Mr. Crawfurd Price in the *British Review* (September). The article in question is the first of a series on the Balkans and the War, and it was written with the avowed purpose of lifting "the difficulties which confront us out of the sea of personalities and misunderstandings in which they have been submerged." According to Mr. Price, the vital points of the problem which confronted Greece have never been properly understood by the people of England generally, and by but few writers in this country, while in Greece herself the issues have been lost sight of "by a thousand and one charges and counter charges of treason; by mutual shameless attacks on party leaders, and by a persistent abuse of the freedom of the Press." The writer calls attention to the success which has attended the efforts of the notorious Baron von Schenk, who was responsible for the German campaign in the Press of Athens, and proceeds to a statement of the obligations by which Greece was bound at the outbreak of hostilities. He entirely discountenances the idea that the decision of the Greek General Staff to abstain from intervention was due to Germanophile sentiment. Greece would have moved had she been convinced that Bulgaria would abstain from hostile action. She asked for a guarantee to this effect; it was not forthcoming. Coming to the point where Mr. Venizelos decided that the moment had arrived for Greece to act, Mr. Price says:—

It may be submitted that no constitutional monarch would be justified in engaging the armed forces of his country without the approval of his competent military authorities. If this argument be allowed, it must also be admitted that it was incumbent upon King Constantine to subject the proposal of his Premier to minute examination in order to ascertain whether or not it was feasible from a military point of view. He therefore consulted his General Staff, who were not long in arriving at the conclusion that, from a purely military point of view, the new proposition would involve Greece in risks as great as, if not greater than, the two schemes which had been previously discussed and abandoned.

In regard to this conclusion, he remarks:—

To-day, when the story of our own costly miscalculations has in part been made public, we shall, perhaps, be more inclined to admit that those Athenian soldiers brought to bear upon the problem a greater knowledge than we ourselves possessed, and a sensible recognition of the enormity of the operation.

Articles to Note.

"Behind the Turkish Lines," by Mr. Arthur Ruhl, in the *Daily Mail*, September 7.

"France at War," by Mr. Rudyard Kipling, in the *Daily Telegraph*. The first article appeared on Monday, the second on Wednesday, and the third is announced for to-day.

"The Holy Places of Islam," in the *Outlook*, September 4.

The *New Witness* has arranged for a weekly article on current topics by Mr. G. K. Chesterton, which will appear under the title of "At the Sign of the World's End." The first article appeared yesterday.

THE COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE OFFICE OF EGYPT

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1915. Sept.	1915. August		1333. Julkada.	5675. Tisri.
10	28	Friday	1	2
11	29	Saturday.....	2	3
12	30	Sunday	3	4
13	31	Monday	4	5
	Sept.			
14	1	Tuesday	5	6
15	2	Wednesday	6	7
16	3	Thursday	7	8

Tuesday is the birthday of H.H. Prince Michael of Montenegro, eldest son of Prince Mirko, who was born at Podgoritza, in 1908.

The Right Hon. Sir Arthur Nicolson, Bart., Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and Lady Nicolson, were the guests of the King at Windsor Castle over the week-end, and returned to London on Monday.

Sir William Garstin was the guest of the King at Windsor over the week-end, and returned to London on Monday.

Duke Johann Albert of Mecklenburg, a near relative of the Queen of Bulgaria, arrived last week in Sofia. He was received at the King's private station by the Crown Prince and the German Minister.

Mr. H. O'Beirne was received on Friday by King Ferdinand of Bulgaria, to whom he presented his credentials as Minister Plenipotentiary on a special mission to the Bulgarian Court. M. Radoslavoff, the Prime Minister, was present at this ceremony.

Al-Ahram states that his Highness the Sultan, owing to the repairs going on at Abdin Palace, will not return to Cairo from Alexandria until October.

The Roumanian Minister left London on Wednesday morning for the Continent, where he will spend a few days on leave.

M. Metaxas, formerly Greek Minister in London, Mme. Metaxas, and Mlle. Metaxas arrived in London from Athens last week.

Lady Barclay is leaving London for Bucharest on the 13th inst.

Lady Barclay will be accompanied by her daughter, Lady Kennard, and the latter's son, as well as by Mrs. Rattigan, wife of the Secretary of Legation at Bucharest, who is going out to join her husband.

The Hon. Ronald Lindsay, Under-Secretary for Finance, has returned to Egypt from a short stay in Cyprus.

A telegram has been received from Captain T. H. Parry, M.P., who is in hospital at Alexandria, stating that he is progressing favourably.

Mr. Bennett, who has been appointed Commercial Attaché to the British Legation in Bucharest, is leaving London next week to take up his duties.

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The Egyptian Press announces that Mr. T. C. Macaulay, Sub-Director-General of Customs, who volunteered for service in the Dardanelles, has been wounded and has returned to Alexandria.

An engagement is announced between Edward Cyril Bowden-Smith, Egyptian Civil Service, second son of the Rev. F. H. and Mrs. Bowden-Smith, of Careys, Brockenhurst, Hants, and May Gladys, youngest daughter of the late Colonel Sir Alexander and Lady Moncrieff, of 21, Kensington Park Gardens and Bandirran, Perth, Scotland.

El Miralai Pearson Bey, Director of Surveys and Acting Director of Intelligence in the Sudan Government, is spending a few weeks in Egypt.

Mr. E. S. Coryton, Inspector at El Obeid, is reported to have dislocated his left clavicle, owing to the falling of his horse when on an inspection tour.

The Chief Commandant of Police in Cyprus, Captain Gallagher, D.S.O., is leaving for England on active service. His duties will be performed by Major Baily, Commissioner of Papho, who will be relieved by Captain Fleury, Commandant of Police at Famagusta, the latter's duties being taken over by Mr. S. Televantou.

Captain C. Riding, who has obtained his D.S.O. for gallantry and devotion to duty at the Dardanelles, was formerly in the Egyptian Army.

The promotion has been gazetted of Lieutenant Lord Claud N. Hamilton, D.S.O., Grenadier Guards, to be Captain. Lord Claud Hamilton is chairman of the Khedivial Mail S.S. and Graving Dock Co. and of the Egyptian Hotels, Limited.

The death from wounds in Gallipoli on August 30 is reported of Brigadier-General Paul Aloysius Kenna, V.C., D.S.O., A.D.C. The second son of the late James Kenna, he was born on August 16, 1862, and became lieutenant in the West India Regiment in August, 1886, and three years later was appointed to the 21st Lancers, of which he became lieutenant-colonel in 1906. He won the V.C. while serving with the Nile Expedition in 1898. His deed of gallantry was officially described as follows:—"At the battle of Khartoum, on September 2, 1898, Captain P. A. Kenna, 21st Lancers, assisted Major Crole Wyndham, of the same regiment, by taking him on his horse, behind the saddle (Major Wyndham's horse having been killed in the charge), thus enabling him to reach a place of safety; and after the charge of the 21st Lancers Captain Kenna returned to assist Lieutenant de Montmorency, who was endeavouring to recover the body of Second Lieutenant R. G. Grenfell." For his services in the South African War, which were twice mentioned in dispatches, he was awarded both medals with eight clasps, the D.S.O., and the brevet of Major. In that campaign he served on the Staff and afterwards in command of a column, and was present at the relief of Kimberley and at the actions at Poplar Grove, Dreifontein, Karee Siding, Vet River, Zand River, Johannesburg, Pretoria, Diamond Hill, Reit River, Belfast, and Colesberg. In 1902-4 he again saw active service, this time with the Somaliland Field Force, and was twice mentioned in dispatches. General Kenna married, first, in July, 1895, Lady Cecil Josephine Bertie (who died in October of that year), third daughter of the seventh Earl of Abingdon, and, secondly, in 1905, Angela Mary, youngest daughter of the late Hubert Aloysius Tichborne Hibbert.

The death is announced of Lieut.-Colonel Henry Glanville Allen Moore, commanding the 6th East Yorkshire Regiment, who has been killed at the Dardanelles. He was born in 1865, served in the ranks for almost five years, and gained the grade he held at the time of his death by sheer personal ability. He was a lieutenant at the time of the Nile Expedition (1898), was present at the battle of Omdurman, and received the Egyptian medal with clasp.

Captain A. A. C. Taylor, whose death is reported from Gallipoli, was born on September 28, 1876, and was educated at Sherborne School. He joined the 1st Royal Dublin Fusiliers in 1897, and was gazetted captain in 1902. He went through the South African War, serving with distinction, gaining the Queen's medal with six clasps and the King's medal with two clasps, also being several times severely wounded. After the South African War he was appointed to Egypt, where subsequently he became Acting Lieut.-Governor of the Bahr-el-Ghazal. He afterwards served in the Ministry of the Interior at Cairo under Sir Ronald Graham. At the outbreak of the present war he was appointed Commandant at Port Said. Then he was lent to the Indian Government to form an Arab force for the Persian Gulf campaign at Busreh. He spoke Turkish, Arabic, French, and German. He was decorated with the Order of the Medjidieh.

Captain Charles Edward Koebel, Royal West Surrey Regiment, who died of wounds at Gallipoli on August 24, was the third son of Mr. Oscar Koebel, of Murley Grange, Bishopsteignton, Devon. Born in January, 1878, he received his first appointment in April, 1898, and obtained his company in 1903. From 1908 to 1911 he served as adjutant of his regiment, and in the latter year was appointed for employment with the Egyptian Army.

We regret to record the death of Lieutenant the Hon. Charles Alfred Lister, R.M., Hood Battalion, Royal Naval Division, the second and only surviving son and heir of Lord Ribblesdale, and nephew of Mr. Asquith. He was born in 1887 and entered the diplomatic service. He was nominated an Attaché in 1910, and was appointed to Rome in the following year. In 1913 he was transferred to Constantinople, where he acted as third secretary, and was granted, in 1914, an allowance for knowledge of Turkish. A month later, on the outbreak of the Turkish war, he was placed *en disponibilité*, and enlisted in the army.

Lieutenant Frank Savill Tomkins, 7th Gloucestershire Regiment, who was reported wounded and believed to be killed at the Dardanelles on August 8, was the only son of the late Mr. Alfred Savill Tomkins, of "Holmwood," Caterham Valley, Surrey. He was born on August 28, 1885, and educated at Marlborough College and in France and Germany. He was admitted a solicitor in October, 1908, and practised in Alexandria, Egypt, and in London. He joined the Inns of Court O.T.C. in September last, and obtained a commission in the 7th Gloucestershire Regiment, being promoted lieutenant in March last.

The death is announced from Ramleh, Alexandria, on the 2nd inst., of Mr. R. C. Crafton, who was one of the oldest and most respected of the Anglo-Egyptian residents. He went to Egypt from Croydon in the sixties and retired from business about 1886, continuing to reside in the country. Mr. Crafton was a liberal supporter of most of the local charities, and was interested in every movement for the welfare of the British community. For many years he devoted much time and attention to the British Merchant Seamen's Home, and as an active member of the committee he had the satisfaction of seeing the success of that institution, which has for more than thirty years been largely used and much appreciated by those for whom it was started. He was seventy-six years of age.

Archæology has suffered a serious loss in the death of Mr. James Dixon, lieutenant in the Border Regiment, who was killed in action at the Dardanelles on August 9. Mr. Dixon, says the *Daily Telegraph*, was a draughtsman of uncommon ability, and had hitherto exercised his talent chiefly in the direction of archæological work, having assisted as excavator and draughtsman in various archæological expeditions to Egypt during the last few years. Although still in his twenties, he had worked for the Egyptian Government in Nubia, for the Egypt Exploration Fund (with Professor Naville and Mr. Peet) at Abydos, and with Mr. Wellcome in the Sudan, and his handiwork is or will be seen in the publications of these expeditions. The Egypt Exploration Fund is most especi-

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ally bound to regret his loss, as it was hoped that in the future he would do much work for British archæology in Egypt.

The death took place last week of Lieut.-General Charles Augustus Goodfellow, V.C., a veteran of the Indian Mutiny. General Goodfellow also served in Abyssinia in 1868, and was mentioned in despatches.

Lieutenant Christopher W. Lowther, Westmorland and Cumberland Yeomanry, a nephew of Sir Gerard Lowther, was dangerously wounded on Thursday last in the right lung by a piece of shell. He is reported to be going on as well as can be expected, but it must be some time yet before he can be said to be out of danger.

Major H. Phillips Fletcher, of the Middlesex Hussars, has been awarded the "Croix de Guerre," on the recommendation of Admiral Dartige Fournet, of the French Mediterranean Squadron. His name has also appeared in the "Ordres du jour," which in France corresponds to being "mentioned in dispatches." Major Fletcher has been specially lent to the Aviation Maritime as Military Observer, and for the last four months has been making aerial reconnaissances from the coast of Turkish positions and dropping bombs on munition factories in Asia Minor, Syria, and Arabia.

Mr. Naville, the manager of the Beyrout offices of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, who was reported to have been taken prisoner by the Turks, has arrived in Athens from Constantinople, and is proceeding to Egypt.

Lance-Corporal A. Brown, of the Imperial Ottoman Bank staff, has received a commission as lieutenant in the Army Ordnance Department.

The funeral of Mr. T. B. Etherington Smith, of the Egyptian Ministry of Finance, whose death from diphtheria occurred at Cairo on the 20th ult., took place on the following morning and was largely attended. The service was conducted by the Rev. C. T. Horan, Chaplain of All Saints'. Among those present were Lord Edward Cecil, the Hon. R. Lindsay, Mr. E. H. Goschen, and many other officials of the Ministry of Finance as well as of the Ministry of Education.

M. Bonesco, First Secretary of the Roumanian Legation, who spent the last week-end in North Wales, returned to Cromwell Road on Tuesday.

In an account of the work done by the British Refugees from Turkey Fund, the name of Mrs. Frank Barker was omitted from the list of members of the executive committee. As a matter of fact, Mrs. Barker is now vice-president of the Fund, and takes a very active part in the work, the meetings of the committee being held at her house.

Mr. W. Mackenzie, formerly of Smyrna, is now in Egypt, where he has received a commission as first lieutenant in the Egyptian Labour Corps.

Mr. Arthur P. Tully, of Constantinople, who was some time ago exiled to Konia, has, we hear, since been removed still further into the interior, to a point some two or three hours away from the railway.

The Rev. James Duggan, the well-known Modernist, whose death took place last week, served as an Army chaplain in Cyprus in 1877.

The late Mr. Alfred Hambley Rowe, of Eaton Place, S.W., and formerly of Cairo, left estate valued at £23,558.

Mr. Oliver Bainbridge has just received from the King of Montenegro a large autographed photograph which his Majesty sent him with an assurance of his sincere regards.

Bombardier H. H. Binns has been granted a commission, and left England last Saturday week for the Dardanelles as interpreter.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, etc.

The appointment of Sir Henry Babington Smith, K.C.B., C.S.I., to the British Financial Commission which is proceeding to the United States, is officially announced.

Mr. R. S. Peterson, of the Egyptian Ministry of Finance, has been appointed to the post of Sub-Director-General of Accounts, rendered vacant by the death of Mr. Etherington-Smith.

Mr. F. C. Madden, Professor of Surgery in the Egyptian Government School of Medicine, has been appointed operating surgeon to the British forces in Egypt.

Bimbashi Lewis, of the Intelligence Department, Sudan Government, who has been serving for some time at the Dardanelles, has returned to Khartoum and resumed his duties.

El Lewa H. A. Bray Pasha, Principal Medical Officer, El Kaimakam C. C. Macnamara Bey, Officer Commanding Equatorial Battalion, and El Bimbashi G. P. L. Cosens, Sudan Government, have been struck off the strength of the Egyptian Army.

El Kaimakam J. Powell Bey, M.B., Medical Corps, Egyptian Army, has been granted the temporary rank of Miralai.

El Kaimakam S. S. Butler Bey, Sudan Government, has been struck off the strength of the Egyptian Army.

The following appointments and transfers in the Egyptian Army are announced :—

El Kaimakam D. C. Percy-Smith Bey, D.S.O., Officer Comanding Nuba Territorials, to be Officer Commanding Equatorial Battalion; El Kaimakam A. Craufurd Bey, 13th Sudanese, to be Officer Commanding 12th Sudanese; El Kaimakam H. V. V. Kyrke Bey, Deputy Assistant Adjutant-General, to be Assistant Adjutant-General; El Kaimakam G. R. Worthington-Wilmer Bey, 9th Sudanese, to be Officer Commanding 4th Battalion; El Bimbashi E. H. M. O'Farrell, Arab Battalion, to 1st Battalion; El Bimbashi D. Mills, 10th Sudanese, to Arab Battalion.

El Lewa N. M. Smyth Pasha, V.C., Officer Commanding Khartoum District, has been struck off the strength of the Egyptian Army (temporarily).

The *Egyptian Mail* announces that Major Blakeney, Sub-Director-General of the Egyptian State Railways, who has returned to the British Army, has been promoted lieutenant-colonel.

Captain L. S. Lloyd, the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, Captain J. H. Miller, the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment, Captain Guy G. F. F. Greville, the Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians), and Lieutenant Edward G. Warren, the Northamptonshire Regiment, have been attached to the Egyptian Army as special service officers, and granted the temporary rank of Bimbashi. The services of the two first have been placed at the disposal of the Sudan Government, and the two latter have been attached to Khartoum district for duty.

The *Egyptian Gazette* announces (August 19) :—The Sultan has conferred the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Nile upon Rateb Pasha, ex-Sirdar of the Egyptian Army, and the Second Class of the same Order on Mr. Higgs, of the Ministry of Finance, who intends to retire from the Government service. His Highness also conferred the rank of Pasha on Mahmoud Hamdi el Arnaouti Bey, of Cairo.

Lieut.-Colonel Gentcheff, formerly commanding the First Cavalry Regiment in Sofia, has been appointed Military Attaché in Berlin, in succession to Major Dotcheff, who has been recalled.

Captain Nikola Christitch, a distinguished young cavalry officer, has been appointed Serbian Military Attaché with the Italian Army.

A message from Constantinople states that Ahmed Bandeddin Bey has been appointed Naval Attaché to the Turkish Embassy in Berlin.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

BIRTH.

GRIFFITH.—On September 3, at Glanmor, Alexandria, Egypt, the wife of G. Herbert Griffith, Egyptian State Railways, of a son (stillborn).

MARRIAGE.

BENTWICH—FRANKLIN.—On Tuesday, September 7, at the New West End Synagogue, by the Rev. Joseph F. Stern, assisted by the Rev. L. Geffen, Norman de Mattos Bentwich, elder son of Mr. Herbert Bentwich, of 21, Cavendish Road West, St. John's Wood, to Helen Caroline (Mamie), younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur E. Franklin, of 35, Porchester Terrace, W.

DEATHS.

CRAFTON.—On September 2, at Ramleh, Alexandria, suddenly, Ralph Caldwell Crafton, late of Croydon, aged 71.

CLEAVER.—On August 24, at Dunraven, Belfast, John Martin Cleaver, B.A., second son of John Cleaver and Secretary of the Egypt General Mission; aged 43.

D'AUBUZ.—On the 4th inst., at Cairo, Egypt, James Claude Baril D'Aubuz, aged 46.

HIRSCH.—On the 25th ult., at the Deaconesses' Hospital, Alexandria, Frederick Hirsch, aged sixty-two.

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GERMAN INTRIGUES IN PERSIA.

If ever British diplomacy is called upon to divide its activities into successes and failures there can be no doubt as to the category to which its efforts in Persia belong. Eight years ago Great Britain and Russia reminded one another and the world at large that Persia was of such particular interest to both of them that they regarded it as a duty imposed upon them to make themselves responsible for her welfare, and to allow no other country to interfere with their Persian preserves. In the war that has broken out between these two Powers and Germany and her Turkish vassal, the Persians had no direct interest; they had no reason to be friendly towards the Turks, who have for generations been a thorn in their side where the respective countries march together, and everything pointed to the easy observance of neutrality by Persia, with marked leanings of friendliness towards the two Powers who had charged themselves with the protection of Persian interests. An inquiry into the situation in Persia to-day reveals the uncomfortable fact that the Turco-German combination has only had to raise its little finger in order to have things almost entirely its own way in that country. Anglo-Russian interests as well as Persian interests merely required that nothing should disturb the peace of Persia during the European war. What has actually happened is that from one end of the country to the other constituted authority has been set at defiance. Turkish armies or their Kurdish counterpart have carried fire and sword through North-Western Persia, while posing with no little success as the friends and liberators of the Persians. Tribesmen are up in arms against the Gendarmerie, and in certain districts have inflicted serious reverses upon it. They have threatened the chief port in the Persian Gulf, and can lay claim to the murder of British officers and a Russian Vice-Consul, and to an attack on a British Consul-General. Persia is as far from being in the condition required by her own interests or those of the British and Russian Governments as she well could be, short of an actual declaration of war. This state of affairs is, of course, attributable to German intrigues, but it is none the less a triumph, from the German point of view, over the diplomacy of Great Britain and Russia. If Anglo-Russian dealings with Persia had lived up to the spirit of the Convention of 1907, it would have been impossible for the Germans to have suborned the Persians from a friendship of eight years in less than that number of months. The fact is that, in spite of a traditional understanding between Persia and Great Britain, the attitude of British diplomacy during the last few years has resulted in the complete estrangement of both people and Government. A few Germans have only had to enter the country with baggage suitable to their errand in order to carry more influence with officials and with tribesmen than has ever belonged to the whole of British representation in Persia.

With the consciousness of failure upon it it would have been thought that Anglo-Russian diplomacy would be at particular pains not to allow anything to prejudice its position in Persia for the period of the war. As the event proves, it has taken no steps either to rehabilitate itself in the eyes of the Persians by a display of zeal on their behalf or even to give the most cursory attention to Persian affairs that British and Russian interests alike required. Persia is financially dependent on the two Powers. At the outbreak of war last year practically all trade was stopped. At first navigation was rendered precarious by the presence of German cruisers on the high seas. When this menace was removed, unrest among the Arabs in Southern Persia proved an obstacle to the revival of trade, and Persia's export of opium and tobacco was affected. Internal conditions were aggravated by the temporary stoppage of certain imports from Russia, which led to a sudden rise in the price of commodities in general use. The efforts of the Persian Government before the war to have its financial needs adequately met by the two Powers had met with no success, and it was called upon to face the universal monetary crisis with no resources at its back. Even if in other respects the two Powers had shown themselves considerate towards Persian susceptibilities, it would not have been difficult for interested parties to build misunderstandings on their apparent indifference to Persia's empty treasury. Before long the Teheran Government and, we may be sure, all local exchequers were so hard pressed for funds that anyone who was able to offer the Persians ready money had at once established a claim to be a real friend of the country. The Germans were quick enough to seize their opportunity, and it will remain a mystery for all time how Anglo-Russian diplomacy could have allowed itself to be so completely forestalled as it has been in Persia. A recent telegram from Teheran announced that the Swedish Chief of the Gendarmerie had informed the Government that he would be obliged to disband his force, if it was to be kept any longer in arrears of pay. We have never laboured under any illusion regarding the Gendarmerie under Swedish control, but we have accepted it as the only alternative to a force under the command of British-Indian officers. So long as it remained the chief organization in the country for the maintenance of order it ought certainly to have been assured of the strong support of Great Britain and Russia. But so lightly has its responsibilities weighed upon Anglo-Russian diplomacy that it is content to see both the loyalty and efficiency of the Gendarmerie undermined by a handful of German agents, whom a word would have caused to be expelled from the country at any moment during the last twelve months.

It is to be feared that the situation in Persia has been allowed to become so bad that it will have to be much worse before it is better. Whether at this stage Great Britain and Russia can hope to convince the Teheran Government that they are now prepared to assume their responsibilities seriously remains to be seen. The effort, if it be made, will come at an inopportune moment. To their conviction that the agreement between Russia and Great Britain was arrived at merely to pave the way for the partition of the country the Persians now add disbelief in the invincibility of Russia owing to events in Azerbaijan, and above all in Europe. Individually they are probably well supplied for the time being with German money; their religious faith has been worked upon with some degree of success, and they may even have been persuaded to believe that the hour has now come for Persia to strike a blow for her deliverance from Anglo-Russian "thraldom." The idea sounds ridiculous to Western ears; but in the eyes of the misguided Persians it will enhance the reputation of the Germans who tender the advice. Their views of what is happening in Europe will be derived almost exclusively from German sources, and so long as their belief in it remains unshaken, why should they place any reliance in the statements of the two Powers they mistrust? It is obvious that if the people are in such a frame of mind anything may happen in Persia. Some precautions are understood to have been taken already; but the next step ought to be the complete overhauling of Anglo-Russian diplomacy in the country. Until Great Britain can regain the confidence of the Government and people there can be no security in Persia, and no guarantee that British commitments there may not have to be indefinitely extended at short notice. But we shall not win the confidence of the Persians until we have recognized the mistakes that have been made in our dealings with them in the past.

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THE LAST CHARGE OF FUAD PASHA.

Fuad Pasha, who was Grand Vizier of Turkey from 1861 to 1866, in the reign of Sultan Abdul Aziz (1861-1875), was the son of a Turkish poet, and was born in 1814. After practising medicine for some few years, he entered the diplomatic service of his country, and was for a time First Secretary at the Embassy in London. In 1852 he was appointed Foreign Minister, a position for which he was certainly better qualified than many of his countrymen who have held it, having studied history, international law, and political economy closely, and having a remarkable command of French, the language of diplomacy. His hostility to Russia, especially in connection with the "Holy Places," earned him the active enmity of the Tsar, and led to his temporary retirement; but in 1855 he was reinstated and elevated to the rank of Pasha, and six years later he became Grand Vizier. Among his countrymen he still enjoys a high reputation as a statesman—and deservedly so. For, although he made mistakes, they were no more than others made by statesmen of acknowledged greatness; and, though he failed to save his country from the dangers that he clearly saw threatening it, the blame for that can hardly be laid at his door. It is at least safe to say that had the Turks followed the advice contained in his "political testament" Turkey would to-day find herself in a much happier position than that she actually occupies. This document, with its pathetic confession of things left undone, makes somewhat sad reading at the present time. But it is full of interest, and we believe our readers will be glad of an opportunity of studying it. It was originally published by the Turkish Press of Constantinople soon after the death of Fuad Pasha, and from that source an Arabic version was published in *Al Jawaib*, the organ of the late Ahmed Faris. It was reprinted about a year ago by certain Arabic journals, and the following translation has been sent us by a correspondent formerly resident in Syria. As will be seen, it is in the form of a letter addressed to the Sultan, and, though the advice it gives is rather in the nature of counsels of perfection, it is marked by obvious sincerity:—

Your Majesty,—I have but a few days or hours of my life left, and I desire, therefore, to spend these last few moments in fulfilling a sacred duty, and in expressing to your Majesty my thoughts, which are burdened with regret at the calamitous state our country has reached as the result of rash and stupid policy. And when these my words reach your Majesty I shall most probably have departed this life, and you will then listen to me without questioning my loyalty; for the voice which speaks from the grave is one of sincerity and truthfulness.

God has charged you with an arduous and responsible, but at the same time a glorious and honourable work, and in order that you might carry it out properly you must know this painful fact—that the Turkish Empire is in danger! The rapid development of our neighbours and the grievous mistakes made by our predecessors have brought us to our present exceedingly critical state. This compels your Majesty to lay aside an antiquated policy, and to take a new course by which the country may be free from the danger of downfall and disruption, and by which also it will be delivered from perils and risks.

Some unwise people attempt to convince your Majesty that our present resources are sufficient to enable us to recover our past glory and former dignity. What a grave mistake, and what unbounded credulity! Had our neighbours remained unchanged from the condition in which they were in the time of our ancestors, it would not be impossible for your Majesty to reach the high level of your predecessors, and to make the European kings subject to your sovereignty. But our neighbours have greatly developed from what they were two centuries ago, and have advanced so much that they have left us behind, and our slight improvement is nothing to be compared with theirs. No doubt the country has made improvement on its condition in the days of your predecessors, but this improvement proportionately falls below our present needs.

Your Majesty, perhaps your greatness and power is equal to that of your forefathers, or, perchance, you have excelled them, but this is not sufficient to enable you to retain your position in Europe; for you must be ready when occasion arises to equal your enemies, and even to be able to treat them with disdain. In other words, your Empire must be rich like England, well-trained like France, and possessing an army like Russia; otherwise it is in danger of a speedy fall and ruin. The question is not merely one of making rapid improvement, but of that improvement being on a level with that of the European nations. Your Majesty has all the means and materials which will enable you to put the country in the first rank of all European Powers; but in order to reach this result we have to change all our civil and political codes of law, as although a great number of them were useful in their day they have become harmful at present. Being able to progress and go forward to perfection, Man should continue his efforts in improving his conditions. Fortunately, this is in harmony with the essence of the Mohammedan religion, which contains all the truthful doctrines that are essential to advance in knowledge, and to uplift humanity. Those who pretend that our religion retards the progress of our country are not true Moslems. Every other religion except Islam contains dogmas and tenets interfering with the training of thought and the illumination of mind, but Islam is free from all these limitations. It makes it incumbent upon its followers to keep pace with other civilized peoples of the world, and to endeavour to do their best in training their mental faculties and in searching after knowledge and science, not only in Arabia and among themselves, but also in foreign countries, even if it be in China and other ends of the world. Let nobody imagine that the philosophy of Islam differs from that of other nations. Philosophy is one in every place, and its sun, which enlightens the mind, is one, too; and Islam, I believe, is the declarer of facts and the revealer of sciences. Every useful invention and all fresh progress, everywhere and in every nation, is for the Moslems. Therefore, nothing hinders us from appropriating the European codes of law. I, personally, knowing very well the essence of our religion, and being familiar with its facts, have well digested the subject with which I deal; otherwise I should have been treacherous in speaking against the interests of my religion, my country, and my sovereign in the last moments of my life, just as I am about to depart from this world, and to stand in the presence of the Just Judge.

I am fully assured that not a single law from the code in Europe is contrary to our religion—absolutely not one. It is my sincere belief that in order that Islam may be on the safe side we should receive these codes as soon as possible; for no nation which desires to retain its existence can afford to dispense with such laws. I here repeat again that if your Majesty permit this essential change in the laws of the country which are not in opposition to the tenets of our sacred religion you will do Islam the greatest possible legal service, and render the nation a benefit of which your illustrious fathers could not conceive.

This grave task includes several problems which my limited time and strength make me now unfit to consider. But your Majesty can attend to them if you are only willing to benefit by the services of that great man (Ali Pasha) whom I had the honour to have as my friend and counsellor, for whom I am praying God to prolong his life in your Majesty's service; for he has a wider experience than any other concerning the means of saving the Empire. And these things that I have written to your Majesty are not my own ideas alone, but I have explained them to him, and they have received his approval. Therefore, give him your entire trust, for the confidence of the Sultan strengthens the arm of his Vizier. Moreover, I beg your Majesty to help this faithful Minister, with whose skill, sagacity, prudence, and knowledge you cannot afford to dispense, and do not allow the folly of his colleagues to retard his resolution and weaken his energy. Nothing more hinders the determination than to be compelled to be a co-worker with those who cannot appreciate one's ideas or comprehend one's purposes.

And now in regard to foreign countries. As we are unable to wage war against them, we should, therefore, try to be on friendly terms with them and be in alliance with them. In order to safeguard our rights, we ought to possess power, sagacity, and courage in a degree surpassing that shown by our past sovereigns, by whom nations and countries were subdued. When one should seek to find the best ally among the European Powers, Great Britain will be always found occupying the premier position; for her policy and friendship are stable, like her laws. In the past she has rendered us magnificent services, and we cannot dispense with her help for the future. Whatever changes may take place, the English people, who are the most admirable of all other nations, and who are more trustworthy, should be our first and last ally. If I should have been asked to choose between England's friendship and the Porte losing a part of her dominions, I would have preferred the latter to the former.

France is an ally that we should always treat as far as we can with respect and reverence, not only because she can give us the best help, but also because she can do us the greatest harm. She is fond of magnificence or glory, even if it be in her foes. The best means of keeping on terms with the noble French people is to coincide with their thoughts and ideas, manifesting a friendly spirit towards them. Should France turn from us some day and show herself as our foe, that would be a cause for our final destruction.

(To be continued.)

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SERBIAN MACEDONIA.

AN HISTORICAL SURVEY.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—I am not a politician, and if I venture to write these lines on a subject of such a highly political character as the Macedonian question it is rather from a historical point of view, and in my quality of historian—literary historian, if you will—that I propose to undertake the task.

It is astonishing how certain erroneous ideas become deeply rooted in public opinion, and continue to prevail, in spite of all evidence to the contrary. One of these popular ideas is that Macedonia is historically Bulgarian. Macedonia—according to popular belief—belonged to the Bulgarians for centuries, and if at times she came under the rule of some other nation—the Serbs for example—this domination was of a purely ephemeral character.

There are, however, many ideas flattering to the national Bulgarian pride which were at one time generally accepted, but which have since been proved to be pure legends. It was believed, for example, that the ancient Slav language was the Bulgarian tongue. It is, however, generally recognised to-day that the latter was another ancient Slav dialect. It was also thought that the Slav writers of the tenth and eleventh centuries of the eastern portion of the Balkan peninsula were all Bulgarians. Recent investigations, however, have shown that several of them were not. In the course of this article I hope to disprove many more such erroneous ideas. I opine that the belief in a historically Bulgarian Macedonia is also a legend; and I hope that a trustworthy account of Serbian and Bulgarian domination and influence in Macedonia may bear out my contention.

I.—First Period (861-969).

(The Bulgarians are in possession of Macedonia for 108 years.)

There are four periods in Macedonian history which may be of interest in this connection. The first comprises the ninth and tenth centuries. When the Slavs colonised the Balkan Peninsula (fifth to the seventh century) two States were soon formed in the eastern part of the Peninsula, Bulgaria and Serbia. The first was in the east, and comprised the territory lying between the Danube and the Balkans; the original Bulgarian inhabitants were a Mongol tribe, who had became Slav on their first contact with the Slav tribes whom they found in the conquered country. The second was in the west, and extended from the upper reaches of the Drina to the Adriatic littoral in the south; the Serbian people there were pure Slavs. Macedonia stood between the two. Politically it was neither Serbian nor Bulgarian, but simply a Byzantine province. Ethnographically it was Slav, that is to say, of the same race as the Serbs or as the ancient Slavs of Bulgaria.

In the ninth century the Bulgarians conquered Macedonia. It was the Emperor Boris (852-889) who partially conquered it about the year 861. His successor, Symeon (893-927) took possession of the whole. The Emperor Peter (927-969) lost nearly half of the new conquests, and after his death the whole of Macedonia was lost to Bulgaria. Thus the Bulgarians possessed Macedonia from 861 to 969.

Nevertheless several historians affirm that Bulgarian rule in Macedonia lasted longer than this period. The reign of the Emperor Samuel in Macedonia (967 to 1014) and of his successors (up to 1018) was also, it is said, a Bulgarian reign.

I shall not attempt to discuss the question in detail. It is enough to say that recent historical investigations prove that the Empire of Samuel and his successors was an independent Macedonian empire, and not a Bulgarian one. Modern Serbian historians (v. Prokic, Postanak jedne slovenske carevine, Glas S. K. Akademije 76, 1908) maintain this with Byzantine chronicles in hand, as well as foreign historians, such as Jirecek, the greatest historian of the Serbs and Bulgars. In is, in fact, quite characteristic to point to the wide divergence of views between what Jirecek formerly wrote on the reign of Samuel (Geschichte der Bulgaren, 1870) and what he wrote quite recently (Geschichte der Serben, 1911). Here we have another of those legends already referred to, or, at least, one of those Bulgarian theories, gravely contested.

The new conception of the reign of Samuel is, moreover, very plausible. When Samuel founded his Macedonian empire (976) Bulgaria was already conquered by Byzantium (971). How, then, could an independent empire have been under the domination of a conquered province?

Therefore, the Bulgarians, during this first period, were in possession of Macedonia for 108 years (861-969).

II.—Second Period (XIIIth-XIVth Centuries).

(The Serbian Reign lasts 112 years, and has a great influence on the Country. The Bulgarian Conquest lasts sixteen years, leaving no traces.)

The second period comprises the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. The Bulgarians freed themselves from the Byzantine yoke in 1186, and again conquered Macedonia from the Greeks in 1230, under the reign of Jean Asen II. They kept it till 1246, when the Greeks took it from them again. On two more occasions—the second time under Constantine Asen (1257-1277), when a Serb occupied the throne of Bulgaria—the Bulgarians, at war with the Greeks, made momentary raids into Macedonia. These, obviously, cannot be considered as having constituted a domination. Therefore, in the thirteenth century, the Bulgarians reigned in Macedonia for sixteen years. But then ended for all time their rule in Macedonia. "After Constantine Asen" (says Jirecek, in "Geschichte der Bulgaren," 376) "no Bulgarian Emperor could extend his power over this province." The Bulgarian episode in Macedonian history having been closed, we may now reckon the number of years that it lasted. The total is 124 years.

Now come the Serbs. Up to this time the Serbian State had had no part in Macedonian history. Owing to its geographical position, surrounded as it was by powerful rivals, it developed more slowly. It had no place in Balkan history as a great Power until after the other States had played their ephemeral rôles.

It is wrong to suppose, as is generally done, that the Serbs only held Macedonia under the reign of Dushan (1331-1335). Macedonia formed part of the Serbian State long before. I am not thinking of King Uros, who, in 1258, had Skoplje, Prilep, and Kichevo in his power—let us suppose that it was the same rôle as Constantine Asen played in Eastern Macedonia—but I am thinking of King Milutin (1282-1321), who really held Macedonia. In the course of a brilliant offensive against Byzantium he took, in 1282, Skoplje, Ovcepolje, Zletovo, Bregalniza, and a large part of Eastern and Western Macedonia as far as the district of Kustendji, which he held in 1300. His son, Stephan (1321-1331), went still further south and took Veles and Ishtip, approaching Strumnitza and threatening Ochrida. Emperor Dushan, the greatest of Serbian monarchs, had, as is known, the whole of Macedonia, not only with Prilep and Ochrida, but also with Strumnitza, Drama, Kavalla, and the district of Salonika, as well as Thessaly, Acarnamia, Epirus, and Albania. His empire was kept intact under the reign of his son Urosh (1355-1371). In 1371 the Turks conquered the Serbs, and Macedonia became vassal to them, whilst the north was still a free State. Neverthless, the kings and princes of Serbia, although vassals, still reigned in their Macedonian provinces. One of them, the celebrated King Marko, reigned there, with Prilep as his capital, until 1394. Then it was that Serbian rule in Macedonia came to an end, although until much later, up till the middle of the fifteenth century, the influence of the Serbian princely houses was still felt in Macedonia, when "Empress Mara," daughter of the Serbian despot, resided in Seres.

Altogether the Serbians reigned in Macedonia for 112 years (1282-1394). Is this less than the duration of Bulgarian rule? Undoubtedly. But, firstly, the difference is very little, and, secondly, it is not merely duration that has to be taken into account. In order to appreciate the true value of Serbian and Bulgarian rules in Macedonia we must consider the results, not only their duration. Supposing two men are given the same work to do, and a fairly long time to do it in; if one does it better in 112 hours than the other in 124, to which of the two would you award the palm? It is in this way that we must judge the value of these two historical facts. What is important is to see which of the two, Serbs or Bulgars, were more successful in assimilating the Slav element in Macedonia.

It is obvious that the Serbs have the advantage of the Bulgars in that they possessed Macedonia at a later period than the Bulgars. For a State to possess a province in the ninth century is not at all the same thing as possessing it in the fourteenth century. What were the Bulgars in the ninth century? Was the national sentiment of the mixed tribe, half Slav and half Mongol, as the Bulgars then were, sufficiently strong and attractive to assimilate the pure Slav element which they dominated? Certainly not. The Bulgars of these early ages were no more than simple conquerors. The Serbs, however, are in quite a different position. They held Macedonia for nearly six centuries after the "golden age" of the Bulgars had passed in that country, and many changes took place during this long period. In contrast to the Bulgarians, the national conscience of the Serbs was, at this period, defined, crystallised, and definitely formed. In entering Macedonia the Serbs were fully conscious of being Serbs, and quite confident that their Macedonian brethren would soon be the same people as themselves. They introduced an exemplary administration. They made equal laws for the citizens of the old State and for those of the new province. They brought an eminently national literature. They facilitated the development of commerce. In a word, they had at their disposal all the means afforded by the high State civilization of the period for assimilating the Slav element in Macedonia, which was so much akin to them. This is the reason why the Serbians were more likely to succeed in Macedonia during their 112 years than the Bulgarians could have been even if they had had 200 years.

Moreover, Serbian rule in Macedonia has left far deeper traces than that of the Bulgar.

The Serbian kings and emperors founded monasteries—splendid specimens of ancient Serbian art—in numbers that Macedonia had not known till then. I have not time to enumerate them all. But it suffices to say that there are a quantity of them round about Komanovo, around Skoplje, Slaviste, Lesnovo, Tetovo, Prilep, and Seres. The line stretches uninterruptedly as far as the Bulgarian frontier, as far as Mount Athos, as far as Albania. They are not isolated monasteries, but clusters of beautiful architectural works, miniatures of Mount Athos, which are scattered over the right and left banks of the Vardar. The Russian Archæological Commission, during its researches in 1900, found that Serbian architecture was predominant in western, central, and eastern Macedonia. The president of the Commission, the Academician, Kondakoff, expressly stated that the style of the mediæval art of the real Macedonia (as far as the Drama) was no longer Byzantine, but Greco-Slav, in other words, Greco-Serbian. "All that the Slavs have given to Macedonian archi-

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tecture," he said, "is marked by undeniably Serbian influence." Here you have the remains of Serbian rule; but where are those of the Bulgarians?

Serbian literature has left in Macedonia traces no less deep than those of art. The literary monuments left by the Serbs are in a crushing majority compared with those of the Bulgars. The Russian savant, Grigorovich, during his journey to Ochrida in 1874, found Serbian manuscripts and inscriptions all round about this town, which the Bulgarians claim as eminently theirs. "Traces of Serbian influence are to be found in all the manuscripts and inscriptions of the 14th and 15th centuries that Grigorovich saw at Ochrida and in the neighbourhood," says Jirecek, in summing up the investigations of the Russian savant (Geschichte der Bulgaren, 466). The Bulgarian, Jordan Ivanoff, was obliged to publish many Serbian manuscripts and inscriptions executed in memory of the Serbian kings in his book, entitled, "Bulgarian Antiquities of Macedonia" (1906). If we were to count how many of the manuscripts, emanating from Macedonia, were Serbian and how many Bulgarian, I am sure that the advantage would be on the side of Serbian literature. If we were to reckon merely the manuscripts which are to be found in Bulgarian libraries, we could obtain an adequate idea. Three catalogues of this kind have been published, at any rate, as far as I am aware. The catalogue that Sprostranoff compiled of the library of the monastery at Rilo (1902) makes no mention of the origin of the manuscripts. The catalogue that the same author made of the library of the Holy Synod in Sofia (1900) does so in an inadequate manner. Thus, we cannot ascertain the number of the manuscripts of Macedonian origin in these catalogues, nor the proportion of the Serbian and Bulgarian languages in them. Nevertheless, there is not much to fear for our argument, since the general proportion is in its favour. The first catalogue includes nineteen items in the Bulgarian language, and, altogether, seventy in the Serbian; the latter figure, it is true, includes ten items which are not, strictly speaking, "manuscripts," but printed books or modern manuscripts. The second catalogue comprises twenty-three Bulgarian manuscripts and eighty-nine Serbian ones, which fact does not prevent the author of the catalogue from saying in the preface that they are "the remains of *our* ancient literature." That is to say, the remains of Bulgarian literature. In the third catalogue, that of the National Library of Sofia, which represents, as the author, Prof. Coneff, says, "the largest and most important collection of manuscripts existing in Bulgaria," the origin of the manuscripts is carefully marked, and here we can find what we seek. Now, there are twenty-five manuscripts of Macedonian origin. But of these twenty-five manuscripts, twenty-four are Serbian, and only one is not. And, again, that one (No. 97) is *Serbo-Bulgarian* and not Bulgarian. Note again that these Serbian manuscripts—it is Coneff himself who says so—are from Skoplje, Veles, Ishtip, Strumnitza, Debar, Prilep, and Ochrida, and Bulgarian savants themselves assert it. No better proof could be afforded of the immense superiority of Serbian over Bulgarian literary activity in Macedonia.

The popular Serbian folk songs, which are the pride of our literature, and which the best English poets, from Walter Scott to Owen Meredith, have translated, are also a striking proof of how deep is the furrow the Serbians have dug on Macedonian soil. To those who know these songs it is clear that the Macedonian cycle ranks very high among them. It is not only the kings Milutin and Stephan and the emperors Dushan and Urosh, during whose reigns Macedonia formed part of the Serbian State, who are sung there; but also the little Serbian despots, kings, and princes who governed certain Macedonian provinces are thus glorified. The principal heroes of the Serbian epopee are King Vukashin, who reigned in Prilep; the despot Ugljesa, who held Drama; the *voivode* Momcilo, whose country was between the Strumnitza and Thrace; the *voivode* Hrelja, whose capital was Strumnitza; Ljutica Bogdan, which State lay between Seres and the Vardar; the Bey Kostadin, with Ishtip and Kratovo in his power; and the list might be still further extended. Finally, to mention only the most celebrated personage of the Macedonian cycle and of all Serbian folklore, the national hero of our poetic legend, the Roland of our epopee, Kraljevic Marko was also a Serbian king of Macedonia, with Prilep as his residence. Not only the Macedonian kings and princes, but the whole Macedonian country also is sung in this epopee, from Skoplje to Salonika, and from the Maritza in Bulgaria to Scutari in Albania. Where, then, was this epopee sung? It is so natural to think, and the most conscientious studies have shown, that the real cradle of Serbian folk-songs is Macedonia. But what people have sung it? Was it the Bulgarians who created this beautiful Serbian epopee?

Third Period (16th-18th Century).

(The Serbs enjoy National Autonomy for 210 years.)

The third period covers the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. During this time Macedonia was a simple Turkish province, just as Bulgaria was from 1393 and Serbia from 1459.

Nevertheless, the Serbs had during this same period a great national institution. It was the Serbian Patriarchate of Pec (Ipek). The Serbian Church, which, until the beginning of the eighteenth century, stood under the jurisdiction of the Patriarchate of Constantinople, was erected in 1219 to an independent Archbishropic, an autocephalous church, and was recognised as such by the Patriarch at Constantinople. In 1346 this Archbishopric was raised to the dignity of a Patriarchate, a dignity which was shortly afterwards (1375) recognised by the Patriarch of Constantinople. It lasted until 1459, i.e., until the end of the Serbian State. It was then subordinated to the Archbishopric of Ochrida, which was also independent of the Patriarchate of Constantinople. But in 1557 it was restored, and all its ancient rights were recognised by the Porte and by the Greek Church. This new Serbian Patriarchate lasted until 1867, when it was again suppressed and included in the Greek Patriarchate at Constantinople. Thus the new Serbian Patriarchate lasted 210 years.

This Patriarchate comprised many Serbian districts, and, among them, a large part of Macedonia. Tetovo, Skoplje, Kratovo, Kochani, Zletovo, Ishtip, and Radoviste were included therein, that is to say, the whole of northern Macedonia on both sides of the Vardar river. It is true that Southern Macedonia was not included, and that Ochrida, Monastir, Debar, Prilep, and Veles were beyond its spiritual jurisdiction, and remained under the jurisdiction of the Archbishopric of Ochrida. Nevertheless, a large part of Macedonia belonged to the national Serbian Church during 210 years of Ottoman rule.

The importance of the new Serbian Patriarchate is significant as regards Serbian claims on Macedonia. But it is above all important owing to the fact that Macedonia was attributed to the new Serbian institution in accordance with the principle of nationality.

It is only necessary to compare the new Serbian Patriarchate (1557-1767) with the ancient one (1346-1459) to see that it is in agreement with this principle and no other that Macedonia was given to the Serbian Church. The ancient Partiarchate comprised the countries belonging to the old Serbian State—that is to say, the Serbia of to-day (with Macedonia) and the districts to the south. It did not extend beyond the central part of the Balkanic peninsula, and all lands lying to the west, Bosnia, for instance, were beyond its frontiers. The new Patriarchate, however, did comprise this latter part. It did not only extend to Serbia (with Macedonia), but also to Bosnia, Herzegovina, Dalmatia, Slavonia, and even to Southern Hungary, in as far as it was populated by Slavs. All these countries were under Ottoman rule, and all of them were Serbs by nationality. When the Porte agreed to the restoration of the national Serbian Patriarchate she granted her, likewise, jurisdiction over the whole extension of Serbian nationality within the frontiers of the Turkish Empire. For the same reason, and in agreement with the same principle of nationality, the Porte recognised the Patriarchate's right over Macedonia.

As a matter of fact, when the Turks gave Macedonia to the new Patriarchate, were there any reserves expressed, or any doubts as to the national Serbian character of the whole country? Could they, perhaps, think that Macedonia was Bulgarian? Not at all. Imagine the state of affairs in Macedonia in those days. Forget what you know regarding the state of affairs in that country during the past few years, before the recent Balkan wars, when the intrigues of Bulgarian propaganda helped to complicate matters. In the sixteenth century the remains of the ancient Serbian Empire were still quite noticeable in Macedonia, and the memories thereof were vigorous. In the preceding chapter we have seen how numerous and how powerful were the remains of the Serbian reign in Macedonia and how they were to be discovered on historic monuments, in literature, and in the minds of the people. As, step by step, the Turks advanced into the country, they saw Serbian monasteries, Serbian monks copying manuscripts, old Serbians singing to crowds around them of the glorious past of their country. On the other hand, they saw nothing similar which might have been Bulgarian. How, then, could they possibly have thought that Macedonia was Bulgarian? Evidently, when the Turks granted Macedonia to the Serbs by the restoration of the Patriarchate of Ipek, they thought they were doing the most natural thing in the world, and that nobody in the world could have the least intention of protesting.

It may be said that if the Turks granted the Serbs Northern Macedonia according to the principle of nationality, and refused to give them Southern Macedonia, this refusal must likewise have been due to the application of the principle of nationality; in other words, that Southern Macedonia was non-Serb. This is not so. If it was decided to exclude the districts of Ochrida, Bitolj, Debar, Prilep, and Veles from the jurisdiction of the Patriarchate of Ipek, the principle of nationality did not enter into this decision. It was quite a special case. The districts in question were under the jurisdiction of the archbishopric of Ochrida, under which the Serbian national church had also been placed prior to the creation of a new patriarchate. When the latter was created, many of the districts belonging to the archbishopric were taken away in order to be included in the new institution. But if the districts mentioned above had been taken away it would have meant the suppression, pure and simple, of the archbishopric itself. Nobody, however, would have consented to this at the period we are referring to. The Archbishopric of Ochrida was a very old institution dating from the ninth century, when St. Clement, one of the first Slav apostles, founded it. The archbishopric's rights and traditions were fully respected by everyone. Read what Mr. Adrian Fortescue says in his excellent book, "The Orthodox Eastern Church" (1907), and you will see what the archbishopric was. The Serbs would never have asked for the suppression of this venerable ecclesiastical institution, even if to the advantage of their new church. During the period (fourteenth century) when the whole territory comprising the archbishopric's jurisdiction was in their political possession they respected the former's rights as though said territories did not belong to their State. Moreover, the Patriarchate of Constantinople, for reasons which we shall presently see, would not have permitted such a big extension of the Serbian Church to the detriment of the Archbishopric of Ochrida. Thus, if a certain part of Macedonia was not drawn into the Serbian Patriarchate of Ipek, it was not on account of the principle of nationality; it is no less true, how-

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ever, that a large part of the country, in accordance with the above principle, was a province nationally Serb.

A second consideration showing the importance of the Patriarchate of Ipek in the 16th to 18th centuries, more particularly as regards Serbian rights over Macedonia, is that the patriarchate was a great national Serbian institution, and that it exercised a great influence on the Serbian people in Macedonia. Without doubt it was not the equivalent of the ancient Serbian Empire, but nevertheless it approached it in significance.

Let us examine what this patriarchate really was. In the first place the clergy were Serbs. The patriarchs were Serbs. The metropolitans were Serbs, and the bishops, priests, and monks. Then, again, the official language of the patriarchate was Serbian. Everything which the patriarch ordered and wrote to the metropolitans, or the metropolitans to the bishops, or the bishops to the priests, was in the Serbian language. Again, all the efforts of the patriarch and of the higher clergy were directed towards the awakening of the Serbian national sentiment. They strove to preserve the remains of the glorious past of Serbia. They restored the old monasteries and their mural paintings representing the portraits of Serbian kings and queens. They collected old manuscripts, had them copied, and preserved them. They wrote new works, principally historical works on Serbia. They even gave a remarkable *élan* to the literary activity of the race which had lain dormant and lost in the century which followed the fall of the Serbian State. They resuscitated ancient divine services in honour of Serbian saints, of St. Sabbas, patron of the Serbian church, and of others. But apart from this restoration of the national past, they exercised a direct influence on the people. They paid canonical visits throughout their dioceses, and there was not a town or a village in the Serbian districts which did not see its bishop, its metropolitan, and its patriarch. They spoke to people, reminded them of the glorious days of the past ages, and inspired them with the national sentiment.

Such a patriarchate was, therefore, a "sort of national organization among the Serbs," as Fortescue (page 307) rightly observes. It was a sort of national autonomy in the form of an ecclesiastical autonomy It was a Serbian centre in the middle of a Turkish Empire. It was a highroad of Serbian nationality, wherein were protected and preserved the Serbian name and nationality. To-day, there is a Serbian patriarchate, the descendant of the ancient patriarchate of Ipek, in southern Austria-Hungary, and it is also a highroad for Serbs in the centre of a Hungarian State. The Patriarchate of Ipek fulfilled the same rôle in Turkey, but to a greater extent, because, whereas in Hungary a Serbian empire never existed, in Turkey it did exist, and its remains were to be seen everywhere. The Patriarchate of Ipek was, therefore, in a great measure, a continuation of the ancient Serbian Empire, a restoration of a political organization of other days, a new form of the national State of olden times. This it was, above all, from the national point of view. That is why we are right in considering it, from this point of view, as almost the equivalent of the ancient empire which it replaced.

Imagine now what a powerful influence this new phase of the empire in Macedonia exercised on the people! The people considered themselves Serbs in exactly the same way as they did when they lived in the Empire of Dushan! Everything which surrounded them was Serbian; the clergy, from the patriarch to the least village curate, was Serbian; so were literature, language, divine services, and churches; and the people knew that all these were Serbian. Do you think that, in these circumstances, the people could not be Serbs?

So great is the importance of the Serbian patriarchate that we consider ourselves perfectly justified in adding the number of its years to those of the ancient Serbian State when fixing the balance of Serbian and Bulgarian rule over and influence in Macedonia. The Serbian epoch in Macedonia is, therefore, 322 years, whereas the Bulgarian epoch does not go beyond 124 years. Moreover, the latter belongs to a primitive age, whereas the former is to be placed in relatively modern times.

Let us remark incidentally that the Patriarchate of Ipek comprised, exclusive of Macedonia, also a large part of the Bulgaria of to-day. The districts of Kustendil, Samokov and Razlog were under the jurisdiction of our patriarcnate, and were frequently visited by our patriarchs, especially the celebrated monastery of Rilo. These districts were granted to the Patriarch of Ipek beyond doubt in agreement with the principle of nationality, and when the history of the Monastery of Rilo is invoked, the reason becomes apparent. It was the *voivode* Krelja who built the tower of the monastery; it was the Empress Mara with whose help the reliquaries of the patron of the monastery, St. John of Rilo, were transported thither; it was Vladislav Gramatik who has left us a wonderful description of this ceremony, and all these people were Serbs and not Bulgars.

IV.—The Same Period.

(*The Bulgars enjoy no Autonomy similar to that of the Serbs.*)

You will tell me, perhaps, that the Bulgars had a similar autonomy, even a better one in Southern Macedonia; that the Archbishopric of Ochrida, to which I have referred, was for the Bulgars what the Patriarchate of Ipek was for the Serbs; that it was a national Bulgarian Church just as the other was a national Serbian Church; that the Archbishop of Ochrida had even the title of "The Archbishop of all Bulgaria"; that, moreover, the archbishopric lasted longer than the Patriarchate of Ipek, existing, as it did, without a break from St. Clement, who died in 916 until 1767, when it was suppressed at the same time as the Patriarchate of Ipek.

Here, however, we have another of those legends to which we referred in our first chapter. This legend is absurd, however, as can be seen at a glance. If we know anything of history, the national Bulgarian Church was the Patriarchate of Tirnovo, but this Church is situate in Bulgaria, and not in Macedonia. Did the Bulgarians have two national Churches at the same time? As for the Archbishopric of Ochrida, if it was Bulgarian from the ninth to the eighteenth century, was it Bulgarian when Ochrida and the whole of Southern Macedonia was the political dominion of Byzantium (eleventh to thirteenth centuries)? In the fourteenth century this territory belonged to Serbia; did the Bishopric continue in spite of this to be Bulgarian? When the Serbian Church, in 1459, was included in the jurisdiction of the archbishopric, was it subjected to a Bulgarian Church? The Roumanian principalities, which, in the sixteenth century, were also under the spiritual power of the same archbishopric, were they also subjected to a Bulgarian church? The Greeks of Calabria, Apulia, Sicily, and Malta, who were also under the jurisdiction of the Archbishopric of Ochrida, were they also subjected to a Bulgarian Church? In which case, everybody must have been under the Bulgarian Church?

The fact is that the Archbishopric of Ochrida was not the Bulgarian national Church. The name "Bulgaria" remained, it is true, in the title of the archbishop, but it was all that was left of Bulgarian in the Church. It was only an old tradition, without any significance. When Basil II., the Emperor of Byzantium, destroyed the Macedonian Empire (1018), he respected the autocephalous church of St. Clement, and left it the independence which it had enjoyed. But, excepting the first archbishop, who was a Bulgar—or, better still, a Slav—all the others, or almost all, from the eleventh to the eighteenth centuries, were Greeks and not Bulgars. The metropolitans and the bishops were also Greeks. The whole character of this Church was Greek, and nothing but Greek.

But let the historians speak about this Church.

In his "History of the Orthodox Bulgarian, Serbian, and Roumanian Churches" (Moscow, 1870, page 142-143) the Russian historian Golubinsky reviewed the fate of the Archbishopric of Ochrida in the Byzantine, Bulgarian, Serbian, and Turkish periods. "Almost from the very moment when it passed into the power of the Greeks at the epoch of Basil II. in 1019, and until the end of its very existence, the Archbishopric of Ochrida was entirely a Greek church and not a Bulgarian church." He admits that during the short Bulgarian period in the thirteenth century the archbishopric might have been Bulgarian, and then continues: "It is positively and authentically certain that during all that time, excepting the ten or fifteen years of the reign of Jean Asen II. (1230-1240 or 1245) the archbishops were constantly Greeks and not Bulgars, and the archbishopric was constantly under the power of the Greeks and not of the Bulgars." During the Serbian period (fourteenth century) "the Greek character" of the institution "was not violated." As regards the Turkish period (fifteenth to eighteenth centuries), he says: "The Turks . . . finding that only the Greeks administered the Archbishopric—and I include therein the person of the Archbishop, as well as the Metropolitans and the Bishops . . . allowed matters to rest as they had found them, and from this time until the end of the period the Greeks remained masters of the Archbishopric." He admits, it is true, certain exceptions during this latter period. "It is very probable that during this period the Archbishops, as well as the Metropolitans and Bishops, were not one and all Greeks, and the archiepiscopal chair, as well as those of the Metropolitans and Bishops, were occupied, doubtless rarely, by Bulgars." But if he says so, he immediately limits his statement by adding: "But above all, these Bulgarian unities were lost among ten unities of Greeks; they are only negligible quantities, who cannot change the general aspect of the situation in favour of the Bulgars . . . in any case these Bulgars could only be Hellenophil Bulgars, that is to say, Hellenised Bulgars, who had renounced their nationality."

The most recent historian of the Church of St. Clements is Henry Gelzer, who wrote the best and most detailed study on the Archbishopric (or Patriarchate), and who also emphasises its Greek character. "In the period of which we are speaking," he says, in reviewing the Turkish period, "the Archbishopric of Ochrida, with its suffragan churches, was, contrary to that of Ipek, entirely Greek. ("Das Patriarchat von Achrida," 1902, p. 34.) As for the Bulgarian period (1230-1246), where Golubinsky admits exception in favour of the Bulgars and the possibility of there having been two Bulgarian archbishops (p. 124), Gelzer, with more recent documents to support him, doubts this, and says: "Golubinsky mentions two archbishops who may have been Bulgars, but that also is quite uncertain" (p. 19).

Jirecek is not exactly a historian of the archbishopric of Ochrida, but he is always very well informed, and he says: "Only Greeks were nominated archbishops of Ochrida" (Geschichte der Serben, 1911, p. 219).

Even the most Bulgarophil of all historians, Marin Drinoff, who published in Bulgaria a "History of the Bulgarian Church" (1869, p. 128), does not dare to deny this character, so constantly and so completely Greek, of the archbishopric, and contents himself by mentioning the matter with evasions and in a very vague and restricted manner. "In the fifteenth, and also as late as the middle of the sixteenth, century the priests and higher clergy were pure Bulgars." That is, after all, all that he has to say regarding the national character of the Archbishopric of Ochrida.

I think the matter is quite clear. But in order not to leave in doubt the non-Bulgarian character of the Church in question, it is our duty to analyse the part which the Serbs themselves played therein. Drinoff asserts that during a certain period, which, after all, is not long, the priests belonging to the archbishopric (as regards the "higher clergy," we have seen what that means) were "pure Bulgars." Without a doubt the priests and monks of the archiepiscopal diocese were also pure Serbs,

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above all in the period referred to. It is natural to suppose that the Serbian priests and monks who were surprised in the churches and monasteries of the Serbian emperors of that diocese by the fall of the Serbian State (1459) remained where they were, and continued their functions under the new ecclesiastic jurisdiction, to which they belonged from that moment. Until the restoration of the Patriarchate of Ipek (middle of the sixteenth century) they could remain there, and even longer. As regards the higher clergy, it was Serbian as much as it was Bulgarian. In a previous quotation from Golubinsky, where he says that the archiepiscopal chair, as well as those of the metropolitans and bishops, were occupied by Bulgars, he adds that they were occupied "by Serbs also" (p. 143). Gelzer also says that the episcopal chairs were occupied by Bulgars and Serbs" (p. 16). We have authentic proof that two Serbs occupied the archiepiscopal chair of St. Clement. They were Symeon, who did so in 1550, after having been metropolitan at Raska (see v. *Ruvarac*, Archiv. f. slav. Philologie X. 1887), and, in 1574, a nephew of the first Serbian patriarch of the Serbian period (see v. Ruvarac, Glas S. K. Akademije, 62, 1901, p. 25).

The Archbishopric of Ochrida was, therefore, a Greek Church, purely and simply Greek. With very few exceptions the archbishops were Greek, Greek the metropolitans, and Greek the bishops. Greek was also the official language of the Church; the correspondence of the Archbishopric, published by Gelzer, is Greek, and all historians say so, including Drinoff. The bishopric was never Bulgarian, from its beginning to its end. Whenever there was the slightest change in its general Greek character it was more in favour of the Serbs than of the Bulgars. And in order to add a word to what was stated in the preceding chapter regarding the reasons why the diocese of Ochrida and others were not incorporated in the new patriarchate of Ipek, one reason must be found in the Greek character of the Church of Ochrida, protected as it was by the Greek Church at Constantinople.

The Bulgars, therefore, did not have their national Church in Macedonia during the sixteenth to eighteenth century, whereas the Serbs did. Ochrida was not for the former what Ipek was for the latter. In order to terminate this long analysis I shall refer to a parallel drawn with regard to Macedonia by Gelzer between the Serbian Church and the Bulgarian Church. "In Ochrida the state of affairs, from a national point of view, was essentially different from that at Ipek. In the latter the national Serbian spirit had been exclusively maintained from the patriarchal chair down to those of the bishops. The contrary happened in the case of the Bulgars. Their national patriarchate was that of Tirnovo, whereas Ochrida was, in reality, always in the hands of the Greeks" (p. 150).

V.—Fourth Period (Recent Epoch).

(The Serbs Liberate Macedonia.)

Where, then, is the Bulgarian epoch of Macedonian history? We have conscientiously searched for it through the centuries, but, with the best faith in the world, we can only find about 100 years in the primitive age and about fifteen years in the thirteenth century. Perhaps this Bulgarian epoch is to be found in recent history?

It is not necessary for me to insist on the past fifty years of political struggles in Macedonia which preceded the recent Balkan wars. This period, during which the Bulgars attempted, at the cost of all possible machinations, intrigues, ignominies, and crimes, to denationalise our people in Macedonia and to impose on them the Bulgarian nationality (happily without result), is sufficiently known in the current political literature of Macedonia. I recommend to my English readers the excellent pamphlet recently published by Mr. Crawfurd Price, "The Intervention of Bulgaria and the Central Macedonian Question," where he will find a brief, but very truthful, exposée of the question. Personally, I shall refer only briefly to the great historical happenings of the recent Balkan wars.

It is very characteristic, and of interest to those who seek the logical chain of historic events, to note that it was the Serbian Army and not the Bulgarian Army which freed Macedonia from the yoke of Turkish dominion. Throughout Serbian Macedonia, from Ishtip in the east to Ochrida in the west, it was always the Serbian soldier who came to free his Macedonian brother, and not the Bulgarian intruder, who had nothing to do there. Only one Bulgarian division put its foot on Macedonian soil during the war of 1912—it was the division of Rilo which passed through Ishtip—and then it only arrived after the Serbian Danube division had received the bread and salt of the population, the traditional offering of the Slavs to their liberators. It is, therefore, into Serbian hands that the Turks gave Macedonia, just as it had been from Serbian hands that the Turks had received it. This is the real logic of historical laws.

* * * *

No, certainly, Macedonia is not Bulgarian. With the exception of a short period in far-away ages, she was always Serb as long as she was Slav. She is likewise Serb to-day. She is, moreover, indispensable to the Serbian State, a circumstance which is generally ignored.

In an admirable essay on Alexander the Great, Edward Freeman characterises this great man not as a conqueror, but as the champion of the West against the East. I believe that the same idea can be applied to the Serbian people. The Serbs are not conquerors. They are simply the champions of the West against the East. Protecting the interests of the West, they fought for centuries against Byzantium, against Turkey, against Bulgaria, which, all of them Oriental States, attempted to invade the West. In this we see the historic mission of the Serbian people.

In order to accomplish this mission, the Serbian State must necessarily possess its ancient and actual Macedonian dominion. For it is there that the strength of the Serbian State lies. Consult history and you will see that Serbia was only strong when she possessed Macedonia, and that the loss of the latter caused the dismemberment of the powerful organism of the ancient Serbian Empire. Macedonia is for Serbia what the hair of his head was for Samson: cut it off and the strength is gone. It is from Macedonia that Alexander the Great accomplished his mission in the history of the world; it is with Macedonia that Serbia will accomplish her mission in the history of the Balkans. Give Serbia all the western provinces of the Peninsula—Bosnia, Dalmatia, Croatia, and the Slovene countries—and she will not be able to hold them if you refuse to give her Macedonia. There are very few people who realise that the possession of Macedonia by Serbia is in the interest of all the Southern Slavs. The people to whom are given Spalato, Agram, and Leibach must also be given Palanka, Ishtip, and Radoviste. It is the Vardar river which defends the Isonzo. It is in order to dominate this Macedonian river that the Serbs have struggled throughout their history, in times of their prosperity as well as in the hours of their need. The first Serbian princes of ancient Raska moved in the direction of the Vardar in their offensive against the Byzantines; the last Serbian rebels of the Pashalik of Belgrade strove to drive the enemy who had taken their dear river from them. Every drop of water of the Vardar was paid for by a drop of Serbian blood.

The Government of my country has declared itself to be prepared to make the indispensable sacrifices in Macedonia. As a simple Serbian citizen, I do not wish to object to what those competent and responsible believe it to be their duty to do. But when I think of the sacrifice, I am haunted by a memory.

During the recent Balkan wars there lay in hospital a seriously wounded Serbian officer, who was told by the surgeons that the only means of recovery were the application to his wound of a living piece of human flesh. One evening, a Serbian soldier, who also was wounded and lay in the same hospital, heard of this curious case. He meditated over it for a long time during the night, and, in his simple and modest soul, he decided to sacrifice himself for his officer. The following morning he declared that he was ready to undergo the operation. The surgeons performed it and the officer was healed.

Serbia is willing to make the same sacrifice. The only difference between her case and that of the soldier is that the latter sacrificed himself for his officer, whose first duty it was to defend him, whereas Serbia is sacrificing herself for her enemy, whose first task it will be to attack her.—I am, etc.,

PAVLE POPOVIC,
(Professor of Jugo-Slav Literature at the University, Belgrade).

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CUMING, Mrs. J. B., "Fleet View," Fleet R.S.O., Hants.
CUMING, Miss M. Constance, "Fleet View," Fleet R.S.O., Hants.
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KEY, W. H. M., M.D., care of Messrs. Coutts and Co London, W.C.
KEYSER, Mrs. Keflissia, Greece
KEYSER, The Misses, Sion Palace Hotel, Athens.
KINGHAM, Mr. and Mrs. H. P., Rupert Place, Henley.
LA FONTAINE, Miss Edith F., Elmfield, Esher, Surrey.
LA FONTAINE, Sub.-Lieut. J. S., "Hawke" Battalion R.N.D., Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, c/o General Post Office.
LA FONTAINE, Miss Kathleen, Lammas Cottage, Esher.
LA FONTAINE, Richard, and family, Hotel Minerva, Athens
LA FONTAINE, Mr. and Mrs. Sydney J. W., The Lodge, Christchurch Road, Hampstead, N.W.
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LYSTER, Miss Edythe, 69, Edith Road, West Kensington, W.
LYSTER, Fred. J., 69, Edith Road, West Kensington, W.
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MACKINNON, Dr. Frank I., Lieut. R.A.M.C., St. George's, Malta.
MACKRAY, E. D., Daira of H.H. Princess Emina, Berdein, Egypt.
MCGILL, Mrs. Robert, and children, c.o. Mrs. Robinson, Mayfield, Aigburth, near Liverpool.
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MALTASS, Thomas, Hotel Minerva, Athens.
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RAWE, Reuben, Old Phaleron, Greece.
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RUSSELL, Mrs. J. MacDowall, care of Mrs. J. Bruce, Bogs of Blevrie, by Forres, N.B.
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SEAGER, Lieut. John Owen, Public Schools Battalion, 16th Middlesex Regiment, B. Co., Woldingham.
SEAGER, Mr. and Mrs. Walter, and family, 18, The Promenade, Hoylake Cheshire.
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(*Continued on page 536.*)

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

The *Morning Post* published yesterday a despatch from its correspondent in Sofia as follows:—"The Premier has stated in an interview that the Turco-Bulgarian agreement for the cession of the Dedeagatch Railway has been concluded. The concession consists of the railway line with Karagatch station and a strip of territory two kilometres deep along the left bank of the Maritza. The right bank of the River Tundja has not been ceded. The Premier stated that the occupation of the ceded territory will take place in ten days. The ceremony will be conducted in the presence of the Bulgarian Ministers and Turkish Pashas."

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If the above information is correct—and I have no reason to doubt its accuracy—a new page in the economic history of Bulgaria begins, namely, she will in future be able to import goods from abroad viâ Dedeagatch without having to depend on the questionable goodwill of the Turks. On the other hand, the full utility of the railway cannot be estimated until Bulgaria has thrown in her lot with the Entente Powers, who control the sea, on account of her immediate proximity to Turkey, to which country her imports might eventually be re-exported.

***

Last Thursday an agreement was signed between Great Britain and Greece whereby the Greek Government undertakes to adopt certain measures in order to prevent contraband traffic. That such an agreement between the Entente Powers and Greece was imminent was foreshadowed in THE NEAR EAST last week, and I am pleased to see that M. Venizelos has not lost his accustomed talent for expediting negotiations. In return for the assurance given by Greece, "Great Britain," says the *Times* Athens correspondent, "undertakes not to interfere with the export of raisins (currants?) and tobacco, to whatever destination they may be consigned, provided that the consignments in each case do not exceed normal limits. Further, Great Britain will permit the export for Greece of all goods intended for local consumption." The consequence of this arrangement will be to re-establish freedom of navigation between Greek ports without examination by the Allied warships.

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The statement made by the U.S. Consul in Patras, to the effect that direct banking facilities have been established between Greece and America, and "that there is no longer need for the old, indirect communication viâ London," is surely a significant sign of the times. People there are, and their number is not restricted, who believe that one effect of the war will be the removal of the world's money centre from London to New York. How true this pessimistic outlook will prove remains to be seen; but there can be no doubt that American exporters are leaving no stone unturned to obtain direct banking facilities with their foreign markets, and they are finding that, in the present state of the money market, thoroughly upset as it has been by the war, they are being eagerly listened to by New York financiers, and are procuring the monetary help which was forbidden them a few years ago. Retaliation on our part (if we really wish to reassert our old position) would be worse than useless. For, once having established his direct banking communication with foreign countries, the 'cute Yankee will not revert to London again with a view to having his bills, etc., cleared.

***

As every financial operation, including those of so purely a commercial nature as referred to above, imply a commission for the intermediary—*i.e.*, London—bank, it stands to reason that those banks which hitherto made a tidy income out of the American foreign trade will see it dwindle and shrink away. The unimaginative banker will bemoan his fate, but the intelligent one will seek another source of revenue to replace the old one. This can easily be done, and to the greater advantage of his own country. For, if the United States stand in need of improved banking facilities, in order to extend their foreign trade, so do we, and our bankers, by backing our great industrial and exporting firms, are in a unique position to help in the matter. We want British commercial banks established in those markets—the Near East, for instance—where we intend to stimulate our trade; such banks will pay handsome dividends, and they will, besides, foster British trade. There are many ways to go about the formation of the banks in question, but the simplest, I think, would be the creation in London of a gigantic commercial banking institute (the bankers alluded to above could well form the nucleus), which would in due time open branches in foreign markets where a good proportion of the capital of the branch would be found locally.

***

Some such step must be taken sooner or later. The Americans, in order to improve their export trade, are shaking off their old indirect banking methods viâ London and are creating direct banking facilities with their markets. This is only the first step. The second step will be the creation of American commercial banks in those markets, and if they succeed in doing so before we have instituted our foreign commercial banks, we shall find ourselves in the same position of commercial inferiority to the United States as we stood to Germany during the past decade.

***

Dr. E. J. Dillon, well-known to my readers as an authority on Near Eastern matters, contributes an article to the *English Review* on economic questions and the war. His argument is that neutrals, such as Roumania, Bulgaria, and Greece, have lost faith in our ability to carry the war to a successful finish. This, of course, is mainly due to German lies. To counteract this, Dr. Dillon suggests that the Allies should at once supplement their military entente "by an economic league which shall reserve for its members those advantages, financial, commercial, and others, which are now lavished upon staunch friends and bitter enemies indiscriminately." The idea really is a financial and commercial Preference Tariff applicable only to the Entente Powers and their friends, but from which are to be excluded enemy and lukewarm neutral countries. "To-day some neutrals fancy it is to their advantage that we should be defeated. Well, let us give them an interest in our victory and a motive for contributing to it."

***

Though the working of the idea as put forward by Dr. Dillon offers some almost insurmountable difficulties, the idea itself has merits. "Without the freedom of the enormous world-markets of Great Britain, France, and Russia," the Germans would never have been able to expand commercially and industrially as they have done, which proves that our "enormous world-markets" are not to be despised even by malevolent neutrals. Besides, and it is no secret, the Germans and their allies intend to form a similar ring among themselves and their friends, and the ways and means are already being seriously studied in Berlin. Let us do likewise, creating a "most favoured nation" clause for our friends and Allies that will not only not be a diplomatic emptiness but an economic reality. It was free trade in England which gave Germany her great industrial *essor* and actually produced the present war. Let's be done with it, once and for all. As Dr. Dillon rightly observes: "Shall we bestow on them (our enemies) the same privileges after the war? If so . . . . we shall be suicidally running after fate, and shall richly deserve to overtake it."

***

I have received a copy of *Les Finances de la Grèce*, by M. A. Andréadèdes, which appeared in the April-May number of the *Journal des Economistes*. I shall refer to this valuable publication at some length in an early issue of THE NEAR EAST. Another publication of more than usual interest is *La Revue Commerciale*, a weekly trade paper which is being published in Salonika in French and Greek, and which gives useful information concerning the local market and trade movements to and from the Greek port's chequered hinterland. Subscriptions to this paper are 15 frs. per annum.

***

The bankruptcy which has been announced of the well-known Prague cotton works of Messrs. Herny and Son is a serious blow to the Bohemian cotton trade. The firm was well represented on the Balkan Peninsula, and had numerous clients in the Near East. It worked on an extensive credit system, and the articles it put on the market were of a cheap and inferior quality, but adequate enough for the tastes and purses of its clients. Doubtless, as the war continues, other Germano-Austrian cotton firms will have to be wound up, and it is therefore as well that we should be in a position, as soon as hostilities cease, to supply the demand in the Balkans for piece goods of all kinds. But, if we wish to be successful, we must give the people what they want, what they are accustomed to, and not foist goods upon them for which they have no liking, telling them politely whilst doing so that they can either "take what we give them or go without." It would, however, be characteristic of British methods in the past if some such advice were proffered to Near Eastern customers.

COMMENTATOR.

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Bulgarian Financial Notes.

(From a Correspondent.)

Sofia, August 14.

According to the monthly reports of the Financial Ministry of Bulgaria the general amount of the Budget for 1915 is 551,575,786 lewas, of which 275,379,886 lewas are anticipated revenues and 276,195,900 lewas are allowed for expenditure. The figures for last year were 520,415,552 lewas, 256,995,000 lewas, and 263,420,552 lewas.

The collected revenues during the first quarter of the current year—January 1 to March 31, 1915—amounted to 38,206,556.40 lewas, as against 42,506,718.32 lewas expenditures.

The collected revenues came from the following sources :—

Direct taxation (impôts directs)	1,328,594·95
Excise (impôts indirects)	17,118,860·66
State monopolies	2,020,271·48
Other taxes	2,836,534·98
Fines, etc.	510,079·10
Railway, pest, telegraph and telephone	8,229,083.89
State properties and capital revenue	1,540,949·22
Communal and District revenues	566,965·85
Sundry revenues	4,055,216·27
Total	38,206,556.40

Expenditures were as follows :—

Civil List	1,540,322.15
State Debts	4,995,248·32
State Accounts Department	87,093·76
Foreign Office	2,053,137·38
Ministry of Interior	1.057.453·58
Ministry of Education	704,546·92
Ministry of Finance	652,473·19
Ministry of Justice	739,116·11
Ministry of War	6,028,571·79
Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour	1,503,952·15
Ministry of Public Buildings	527,978·10
Ministry of Agriculture and State Properties	622,398·90
Ministry of Railways and Ports	1,602,617·78
Chief Direction of Posts, Telegraph, and Telephones	604,202·19
Non-recurring State Expenditures	18,497,114·58
Supplementary Credits voted out of Regular Revenues for 1915	1,290,492·42
Total	42,506,518·32

The supplementary credits voted in 1914 and included in current expenditure during the life of the Budget for that year amount to 490,236,950.95 lewas, of which, from January 1, 1914, to March 31, 1915, the sum of 64,273,035.62 lewas was spent principally for the requirements of the Ministries of War and Railways, and for the support of Macedonian and Thracian refugees. The credits remaining unexpended on April 1, 1915, amounted to 425,963,915.33 lewas.

State Debt.

The situation of the State Debt of Bulgaria on March 31, 1915, was as follows :—

Actif.

(1) A la Banque de Paris and des Pays-Bas:	
Garantie subsidiaire de l'Emprunt Bulgare 5% or 1902	1,500,000·00
Garantie Subsidiaire de l'Emprunt Bulgare 5% or 1904	1,000,000·00
Garantie subsidiaire de l'Emprunt Bulgare 4½% or 1907	1,749,852·50
En compte-courant sur le produit de l'Emprunt Bulgare 4½% or 1907	92,943·72
En compte-courant Service de l'Emprunt Bulgare 5% or 1902	9,587·00
En compte-courant Service de l'Emprunt Bulgare or 1904	18,328.35
En compte-courant Service de l'Emprunt Bulgare 5% or 1907	3,550·00
(2) A la Banque Nationale de Bulgarie:	
En compte-courant sans intérêts du Délégué des porteurs de titres de l'Emprunt Bulgare 5% or 1902	2,901,822·20
En compte-courant sans intérêts du Délégué des porteurs de titres de l'mprunt Bulgare 5% or 1904	2,737,991·55
En compte-courant sans intérêts du Délégué des porteurs de titres de l'Emprunt Bulgare 4½% or 1907	1,007,393·72
En compte-courant sans intérêts du Délégué des porteurs de titres des Emprunts Bulgares de 1902 et 1904, excédant de l'achat des Banderoles du tabac et des timbres	12,998,142·40
"Fonds Schneider and Co." de l'Emprunt Bulgare 4½% or 1907	1,516,667·00
Solde du produit de l'Emprunt 5%, 1907, de la Ville de Varna	565,852·46
Solde du produit de l'Emprunt, 4½%, 1910, de la Ville de Sofia	3,406,971·28
Versé à la Banque Nationale de Bulgarie par le Tré-or Public	61,680,807·63
Encaissements de mandats de paiement délivrés pour compte des Ministères et d'autres établissements.	13,492,167·50
"Fonds de réserve du Trésor"	6,542,839·95
Fonds d'amortissement de l'Emprunt de la Société La Croix Rouge—série 1912	1,971,989·90
Produit des Bonds du Trésor escomptés	16,431,503·77
Bénéfices de change et des intérêts	1,957,585·00
Fonds de reserve du Trésor placés en valeurs mobi ières	2,694,551·69
A la Banque Co-opérative de Bulgarie, fonds d'amortissement de l'Emprunt de la Société, La Croix Rouge, 1912	1,067,472·90
A la Direction der Disconto-Gesellshaft, Berlin, en compte courants	34,056,084·75
Wiener Bank-Verein, Wien, en compte-courants	1,284,637·00
Credit Anstalt, Wien, en compte-courants	1,377,709·71
Ungarishe Allgemeine Creditbank, Budapest, en compte-courants	1,757,163·88
A la Banque Agricole de Bulgarie	15,221,833·35
Pour balance	925,248,693·17
Total ..... lewas	1,114,294,142·38

Passif.

L'Emprunt Hypothécaire Bulgare 6%, 1892	70,425,000·00
L Emprunt Bulgare 5% or 1902	98,072,500·00
L'Emprunt Bulgare 5% or 1904	94,465,000·00
L'Emprunt Bulgare 4½% or 1907	140,725,000·00
L'Emprunt Bulgare 4½% or 1909	81,107,448.00
L'Emprunt B lgare 4½% or 1909	96,990,000·00
Tribut envers le Russie pour l'occupation de l'ancienne RouméllieOrientale, soit en Roubles 10,618,250.43½ en frcs.	25,294,276·17
..En tout Dette consolidée	607,079,224·17 Frcs.
Dette envers le Banque Nationale de Bulgarie	106,037,532·65
Dette envers le Banque Agricole de Bulgarie	3,293,499·16
Solde du produit de l'Emprunt 5% 1907 de la Ville de Varna	565,852·46
Solde du produit de l'Emprunt 4½% 1910 de la Ville de Sofia	3,406,971·28
Fonds d'amortissement de l'Emprunt de la Société, "Le Croix Rouge," 1912	3,039,462·80
Fonds de réserve du Trésor	9,738,853·94
Trésor Publie	61,680,807·63
Encaissements de mandats de paiment délivrés pour compte des Ministères et d'autres établissements	13,492,167·50
Montant nominal des Bons du Trésor et comptes courants créditeurs	306,459,770·79
Frcs.	1,114,294,142·38

ROUMANIAN NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, August 19.

The Oil Industry.

The petroleum industry appears to be the one to suffer most on account of the war. Owing to the absence of all means for export the quantity of raw petroleum, derivates, and benzine in store at the various depôts exceeds 1,000,000 tons, of which 260,000 tons is benzine. New reservoirs are being constructed for 800,000 tons. It is to be remarked that not a single company has interrupted its activities during the past year.

Incendiarism.

A dastardly attempt at setting fire to oil mills was committed three days ago in the petroleum districts at Tzintea.

The night guard of the "Sphinx" Company noticed a fuse burning in such a manner as to cause the explosives to which it was attached to blow up some works above a well. This, no doubt, would have set all the wells in the neighbourhood on fire.

Happily, the watchman had the presence of mind immediately to stamp out the fuse, thus preventing a catastrophe. The population are in a state of natural anxiety, as this is the second attempt of late in this district.

The police have the matter in hand, and believe they have a strong clue to the would-be perpetrators of the crime.

Permission for Importation.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs has decided that those requesting the intervention of the Ministry with Governments abroad in order to permit of the importation of certain articles of commerce necessary for the country or its factories must in future address their demands to the Ministry of Commerce, which will decide whether the importation of the articles in question is absolutely necessary, and will at the same time demand from importers the necessary guarantee to insure that the merchandise in question will not be re-exported.

Treasury Receipts.

Receipts of the Treasury for the month of June reached the sum of 35,800,000 frs., which, as compared to June, 1914, shows a decrease of 7,975,000 frs. less. Total receipts up to June 30 amounted to 521,103,000 frs., the amount for the same period of last year being 567,123,000 frs. Expenditure for the same period amounted to 501,617,000 frs., thus leaving a balance of 19,485,000 frs. in favour of the Exchequer.

Trade Returns.

Related statistics of Roumania's foreign trade in 1912 have only just been published.

The value of exports and imports amounted to 1,280,000,000 fr., as against 1,261,000,000 in 1911.

The imports amounted to 637 million fr., an increase of 68 millions on the previous year.

The exports were 642 millions, being 49½ millions less than in 1911. This is accounted for by the crop being more feeble than in the previous year, and to the outbreak of war between Italy and Turkey, and the Balkan war, which caused the Dardanelles to be closed on several occasions.

DIRECTORY—*continued from page 534.*

Silley, Bernard, 37, Ellscombe Road, Charlton, S.E.
Silley, E. C., 37, Ellscombe Road, Charlton, S.E.
Silley, Mrs. Alfred C., Miss Alice, and Miss Beryl Dedeagatch, Bulgaria.
Silley, Mr. and Mrs. C. C., 70, Kingsdown Avenue Ealing, W.
Silley, Mr. and Mrs. Walter and family, care of Imperial Ottoman Bank, Limassol, Cyprus.
Simmons, Mr. and Mrs. Albert, 146, Worple Road, Wimbledon, S.W.
Simmons, George H., c/o Imperial Ottoman Bank Larnaca, Cyprus.
Skrimshire, C. R., Sand Haven, Weston-super Mare.
Smith, A. H., c/o Mrs. Gwilt, Hillsboro,' Llandrindod
Smith, F. W., "Heathcote," Bexley, Kent.
Smith, Mrs. H. Watson, Balmoral Hotel, Parade, Llanfairfechan.
Smith-Lyte, Mr. and Mrs. William, 80, Westbourne Terrace, Hyde Park, W. Tele., Paddington 7191.
Sofiano, Mrs. Alexander, and sons, Rue Nikis, No. 11, Athens.
Sprowson, Mr. and Mrs. William, and family, The Ferns, Harrow-on-the-Hill.
Stelianidi, Mr. and Mrs. L. N., and family, Hôtel Métropole, Athens.
Strong, Miss K. M., Thorpe Hall, Peterborough.
Streater, Mr and Mrs. Frank, British Consulate Dedeagatch, Bulgaria.
Strock, Mrs. H. W., and family, 13, Norland Sq., Holland Park, W. Tel.: Park 3736.
Summers, Mrs. H. C., and family, 34, Broadmead Road, Folkestone.
Summers, Misses L. and M., Old Phaleron, Greece.
Swan, Mr. and Mrs. T. Angus, 12, Ramshill Road, Scarborough.
Swan, Mrs. Charles, 43, Lythoe Road, Finchley Road, N.W.
Sykes, Mrs. W. Norman, and family, 24, Osborne Road, Birkby, Huddersfield.
Talbot, Miss, The Homestead, Basingstoke.
Thewlis, Frank, 33, Randolph Crescent, Maida Vale.
Thompson, William A., Glenmore, Avenue Road, Falmouth.
Thompson, Mrs Harold, Glenmore, Avenue Road Falmouth.
Thomson, Mrs., 124, King Henry's Road, South Hampstead, N.W.
Thompson, Miss C., c.o. Dr. Thompson, The Quay, Bideford.
Thomson, Miss Gladys, 124, King Henry's Road, South Hampstead, N.W.
Thomson, J. Crabtree, Cairo.
Tristram, Mr. and Mrs. U. B., and family, 84, Worple Road, Wimbledon, S.W.
Tubini, Mrs. T., 84, Worple Road, Wimbledon.
Tucker, Thomas C., and family, 18, Odos Kehaya, New Phaleron, Greece.
Tucker, Thomas J. V. Ferid, c/o A. H. Brace, Esq., 46, Goldshill Road, Handsworth.
Vidovich, Nicholas, and daughter. Hotel Centrale, Rue du Stade, No. 22, Athens.
Watt, Mr. and Mrs. A. B., Grand Hotel, Larnaca, Cyprus.
Wealey, E., C.M.G., Norfolk Hotel, Kensington, W.
Weale, W., Foreign Office S.W.
Weale, Miss Mary, 10, Upton Road, Slough.
Weale, Miss Norah, Lydgate House, Hunstanton.
Werndel, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. G., Grand Hotel Bulgarie, Sofia.
Wheatley, Miss N., "Falklands," Birkdale.
Whitehouse, Rev. Canon F. C., and family, 6, St. Andrew's Square, Surbiton.
Whittall, Hugh E. C., Royal Societies' Club, 63, St. James's Street, S.W.
Whittall, Reginald, and family, 60, Scarsdale Villas, Kensington, W.
Whittall, W. H. J., 1, Princes Square, Bayswater, W.
Whittall, Lady, Moda Cottage, Asher
Whittall, Kenny, 62, Princes Square W.
Whittall, Edwin, and family, Hotel Minerva, Athens.
Whittall, Miss Enid, 84, Worple Road, Wimbledon
Whittall, Miss Lucy, 60, Scarsdale Villas, South Kensington, S.W.
Whittall, Mrs Jack, Hotel Minerva, Athens.
Wilkinson, J. W., and family, Chios, Greece.
Woods, Mrs. Harold, Baynton House, Westbury Wilts.
Woods, Harold, Continental Hotel, Cairo.

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Cyprus Salt Industry.

Imperial Institute Report.

The Cyprus salt industry is the subject of a supplement to the *Cyprus Gazette* (August 13). It deals with a report by the Imperial Institute on a sample of salt submitted to it for analysis on January 14, 1914. An interim report was furnished by the Imperial Institute in August, 1914, in which further information was asked for in order that various questions might be dealt with. This further information was supplied in September.

The following are extracts from the definite report now submitted to the Cyprus Government :—

It was pointed out in the first report that the salt sent for examination was unrefined, and that for export purposes it would be desirable to refine it by re-crystallisation, in order to produce a salt suitable for table use. The residue of the sample sent to the Imperial Institute has therefore been used for crystallisation experiments, the results of which may be briefly stated as follows :—

Analysis.

One pound of the salt was dissolved in 3.3 pounds of cold water, and the liquid allowed to stand until all insoluble matter had settled out. The clear liquid was then carefully decanted into shallow vessels, and left at a temperature of 30 deg. to 40 deg. C. to deposit crystals. The crops of salt crystals which separated each day were removed, drained and allowed to dry in the air. About 85 per cent. of the original weight of salt had separated in twelve days, and each of the twelve crops so obtained consisted of salt of good quality. The liquor continued to deposit crystals for another five days, but these represented salt which steadily deteriorated in quality owing to the presence of increasing quantities of magnesium and lime compounds.

The first twelve crops were thoroughly mixed together and analysed with the following results :—

	Per cent.
Sodium chloride	98·34
Potassium chloride	trace
Calcium sulphate	0·61
Magnesium sulphate	—
Magnesium chloride	0·17
Moisture	0·61

The re-crystallised salt was of good colour, and showed no tendency to deliquesce on exposure to air. It is not so pure as the best refined English salt, which contains 99.96 per cent. of sodium chloride, equal to only 4 parts of impurities in 10,000 parts of salt. The purified Cyprus salt would however be readily saleable as a refined salt, and is obviously of much better quality than the crude Cyprus salt.

It appears that the quantity of salt deposited annually at Larnaca is about 20,000 tons, of which only about 2,500 tons is now extracted for local use, leaving about 17,500 tons. Assuming that about 75 per cent. of this could be recovered by re-crystallisation as a refined salt, this would mean that about 13,000 tons of refined salt would be available for export. It is a point of some importance to ascertain whether this supply could be maintained annually, though the history of the salt industry of the island and such geological observations as have been made seem to indicate that it could.

Possible Markets.

The most likely markets for the refined Cyprus salt are the various countries of the Mediterranean, and possibly India, East Africa, and the Far East.

In many of these countries very little salt is imported and large quantities are made and exported, whilst in others the salt industry is a Government monopoly and importation of salt is prohibited. Countries in these two categories are ruled out as possible markets for Cyprus salt. The remaining countries are dealt with in an informative table annexed to the report, and include France, Belgium, Russia, Algeria, Morocco, British East Africa, Portuguese East Africa, Persia, and India.

It is clear from the table that there are a number of salt-importing countries which could probably take refined Cyprus salt, if the latter can be produced and shipped at rates equal to or lower than those now ruling for the salt imported there. On this point local inquiries would have to be made in the countries themselves, but before making these inquiries it will be necessary to know at what price refined Cyprus salt could be offered. For this purpose a large scale experiment in refining salt must be conducted in Cyprus, careful note being kept of the cost of production. With the information thus obtained and that now supplied in this report it may be possible for merchants in Cyprus to conduct the necessary inquiries in the countries considered most promising as markets for Cyprus salt, but if not the Imperial Institute will be glad to afford any further assistance that may be required.

In the United Kingdom and other countries where fuel is plentiful and cheap it is usual to evaporate brine solutions to the point at which they will crystallise by artificial heat. In countries where fuel is not abundant and the climatic conditions are suitable, solar heat is employed, and it is assumed that this latter plan will be adopted in Cyprus.

Lecture on Cyprus.

We have been favoured with a copy of the lecture which was to have been read by Professor H. B. Gray at the Imperial Institute in July, but which had to be unavoidably eliminated from the course of elementary Imperial lectures. The following are some extracts from the paper which has been submitted to us :—

The great industry of the island is agriculture, but the sleepiness and backwardness of the native farmers have prevented it being much developed. Probably it will prosper more now that the country is under direct British control. Fruit to the value of about £3,000 was exported in 1901; in 1911 this had grown to £5,400. Cyprian wine was once famous, and might well regain its ancient reputation.

The great industry of Cyprus is the production of the karob or locust bean. This (and not the insect of the same name) was the food of St. John the Baptist; probably, too, it is what is referred to as "the husks which the swine did eat" in the parable of the Prodigal Son. To-day it is bought at sweet shops and eaten by children, chiefly in poor neighbourhoods; but it plays no important part in the dietary of older people. Its nutritive properties are, however, well known, and no doubt our food reformers and physical regenerators will some day find a means of dealing with it. In appearance it is like a very large English bean. The seed is small and hard as stone, but the pulp is very sweet, and, as said, very nutritious. It is dried and made up into cakes, and used chiefly as food for horses, mules, and cattle. Thorley's Food is said to be largely made out of this pulp. How important the industry is to Cyprus may be gathered from the fact that the export increased from £88,000 in 1901 to £145,000 in 1911.

Among non-agricultural products asbestos is very abundant. This is a variety of hornblende, and its value for purposes where an incombustible fibre is required is well known. Copper is still produced, and also salt. No one quite knows the origin of the salt lagoons of Cyprus. The principal one lies to the south-west of Larnaca. The salt is probably due to the fact that during the rainy season water runs down from the mountains and fills the lakes with fresh water which the heat of summer afterwards evaporates. Then the soil being impregnated with salt, salt mixes with the fresh water and is left on the surface of the dried lake. It is harvested in August. It is a Government monopoly, and the annual revenue derived from it is about £7,000.

As already stated, the position of Cyprus has always given it a certain political importance. This is still the case. Lying due north of the Suez Canal, it forms an admirable eastern base from which to protect British interests with our Fleet; and, whenever the railway from Constantinople to the Euphrates valley becomes an accomplished fact, Cyprus will occupy a commanding position owing to its nearness to the Gulf of Alexandretta or Iskanderun.

TRADE NOTES.

Egypt.

The Director, Coastguard Stores, Arsenal. Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of 4,500 kilos of engine oil. Date, September 30.

The Controller of the Tanzin Department, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 50 tons of cement. Date, September 11.

Mr. Walter W. Davies, of Cairo, was recently among the successful tenderers to the Egyptian Government for the supply of clothing to the Barlac Training College for Women Teachers.

Morocco.

H.M. Consul-General at Tangier has forwarded an extract from the Cherifian Bulletin Officiel to the Board of Trade, of July 26 last, containing a Dahir for the establishing of a system of general warehouses ("magasins généraux"), in the French Zone of Morocco. These warehouses are to be used for storing raw materials, manufactured articles, merchandise and produce; at the same time, commerce is to be encouraged by the granting of receipts and warrants on the goods deposited which can be negotiated as dock warrants can in the United Kingdom. These warehouses cannot be opened except by special permission, which will be granted only to persons who have a sufficient capital and from whom deposits of varying amounts will be required.

H.M. Consul at Fez (Mr. J. MacLeod, C.M.G.) reports that a French subject n that city wishes to purchase from United Kingdom manufacturers men's, women's, and children's woollen undergarments, including hosiery; also linen and cotton goods, especially all articles termed in French "fil d'Ecosse" (i.e., cotton thread).

United Kingdom manufacturers of the goods mentioned should apply to the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C., for the name and address of the enquirer.

Gibraltar.

A further amended list of prohibited exports is published in last week's issue of the Board of Trade *Journal*.

Libya.

The U.S. Consul in Tripoli reports :—

Until a comparatively recent date there was no market in this region for ready roofings. Italian influence has, however, changed this condition; new types of roofs have been introduced, and a gradual increase is likely in the utilization of such products; but to make the demand important changes must take place in the habits and purchasing power of the native masses. Of the 1,050,000 inhabitants in Libya, 95 per cent. are Arabs, and a large proportion of these are nomadic. Natives who live in the oases have fixed habitations—simple dwellings of stone, sun-dried bricks, or packed earth, with roofs fashioned from date-wood rafters overlaid with palm leaves and straw, the whole being covered with a coating of lime plaster. In coast towns structures are either of stone or brick, with division walls of like material.

All roofs in this last class of building were formerly flat and covered with lime concrete. With the arrival of the Italian forces in 1911 the need for military accommodations caused great building activity. Temporary structures were erected of wood, roofed with eternit, corrugated iron, paroid, or rubberoid. Later, similar quarters were built at interior points and knock-down houses of German origin were introduced. In buildings of a more permanent character reinforced concrete, concrete blocks, bricks, and eternit have been used. Sloping roofs were introduced; the newest hotel has one of eternit slates, and its exterior walls are completely covered with the same article in red. The headquarters of the principal steamship company—a two-story structure with tower—is also roofed and sheathed with eternit, as are the warehouses of the line.

Eternit is described as an artificial stone and is said to be composed of asbestos, other mineral substances, and chalk, fixed and hardened with acids. It is produced by an Italian firm in factories at Casale Monferrato. Sheets are either slate colour or red, and are of varying sizes, ranging from 12 ft. 3 ins. by 3 ft. 11¼ ins. to 1 ft. square. The smaller

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sizes have found readiest sale. All orders are shipped direct from the factory, packed in crates of 100 sheets. The 40 by 40 centimetre sheets are used exclusively for roofs, have three truncated corners, and are sold c.i.f. Tripoli at 42 lire per 100. The large sheets, 120 centimetres square, are quoted at 471 lire, and those 100 centimetres square at 328.50 lire per 100 sheets.

This material can be cut without cracking, and with the aid of a specially contrived tool nails can be driven through with facility. It requires no underlining, and slates are attached directly to the crossbeams of roofs and to uprights of walls. The largest sheets weigh about 28½ pounds, the next 19¾ pounds, and the roofing slates 3 pounds each.

Paroid and rubberoid roofing will probably find little demand here except for temporary buildings. Another paper stocked locally is called "cartoni incatramati feltri" (tar-covered felt cardboard). It comes in rolls containing 10 square metres, and costs, in the heaviest grade, 0.80 lire per square metre. Corrugated iron also found some favour for roofs, and some public structures, such as the fish market and customs landing-stage, were covered with it.

It is estimated that in 1912 imports of roofing materials totalled not less than £10,000, and in 1913 about £8,000, fully 75 per cent. being eternit.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The *Times* special correspondent at Mytilene says that travellers who have arrived from Constantinople report that the Turks have set fire to the town of Ismid, the ancient Nicomedia, which is inhabited mostly by Armenians. The fire lasted two days, August 27 and 28. Many Armenians are said to have been massacred during the conflagration.

The Bulgarian Minister of Finances has authorised several merchant firms to import Egyptian rice.

The Karlovo District (Bulgaria) exported to Great Britain and America in July, 172 kilos of attar of roses, valued at 150,000 frs.

The Bulgaria wheat crop this year is estimated at 1,800,000 metric tons.

The Greek steamer Marcella landed on Monday, at Port Talbot, Captain Olsen and fifteen of the crew of the Norwegian steamer Marie, which caught fire and sank in the Bay of Biscay on September 2. The Marie was bound to London with a general cargo valued at £1,000,000. The vessel caught fire in a strong gale when heavy seas were running, and the flames spread rapidly. The crew had a narrow escape, two boats being swamped in launching.

The Times special correspondent in Mytilene states that it is reported viâ Athens that 400 workmen from Krupp's arrived recently in Constantinople. [This lacks confirmation.]

The rumour which has been current to the effect that Turkey was attempting to obtain munitions in Bulgaria are devoid of foundation, it is stated in London, because, whereas Turkey has Krupp guns, Bulgaria is armed with Creusot cannon.

Numerous purchases of wool, hides, and cereals, which the Germans have effected for a month past in Bulgaria, says the Salonica correspondent of *Le Petit Marseillais*, include delivery *viâ* the Danube. The Germans appear, therefore, to anticipate being able to open the Danube route, now closed by the Serbians, and thus induce Bulgaria to join them.

Dr. von Rosenberg, Reporter on Balkan Affairs to the German Foreign Ministry, is accompanying the Duke of Mecklenburg on his diplomatic visit to Tsar Ferdinand of Bulgaria.

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CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

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Patras in 1914.

The U.S. Consul in Patras has published a useful report on his district for 1914, from which the following are extracts:—

Commercial and industrial conditions in the consular district of Patras, Greece, were upon the whole fairly good for the year 1914. Harvests were for the most part satisfactory, and growers experienced no great difficulty in marketing their products. The few industrial plants of the district operated without serious interruption. Oversea trade experienced only a slight falling off from the previous year, the loss falling rather to the import than the export side of the balance-sheet.

The first half-year was particularly satisfactory to all economic interests. The harvests of the preceding season had been favourable, and the year opened with stocks on hand sufficient to meet the prospective needs of consumption at home as well as the demands of foreign markets. The men who had served under the colours in the wars which the country had been engaged in during the two previous years had largely returned to their regular occupations. The prospects for trade, domestic and oversea, were encouraging. Then as the year drew on toward summer and the coming harvests the outlook in that direction became brighter with the favouring seasons. Farmer and merchant predicted and prepared for a period of unusual prosperity with the coming of autumn.

Suddenly, upon the eve of harvests, the European hostilities broke out, sweeping away for the time the foundations of trade and causing industrial paralysis. Western Greece felt the shock acutely. Not only was its banking at home paralyzed and its entire system of foreign credits thereby interrupted, but it suffered peculiarly in that with the breaking out of hostilities it saw the foreign markets upon which it had been confidently depending to place its great export crop of currants, ready for harvest, either entirely closed at a stroke or else so crippled as to hold out no definite hope for the immediate future.

Currants.

In discussing the commerce and industries of this district the currant trade always leads. This trade stands in somewhat the same relation to the district as cotton does to the Southern States of the United States, but with this significant difference, that whereas the cotton grower may always count on a large domestic consumption of his crop whatever may happen to oversea trade, the Greek currant grower can count upon no natural domestic market for his crop, but is entirely dependent upon the outside world to give him a market. Let the oversea trade be threatened and instantly an economic crisis presents itself not only to the currant grower, but to the entire district.

Business men, anticipating that under the circumstances (European war) there would be a great oversupply of fruit, and fearing the return to old chaotic conditions unless something could be done, appealed to the Government to raise the retention from 35 per cent. to 50 per cent. in kind—a proposal which meant the permanent retirement from the market of one-third of the entire currant crop. If this could be done, said the merchants, there was hope of holding the market somewhat firm; the less marketable fruit would find its way to the retention vaults of the company, there to be converted into wine or alcohol, and the remainder would suffice to meet all the demands from abroad.

The Government, although declining to act immediately, looked upon the appeal with such apparent favour that the local market was at once stimulated and recovered sharply from its depression. The appeal was finally granted, going into effect October 9, and causing a further advance in prices on the local market of some 7 per cent. Meantime every effort was made to reach, either directly or indirectly, the regular markets abroad. The result of all which was that prices soon became steady, and the movement of fruit steadily increased.

Exports.

Among exports from this district olives, olive oil, cheese, and wine figure as most important, after currants. The year's trade in all these proved satisfactory. The trade in olives and oil for any year is drawn chiefly from the crop of the preceding year, the harvest falling in November-December, and finding market in the new year. The harvest of 1913, the biennial full-crop year, had been fair, so that stocks of olives and oil for 1914 were ample. The largest part of both these commodities is taken up by the domestic need, but there is always a good export movement.

The exports of olive oil from the district are much more important than those of olives. The islands of Corfu, Leucas, and Paxos in this district supply four-fifths of all the olive oil exported from the Kingdom of Greece, the exports of oil from these three small islands amounting in full-crop years to some 4,000,000 gallons. Italy and France are the best customers, although both countries produce oil on a much larger scale than Greece. Italy takes about half the export crop. This amounts in full years to some 2,000,000 gallons. France, the next best customer, takes 15 to 30 per cent., or 500,000 to 1,000,000 gallons in full years. Russia stands next after France in the list of customers with annual purchases of about 375,000 gallons. Austria and the United States take about equal quantities.

The exports of cheese consist of two kinds—a soft, white, salted cheese, shipped in small casks, and head cheese of various grades. All cheese manufactured in the district or exported from it is made of goat's milk. The United States stands easily first as a customer of cheese from this district. The next best customer is Italy, which, however, takes only head cheese.

Great quantities of common wine, in casks, both red and white wine, are annually exported from the district. The shipments total about half of the exports of these wines from the entire kingdom. Official statistics covering the three years 1910-1912, the latest available, give the export of wine in casks from the district as about 6,000,000 gallons per year. The same authority shows that France is by far the heaviest importer, shipments to that country amounting annually to about 45 per cent. of all wine exports. The next best customer during this period was Germany, which took some 15 per cent. of the total wine exports. Austria, Italy, and Switzerland competed, in the order named, for third rank. The Netherlands, Great Britain, and Turkey came next.

This district produces large quantities of tobacco. There are three fairly distinct kinds produced, known locally as Tsembelia, Aromatic, and Basma. The article is light in both colour and weight. The leaf varies from four to five inches long in the Aromatic to nine or ten inches in the other grades. All three kinds are best suited for making cigarettes, of which grade quantities are manufactured and consumed in the district. The annual exports of tobacco from the district are large, varying in value from £120,000 to £180,000. Egypt is easily the best customer, with Germany, Austria, and Malta standing next.

The annual exports of valona amount to some £50,000. Considerable shipments were formerly made to the United States, but recently the trade has stopped almost completely. The article now goes to Austria, Germany, Italy, and Russia.

Imports.

The chief articles imported into the district are, in their order, wheat and other cereals, cotton and woollen goods, lumber, sugar and coffee, cured fish, flowers of sulphur and copper sulphate, coal, iron manufactures, rice, and hides. These make an annual total amounting to some £1,200,000, or 60 per cent. of all imports. The other 40 per cent. is distributed over a wide field of commodities. The district imports about one-half its wheat and other cereals, practically all its cotton and woollen goods, amounting annually to £200,000; nearly all its lumber; all its sugar and coffee; cured fish; flowers of sulphur and copper sulphate; coal; iron manufactures; rice; and much of its hides for tanning.

Trade in all these lines was favourable during the first half of 1914. Prices on foreign markets were satisfactory, and domestic demands for practically all these commodities encouraged importers. There was but little shifting in the channels of trade. The second half of the year, however, saw great dislocation. This was due to the closing of many foreign markets on which importers had depended, to the difficulty of securing other satisfactory markets, and to the crippling of transportation facilities. Business in one or two lines became paralyzed and did not recover perceptibly as the year closed.

Wheat and other cereals are usually supplied to the district from Black Sea ports. Upon the declaration of war by Turkey in October and the closing of the Dardanelles this market was closed. Importers at once turned to the United States as the only available source of supply, and during the last quarter of the year heavy orders were negotiated upon that market. Prices abroad rose steadily as the months passed, and shipping companies raised their ocean freights by as much as 300 per cent. or even more. These advances in cost caused a sharp advance on the local markets in the price of bread, the price advancing from 4 cents. per pound to 4¾ cents. Since half the expense of daily ration among the common people is bread this meant a perceptible advance in the keeping of a family. Coffee, which up to the outbreak of the war had come from Austria, was imported from the United States in considerable quantities toward the end of the year, the former market being closed. Copper sulphate was brought from Great Britain during the first half of the year, but that market not being available in the second half supplies were brought from the United States.

The lumber supply of the district comes normally from Austria via the Black Sea. In the second half of the year this source was completely cut off, and as no other market was immediately in reach, this trade became paralyzed. Importers, however, began to feel the American market in the last months of the year, and it is probable that supplies will shortly begin to arrive from that market.

Iron manufactures are brought from Great Britain, Belgium, and Germany to this district. The last half of the year witnessed a marked decline in movements, owing to the difficulties experienced in terms and transportation. The same was true of cotton and woollen goods, which come mainly from Great Britain and Germany. Other imports held to their usual channels, coal coming from Great Britain, sugar from Austria, cured fish from Labrador, though in lesser quantities on account of difficulty in transportation; sulphur and rice from Italy, and hides from any available market.

ROUMANIAN OIL PRODUCTION.

The production of crude oil in Roumania during June totalled approximately 135,000 tons, as compared with 149,000 tons for the previous month, or a decline of about 14,000 tons. The falling off is doubtless mainly due to the fact that the principal producers have been restricting their output owing to existing storage being full (says *Oil News*); new wells are being drilled, but as soon as these approach the oil stratum operations are suspended and the work will not be completed until more favourable conditions prevail. In the meantime the construction of new storage is proceeding, and by the middle of this month the storage at Baicoi in connection with the new pipe line will probably also be available for the use of the producers; this latter will have a capacity of some 15,000 tons.

Details of the larger producing companies and their output in June are :—

	Tons.
Steaua Romana (German control)	27,331
Astra Romana (Royal Dutch and Shell)	23,980
Romano-Americana (Standard Oil)	27,468
Columbia	5,839
Concordia	7,272
Orion	4,592
Roumanian Consolidated	6,278
International	7,153
Aquila Franco-Romano	6,589
Alpha	3,369
Nafta	5,445

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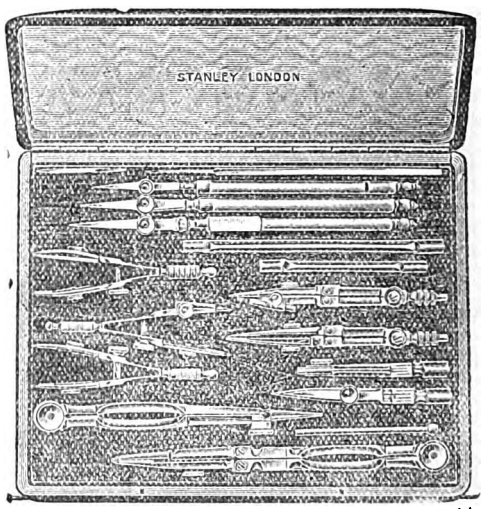

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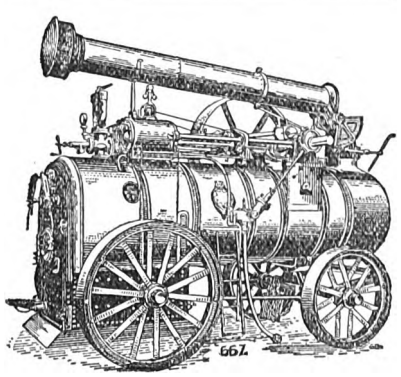

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Engineering Notes.

Spraying Machines.

In spite of the extensive use, in the Levant, of sulphate of copper, lime, and other substances, in liquid form, for spraying vineyards, orchards, etc., as a prophylactic against phylloxera and other diseases, a subsequent, though sporadic, appearance of the latter is not unusual. And as this occurs even in vineyards, or gardens, where economy in spraying is not considered, and only the best quality of liquid is used, such appearance of the disease may safely be taken as an indication of faulty or imperfect spraying. With a deficient spraying-machine or apparatus, the liquid cannot be properly sprayed; vital parts of the plants or trees may thus be left "untreated," and, naturally, such parts, as well as any others which the spraying has not reached, will sooner or later be attacked by the disease, and there the germs will breed and the spreading of the disease will follow.

German Sprayers.

Various spraying-machines and devices are being used in the fruit-growing districts of the Levant, but, as a rule, the cheap German and Austrian mechanisms are mostly in evidence. Their cheapness is not so much a temptation as the way in which their manufacturers "push" them to the buyers' notice. They are bought because buyers know how and where to find them, although their efficiency may be doubtful. Some time ago we gave in these columns the description of some new spraying-machines of British construction. They were fitted with very powerful pumps, enabling the liquid, applied as a spray, to reach the corners, cracks, and crevices, of the plant, where generally disease and germs breed. This cannot be done with ordinary mechanical spraying devices, such as used in the Levant. But the price of those machines was, probably, not within the reach of the average vine or fruit grower, and, as smaller machines and knapsack sprayers are mostly used in the Near East, and are in demand at present, we will mention here a class of small spraying-machines and apparatus, which are all-British, and can meet the requirements of fruit growers and gardeners in the East. They are made on the same principle as the larger machines, and their spraying efficiency is as effective as that of the latter.

Cheap Knapsack Sprayers.

A sprayer which will appeal to all growers is a new knapsack sprayer which, evidently, has been produced for those to whom price is a consideration. Its copper container is of unusual thickness, all the parts are interchangeable, and the brass spraying arm is furnished with a strainer rod which prevents any choking or clogging of the nozzles. The thicker part of the rod forms an excellent handle when spraying, and from it the strainer can be removed for cleaning in a moment. Another knapsack sprayer is also very interesting, for it is a most easily manipulated little machine, containing powerful agitators, and a removable brass pump with brass ball valves and a large air chamber. Its copper container will hold 3¼ gallons of liquid, and the brass spraying arm has in association with it a special nozzle for fine spraying, a double swivel nozzle, which can be converted into a single nozzle, for potato or fruit tree work, and a special lime-washing nozzle. Another machine of similar type has an ingenious foot rest, which may be pulled out and used for steadying purposes whenever one cares to employ it as a bucket sprayer, while the brass pump may be entirely lifted from the container for cleaning purposes in a few seconds by loosening two thumbscrews.

Life of British Machinery.

In commenting on the respective trade methods of the United Kingdom and Germany with Russia, the British Consul at Helsinfors suggests that British machinery is too strongly made and practically never wears out. At first sight this circumstance would appear to be in favour of British trade. If, however, German machinery can be manufactured with such an exact structural strength as to fulfil all that is claimed for it, that is, to give a definite output for a definite number of years, it can obviously be supplied more cheaply than machinery giving 20 per cent. greater output for an indefinite period. There must be a great risk in manufacturing without a margin, but there seem to be sound reasons for not making the margin excessive.

Oil and Concrete.

It is reported that the Director of the United States Office of Public Roads has found that concrete may be made damp-proof by mixing mineral oil with the materials, and that the presence of the oil does not reduce the tensile strength or substantially lessen the compressive strength. The oil is added to the matrix after the latter has been well mixed, and after thorough incorporation all traces of the oil disappear—where is not stated. Perhaps this disappearance is the explanation of the apparent anomaly, and the concrete maintains its normal strength, in spite of the oil, deriving some compensation from the additional mixing. That the admixture of oil would tend to oppose the passage of moisture is not surprising, but it is strange that the strength of the mass should not, at the same time, be lessened. The addition of the oil seems to delay the setting of the concrete, but not the rate of increase in strength.

Galician Oil Wells Ablaze.

The Russians in their retreat, not wishing to leave the valuable oil wells in Galicia to the Germans, set them on fire, and it is said that the blaze lasted for eighteen days. The occurrence reminds us of a report from Lemberg, in Galicia, a few months before the war began, that an ingenious inventor had discovered, or rather compounded, a powder which had the valuable property of extinguishing fire. Of course, there are known compounds which have that property; but the Galician inventor claimed for his compound that it could extinguish oilfield fires. If there is any virtue in the invention a fortune will have awaited its author (besides the Iron Cross, which the Kaiser will, undoubtedly, have bestowed on him if his compound was responsible for putting out the fire in the Galician wells). However, nothing in the way of a fire is so difficult to extinguish as one in an oil well, and any means that could be found to handle such destructive blazes would be heartily welcomed by oil men the world over. According to the report of the discovery alluded to above, the powder is thrown on the flames with the effect of extinguishing them immediately. The tests, it was then said, were carried out on small wooden buildings saturated with tar and crude oil, while the floor in the interior was covered with crude oil and gasoline. When the powder was thrown on the flames, it is stated, the flames were instantaneously put out.

Industrial Alcohol.

Among the prizes offered in an international competition organised by the Russian Ministry of Finance in respect (1) of methods of utilising spirit or alcohol or their products, and (2) of new substances for denaturing spirit or alcohol, two groups are of interest to engineers and chemists, says the *Times* Engineering Supplement. Prizes ranging from 75,000 to 5,000 roubles will be awarded for the invention or perfection of apparatus for the utilisation of spirit for motive power, fuel, or illumination, and three prizes of 30,000, 15,000, and 5,000 roubles respectively are offered for finding novel denaturing materials for improving the existing methods of denaturing, which, while guaranteeing the free use of denatured spirit, would obviate any possibility of using it as a beverage, the object being the extension of the use of spirit for technical purposes. Inventors may reserve the right of benefiting by their inventions and of protecting themselves by letters patent.

A Small Light Plough.

A drawback to the employment of the English plough in the East is its weight. It is very heavy for the native animals, and also for the ploughman who is accustomed to the home-made native implement, and cannot reconcile himself with the heavy-weight English plough, which he finds too heavy to handle. There are, however, light ploughs made in Scotland, Ireland, and even in England, which could meet the requirements of the Oriental farmer, but apparently makers do not trouble to bring them to his notice. However, it will interest those agriculturists who prefer English implements to know that a very small plough can now be obtained in England, and at a very reasonable price. In a recent show it had the distinction of being the smallest implement of the kind. It is well adapted for colonial use, small holders, market gardeners, and horticulturists. This little implement weighs only 50 lbs. (18 okes), and is priced at 32s., whilst it will plough 6 ins. deep by 8 ins. wide.

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Near East Markets.

PRODUCE REPORT.

London, September 9.

Currants.

There has been a strong demand for old fruit this past week, while quotations for new, "to arrive," still continue to mount upwards. First arrivals of new crop may be expected within a fortnight, and it is believed by many that if the present prices are maintained a hand-to-mouth business will probably be the result until the market is more settled. The stocks of currants in London on August 31 were 3,303 tons, against 2,116 tons of last year. In Liverpool the available spot parcels have nearly all been cleared at very full prices.

Sultanas.

As the time passes and the likelihood of receiving any supplies of Smyrna fruit this season becomes more remote, the demand for the available stocks increases and prices are higher. The stocks of Sultanas of all kinds in London on August 31 were 1,690 tons, against 2,783 tons last year, the same period. In Liverpool, in spite of the high prices now ruling, some good business has been done this past week in Smyrna fruit of recent arrival, and quotations range from 70s. to 85s.

Figs.

The demand for Greek figs continues, and prices are unchanged.

Seeds.

Linseed is quiet and at about late rates. London-Calcutta spot is quoted 56s., afloat, August-September and September-October, also 56s. Rapeseed is firm, but inactive. Guzera September-October is quoted 59s., and brown Cawnpore, pure basis, August-September 53s. Cottonseed remaining dull; London—Egyptian, spot, quoted £9 15s., September £9 8s. 9d., and October £9 5s. per ton.

Oils.

Linseed oil has been quieter this past week, especially for forward positions. Spot pipes (landed) £25 10s., barrels, ditto, £26 5s., September-December £26. Rape oil remains firm. Ordinary brown naked £34 to £35. English refined barrels £36 to £38.

Oilcakes.

Cottoncakes.—There is only small business passing for early new crop. The market is practically depleted of stocks, and prices are only nominal. Linseed-cake.—Owing to the high prices the consumptive demand has been considerably checked. Best London made is offered at £11 12s. 6d. to £11 15s. Decorticated cottoncakes are nominally quoted at £9 5s. to £9 10s. per ton.

Locust Beans.

The market is quiet, and offers are made sparingly at £8 per ton for whole, and £8 10s. for kibbled in bags.

Gums.

There is little doing, quotations being for Arabic, Turkish sorts 45s. to 60s.; Mastic, 3s. to 3s. 6d.; Tragacanth first 360s. to 900s., low to good sorts 90s. to 130s.

WAR ON GERMAN TRADE.

In connection with the campaign undertaken by the Board of Trade, on the advice of their Advisory Committee on Commercial Intelligence, to assist British manufacturers and merchants to secure trade formerly in the hands of German or Austro-Hungarian firms, the Board continue to receive a very large number of inquiries for the names of sellers or buyers of articles of which the sources of supply or markets have been interfered with by the war.

Special arrangements have been made in the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade for dealing with these inquiries, and the weekly list of articles (No. 37) which inquirers desire to purchase is ready, and may be obtained by United Kingdom manufacturers and exporters of British goods.

COTTON MARKET.

Liverpool.

September 9.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson telegraph:—

Egyptian Spot.—There was a good demand this week, and large business resulted at hardening rates. Quotations advanced ten points for upper, fifteen points for fine and extra-fine brown, and twenty points for all others. The sales, which include 450 bales of Sudan cotton and a fair proportion for speculation, represent 5,500 bales, as against 4,300 last week.

Manchester.

Since the last report the market has been under the influence of a further rise in raw cotton.

COTTON STATISTICS.

The Liverpool Cotton Association has published its annual circular, the statistics dealing with the season ending July 31, whilst comparative figures are made up to August 31 in previous seasons. According to Messrs. Frederick W. Tattersall and Company, the highest point of the market for American cotton during the season was on August 7, 1914, when middling was quoted at 6.50d. per lb. and the lowest point was on December 12, 1914, when it was quoted at 4.25d. The average price of American cotton for the season 1914-15 was 5.22d., as compared with 7.27d. in the previous year. The average price of fully good fair Egyptian cotton was 7.34d., against 9.45d. in 1913-14.

The total import of raw cotton into Great Britain, compared with the preceding year, shows an increase of 451,652 bales American and 13,673 bales East Indian, and a decrease of 246,026 Brazilian, 10,456 Egyptian, 24,816 Peruvian, 4,872 West Indian and 14,767 African.

COTTON PRODUCTION IN THE EMPIRE.

The following statement showing, so far as the information is available, the quantity of ginned cotton produced in the various British self-governing dominions, Crown colonies, possessions, and protectorates in 1914, as compared with the preceding year, has been compiled from information furnished by the respective trade correspondents of the Board of Trade:—

—	1913 (calendar year).	Year ended 31st March, 1914.	1914 (calendar year).
Europe—	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.
Cyprus	1,505,728	—	1,048,992
Malta	—	225,860	—
Asia—			
British India (including Native States)	—	2,080,400,000*	—
Ceylon	28	—	22,400
Africa—			
Union of S'th Africa	32,471	—	41,464
Northern Rhodesia	198,089	—	14,306
East African Protectorate	127,600	—	36,000
Gold Coast	9,166	—	7,838
Nigeria	6,362,000	—	†
Nyasaland Protectorate	—	2,401,142	—
Uganda Protectorate	6,381,600*	—	13,871,171*
Egypt	759,111,536	—	693,343,000
British West Indies—			
Antigua	172,023	—	165,240
Bahamas	13,286	—	None.
Barbados	433,099	—	225,938
Grenada	400 813	—	358,087
Jamaica	69,296	—	32,235
St. Lucia	4,000	—	5,100
St. Vincent	484,975	—	422,589
Trinidad and Tobago	7,046	—	None.
Australia and Islands in the Pacific—			
Queensland	10,998	—	4,867
Fiji	2,570	—	4,884
British Solomon Islands	7,280	—	†

* Estimated.
† Information not yet available.

BAGHDAD RESOURCES

The U.S. Consul at Baghdad reports as follows:—

The occupations in which the people of Baghdad and vicinity are engaged may be divided into three classes—those incidental to life in the cities and towns; the agricultural and cattle breeding which engage the attention of the people and tribes living in the neighbourhood of Divanieh, Samawa, Shamieh, Hindieh, Kerbala, Diem, Hillah, and Azizieh; and the breeding of sheep and camels, combined with agriculture, among the Bedouins or nomad tribes, chief among whom are the Eneza and Shammer tribes. Some of the city dwellers are employed by the Government, while others are owners of lands or other properties from which they derive an income, and still others are merchants or farmers. The second class mentioned includes some who live in huts made of reeds or mud and others who frequently move from place to place and live in black tents made from the hair of animals.

The city of Baghdad consists of more than 30,000 houses, 5,000 shops, 208 khans, 235 coffee-houses, 325 gardens, 145 mosques, sixteen schools, forty takyas (convents of dervishes), fifty shrines, five printing establishments, six churches, six synagogues, and thirty baths, together with other private and public buildings. The population of the Baghdad district, including the nomad and settled Arabian tribes and other unregistered tribes, is estimated at 850,000. The greater number of the inhabitants are Arabs (among whom may be included the native Christians), the remainder being Kurds and Turks. The majority of the inhabitants are Mohammedans, and the rest are Jews and Chaldean, Syrian, and Armenian Christians.

Local Manufactures of Baghdad.

The local manufactures of Baghdad are silk "izars" or women's wraps, which are universally worn; "abas" or native cloaks for men, and other cotton and silk embroideries, as well as copper, gold, and silver articles. At a place called Mandeli, sixty-eight miles north-east of Baghdad, rich crude oil, bitumen, and salt mines are reported to exist. Great varieties of fruit and vegetables are very plentiful in the Baghdad district.

About five miles above Hillah, on the opposite or left bank of the Euphrates, is a series of artificial mounds of enormous size, and there is another lofty mound, thought to be the "hanging gardens" of Nebuchadnezzar. The bricks used were made from the soil of the country, in many parts an excellent clay. The ruins of the edifices that were constructed from these bricks are now the quarries from which the modern Arab obtains the material for his home. The most striking is the vast ruin which is regarded as the Tower of Babel, about six miles south-west of Hillah.

Features of Mosul Trade and Its Resources.

Mosul, which is about 400 miles north of Baghdad, on the western bank of the Tigris, is celebrated for the manufacture of various kinds of earthenware, such as water basins, bowls, etc. It also specializes in the manufacture of silk and cotton goods. These goods are exported to places in the vicinity. There are many marble quarries around the city, the product being used on a large scale, while a considerable quantity is shipped to Baghdad. There are also six springs of sulphur and other mineral waters, quicksilver, two rich crude petroleum fields, and three coal mines in the vicinity of Mosul. There are other rich oil fields in Gayara and at another place near the town of Kerkook, both in the Mosud vilayet.

Mosul contains thirty-four quarters, comprising 9,106 houses, 2,852 shops, seventeen baths, thirty-four khans, 110 commercial houses, sixty-two coffee-houses, 266 flour mills, fifty-six mosques, eleven dervishes' convents, thirty-one gardens, twenty churches, twenty-five marble quarries, eight monasteries, and various other buildings. The male population of the whole district, according to the official census of 1913, was 193,848, of which 182,900 were Moslems and 10,800 Christians and Jews. The majority of the people speak the Arabic language, the rest speaking Kurdish. The Turkish language also is understood.

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EGYPTIAN FINANCES.

In a supplement to the *Official Journal* is given an account of the Egyptian Government revenues and expenditure from April 1 to the end of June.

Receipts totalled £E3,695,246, as against £E.4,055,608 for the corresponding period of last year; and the total expenditure was £E.4,350,501, as against £E.5,115,320, the deficit for the three months of this year being £E.655,255.

On the revenue side of the accounts there is shown a satisfactory increase in land tax receipts, which have swelled from £E.822,337 to £E.1,166,076. Telegraphs also show an increase, the receipts from this source amounting to £E30,374 as compared with £E.27,744. All the other important sources of revenue, however, reflect the disturbance of the war (says the *Egyptian Gazette*), notably Customs, which are down from £E.509,273 to £E.349,288.

Port and lighthouse dues have similarly suffered, the decrease in the case of the former being from £E.83,090 to £E.22,064, and in the case of the latter from £E.30,618 to £E.17,779.

Hard times are reflected in what seems to be diminished litigation and such like. Court fees, at all events, show a decided falling off in relation to both the Mixed Tribunals and the Mehkemehs, though a substantial increase is shown in the case of the Native Courts.

Railway receipts are down from £E.898,826 to £E.762,604, and postal receipts from £E.82,535 to £E.68,104. Sales of properties realised only £E.23,415, as compared with £E.49,957.

Rigorous economies are, of course, shown on the other side of the accounts, the expenditure for the three months being over three-quarters of a million less than during the corresponding period of 1914. The Ministry of Agriculture had over half a million less to spend; that is to say, only £E.1,183,003, instead of £E.1,744,481; railways had to manage on £E.591,239, whereas they previously accounted for £E.817,760, while telegraphs were reduced from £E.38,656 to £E.34,690.

An interesting item is "Forces of His Britannic Majesty in Egypt," £E.36,562. The Ministry of War spent £E.177,806, as against £E.279,886.

Pensions and indemnities in respect of both the civil and military services show fairly substantial increases.

PROSPEROUS EGYPT.

Under the above title the *Stock Exchange Gazette* publishes an informative article on Egypt, from which we reproduce the following extracts:—

The general outlook for the Nile Valley may be regarded as extremely promising just now. In normal years the Egyptian tourist traffic is responsible for an outlay of about £E1,000,000 in that country, but since the war started there has, of course, been very little holiday-making in Cairo or elsewhere in the Nile Valley. On the other hand, at least £E7,000,000 have been spent by the Government on the care and maintenance of troops in Egypt, who are still there in large numbers, for as soon as one draft goes off another takes its place. Now let us take another matter. In the twelve months which preceded the war Egypt exported goods representing a value of £E5,000,000 more than she imported; during the year which has since elapsed the corresponding figure has been £E7,000,000, which of itself indicates a high level of prosperity. Owing to war exigencies, the country has been so thrown upon its own resources since the end of July, 1914, that it has become self-supporting to an extent rarely known before, and the Government will see to it that, so far as possible, this state of affairs is continued after peace has been restored—in other words, that Egypt shall rank permanently as an exporting country.

Among politicians great developments are anticipated from the fact that members from every part of the British Empire have been quartered during the past year in the Land of the Pharaohs. In fact, already the leaven of intercourse with practical agriculturists from every part of the world is bearing fruit. We have it on good authority that the wheat-growing possibilities of the Nile Valley have been warmly appreciated by men from other countries, some of whom, it is by no means improbable, may return when the war is over and take up their abode in the lower parts of Egypt, so that a good deal of the land at present utilised for cotton-growing may quite possibly be added to the wheat area before many years have passed. Whether this would be a good thing or not depends entirely upon the question of produce prices. What is not open to doubt, however, is that the advent of practical colonists, possessing capital for development purposes, into the Nile Valley should benefit the entire country to an extent which it would be almost impossible to calculate in terms of pounds sterling. Egypt has been "discovered" by men from Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and elsewhere, who intend to turn their new knowledge to practical account and for the benefit of their own pockets. Thereby they will not only be doing a wise thing for themselves, but they will be advancing the interests of the Empire after it has emerged triumphantly from the greatest crisis with which it has even been faced.

BALKAN BONDS.

Last week the *Financier* published an informative article on Greek, Roumanian, Serbian, and Bulgarian bonds, from which we quote the following:—

The prices quoted on the London Stock Exchange for the securities of the various Balkan States, other than Turkey, admittedly afford little guide to their actual value, since it is very seldom that any transaction is recorded, and where markings are shown in the list they are not always of very recent date. Still, it is interesting at this time to compare even the nominal prices now ruling with those that prevailed before the war, if only to ascertain the view of the financial community on the complex Balkan political problem. It might be supposed that the credit of Serbia, who has been our ally from

AGRICULTURAL BANK OF BULGARIA

(BANQUE AGRICOLE DE BULGARIE).

PRIVILEGED CREDIT ESTABLISHMENT.

ESTABLISHED IN 1864.

CAPITAL (fully paid-up) - - Frs. 45,500,000
RESERVE FUNDS - - - „ 14,500,000

Head Office: SOFIA.

85 Branches and 100 Agencies in all the principal centres of Bulgaria.
Banking and Stock Exchange Operations undertaken. Special Service for Debt Collection, Transfers, Letters of Credit, etc.

NATIONAL BANK OF BULGARIA.

State Bank of Emission. Established 1879.

Head Office - - SOPHIA.

Branches at Sophia, Roustschouk, Varna, Philippopolis, Tirnovo, Burgas, Widin, Plevna, Sistov, Sliven, T.-Pazardjic, Shumla, Stara-Zagora, Gabrovo, Dede-Agatch, Xanthie, Gumuldjina, and 70 agencies.

Capital - 20,000,000 leva gold = £800,000. Reserve Funds - 10,500,000 leva gold = £420,000

EVERY KIND OF BANKING BUSINESS TRANSACTED.

Governor, CHR. TCHAKALOFF.

NATIONAL BANK OF GREECE.

ESTABLISHED IN 1841.

CAPITAL - Dr. 20,000,000. RESERVES - Dr. 13,500,000.

Head Office: ATHENS.

BRANCHES.

Aegion, Agrinion, Almyros, Amalias, Amphissa, Arta, Atalante, Calamata, Calavryta, Céphalonia, Chalkis, Corfu, Corinth, Cythère, Dimitzana, Gythium, Ithaque, Janina, Karditza, Kyparissia, Lamia, Larissa, Lévadia, Mégalopoli, Messina, Missolonghi, Naupacta, Nauplia, Patras, Paxos, Piræus, Poros, Pylos, Pyrgos, St. Maure, Salonika, Santorin, Sparta, Syra, Thèbes, Trikkala, Tripoli, Volo, Zante,

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the first, would stand higher in London than that of the other States, which have continued to preserve a more or less frigid neutrality. But, as a fact, not a single deal has been recorded in Serbian Four per Cent. Unified bonds since the Stock Exchange reopened, and the price of 67, at which they stood on July 27, 1914, still represents their nominal value in London. In Paris the equivalent bonds are quoted at 60 fr. per cent., equal to a price of about 55 in London. Montenegrin Fives were quoted at 82½ before the war, but have not since been dealt in. Both countries have continued to pay interest on their External Debt, no doubt with the help of loans received from the British and French Governments, and there is no reason why this arrangement should not be continued until peace is concluded, when the victors should be able to obtain fresh accommodation on satisfactory terms. The status of other Balkan securities suggests that Roumania and Greece are regarded as likely to throw in their lot with the Allies, while Bulgaria is more uncertain. This represents a very fair idea of the position at the moment, though the situation is so delicate that twenty-four hours may make all the difference to the aspect of the Balkan problem.

The following are the current quotations of Balkan loans, together with those preceding the war :—

	Price. Aug. 30, 1915.	July 27, 1914.	Rise or fall.
Bulgarian Six per Cent., 1892..	87	99	−12
,, Four and a-Half per Cent., 1909	67	80	−13
Greek Five per Cent., 1881	57	57	—
,, Five per Cent., 1884	56½	56	+ ½
,, Monopoly Four per Cent., 1887.....	47	49	− 2
,, Four per Cent. Rentes, 1889.....	42	45	− 3
,, Five per Cent. 1890 (Piræus Larissa Railway)	55	56	− 1
,, Five per Cent. Funding, 1893.....	50	54	− 4
,, Four per Cent. Railways Loan, 1902	65	77	−12
,, Five per Cent. National Loan, 1907	88½	94	− 5½
,, Five per Cent. Loan of 1914.....	76	90	−14
Montenegro Five per Cent. ..	—	82½	—
Roumania Four and a Half per Cent., 1913	85	92	− 7
Serbian Four per Cent. Unified	—	67	—

Minimum prices are fixed for five of the older Greek loans, the interest on which is paid out of the revenues assigned to the International Commission, and in each case the current price is well above the minimum. The Five per Cent. Loan of March-April, 1914, is perhaps a better indication of Greek credit. Issued at 92½, the loan was not popular with the public, owing, no doubt, to the fear that the perpetual friction between Greece and Turkey would sooner or later result in hostilities, and by July 27 the price had fallen to 90. Business was recorded yesterday at 76 cum the coupon due to-morrow. Despite the war Greek finances were in a comparatively prosperous condition during last year. The surplus revenues assigned to the service of the loans controlled by the Commission in respect of 1914 amounted to 7,293,400 drachmas, which is the best result since the Commission was established. The last due coupons were therefore paid at increased rates, those of the Monopoly Loan being paid at 83 per cent. of their face value, the 1881 and 1884 Loans and the Five per Cents. of 1890 at 76 per cent., and the Funding at 32 per cent. During the current year the pressure of the war, and especially the cost of armaments, must have been more severely felt, but the quotations of Greek bonds suggest that the credit of the country is still regarded as good. From the investor's point of view, however, almost everything depends upon the course adopted by the Greek Government during the present crisis.

ALEXANDRIA PRODUCE AND EXPORT COMPANY, LTD.

Under the above title a private company has been registered with a capital of £15,000 in £1 shares. The objects are stated to be:—To take over the business of Egyptian produce exporters formerly carried on by Messrs. Elie J. Constantinides and Co., of Alexandria, Egypt, and to carry on the said business, particularly in reference to cotton seed, oil cake, and cotton oil. The registered office is at 1, Craig's Court, Charing Cross, S.W.

COMPANY RESULTS, &c.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN OILFIELDS.—Gemoah production for the week, 163 tons (last week 164 tons); Hurgada production for the week, 237 tons (last week 238 tons).

ANGLO-OTTOMAN TOBACCO.—The directors have declared a dividend of 6 per cent. per annum, less tax, on the six per cent. Cumulative Preference and Participating shares for the year ending March 31 last, payable on the 15th inst.

BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT FIVE PER CENT. GOLD LOAN, 1902.—Messrs. Stern Brothers announce that funds have been remitted to them from the Bulgarian Government to pay the Coupon No. 26, due September 14, 1915, of the bonds of the above issue belonging to English holders and bearing the English stamp. Such coupons will be paid on presentation on and after September 14, less income-tax at 2s. 6d. in the £.

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.—Receipts for the ten days ended August 20 amounted to £E3,879, as against £E4,220 for the same period of last year.

ROUMANIAN 1905 FOUR PER CENT. REDEEMABLE STOCK RENTE.—The numbers are announced of the bonds drawn and redeemed at the 19th drawing on July 1. The amount redeemed is Frs. 3,130,000.

AGRICULTURAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Situation au 31 Juillet, 1915.

Prêts Existants:

	1914. £E.	1915. £E.
Prêts à court terme	46,108	7,707
Catégorie "B".....	6,129,250	5,431,571
Total	6,175,358	5,439,278
Echéances:		
Dues	106,712	77,276
A échoir	1,096,320	928,009
Total	1,203,032	1,005,285

Perceptions:

	1914. £E.	1915. £E.
Arriérés au 31 janvier	704,977	1,394,546
Restant	552,521	1,226,457
Perçu	152,456	168,089
Echéances:		
Perçu	27,319	30,433
Total perçu sur annuités échues.....	179,775	198,522

NATIONAL BANK OF ROUMANIA.

BALANCE-SHEET, AUGUST 25/7, 1915.

ASSETS.

Metallic reserve	Gold (specie)	165,834,796	
	On deposit..	25,220,000	
	Gold (bars) .	205,000	
	Foreign bills payable in gold.....	75,814,310	267,074,106
Silver and other coins.....			499,648
Roumanian and foreign bills			210,073,229
Advances against Government securities		24,915,500	49,189,213
On current account		48,869,100	
Unused balance ..		24,595,387	24,273,713
Loan of 15 millions to the State.....			11,273,958
Loan to Government on 4 per cent. Treasury Bonds (1914)			228,474,938
Bank's capital invested in Government stock			10,699,576
Reserve invested in Government stock			16,411,177
Reserve, depreciation of buildings, furniture and printing machinery			3,956,681
Premises			6,738,003
Furniture and printing machinery			1,111,081
General expenses			242,088
Government and other securities deposited			138,310,341
Four per Cent. Gold Treasury Bonds as security for loan to State.....			300,000,000
Securities held against advances or temporarily lodged			157,911,903
Current accounts			15,214,706
Security accounts.....			21,944,549
Sundry accounts			34,146,154
Total Lei			1,473,271,351

LIABILITIES.

Capital	12,000,000
Reserve.....	39,780,616
Reserve, depreciation of buildings, furniture and printing machinery	5,907,700
Notes in circulation.....	677,304,692
Profit and loss account	4,902,667
Interest and various earnings	1,090,131
Current accounts and drafts at sight	65,615,749
Securities, etc., held on account of customers	596,222,244
Sundry accounts	70,447,552
Total Lei.....	1,473,271,351

Bank Rate, 6 per cent.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE	Mean Price. July 27	Min. Price. Mar. 20.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	—	89½xd
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907..	82	—	—
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909..	80	—	66
City of Alexandria 5%, 1909 ..	99	—	90½
City of Constantinople 4% Bnds	96	—	—
Egypt, Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan ..	93½	87½	87½
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	85	85
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	88	78	78
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82½	73½	78⅝
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	80½	75	75¾
Greek 5 %, 1881.....	57	52	56
Do. 5 %, 1884.....	56	52	55
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	45	45½
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	40	42
Do. 5 %, 1890.....	56	52	53
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	—	50
Do. 4 % Rails. Loan, 1902 ..	77	—	65
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	94	—	90
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	—	73xd
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	91	—	80
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £60p.	92	—	85
Servian 4 % Unified Bonds	67	—	—xd
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855..	103	97	—
Do. 4 %, 1891	94½	—	83
Do. 3½ % Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	—	73½
Do. 4 % Loan, 1902	82½	—	—
Do. 4 % Unified	79	—	54
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	65½	—	49
Do. 4 %, 1909	69	—	47⅛
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)..	4½	—	2¾
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7¾	—	6¼
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.....	80	—	73
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red...	83	—	75
Anglo-Egyptian Bank.....	12	—	9
Bank of Abyssinia	¼	—	—
Bank of Athens.....	£2	—	1½
Bank of Roumania	8½	—	—
Eastern Bank	5	—	82/6
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅜	—	6
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	—	—
Ionian Bank, Limited.....	3⅞	—	3½
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	—	4¾
National Bank of Egypt	13⅜	—	10⅝
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½% C.P.	8	—	nom.
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8½	—	5½xd
Do. do. 5 % Debs., Red.	98	—	95
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I.	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88½	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17⅞	—	13
Do. do. 6 % Cum. Pref.	22	—	13⅜
Do. do. 4 % 1st Deb. ..	87	—	57
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb...	101	—	69
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	90	—	—
Do. do. 3 % Bonds..	61	—	—
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares) ..	1⅞	—	⅝
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	—	95
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt....	¼	—	—
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	—	2
Do. Do. Def.	¼	—	—
Béhéra Co.	8¼	—	7
Do. Pref.	4⅜	—	3½
Daira Sanieh	2/2	—	2/6
Do. Def.	⅞	—	20/-
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	9/-	—	7/-
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tst.	98	—	90
Do and Foreign Trust ..	5/-	—	2/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	—	1
,, ,, Founders	¼	—	—
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—	—
Do 5 % Debs. Red.	—	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	9⅜	—	7½
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	—	87½xd
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	—	5/3
Sidi Salem Co.	⅛	—	⅛
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	—	⅜
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	—	-/9
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	—	10⅞
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt..	97	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	—	—
Egyptian Hotels	1½	—	—
Do. 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—	—
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅛	—	1⅛
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	99½	—	95
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	⅛	—	14/3
Do. 5 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	96	—	95
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅝	—	9/3
Do. do. Prefs.....	3½	—	3xd
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt. ..	90	—	85
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (fr.560)	£179½	—	£—
Upper Egypt Hotels	2½	—	—

OIL.	Price on July 30.	Aug. 25.
Anglo-Egyptian "B".....	⅝	4/6
Anglo-Persian	22/1½	3½x
Cyprus Oil Trust	2/3	2/3
European Oilfields	4/9	3/6
Roumanian.....	20/-	13/6

PARIS BOURSE.

	Jan. 4.	Aug. 25.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane ..	—	440
Canal de Suez	4050	3900
Credit Foncier Egyptien	639	553
Turkish Unified 4%	61.50	57.90
Egyptian Unified 4%	87.75	88.40
Serbian, 1895	—	61

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 228.—Vol. IX. FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1915.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

In the absence of fresh elements in the situation the Allied Powers will do well not to count upon the early co-operation of any of the Balkan States. Past sins are now coming home to roost. When a little intelligent interest in the Balkans might have brought a formidable federation over to our side, Entente diplomacy affected to ignore these countries. The suggestion that it might be worth while to investigate the grievances of Bulgaria, with a view to removing the friction which kept the various peoples apart, was met with the retort that we could not humiliate our friends in order to benefit those who showed no inclination to help us. Great Britain preferred to be represented at a Balkan capital by a diplomatist who had succeeded in alienating completely the sympathies of the people to whom he was accredited, and British diplomacy so far failed to appreciate the nature of the struggle upon which the Empire was embarked that it saw no necessity for making sure of its position among the States which formed the key to the military position in Europe.

To-day the Allied Powers would find the co-operation of the Balkan States of the utmost value. But the appeal to them savours so much of a request to pull chestnuts out of the fire for our benefit that we cannot wonder that they are holding back. Not the least unsatisfactory feature of the situation is that Roumania should have so far forgotten the national ideal which she made ready a little while ago to realise, that her attitude now turns on her estimate of the relative chances of ultimate victory possessed by the Central Powers and the Quadruple Entente. We must refuse to believe, however, that the Roumanians of Transylvania have been altogether forgotten by their kinsmen. Germany has played her cards well. A campaign against Austria-Hungary and Germany no longer appears as attractive as it did when the Russians seemed about to pour over the Carpathians. Popular clamour for intervention has been stilled, and the situation is once more in the hands of the politicians. German intrigue knows well how to batten upon such a state of affairs. Administrative paralysis is secured at a small outlay of German money, and the process of educating the people to the German view of things is continued assiduously.

Unfortunately for Germany, the time has come when Roumania's strict observance of neutrality becomes embarrassing to German designs. The Roumanian railway system is necessary to the transport of troops and munitions to Turkey, and unless the Roumanian Government can be persuaded to connive at this breach of neutrality, Turkish resistance at the Dardanelles is in danger of breaking down. German diplomacy seeks to deal with this situation in two ways. It tries to persuade or bully Roumania into acquiescing in the German demands, and, failing that, sets to work to replace the existing Cabinet by one more amenable to Germany's aims. For the moment the two processes are being carried on simultaneously. The present Premier of Roumania stands high in his country's respect, but at no period in his political career has he shown any strong initiative. He has recognized that Roumania's interests require her to make common cause with the Quadruple Entente, but he was unwilling to strike a blow for the realization of those interests, until safety should be made doubly safe. That day has not yet come, and Germany feels the need of more pliable material in the Roumanian Ministry. Such material is to hand in the country. The German-owned Press of Roumania is canvassing the prospects of a Conservative Cabinet under the two chief Germanophil reactionaries. No reason for a dissolution is apparent, as the only expression of popular feeling antagonistic to the present Government has been in the direction of participation of the war. For the moment this proposal has been dropped in view of the military situation in Europe. The strength of the German propaganda, therefore, can be gauged from the fact that it has been possible to air in the Press the cause of Roumanian participation with the Central Powers—a cause that was supposed to have been deprived of its sole supporter when King Carol died.

In Bulgaria the two schools of thought favouring, respectively, the Central Powers and the Quadruple Entente have been more equally matched. Neutrality became a national necessity, not merely, as in Roumania, a temporary compromise to spare the feelings of the Sovereign. Nursing grievances against all the belligerents, the Bulgarian Government has done its best to turn their preoccupations to its own advantage. It found the Central Powers more alive to

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the facts of the situation than the Quadruple Entente, and has, therefore, achieved a greater measure of success in its negotiations with them. Thus it has not only obtained a loan from Berlin and Vienna, but has persuaded Turkey, as the outcome of amicable negotiation, to make an important concession to Bulgaria. In spite of the denials that the agreement for the transfer of the Adrianople section of the Dedeagatch Railway entails any political undertaking, we may feel confident that it represents for the time being a settled frame of mind on the part of the Bulgarian Government. M. Radoslavoff, the Premier, still protests his friendliness to the Quadruple Entente. But he must have convinced himself that there will be little need for some time to come for Bulgaria to modify her attitude. He does not believe in the Allies' capacity to force the Dardanelles or to obtain any decisive advantage over the Germans in the immediate future. Accordingly he takes what he can from the Turks, confident that the situation will not change soon enough to disappoint them in the early days of their belief that Bulgaria is at one with them in their struggle against the Quadruple Entente.

With Roumania and Bulgaria maintaining neutrality, Greece finds no alternative left open to her. The Chamber stands adjourned until the end of October, and M. Venizelos is engaged upon the task of discovering his "road." His efforts, we may feel certain, will be directed towards a permanent solution of the Balkan question rather than towards a decision upon Greece's attitude to the war. The greatest service that M. Venizelos can render the Quadruple Entente is to prepare the ground for an understanding among the Balkan States as soon as the military situation in Europe offers an opportunity for co-operation with the Allied Powers.

On Gallipoli Peninsula the British and Turkish forces continue to face one another with a dogged determination that does credit to both sides. The Turks must be watching Germany's efforts to send them reinforcements by hook or by crook no less eagerly than our own men are canvassing the possibilities of a winter campaign. Disappointment over the modicum of success achieved by the Suvla Bay landing is enhanced by Turco-German reports of the episode. It is admitted that the Turks were taken completely by surprise, an explanation given being that, as the landing took place during the last week of Ramazan, so bad a watch was kept that nobody saw the approach of the fleet of transports with the convoying warships. The British forces now have a connected front of twelve miles; but the task of turning the enemy out of his strong positions remains as formidable as ever. If the Turks were assured of an adequate supply of munitions they could go a long way towards making the British line untenable. But they can have little hope of even keeping up their supply to its present strength. The Allies must still look for support to extraneous advantages that are fighting on their behalf. Reference was made last week to Constantinople's supply of coal. It has not yet been found possible to prevent additions from reaching the stocks already in the capital. The Russian Fleet has performed some notable exploits; but the steady watchfulness that knows no relaxation seems to be wanting. The escape of a few Turkish colliers means so many days added to the period of the enemy's resistance. An effective blockade of the Bosphorus, there can be no doubt, would counteract the disadvantages under which the Allies are fighting on Gallipoli Peninsula, and would lead to the collapse of the Turkish resistance within very few weeks.

The Turks, there is reason to believe, are buoyed up with the hope that the Allies will not be able to face a winter campaign on Gallipoli. They would be hard put to it to find any confirmation of this theory from the military activities now in progress. We have such certain information of the difficulties under which the Turks are maintaining their resistance—Lord Kitchener referred in his speech in the House of Lords to the demoralization that had set in among their troops—that only very dire necessity could induce the Allies to forgo, even temporarily, the advantages they have secured at so heavy a cost. Outwardly, Constantinople is said to betray little of the exactions that war is making upon the Turks. Prices are exceptionally high, and the poorer section of the population must be in dire straits; but life in the city goes on much as before. Only the system of espionage and dilation reveals the actual uneasiness of the authorities and their realization of the fact that their position grows more perilous every day.

It is difficult for the European mind to credit the reports of the treatment meted out to the Armenians in Asia Minor. When we hear of the satisfactory treatment accorded by the Turks to our wounded and prisoners, we feel at a loss to explain how the same people can be guilty of the most abominable outrages upon their own fellow subjects in another part of the Empire. The answer may be found in the cult of militarism. The massacres of the Armenians have been undertaken to order as an alleged military necessity, and the agents will have been for the most part Kurds. Estimates of the numbers killed vary from 70,000 to 200,000. It is unnecessary to accept either figure to appreciate the guilt of the Turkish authorities and of the Germans who have inspired their conduct of affairs. If British wounded and prisoners are being treated satisfactorily from a desire on the part of the Turks to stand well with our nation when the war is over, it is strange that the same foresight should not have prompted them to refrain from antagonising whole races of their fellow-subjects. If Turkey's star should set in circumstances which temporarily prevent the exercise of a strong hand over all parts of the Empire, we need not be surprised if the Armenians and Greeks seize the opportunity to exact a terrible revenge.

Last week we ventured to suggest that the situation in Persia would have to become worse before any definite improvement in it could be recorded. The evacuation of the whole Ispahan region by British and Russian subjects tends to confirm our forebodings. German influence and mob law are now supreme in the town, and the former can be relied upon to make good use of the immunity it enjoys from all opposition or supervision. The outrage on Mr. T. G. Grahame, British Consul at Ispahan, has now been followed by the murder of the British Vice-Consul (? Acting Consul) at Shiraz Details of this latter crime are still lacking. If the fact of the murder be established, it can hardly fail to introduce a new factor into the Persian situation. British prestige has suffered too much already from our failure to exact respect for the lives of British subjects. It is impossible that the latest outrages should pass unnoticed. The time may not be opportune for dealing with the Persian question as a whole, but more will be expected of the British Government than the landing of a small force at Bushire.

The Persian Legation in London has issued a statement regarding the position in Persia. Telegrams received from Teheran, it says, state that the Government is taking every possible measure to deal with the situation at Ispahan, and also with the state of unrest prevailing in Southern Persia. Sympathy will be felt with the Persian Government, and has often been expressed in these pages. Of the excellence of its intentions there can be no doubt, and it can be relied upon to act within the limits of its powers. It is clear, however, that the situation in Persia has been brought about by the inability of the Central Government to exercise authority in the country. The outrages upon British subjects are the result of a long period of lawlessness, with which the Persian Government has been unable to cope. If it suddenly found itself able to deal with the situation created by recent events at Ispahan, it would stand convicted of a grave dereliction of duty in not having taken steps before to improve conditions in the country.

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ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, September 3.

The Difficulties of the Situation.

The joint action taken a month ago by the Powers of the Entente with regard to Bulgaria, Serbia, and Greece, with a view to securing the co-operation of the former through an offer of territorial concessions from the two latter countries, and, on the other hand, the constant danger of a fresh descent upon Serbia by Austrian and German troops, supported by a simultaneous attack by Bulgaria, have brought about a very critical situation in the Balkans. In the case of Greece the Government has exceedingly difficult problems to face. The fact is that Greece—having committed the initial mistake of refusing to throw off her neutrality and assist in the operations against the Dardanelles in February, when the Russians were still in the Carpathians and the Turks, or rather the Germans, had not yet organised a serious defence, and when she would certainly have drawn in both Roumania and Bulgaria on her side—now finds herself in an embarrassing position. Greece's territorial integrity, the preservation of which has always served as a pretext to the Gounaris Cabinet for their opposition to the Nationalist policy of M. Venizelos, is now seriously threatened by the consequences of that same opposition policy; for the four Powers, finding that nothing more was to be done with Greece, turned to Bulgaria, in whose favour they have now decided to impose territorial concessions upon Greece, and to make a similar request to Serbia—also to the detriment of Greek interests.

The Serbian Concessions.

Thus Serbia, being threatened with an invasion by Austrian and German troops, and as the ally of the Powers of the Entente, felt obliged to consent to almost all their proposals for the cession of large territories to Bulgaria. Greece, on the other hand, seeing her ally obliged to make such sacrifices so as to contribute indirectly to the victory of the four Powers, on whom now Serbia's very existence depends, decided to facilitate operations as much as possible, and, while six months ago M. Venizelos was disposed to consent to the cession of the districts of Istip and Kotzana only, he has now consented to the cession of an area extending as far as Morihovo.

Greek Objections.

But the line fixed by the Powers in favour of Bulgaria included certain localities which possess great strategical importance for Greece, and the cession of these by Serbia to Bulgaria would endanger that part of Greek Macedonia which Bulgaria covets. These are the districts of Guevgheli and Doïran, about three hours by train from Salonika. This territory forms a weak point on the frontier between the natural barriers formed by Mount Belesh on the one side and the River Vardar on the other, and being the most vulnerable point on the Greek frontier it was apportioned to Greece by the preliminary Greco-Serbian alliance signed at Salonika on May 13, 1913. Later, however, by the final treaty signed at Belgrade, Greece consented to cede this district to Serbia as her ally, but she would run a very different risk if it were given to Bulgaria. Further, the cession to Bulgaria of the Greek region of Monastir would bring the Bulgarians into contact with the Albanians across the Lake of Ochrida, and, what is more, it would expose the only highway by land between Greece and the West—*i.e.*, the Salonika-Monastir-Uskub railway—to the tender mercies of a State which is the natural enemy of Greece, and which would thus further be in a position to hamper Serbia's communications with Salonika, the chief port available to her.

These are the considerations which have weighed with the Government in preparing their reply to Serbia. They have addressed a memorandum to the Serbian Government setting forth all the reasons why they cannot consent to the cession of these districts to Bulgaria; the necessity is emphasised of maintaining the territorial contact between Greece and Serbia over as wide an area as possible. The memorandum further states that if Serbia finds it impossible to retain the said district of Guevgheli-Doïran the Greek Government will be under the necessity of demanding its restitution by virtue of the second treaty of alliance, in which it was given up by Greece on this condition.

It seems certain that Serbia has realised the soundness of these objections and formulated her Note to the four Powers accordingly, and they have raised no difficulties. It now remains to be seen whether Bulgaria also will be satisfied, and this is by no means so certain.

Reaction of Germanophil Circles.

This action of the Government has provoked criticism from the Germanophil elements of the Opposition, and their newspapers have been at pains to show that it amounts to a renewal of the Greco-Serbian Alliance, which could no longer be considered valid, and was, therefore, a provocation to the Central Powers. The chief aim of the alliance was the preservation of the territorial *status quo*, and, according to these Germanophil papers, Greece ought to have taken advantage of the opportunity offered her by Serbia's consenting to making territorial concessions to Bulgaria to break the alliance and free herself from any obligations to an ally who, in her present exhausted condition, could no longer be of any use to Greece. The Germanophil Press further emphasises the dangers incurred by Greece in defending Serbia in case of an attack by Bulgaria, for she would then be opposed by Turkey also and by the two Central Empires, and they, therefore, advise the Government to invite Germany's intervention to prevent Bulgaria from attacking Serbia.

The above representations have been entirely disposed of by an official *communiqué* stating that the steps taken to confirm the reciprocal engagements existing between Serbia and Greece were an intimation to Bulgaria that Greece would not remain indifferent if she attacked Serbia, and that, in fact, they helped to avert this danger. The Greco-Serbian coalition is more important now than ever, says the *Patris*, in view of the proposed additions to Bulgarian territory, which will upset the existing territorial equilibrium of the Balkan States and make Bulgaria a dangerous neighbour to Greece and Serbia.

Austro-German Bluff.

The conviction prevails in competent circles in Athens that the threat of an invasion of the Balkans by Austro-German troops and the Bulgarian manœuvres on the Greek and Serbian frontiers are all part of a scheme of bluff to intimidate Serbia and Greece.

As regards Bulgaria, it is believed here that, having obtained from Turkey important compensations in return for her neutrality, she will now use the same argument with both groups of belligerents to obtain their recognition of the rights she claims to certain territories. It is thought, however, that the Entente at least will consider her price too high, and competent judges are of opinion that the four Powers ought to lose no more time in vain hopes, but should call upon Bulgaria to co-operate with them, and, if she refuses, treat her accordingly and proceed to make other arrangements.

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NEWS FROM TURKEY.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Athens, September 6.

Coal Supplies.

One of the greatest enigmas to the lay mind in the operations in the East has been the impotency of the Russians to prevent coal supplies reaching Constantinople from Zunguldak and district. Even now, when the Turkish Fleet consists of a few "lame ducks," and when it is of the utmost importance that no coal should reach Constantinople, the Germans are still able to send steamers from Constantinople to the Heraclea region, which stay there some days loading, and return safely. Last week two German steamers, the Rodosto and the Patmos, escorted by the Hamidieh, succeeded in running the gauntlet, and reached Constantinople with about 9,000 tons. Where was the Russian Fleet? it is asked. These arrivals are most opportune for the Turks, as the stock of coal in Constantinople is almost exhausted, and its absence will almost paralyse the operations of the military.

Constantinople in Darkness.

The gas works have not been working for some time, and Constantinople was in darkness until the municipality ordered all those who have electric light on their premises to place a light in the street, and in this way the Grande Rue de Pera and some of the principal streets are now partially lighted.

The bread question is very acute owing to the want of flour and grain in Constantinople. This is due partly to the want of coal at the mills and partly to the want of transport, the railway being occupied with the movement of troops and the transport of Armenians into the interior.

Plight of the Armenians.

From Ismidt and the surrounding villages, Armenian men, women, and children have been sent away with only the few articles they could carry, and practically penniless, as they had no time to sell their belongings, even had it been possible to do so. Only starvation and death appear to be before them. It is said the Armenian Bishop of Ismidt, a man of ninety years, was given the option of remaining in his diocese, but he replied that as head of his flock he would go wherever they went, and before his departure he publicly cursed the Turks, and pointing to a heap of ashes he declared they would become as such.

The accounts that reach here of the systematic extermination of the Armenian race, and the horrors which women and children have experienced, are most appalling. It is to be hoped that Talaat, Enver, and the others who are responsible for these crimes will be held personally responsible and receive the punishment they deserve. So far the Armenians have not been expelled from Constantinople, though it is rumoured that the unmarried will be transported to Asia Minor. If there is the slightest suspicion of an Armenian he is immediately exiled.

Position at Smyrna.

In Smyrna the Armenian inhabitants have not, so far, been molested; in fact, on the whole, Smyrna seems to be much better off than Constantinople. An Englishman who has just arrived from there states that perfect tranquillity prevails, and both the Vali and the Military Governor continue to manifest a benevolent attitude towards the English and French. Business is, of course, at a standstill, and there is much suffering amongst the poor, but meat, bread, and vegetables are cheap; all imported goods are scarce, and articles such as sugar, rice, tea, and coffee are becoming exhausted. There is still a little gas, and the trains manage to keep running by burning wood and lignite, so it is possible to bring in supplies of flour and wheat.

State of Constantinople.

The news from Constantinople is very different. In the first place, there is a much more aggressive feeling against the Allies, and life in general there is becoming unbearable and is a severe strain on the nerves. The prospects for the coming winter, with no fuel, no lighting, and scarcity of provisions, is not pleasant to contemplate. Although Pera outwardly maintains its old aspect, yet there is terrible want and misery amongst the poor, and the position daily becomes worse. Bread is obtainable with great difficulty and all provisions are increasing in price. The municipality have restricted the sale of sugar to about ½ lb. per person per month, and have fixed the price at 8 piastres per oke, but it remains to be seen whether the grocers will part with their stocks at such a low price.

Eviction of English Residents.

A large number of prisoners, English and French, have arrived in Constantinople lately, some of whom are wounded. The latter are being fairly well attended to, it is said. The number of Turkish wounded arriving in Constantinople is enormous, and the authorities are now actually turning English families out of their homes to make accommodation for the wounded. Large numbers seem to be taken to Moda, where many private residences have been converted into hospitals. Mr. Edwin Whittall's "Mansion," the British Club at Moda, and several other unoccupied English houses have been seized, but recently Mr. James La Fontaine and family were actually turned out of their house, and have been obliged to move into town. Notice was given to the occupants of the residences belonging to Lady Whittall, Mr. Reginald Whittall, and Mr. James Whittall to remove within forty-eight hours. So far, however, Lady Whittall's residence has been spared.

A large number of motor ambulances have recently arrived in Constantinople.

Importation of German "Kultur."

The Adviser to the Minister of Public Instruction, Herr Schmidt, has returned to Constantinople from Germany, where he had gone, says the *Hilal*, to engage some German professors for the University of Constantinople. These German professors are to arrive in October, and will learn the Turkish language as soon as possible.

Galata Bridge.

There was no truth in the report that the Galata Bridge had been destroyed by a submarine. The rumour probably arose from the attempted destruction of the Guebzé Bridge on the Anatolian Railway by a British submarine in the Gulf of Ismidt. The British submarines have done particularly brilliant work lately in the Marmora.

THE TURKISH LANGUAGE IN GERMANY.

The Berne correspondent of the *Morning Post* says:—"The Grand Duchy of Hesse is petitioning the German Government to introduce the Turkish language as an optional subject in all German High Schools and Universities in order that the value of German culture should be duly recognised in Turkey, where, it is urged, before the war there were about 600 French, 500 American and English, 200 Italian, and 60 Russian educational institutions, but only 25 German."

EARLIER POSTING TO THE EAST.

The Post Office announces that it has been found necessary temporarily to advance by one day the times of posting for printed and commercial papers and samples intended to be conveyed by the overland route to India and Australia viâ Suez. Until further notice is given the latest hours of posting such correspondence at the General Post Office, London, will be midnight on Tuesday, without late fee, 2 a.m. on Wednesday with late fee of ½d., and 3 a.m. on Wednesday with late fee of 1d. The latest hours of posting at other offices can be ascertained by inquiry at the offices concerned.

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STORIES FROM GALLIPOLI.

THE TURK A CLEAN FIGHTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Port Said, September 1.

Several more batches of wounded have arrived here recently from Alexandria. They are mostly cases of injury to limbs or slight body wounds, although amongst them are, unfortunately, a number of "stretcher" cases. The ladies of the English colony, who have been doing such excellent work in assisting at the various hospitals, meet the trains bringing the wounded and distribute refreshments and smokes to the tired but cheery warriors.

There is a striking unanimity amongst the men as to the sterling fighting qualities of the Turk, and especially as to his "straight" methods. Our soldiers invariably agree that he is a good and clean fighter, and plays the game all through, and many tales are going the rounds in this connection. At one time, it appears, an armistice had been arranged between the combatants to bury the dead and to remove the wounded, and for several hours at intervals between their duties, our men were fraternising with the Turkish soldiers. The latter said they had no idea why they were fighting the English, whom they had always regarded as their best friends, but were simply obeying orders. On one occasion during the armistice a Turkish soldier picked up part of the equipment of one of our men and was slinking away with it. His officer, catching sight of him, pulled him back with considerable violence, and made him return the stolen gear to its owner, remarking that a Turk always respects his pledged word. This incident will only serve to strengthen the opinion of those who, in happier days, have known the Turk as he really is—a gentleman by instinct, if a hopeless fool in the hands of a few scheming politicians—that he is not yet imbued with the spirit of Teutonic "culture."

Another instance was afforded when an enemy shell landed in one of our Red Cross tents, causing considerable mischief amongst the unfortunate occupants. Shortly after, at the first favourable opportunity, the commanding officer of the Turkish forces sent a messenger expressing regret at the incident. The explanation given was that some of our troops were moving near the Red Cross tent, and the shell was directed at them. The Turkish officer, while regretting that the shell had struck the Red Cross tent, was most anxious that it should be understood that it was aimed at the combatants and not at the wounded.

During one of the recent "landings" a large troopship came under fire of the Turkish batteries. The troops had got away safely, but no orders had come to the steamer to retire out of range. The captain, a typically bluff representative of our mercantile marine, stood on the bridge and watched the shells bursting near his vessel. At first they were two hundred yards away, then a hundred, and then one burst about twenty feet off the vessel's stern. He calmly gave the order "Full speed ahead," and stopped as a shell exploded exactly on the spot he had previously occupied. The next few came gradually nearer the steamer, and as she went "Full speed astern" one burst a few yards in front of her bow. For some little time she was "standing by" and calmly dodging Turkish shells until the order came for retirement to a place of safety.

This, of course, is but one occasion of many that could be recorded on which the officers of our mercantile marine have shown a hearty contempt for the dangers they are daily called upon to face in the execution of their duty.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

The Greek papers take a very gloomy view of the present want of food and of employment in various parts of the island. Distress is now being felt in villages of the Karpass district, the north-eastern extremity. Prices have continued to rise, having in some cases quadrupled since the war began. Thus, potatoes, which were sold at 30 paras (1d.) the oke (2 4-5 lbs. av.), now cost 4 and 4½ piastres (6d.). Wheat has been sold in places at 8s. to 9s. 6d. the kilé (bushel).

There have been some trying heat waves. Hot, parching winds have swept the island, and have been very oppressive for all who are in the plains.

Any newsagent or bookstall in the United Kingdom can supply copies of "The Near East," which are on sale early on Friday morning. Should any difficulty be experienced in obtaining the paper, the Manager would be glad to receive a post card giving particulars, and he will take steps to rectify the matter.

SUDAN NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Khartoum, August 27.

Ramadan came to an end on August 11, and the usual celebrations were held. On the 12th there was a parade and levée held by the Governor-General and Sirdar, Sir Francis Reginald Wingate. It happens that, in the usual course of events, his Excellency is in Europe about this period of the year, so that it is some years since he was himself present in Khartoum at the end of the month of fasting. To mark the occasion a number of notables from the adjacent provinces were invited to Khartoum, and were present at the levée. On the 14th his Excellency gave a reception in the evening, for which the Palace gardens were illuminated, and the Sudanese band played a selection.

The Blue Nile Flood.

The Blue Nile flood is disappointing up to date, and it is feared that many of the "basins" in the northern provinces will get little or no water, as the river will not remain over the necessary level to enable the land to be properly watered. This would be particularly unfortunte for Dongola province, where the bulk of these basins are, as the people there have suffered by a series of disasters. Cattle plague, asal fly (aphis), low Nile, cutworm, and locusts, one after another, came to destroy the chances of recovery of the people just as the future began to look more hopeful. A considerable amount of charity has been dispensed by the Government in the districts afflicted, and it was greatly to be hoped that a high Nile long continued would give the Dongola cultivator a return for his work in opening canals for the feeding of the basins.

An Exchange of Military Courtesies.

An interesting ceremony was performed at El Obeid yesterday, when, in the presence of Savile Bey, Governor of Kordofan and Commandant of Kordofan Military District, the flag of the 7th Manchesters was formally presented to the 7th Egyptian Battalion by El Kaimakam Ahmed Hilmi Bey El Miteini, who formerly commanded the battalion, and who is now Deputy Assistant Adjutant-General, on behalf of the officers and men of the British battalion. It will be remembered that, prior to their departure from Khartoum, the 7th Manchesters were publicly presented with the flag of the 7th Egyptian Battalion, and it was in accordance with a promise made at that time by officers of the former regiment that their flag was sent to the Sudan for presentation on this occasion. Ahmed Hilmi Bey was deputed to make the presentation on behalf of the Manchesters, and proceeded to El Obeid, where the Egyptian battalion is now stationed, for the ceremony. The presentation was carried out with the full formalities customary to such occasions, and in the afternoon a reception was given by the officers of the 7th Battalion to the British and Egyptian officers of the El Obeid garrison.

KHARTOUM CATHEDRAL.

There is now to be seen at the galleries of the Medici Society, Limited, 7, Grafton Street, London, W., an exhibition of stained glass cartons and sketches by artist craftsmen and women, which contains two exhibits of special interest to readers of The Near East. These are the clerestory window for the south transept of Khartoum Cathedral and the design for the similar window of the north transept. The former is intended to form a pair with the Nativity window in the same cathedral, and portrays the three Wise Men who came bearing gifts. In one of its sections Melchoir of Arabia is seen with frankincense; Gaspard of Tarsus bearing gold occupies the centre, and the third figure is Balthaki of Ethiopia with myrrh. The richness of colouring of this window contrasts strongly with the lighter tones of the windows shown alongside it and with the other design by the same artist; it recalls in this respect the work of the earlier part of the Middle Ages, and, according to modern ideas, shuts out far too much of the light. This is because it is to be placed in the south transept of a cathedral, with the blazing sun of the Sudan pouring a flood of light through it and giving an altogether brighter effect than is obtained against the grey London sky. The window is mostly in self-toned glass. The other window will represent Faith, Hope, and Charity.

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BULGARIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Sofia, August 28.

The Political Situation.

The Government has not yet replied to the last Note of the Entente Powers, and will not do so until Serbia has given her answer in regard to the concessions to be made to Bulgaria. Meantime, it is believed that the negotiations with Turkey regarding the cession to Bulgaria of its portion of the Dedeagatch railway line are approaching a satisfactory conclusion; it is even said that the agreement has already been signed. This supposition is confirmed by information, received from private but trustworthy sources in Adrianople, to the effect that the military authorities of that city are evacuating the Kara-Agatch district, which, according to the agreement, will go to Bulgaria. All foodstuffs and munitions of war stored in this district are being transported to the city, as are the doors and windows of the military barracks at Kara-Agatch, which have been taken down. Other materials are being sent in the direction of Constantinople. Workmen are busy night and day on the forts situated along the right bank of the Maritza and are speedily denuding them of all defence works. The 14th Division, under the German General Bach, was expected to arrive at Adrianople, but, owing to the critical position of the Turkish army in Gallipoli, it has been sent to the peninsula instead. Some forty other troop trains have also been despatched there. Enver Pasha, who has been superintending the evacuation of Kara-Agatch, left yesterday for Gallipoli. All this would seem to confirm the statement that the Turco-Bulgarian agreement is a *fait accompli*, and that Turkey is about to cede to Bulgaria her portion of the Dedeagatch railway line, together with the Kara-Agatch railway station. Notwithstanding these concessions, the Government states that Bulgaria has not entered into any political engagements with Turkey, and that she still retains an absolutely free hand.

The Opposition Manifesto.

The pressure which is being brought to bear by the Central Powers upon the Bulgarian Government to induce it to reject the proposals of the Entente and to attack Serbia, or at least to permit the free passage through the country of German war material for Turkey, has led to the various parliamentary groups of the Opposition—the Democrats, Agrarians, Narodniaks (M. Gueshoff's party), Zinkovists, Radical-Democrats, and Social Democrats—uniting *en bloc* and addressing an appeal to the nation. They demand from the Government the prompt summoning of an extraordinary session of the Chamber to deliberate upon the political situation, and to form a Coalition Cabinet to decide the future attitude of Bulgaria towards the belligerent States. The Prime Minister, in the course of separate interviews with the leaders of these various parties, declined to accede to the demands of the Opposition, and the latter now issue this manifesto as a protest against the action of the Government, and look to the nation to support them whole-heartedly in calling for the immediate summoning of an extraordinary session of the Narodno Sobranje. The Ministerial journal *Narodni Prava*, commenting on this manifesto, says that there is no necessity for an extraordinary session of the Chamber, nor for a Coalition Cabinet, as there has not been the slightest change in the Government's policy, which still remains, as hitherto, one of strict and loyal neutrality.

An Anniversary.

Last Tuesday (August 24) the Bulgarian nation celebrated the thirty-eighth anniversary of the glorious and heroic defence of the Shipka Pass during the Russo-Turkish War in 1877. On the occasion a Requiem service and Te Deum were celebrated at the Cathedral Church Sveta Nedelia, at which were present veteran heroes of the great exploit, in their old uniforms. Present also were the Royal Suite, the Russian Minister, M. Savinisky, with the staff of the Legation, the Cabinet Ministers, generals of the garrison, and an immense crowd of citizens. After the service the Minister for War, General Jerkoff, addressed the veterans in a short speech, referring to the significance of the festival they were celebrating. The President of the Opoltchenic Society, M. Gligor Naïdenoff, on behalf of the veterans, placed a wreath on the monument of the Tsar Liberator (Alexander II.). The President also sent congratulatory messages to the surviving Russian generals who took part in the defence of Shipka. In the evening a banquet was given in honour of the veteran heroes.

SERBIAN FLAG DAY IN LONDON.

As announced last week, Wednesday next is to be celebrated in London as the Serbian Flag Day. The valour of our small Allies in the Balkans, the intrepidity with which they hurled the offensive Austrian invader out of their valleys and fields, has always appealed to the Briton and invoked his sincere admiration. It is, therefore, to be hoped that on Wednesday the Londoner will respond heartily to the appeal made to him by fair vendors of flags, and unhesitatingly give his offering to the good cause. Strange to say, London is not the first city or town to have its "Serbian Day." It was only last week, on Saturday, that Leicester celebrated one, which was, according to all accounts, a great success, patronised, as it was, by the Mayor and Corporation. The organisation for the "Day" was in charge of the Alexandra Day Council, and the old Town Hall Square, of historic memories, was the scene, in the afternoon, of a fervent demonstration of sympathy with Serbia. In London the "Flag Day" next Wednesday has been organised by the Serbian Relief Fund. Mrs. Lloyd George will be in charge of the chief Westminster depôt, and Mrs. Herbert Samuel of the Paddington section. Many other well-known ladies will assist, and in practically every metropolitan borough special arrangements are being made to aid this very needy and most necessary fund. Incidentally it may be mentioned that the whole of the proceeds of the first public presentation of Mr. D. W. Griffith's cinematograph spectacle, "The Birth of a Nation," at the Scala Theatre on Monday evening, September 27, will be devoted to the Serbian Relief Fund.

A PERSIAN MORALITY PLAY.

The setting of "Life's Mystery," a morality play by a living Persian author, Mirza Assad 'U'llah, should be "A Rose Garden in Iran," but, as given for the first time in English in England, on September 11, the terrace and broad west lawn of Spring Grove House, Isleworth, with spreading cedars and stately elms as a background, made an excellent substitute. The play, in three acts, has been translated from the Persian original by Dr. Ameen 'U'llah Fareed, son of the venerable author, and adapted for the stage by Dr. Paul Tyner. It was given at Spring Grove House, now the Miller Institute, for the benefit of Mirza Assad 'U'llah, whose property in Palestine has been destroyed in the war, by the New Life Players, among whom were Dr. Miller, Dr. Tyner, Dr. and Mrs. Fareed, and Mrs. Alexander. Characteristic and appropriate music, specially composed for the occasion, was rendered by Professor Inayat Khan and the Royal Musicians of Hindustan. The large audience was accommodated in a semi-circle on the lawn, and the raised terrace, with its flowers and shrubs, and convenient windows for entrances and exits, made an excellent stage.

The author of the play is a Persian sage and teacher; he was a companion of the Bab and is a kinsman of Baha 'U'llah, the Bahai leader who visited England about two years ago. The play is in the manner of the ancient mystery plays of Persia, which had a marked influence on the development of Greek drama and, centuries later, on the morality plays of the Middle Ages. "Life's Mystery" deals with the conflicting claims of Nature and the Soul of Man, modernised by science and religion; argument between Nature and Philosophy leads to no definite result, so the disputants agree to lay their claims before the Supreme Court of Life for adjudication. The Divine Man appears in person to state his case; his bold words, together with the explanations of Divine Wisdom, convert Nature, who acclaims the justice of the verdict when given against him; Idealism and Realism are reconciled. Oriental dances by Mme. Behache, including a symbolical butterfly dance, and Persian love songs by "Khorshid," were incidental features of the play; brilliant sunshine illuminated the stage and brought out the colouring of the Oriental costumes.

THE PUBLISHER

would be obliged if Readers would inform him if they experience any difficulty in obtaining copies of the paper.

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THE SIEGE OF VAN.

(From Our Correspondent lately in Tabriz.)

Tiflis (Caucasia), July 10.

On May 6 or 7 the welcome tidings were received in Tiflis that Van, the ancient capital of the Armenian Ardzruni dynasty, had been occupied by the Russian troops under General Oganesov (really Ohanesian, an Armenian general in command of the Russian Caucasian Army), assisted by six Armenian volunteer regiments commanded by Andranig, the well-known Armenian revolutionary, who had already fought against the Turks during the first Balkan War, and had been given the rank and decorations of a general by Tsar Ferdinand of Bulgaria.

Long before Van was occupied by the Russian troops, the Turks, according to a pre-arranged programme and special instructions sent by Talaat Bey (?) to that effect, began to massacre all the male population of the district of Van—that is, all they could get hold of. They began at Shadokh, the most populous and largest village, where not a single soul escaped death except women, children, and men over sixty years of age. The more comely young married women and girls were carried away by the Kurds or the soldiers and captains of Jevded Pasha. Jevded Pasha was the Vali of Van and the commander-in-chief of a Turkish army operating in the Van Province. The division of the Turkish army operating in Azerbaijan was under the command of Khalil Pasha. Jevded Pasha began by systematically exterminating the Armenians in the Van Province, beginning with the villages—as is the time-honoured custom—because in the villages there are no ways and means to communicate with the outside world. However, news reached the city of Van that "there was trouble in the villages between the Turks and the Armenians"; nevertheless, the exact nature of the trouble was not made known.

Death of Prince Ishkhan.

There was in Van at the time Prince Ishkhan, the well-known Armenian, and leader of the Dashnagtsagan Revolutionary Committee. On several occasions in former times, when "trouble" had broken out between the Turks and the Armenians, Jevded Pasha had requested Ishkhan to go to the villages in the company of police officers to try and reconcile the two contending parties. Ishkhan had always gone and accomplished his mission to the perfect satisfaction of Jevded Pasha. This time, however, a different programme was arranged. In order to get rid of the Dashnagtsagan leaders, and thus choke in its cradle a possible Armenian insurrection at Van when the news of the massacres reached the capital, he wrote to Ishkhan, in extremely polite terms, calling him his "dear friend," and inviting him to call at the army headquarters, saying that there was trouble again between Armenian and Turk villagers, and that Ishkhan should come at once with three other Armenians, mentioning the names of three leaders, and go to the villages in order to settle all quarrels. Ishkhan, not aware of any plot against his life, consented to go at once, but without the other leaders, who happened to be away at the time. But he took with him four other companions. Soldiers and police officers were placed under his command to enforce his orders and decisions upon the stubborn villagers. On the road the party made a short halt in a coffee-house for lunch.

In the meantime, Jevded Pasha sent (as is fit for a Turk) thirty of his trusted horsemen, with instructions to overtake the party and kill all the five Armenians. The horsemen arrived just when the party was lunching in the coffee-house, and, pretending not to know who they were, started a dispute with them, and shot the five dead on the spot. When they returned and reported the result of their "heroism" Jevded rewarded them by giving each a Turkish lira and an *aferim*.

There was in Van at that time also Vramian, another Dashnagtsagan leader, who was also the Armenian Deputy of Van in the Turkish Parliament. After disposing of Ishkhan and his party, Jevded Pasha invited Vramian and another leader to call on him. The last-named, perhaps scenting danger by a natural instinct (as happens sometimes when one feels a coming catastrophe), declined point-blank to accept the invitation, and also advised his comrade to decline it. But Vramian had frequently called on Jevded before, and did not hesitate—in his capacity as a member of Parliament—to call again, above all, as his refusal might have amounted to cowardice. He went to Jevded Pasha's headquarters, and upon his arrival was placed at once under arrest, being told that he was just the man they were looking for. Vramian was sent, in chains, to one of the small uninhabited islands in the Lake of Van, where, after tying a large stone to his feet, he was thrown into the sea to become food for the *gizil-ala* (gold-spotted) fish of the lake.

Long before this, before the "peace-loving" Pasha was busy issuing peaceful invitations to Armenian leaders, in order that he might make use of their wide influence to settle disputes among Turk and Armenian villagers, the massacres, ordered from Constantinople, were being systematically carried out in the villages. Talaat Bey had made the threat that "if the Armenians make a move for insurrection and rebellion I will deal such a blow to them that they will not be able to think of an *Autonomous Armenia* for fifty years to come," and he was making his threat good!

In the meantime some six to eight persons had succeeded in escaping from the massacres of Shadokh. Travelling in the dark of night and by way of hills and valleys—not by the ordinary roads, which were closed—they reached Van, and reported the massacres going on in the villages, the mean murder of Ishkhan and his comrades, and the arrest of Vramian, about which the people of Van knew nothing.

Preparing for the Siege.

Then the Armenians—the revolutionary parties as well as the peaceful citizens—began to prepare to defend themselves, as they knew well enough that, when the villages were "cleaned and cleared" of Armenians, it would be their turn next to feel the sharp edge of the Turkish scimitar. Jevded Pasha, hearing of the Armenian "rebellion" in Van, sent for the Armenian Bishop to come over for an important "consultation," but already his "consultations" and peaceful invitations were too well known, and the Bishop declined the invitation. Then came a second "invitation," promising the safe return of the Bishop to Van if the "consultation" and "negotiations" failed. But the Bishop knew Jevded and the Turks in general too well. Then came a third invitation, accompanied with a threat to bombard and destroy the city if the Bishop declined, but all in vain, as the threat itself disclosed the Pasha's intentions.

Thereupon Jevded Pasha came and surrounded the city of Van with 8,000 Turks and Kurds, leaving a few hundred behind to finish the work entrusted to them in the villages. The Pasha again attempted to persuade the Armenians—in the most polite terms—"to lay down their arms, surrender without conditions, and to trust to the clemency of his Majesty the Sultan," which, he promised, he was sure to obtain for them. He com-

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municated with them through Signor Sulgarti, the Italian Consul of Van. All his efforts failed, however.

It is said there were some 40,000 to 50,000 Armenians in Van, and of this number only 450 men had arms, 250 being armed with Mausers, Russian Berdans, and Martinis, the other 200 having ten-shooting pistols between them, and whatever they could find at the time. They fought and defended the city and themselves for twenty-nine days. On the thirtieth the Russian Army arrived from the north, under the command of General Oganesov (Ohanesian), and the Armenian volunteers from the east, from the Persian border, under the leadership of Andranig, and relieved the town. The Russian Foreign Minister, M. Sazonoff, in his recent speech in the Duma, made mention of the defence of Van by Armenians for a month, and of the valuable service the Armenian volunteer regiments (droojina) rendered to the Russian Army and to the common cause of the Allies by fighting gallantly against the common enemy.

After the Siege.

After Van was taken the various Armenian Committees began to get busier than bees. Instead of housing and feeding the thousands of refugees, they decided to send them to their homes and to rebuild the latter. Moreover, as it was spring, the men were to cultivate and sow their fields. For this purpose the various committees joined hands, and, with the funds, hired carts for transport, appointed special persons to feed and to lead the migrants to their homes, and there to assist them in any and every way possible to build their wrecked homes, to sow and to reap. In this way large sums of money were spent by the Committees, who also bought oxen, reaping and sowing machines, and seed, which were distributed according to requirements.

The Committees also opened hospitals in Van, Manazgerd and other towns in the Van province, and in the smaller towns and villages "treatment rooms" were opened in charge of trained male nurses. Doctors were sent to these hospitals from Tiflis and elsewhere, together with large quantities of medicines and bandages, tea and sugar, and material for clothing the poor, as in Van there was literally nothing to be found. During the famous thirty days' defence of the city, "the boys"—as the defenders of Van are referred to fondly by the Armenians—had no doctors to attend to their wounded, no medicines, and no bandages. The local Armenian doctors had all been taken into the army by the Turkish military authorities, and none were to be found in the villages. The only doctor in the city was Dr. Allen, the American missionary, who had done his best for the wounded fighters, but even he could not do all the work, could not attend to all the sick and the wounded, as he had to attend to his own hospital as well.

I have copies of the daily bulletins of those thirty days, which were issued and signed by the "Armenian Military Council," and the keynote of all of them is: "Boys, spare your cartridges," "Don't fire in vain," and "Each of your bullets must enter the flesh of the enemy." I shall perhaps use some of them when I come to write of the taking of Van by the Russian troops and by the Armenian "boys."

Before closing this letter I must add that since the occupation of Van and the vilayet of Van by the Russian troops the number of the Armenian volunteers has been increased six to eightfold, and perhaps more, because nearly all the young men able to bear arms have since been armed, and have enlisted in the volunteer fighting lines. Besides, a good number of the refugees who were in Caucasia have returned to Van, are armed, and have entered the volunteer lines.

MIRZA FIROOZ KHAN.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

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

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

THE BALKANS AT THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—At last week's meeting of the British Association, as you are doubtless aware, the Balkan situation formed the subject of four papers in the Section of Anthropology. Firstly, Professor Elliot-Smith insisted that the facts of geography and racial distribution must be taken into account in the final settlement. By means of a series of maps, he drew attention to the maze of mixed nationalities in the district, and argued that on ethnological grounds Bulgaria had a greater right than Serbia to the part of Macedonia now in occupation by the latter. Sir Arthur Evans, in another paper, said that the Macedonian population was homogeneously Bulgar except along the coast. Mr. K. M. Dawkins dealt with the "Greek Element in Asia Minor," and, in course of an able exposé, stated that the local Greek language, owing to its mixture with Turkish, was of great linguistic interest. Mr. Pember Reeves, again, in his address, argued that, while the northern boundary of the Greek kingdom could be defended on racial grounds, the eastern could not. Most of Bulgarian Thrace, as well as Turkish Thrace, ought to belong to Greece, if the excuse for Bulgaria coming to Dedeagatch was economic, not racial.

It will be seen from the cursory review I have given of the four Balkan papers read that, whereas Bulgaria and Greece—principally the former—had each eloquent champions of their respective causes, Serbia's claims seem not to have been granted a hearing. If, as Mr. Crawfurd Price asserts in a letter to the *Morning Post*, the Serbian Minister "received no notification whatever" of the British Association's decision "to proceed to a discussion of the Balkan problem," whereas it is to be presumed that both Professor Elliot-Smith and Sir Arthur Evans had ample time in which to prepare their papers, it is sincerely to be regretted, though I am loth to believe that any such procedure was intentionally contemplated. On the other hand, the fuel which is being heaped from all sides—and unwisely, one thinks—on the fire of Macedonian strife, is already inexhaustible in quantity; and so acrimonious has the discussion between Serbs and Bulgars again grown, that no good object can have been attained by reading the papers alluded to. It would, perhaps, have been better if the British Association had refrained this year from placing its official seal on the Balkan ethnographical disputes that are now raging.—I am, etc.,

London, September 14. C. R.

SERBIAN MACEDONIA.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—I shall be obliged if you will insert a correction of my article "Serbian Macedonia," which appeared in the last issue of THE NEAR EAST. Among the MSS. in the Catalogue of Prof. Coneff, two are Serbo-Bulgarian and one Bulgarian (p. 531). Small faults (p. 530a, line 21: "latter" instead of "former"; p. 531a, line 9: "eighteenth century" instead of "thirteenth century," etc.) can be easily corrected by the reader.—Yours, etc.,

P. POPOVIC.

AN APPEAL FROM THE FRONT.

Nurse Wheatley, who is well known to a large number of our readers, writes to us from No. 21 Ambulance Train, British Expeditionary Force:—

"I have been wanting to tell you for some time what a comfort the men at No. 3 Casualty Clearing Station find the bells your readers so kindly contributed. Every day the patients bless the donors, and I am sure that if they heard the sighs of relief of the weary man as he settles into his comfortable bed they would feel amply repaid.

"I wonder whether anyone would be good enough to help me with my train? We are one of the newest and largest running, and there are one or two comforts I want in order to make it perfect, such as a narrow strip of carpet in each ward and a dust cover of khaki for each cot.

"I am quite ashamed to beg again, after your former generosity, but I do trust everyone will realise that their gifts actually reach the men individually and directly, and that it is for them I plead. I cannot at present tell the exact cost, but have written for an estimate, and perhaps in the meantime my former kind friends would notify if they would help again."

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

On all sides I notice references in the British Press to the marked differences which characterize the Turk and the German as a fighter, and a letter which we publish this week from our Port Said Correspondent fully bears out the statements alluded to. It is a queer thing that the Turk should at last be ridding himself of that misapplied phrase "the unspeakable Turk" by simple contrast with members of the one nation which, above all others, claimed to be the apostle of civilization and high culture. Yet, although, Heaven knows, the Turk has enough to make him rabid in these days when his enemies are pressing him hard and his so-called friends are beginning to let him see exactly the position he really holds in their regard, we find him fighting cleanly and like a gentleman, with his passions strictly subservient to the dictates of humanity and honour. How little did the man in the street know of the Turk when this war began! He was commonly regarded as something next door to a savage, as a being who made war doubly hideous by methods of appalling cruelty and most extravagant vice. And in the German, we thought, forsooth, that here was an enemy worthy of our steel, a strong people who would fight strongly, but, at the least, an adversary with whom we could shake hands at the finish, no matter where the victory lay. Well, we know better now. If the war should end to-morrow there is not an Englishman who would cherish hatred for the Turk; there is not an Englishman who would carelessly admit a German to his table, or introduce him to his women folk. So much has the German doctrine of "Kultur" been responsible for. There is scarcely a term of opprobrium to be found between the covers of our most copious dictionaries that could not truthfully be applied to German soldiers on the sworn evidence of witnesses accepted after due examination by our own Government. I sometimes hear it said that one must not judge a whole nation by the acts of a few, and, to a certain extent, there is, of course, justice in the remark. But the dog has a reputation for biting, and we approach his kind with care until we have satisfied ourselves that the particular animal we wish to touch is free from vice. This, I think, will be our attitude towards Germans for many years to come. It is all very well to speak of men carrying out orders; I am glad to think that neither could officers be found in England to give such orders as have been common enough in the German army since the war began, nor, in the unlikely event of such a thing happening, men to obey them.

***

When the war is over I hope that we shall remember that those of our race who remained in Constantinople after the beginning of hostilities have come back now in September with no word of complaint to utter for the treatment they had received at the hands of the Turk. One party which arrived last week included two women and two children, the ages of these latter being five years and a-half and one year respectively. All had been well treated since the first day of war; no obstacle was put in the way of their departure. But the most touching incident in connection with this subject comes to me through the *Egyptian Gazette*, whose representative has recently interviewed Harry Field, a well-known Cairo jockey, who was in Constantinople when war broke out, and who has since ridden for Enver Pasha at a race meeting organized for the benefit of the wounded. Mr. Field relates that only one death had occurred among the British prisoners up to the time of his departure from the city. The soldier who died was an Australian, and all arrangements had been made for an ordinary funeral, when, at the last moment, a detachment of Turkish troops in parade dress arrived with orders to accord full military honours to the deceased. As the cortège passed, all the Turkish troops in the streets halted and saluted. Who shall say that the Turk is "unspeakable" after this?

***

I have just been reading a full account of the alleged appearance of angelic warriors at Mons, as it is set forth by Mr. Ralph Shirley, editor of the *Occult Review*. Personally, I have always been inclined to accept the story as true, and I am more than ever convinced that it is right to put faith in it after reading the carefully collated evidence placed before us by Mr. Shirley. In one way the record is disappointing, because it includes no evidence at first hand, and people are incredulous regarding stories of this sort when they come to us through the medium of third persons, however reliable they may be. Yet, when one comes to consider it, it is not at all unnatural that men who spoke freely of the phenomenon at the time when their whole beings were obsessed by the wonder of it all should be reluctant to enter into details regarding it for the benefit of an incredulous public when the hour of relief was long past and life had settled down again upon its accustomed basis of materialism. We shall hear of it again, no doubt, but that will be when the war is over and men grow confidential in the half-light of a summer's evening, or when mystery awakes as the wind shrills round the British homestead, where the soldier sits with his family about the fire at night. It is not in the English nature to speak openly of these things—as yet. But, as I sometimes talk with our smart khaki-clad soldiers, it seems to me that in some strange way they are already assimilating something of the simplicity of belief that hitherto I had only come across in the peoples of the East. In the immensity of this war we are losing the sentimental frillings that were fast becoming so essential a part of our lives, and we are going back to sternness and to life as it was in the brave days when Britain was fighting inch by inch for the heritage which is ours to-day. And, incidentally, we are finding our souls.

***

In looking back to-day it is hard to realise that we are the same people who blandly regarded the carnage of the Balkan wars. It is harder to recognize in the people of to-day the same race that "Mafficked" during the latter days of the South African War. It is still harder to realize that there were many among us who regarded any national tendency to belief in psychic manifestation as the hall-mark of weakness and national effeminacy. Yet we must admit, many of us, that we read of the tale of Prince Marko and his phantom hordes in Serbia with a smile of amusement that but thinly veiled the sneer of scorn. Our thoughts went back to the old days of witchcraft in England, and we thanked God that we were not as other men. Yet here we are, only a few short years afterwards, not only discussing our own particular miracles, but inclined to regard as being beyond the pale of our fellowship any nation that takes its stand upon the material ground that was all in all to us in the early days of 1914. And this, I take it, is one of the most satisfactory signs of our present outlook. We have only to look to Serbia to see that such beliefs count heavily; that a conviction of spiritual support leads men to heights of achievement that, alone, we could never scale. Would the Turk have fought so bravely had not his religion taught him that the blood of his enemies was a baptism sufficient to ensure for him the glories of Paradise? I think that we are learning much from the East in these days of our trial, or, rather, that, in shedding the choking husks of our civilization, we are coming back to the foundation of our strength, leaving the real fruit of knowledge and civilization pure. If I am right in this, we shall have gained far more than we have lost in either lives or money, because we shall have attained a new basis of understanding between East and West.

***

I have not yet read Dr. Marion Newbigin's book on the "Geographical Aspects of Balkan Problems," so I cannot speak of it with any authority; but to a lay mind such as my own, it seems rather rough luck to put down the disturbed state of affairs in the Balkans to the grouping of their hills and valleys. I mean, that it is hard on the hills and valleys. And it is hard, too, upon other peoples who have imagined their achievements to be due to their own powers, as, if there is anything in Dr. Newbigin's argument as I understand it, much of the credit for accomplishment must necessarily go to the smooth geographical features of a country rather than to its people, if other countries are to be blamed for their irregularities. The one point that I find really comforting—it must be remembered that I am only speaking of the book from the knowledge gained through a review in a daily newspaper—is that Teuton and Turk are up against it, so to speak; they are not only fighting the Allied Forces as we know them, but also Nature as well. I do not clearly understand why, but it has to do with the geographical formations of the various countries engaged. The point, however, is one that interests me tremendously, and though, as I sometimes write myself, I usually pay not the slightest attention to anything I see in the papers, I am for once going to trust to the review and buy the book.

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Some five or six weeks ago I referred to the derivation of the name "Anzac," and in doing so mentioned an impression of mine that the now famous spot was also known as "Jove's Cove." I now learn from a letter received a few days ago that the impression was not entirely wrong. My correspondent, who is particularly well informed, writes:—"The inhabitants call the whole of the Gallipoli Peninsula Joves—pronounced in two syllables. The actual native name for the hill above Anzac is Sari Bair, and the valley to the south is known as Chakal Deré (Jackals' Glen)."

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While every member of the Egyptian Government is evidently doing his level best to safeguard the persons of our British, Australian, and New Zealand troops in the country, the sudden necessity for posting notices in the English language is sometimes responsible for rather curious effects. At first sight, for instance, one might almost imagine the magistrate responsible for the following notice, which appears at a dangerous point on the Egyptian coast, to be a person of almost fiendish sternness, rather than the well-meaning and kind-hearted gentleman he undoubtedly is. The notice, placed at a prominent point of the headland, runs thus:—

"Any person passing this point will be drowned.—By Order of the Magistrate."

CORSAIR.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

JUGOSLAVIA.*

In this pamphlet Dr. Seton-Watson makes another valuable contribution to the literature of the war. The questions with which he deals are complicated and delicate, but he handles them with courage and assurance born of confidence, and so tactfully withal that even those who differ from his conclusions will find it difficult to quarrel with his manner of stating his case. This in itself is no small achievement, for the air of the Balkans seems to have a strange power of warping judgment and of converting the best-intentioned of would-be impartial investigators of the Great Problem into fervid—not to say rabid—partisans. Fortunately, Dr. Seton-Watson has not fallen under this maleficent spell. He has gathered his information on the spot, but he has kept his head during the process, and he writes of facts as he finds them, instead of endeavouring to force them to fit in with his own theories and sympathies. For which mercy one at least of his readers is truly thankful.

THE NEAR EAST has consistently upheld the policy of treating the Balkan problem as a whole instead of endeavouring to deal with it in a series of watertight compartments, and this view finds strong support in Dr. Seton-Watson's pamphlet. On his first page he writes:—

> Hitherto it (the Balkan problem) has been too often treated piecemeal, mainly owing to the selfish interest and short-sighted outlook of a number of States all meddling and pulling different ways. This has brought its own revenge; and, indeed, it is no exaggeration to ascribe the Balkan deadlock of the past year to the unhappy tendency to take up one small section of the problem after another, so to speak, without its context. The Balkan problem can never be solved on a Serbian or Bulgarian or Greek basis, but only upon a basis of general Balkan policy.

He puts his finger on another weak spot in what we must perforce refer to as Europe's Balkan policy when he writes of "Europe's persistent refusal to study or understand Balkan psychology," and remarks that "those historians who deny the influence of personality on history had better give the Balkans a wide berth."

The causes of the antagonism between Serbia and Austria-Hungary are well brought out. On the one hand we have the Serbs of Serbia and Montenegro bent on liberating their kinsmen across the border, and those kinsmen equally bent on their own liberation and the uniting of all the Southern Slavs—an idea which, Dr. Seton-Watson tells us, "is not as modern as might be supposed. In a vague and ill-defined form it can be traced to individual writers in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries." On the other hand we have Austria-Hungary bent on crushing such dangerous dreams and fancies, and constantly casting covetous eyes on Salonika and the valleys of the Morava, the highway to the East.

> The Serbs are the chief obstacle to the German *Drang nach Osten*. . . . Serbia is the chief obstacle to these plans of political predominance from Berlin to Bagdad, which lie at the back of Germany's mind in this world-war. . . .

The remarkable thing is not that the struggle has come at last, but that its coming was so long postponed. Scarcely less remarkable is it that Bulgaria and Roumania should have left Serbia to face the brunt of the storm alone and unaided; that the reconstitution of the Balkan *bloc* should still be a matter of doubt. And one wonders how ever the Turks can have been blinded to the "Berlin to Baghdad" peril. As regards Bulgaria and Roumania, their attitude is explained to some extent by the ceaseless intrigues of the Central Powers and the skilful way in which they played upon Balkan jealousies and fostered racial and even religious rivalries. As to the Turks' partnership with their precious "allies," Dr. Seton-Watson puts the matter pithily when he says:—

> It is no accident that the Entente has to fight against the triple league of the German, the Magyar, and the Turk, for to-day their unholy alliance represents the claim of Brute Force to ride roughshod over the smaller nationalities, just as the Entente represents the Principle of Nationality and the rights of every nation, great or small, to its own freedom and individuality.

In the latter portion of his pamphlet the author discusses in detail "what Southern Slav unity means in practice, what are the difficulties in its way," and what are "the political results which such a union would involve." To do justice to his handling of these subjects it would be necessary to reproduce his closely reasoned arguments at length, which is as impossible as it would be unfair. Readers, therefore, must be referred to the original. But we may quote one paragraph which will seem to indicate the field of discussion:—

> Southern Slav unity, then, means the union of the Triune Kingdom of Croatia-Slavonia-Dalmatia, of Bosnia-Herzegovina, of the Eastern or Slav portion of Istria, of the Slovene territory of southern Austria (in Carniola, Carinthia, and Styria), and of the Western or Serb section of the Banat, with the existing Kingdoms of Serbia and Montenegro, in a single Southern Slav State, the new Jugoslavia. Geographically it involves the acquisition of the river frontier of the Drave and the Mur on the north; the protection of Belgrade by a fair partition of the Banat between Serbia and Roumania; the discovery of a reasonable line separating Italian and Southern Slav territory on the west, and representing as nearly as possible a compromise between ethnography and geography (or strategy, as it is now more fashionable to call it), and on the south the union of Montenegro and Serbia.

The programme is certainly an ambitious one, and the difficulties in the way of its execution are numerous and formidable. But Dr. Seton-Watson faces them boldly, and believes that they can all be overcome. His courage even carries him to the length of publishing a couple of maps which—— But no, we will content ourselves with referring the reader to them, merely stating that he will find them fascinating objects of study. In this connection one fact of happy augury for the future is strongly emphasized. Dr. Seton-Watson states, "with full knowledge of its truth and on the basis of irrefutable information," that:—

> At the time of Italy's agreement with the Triple Entente there were no discussions or negotiations of any kind between Italy and Serbia in respect to the future fate of Dalmatia and Croatia. The Italian Press was full of rumours to the effect that a special arrangement had been reached between Rome and Nish, and a statement was even placed in the mouth of "Mr. Jankovitch, a Secretary in the Serbian Foreign Office," expressing his satisfaction at this agreement.

But the whole business was a bit of intrigue pure and simple, and "Mr. Jankovitch" appears to have been a kind of Serbian "Mrs. Harris" or "Noakes of Newcastle." So we may perhaps hope that some of the other "lions in the path" of the infant Jugoslavia will prove equally unsubstantial when the time comes to deal with them. If that be so, the Balkans may yet find peace along lines not far removed from those suggested in this interesting and ably-written pamphlet.

* "The Balkans, Italy, and the Adriatic." By R. W. Seton-Watson, D.Litt. (Nisbet and Co. 1s.).

NEAR EAST BOOK NOTES.

Mr. Granville Fortescue, the only English-speaking correspondent to pass through the Dardanelles since the outbreak of the war with Turkey, includes an account of that experience, as well as of his recent impressions in the Balkans and Russia, in a new book, originally announced as "From Warsaw to Constantinople." This title has now been altered to "Russia, the Balkans, and the Dardanelles." The volume is expected before the end of the month from Mr. Melrose, who also hopes to have ready early in October the new book by Mr. Stanley Washburn—"The Russian Campaign, April to August, 1915."

Messrs. George Newnes, Limited, have just published in a shilling volume, with the appropriate title "An Epic of Heroism," Mr. Ashmead-Bartlett's despatches from the Dardanelles. Readers of the daily Press are already acquainted with these, but they will find, as usual, that the interest of their story is greatly intensified when it is read at a sitting, with the continuity that is impossible in serial form. The epic events so far related here are those from the preparations described on April 8 to the battle of July 12-13, of which the author's account was written on the subsequent day.

Messrs. Grant, of Edinburgh, have issued a new and revised edition of Sir William Muir's "The Caliphate, its Rise, Decline, and Fall," by Mr. T. H. Weir, Lecturer in Arabic in the University of Glasgow. This well-known work originally appeared in 1883. A third edition was published in 1899, and Mr. Weir has now made a number of small corrections.

Next month Messrs. Jack will publish the first two volumes of a new library, entitled, "Through the Eye" series, which aims at the organised presentment of knowledge by means of illustrations. One of these will be "The Civilization of the Ancient Egyptians," by E. B. Gosse, and later volumes will include "Greek Civilization," by Professor J. S. Phillimore.

Mr. Heinemann announces the publication of "A Woman in the Sahara," by Miss Helen C. Gordon, largely concerned with the life of the women of the harem.

Messrs. Luzac have issued this week "Lord Kitchener and his Work in Palestine," by Dr. Samuel Daiches, at the price of 2s. 6d. net.

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1915.	1915.		1333.	5676.
Sept.	Sept.		Julkada.	Tisri.
17	4	Friday	8	9
18	5	Saturday.....	9	10
19	6	Sunday	10	11
20	7	Monday	11	12
21	8	Tuesday	12	13
22	9	Wednesday	13	14
23	10	Thursday	14	15

To-day, Julkada 8, is the birthday of H.I.H. Refia Sultana, daughter of the ex-Sultan of Turkey, who married Damad Ali Fuad Bey.

It is officially announced in Cairo that Prince Mohammed Ali Fazel passed away about two months ago in Constantinople. The Palace has consequently gone into mourning for twenty days.

Field-Marshal the Earl Kitchener of Khartoum had an audience of the King on Tuesday.

The Earl of Cromer, who has been the guest of Sir Hugh and Lady Alice Shaw-Stewart at their place near Greenock, has returned to town.

Sir F. Reginald Wingate, Governor-General of the Sudan, left Khartoum at the beginning of September for Erkowit, where his Excellency will remain till the end of the month. All the members of the Governor-General's staff are with him at the hill station.

Abbas Hilmi, the ex-Khedive, has left Lucerne (Switzerland), after having spent two months there in the strictest incognito.

The Roumanian Minister returned to London from Paris last week, and on Saturday afternoon his Excellency visited the Serbian Minister at the Legation in Queen's Gate.

Madame Hadji-Mischef, the wife of the Bulgarian Minister, has returned to the Legation from Bognor.

Sir Valentine Chirol has returned to London from a visit to the Near East.

Viscount and Viscountess Midleton left England on Saturday for Egypt, where they have been called by cable to the bedside of their son, the Hon. George Brodrick, A.D.C. to Sir Ian Hamilton, who is understood to be suffering from typhoid fever, contracted in Gallipoli.

Sir Arthur J. Evans has been selected as the President of the British Association for next year, when the meeting will be held at Newcastle-on-Tyne.

One of the war photographs published in the London Press this week depicts the Crown Prince Alexander of Serbia and Rear-Admiral E. C. Troubridge watching range-firing operations "somewhere" in Serbia.

Rear-Admiral Troubridge, who, it appears, has been given a special sphere of work in helping the Serbians on the Danube, will be remembered in connection with the incident of the escape of the Goeben and Breslau early in the war. It is acknowledged, though perhaps not officially, that he came out of this quite satisfactorily, as indeed the fact of his present command attests. Admiral Troubridge descends from one of Nelson's captains, and has himself had a distinguished career in the senior service.

On September 10, the death took place at 46, Chester Square, of the Right Hon. Sir Claude Maxwell MacDonald, G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., K.C.B. Sir Claude MacDonald was born in 1852. He first saw active service in the Egyptian expedition of 1882, and was appointed in the following year Military Attaché to the British Agency in Cairo. He took part in the operations in the Eastern Sudan in 1884, and was wounded at the battle of Tamai. In 1887 he proceeded to Zanzibar as Acting Agent and Consul-General. The funeral service was held on Tuesday in Marlborough House Chapel, St. James's Palace, Canon Edgar Sheppard officiating. Among those present were Admiral of the Fleet Sir E. Seymour, Sir Valentine Chirol, and Sir Maurice de Bunsen. A service for Sir Claude, as Secretary-General of the Order of St. John, was also held at the Priory Church of St. John, Clerkenwell.

The alarm that was caused by the announcement that Mr. T. G. Grahame, British Consul-General at Ispahan, had succumbed to the wounds inflicted on him during the attack reported in our last issue, was afterwards allayed by the issue of a correction by Reuter's Agency. The Foreign Office states that the most recent official report received is to the effect that Mr. Grahame is progressing satisfactorily, but it is, unfortunately, true that the British Vice-Consul at Shiraz has died after being shot at and wounded.

A message from Ispahan states that the British and Russian colonies have been obliged to leave there. The Russian Consul, with the French and British missionary ladies, has already left for Teheran. The British Consuls and Bank staff were to have left on Tuesday.

The Duke of Mecklenburg, who, accompanied by Dr. von Rosenberg, Reporter on Balkan Affairs to the German Ministry for Foreign Affairs, had for ten days been the guest of King Ferdinand, left Sofia for Constantinople on the 9th inst. It is rumoured that he will shortly visit Athens.

Commander Serra, Italian Diplomatic Agent and Consul-General in Cairo, left Egypt last week for Italy, where he was to spend a month.

Our Sofia Correspondent states that the Marquis di Garroni, former Italian Ambassador at Constantinople, accompanied by the staff of the Embassy, arrived at Dedeagatch, by special train from Constantinople, on August 25. Before leaving, by Italian steamer on the 27th, his Excellency sent a message of thanks to the Bulgarian Premier for the hospitality that had been shown him.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Courtauld Thomson, Chief Commissioner of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John in the Mediterranean, arrived home last week on short leave of absence.

Our Khartoum Correspondent writes under date of August 20:—Various officers have returned from a spell of duty at the Dardanelles. Amongst them are Captain Harman, and Captain J. P. L. Mostyn, of the Norfolk Regiment; Captain P. C. Joyce, of the Connaught Rangers, and Captain W. S. Blunt, R.E. Mr. T. A. Leach, Junior Inspector in the Blue Nile Province, has also returned from a change of air, which included a period on a British ship off Sollum and a trip to the Dardanelles. Major H. D. Pearson, R.E., Director of Surveys, who has been acting Assistant Director of Intelligence since the outbreak of war, is proceeding north for a change.

Dr. Christopherson, Director of the Khartoum and Omdurman Civil Hospitals, left Khartoum on the 26th ult. on short leave, which (the *Sudan Times* understands) he is going to pass in Serbia.

The Rev. Mr. Robins, who is senior curate to Bishop Gwynne in Khartoum, is, we understand, shortly to be married, and will return to the Sudan from Europe in November.

A Cyprus correspondent writes:—"A fresh batch of officials, who are, by permission, volunteering for military service, include Mr. Jardine, Assistant to the Chief Secretary; Mr. Noble, Assistant Principal Forest Officer; Messrs. Millard and Watts, and Mr. Cunningham, of the P.O. Department."

Dr. Corbie, District Medical Officer of Nicosia, is at Troodos on leave of absence.

Baron de Kusel Bey left England on Saturday by the P. and O. steamer for Port Said. The Baron is, we understand, returning to Egypt in connection with a practical scheme which has been devised in the interests of British manufacturers.

Among the passengers for Egypt by the P. and O. steamer "Mongolia," leaving London to-morrow, are the Hon. Mr. Justice Amos, Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Bowden-Smith, Mr. and Mrs. P. Carver, the Hon. Mrs. R. Lindsay, Mr. and Mrs. C. T. McKillop, Mrs. W. Peel, Mrs. E. A. Phelps, Mr. and Mrs. P. M. Tottenham, and Captain Westropp.

Mrs. Todd Osborne, whose work in connection with the Mission to Mediterranean Garrisons is so well known, is leaving England shortly for Egypt in connection with the work being carried on at the Russell Soldiers' Home in Cairo.

The marriage arranged between Lieutenant Robin C. Carver and Miss Rose Ashton will take place in Egypt early in October.

Archdeacon Ward left Cairo for England last week.

Hon. Major and Quartermaster G. W. Anderson, of the Egyptian Army, whose death is announced from Egypt, saw much active service. In the Afghan War, 1878-1880, he was with the Kuram Field Force at the assault and capture of Peiwar Kotal and the passage of the Chappri Defile. He took part in the action of Matoon with the Khost Valley Expedition, and while serving with the Kabul Field Force was present at the Battle of Charasiah and the occupation of Kabul. He was also at the actions at Doaba and Lataband, the relief of Sherpur, and the action at Childukbteran, and took part in the march from Kabul to the relief of Kandahar. For these services he was awarded the medal with four clasps and the bronze star His other campaigns were the Egyptian Expedition of 1882, including the Battle of Tel-el-Kebir (medal with clasp and bronze star), the Bechuanaland Expedition, 1884-5, and the Nile Expedition, 1898. In the last-named he was present at the Battles of Atbara and Khartoum, and for his services, which were mentioned in despatches, was granted the honorary rank of captain. He was attached to the Egyptian Army in 1901 with the rank of major, and was subsequently accorded the title of Bey. Five years later he was appointed Director of Stores on the Headquarters Staff of the Egyptian Army, and was decorated with the Order of the Mejidieh. Major Anderson was the author of "Seaforth Songs and Ballads," and also of another work, "Lays of Strathbogie."

It is not generally known that Mr. J. Martin Cleaver, who died recently, after a brief illness, in Belfast, worked as a missionary in Egypt for four years, from 1898 to 1902. He was one of the founders of the Egypt General Mission, and it was his intention to remain in the country, but unfortunately his health necessitated his return home after four years' service. He then took up the secretaryship of the mission, and was keenly interested in it up to the moment of his death. He was the son of Mr. John Cleaver, of the firm of Robinson and Cleaver, and before entering the mission field he had taken his degree at Trinity College, Dublin and had practised as a solicitor.

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Professor John A. Todd, Professor of Economics and head of the Department of Economics and Commerce at Nottingham University, and formerly of the Khedivial School of Law, Cairo, is leaving England for India by the P. and O. steamer Mongolia, which sails from Marseilles on the 25th inst. He has secured a special "cold-weather" lectureship in economics in the University of the Punjab, and has been granted six months' leave by the Nottingham authorities for the purpose. Professor Todd, the second of whose series of articles on "The Making of Modern Egypt" appears in the current issue of THE NEAR EAST, hopes to revisit the Nile Valley on his way home next spring.

Mr. A. F. Hirsch, whose death, as the result of a sudden attack of peritonitis, is reported from Alexandria, was one of the oldest Anglo-Egyptian residents in that town. He first went to Egypt in 1877.

The Bishop in Fuh-Kien, China, the Right Rev. Horace MacCartle Eyre Price, who has recently been on furlough in England, is visiting Egypt for the purpose of performing the ceremony of confirmation in that country. Bishop Price, who was consecrated in 1906, was formerly a C.M.S. missionary in Sierra Leone and Japan.

News has reached Cambridge that Sub-Lieutenant Ronald Roscoe Thornely, R.N.V.R., of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, was wounded at the Dardanelles on August 31. Sub-Lieutenant Thornely is the eldest son of Mr. Thomas Thornely, of Merton Hall, Cambridge, and Fellow of Trinity Hall. He graduated B.A. at Trinity Hall, taking honours in the Mechanical Sciences Tripos, and has been for three years in the Egyptian Government Service, his last post being that of Assistant Director of Irrigation Works at Alexandria. In December, 1914, he was given a temporary commission in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve.

Captain William Henry Veitch Cameron, 1st Highland Light Infantry, who fell December 20, 1914, while in action with his regiment, served at one time in Egypt when his regiment was stationed there.

Major Kenneth Wyndham Arbuthnot, 2nd Seaforth Highlanders, who was recently killed in action near Ypres, left estate to the value of £23,281. Major Arbuthnot, who was formerly Brigade-Major to the Gordon Infantry Brigade, Scottish Command, had seen service in the Sudan and also on the North-West Frontier of India.

Lieutenant Norman Holbrook, V.C., is on his way home from the Dardanelles in a hospital ship. The gallant officer quickly recovered from his wound in the base hospital at Alexandria, where he was taken after being shot, but shortly afterwards he fell seriously ill, and had to be readmitted. Lieutenant Holbrook has become widely known through his submarine feats around Gallipoli.

Information was received last week of Captain Rupert Raw, who was reported missing on August 23, in the following cable message from Alexandria:—"Tenth August, Captain Raw advanced with thirty men, was cut off by larger party of Turks, not been heard of since."

At the Chapel Royal, Savoy, on Wednesday, Nadine, younger daughter of the late Sir Reginald Beauchamp, Bart., of Langley Park, Norwich, was married to Mr. George Bettesworth Piggott, formerly a judge of his Majesty's Supreme Court for the Ottoman Dominions. The bride is a granddaughter of the fifth Earl of Roden, and her uncle, Sir Horace Beauchamp, is reported missing at the Dardanelles. Major Bradshaw, Queen's Bays, acted as best man.

On the 15th inst. the marriage was solemnized, very quietly owing to the war, at the Bar Church, Scarborough, of Miss Ada Kathleen Binns, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Laurence G. Binns, of Bebek, Constantinople, with Rev. G. Douglas Reith, B.D., son of Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Reith, of Glasgow. The ceremony was performed by Dr. Reith, assisted by Rev. J. A. Middleton, of the Bar Church. The bride, who was given away by her father, was attired in a crepe de Chine gown trimmed with chiffon and pearls, and wore a Honiton lace veil lent by the bridegroom's mother. She was attended by two bridesmaids, Miss Ethel M. Binns (sister of the bride) and Miss Isobel Rowntree (niece of the bride). Captain J. C. W. Reith, R.E. (brother of the bridegroom), acted as best man. The church was very prettily decorated with flowers sent by Mrs. Ellis, of Wrea Head, Scalby. The hymns were "How welcome was the call," "O perfect love," and "O God of Bethel." After a quiet family gathering at the house of Mrs. Maurice Rowntree (sister of the bride), the newly-married couple left Scarborough for Ravenscar, where they will spend a few days before proceeding to their future home at Clunie, Perthshire.

If any of our readers know the present address of Mrs. Arnold and Miss White, who returned to England this week from Constantinople, they will oblige by communicating with the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

A patriotic masque pageant was held in the grounds of Donaldson's Hospital, Glasgow, last Saturday, on behalf of the work of Mrs. St. Clair Stobart in the organisation of war hospitals. Dr. Stobart has taken hospitals of women doctors to Belgium and France, and is at present in Serbia.

In the Greek Church in Moscow Road, Bayswater, was held on Wednesday afternoon the first part of the funeral service for Mr. Leonidas Bistis, a Greek shipowner, who lost his life in the Lusitania. His body was recovered near the Irish coast three months and a half after the disaster.

According to the *Echo de Paris*, Djemal Pasha is now at Baghdad, where he is said to be in open enmity to Enver Pasha. He is credited with the intention of forming a coalition to bring about the downfall of the War Minister.

The same journal states that Bekry Bey, former Vali of Beyrout, has been transferred to Aleppo.

According to the *Malta Chronicle*, Lieutenant H. W. Huber and Second Lieutenant A. N. Vella Bernard, two officers of the King's Own Malta Regiment, of Malta, who volunteered for service in the Dardanelles some time ago, are now to be joined by five more volunteer officers from the same regiment. They are Captain F. M. Stivala, who served with the Mounted Infantry in the Transvaal and has the medal with four clasps; Lieutenant P. A. Micallef Eynaud, Lieutenant A. G. Dandria, Second Lieutenant J. E. Agius, and Second Lieutenant C. A. Muscat. The five officers were entertained at a farewell dinner at Fort Manoel on August 28 by the officers of the regiment.

Lieutenant-Colonel William Dent Bewsher, commanding the 10th Battalion of the Hampshire Regiment, who is among the officers reported wounded at the Dardanelles, saw active service with his regiment at Aden in 1903, when he served as adjutant of the 1st Battalion during the operations in the interior.

An officer, one of the Near Eastern contingent at the Front, tells the following story of British daring which came under his personal observation:—"The other day the Huns had hoisted a blue and white Bavarian flag on their parapet opposite one of our trenches held by the 10th Lancashire Fusiliers, and a sergeant and private from that battalion went out in broad daylight and returned with it in triumph!"

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OBITUARY.

REV. PROFESSOR VAN MILLINGEN.

We regret to announce the death, at Rusthall, near Tunbridge Wells, on September 15, of the Rev. Professor van Millingen, D.D., of Robert College, Constantinople. Professor van Millingen had for many years occupied the Chair of History at Robert College. He was at the same time one of the most conspicuous figures in the British colony at Constantinople. As the only English member of the Faculty of the College, he was one of the principal links between that important institution and the British community. Dying at an advanced age, he, nevertheless, leaves in both a void which it will be difficult to fill. His ripe judgment was an invaluable asset to the College, of which, in recent years, he was more than once acting president. Other qualities not less notable secured him a special place in the esteem of his own countrymen. His fine scholarship conferred lustre on both.

Alexander van Millingen was descended of a Dutch family of Myningen, in Holland, one member of which established himself in London in the latter half of the eighteenth century. One of this ancestor's grandsons was Dr. Julius van Millingen, who, having graduated in medicine in Scotland, accompanied Lord Byron to Greece during the War of Independence, and eventually, after many vicissitudes, settled in Turkey and served four successive Sultans as Court Physician. The late professor was a son of this Dr. Julius van Millingen by his second marriage. He studied at Malta and in Scotland, entered the ranks of the clergy of the Church of Scotland at an early age, and became in due course pastor of the Free Church of Scotland at Genoa, and, later, of the Union Church in Pera, Constantinople. But though to the end of his life he was an effective preacher and was well known in that capacity in Constantinople, he had inherited from his father a taste for antique learning, and the greater part of his later life was devoted to those studies which made him the leading English authority on Byzantine archæology. Too conscientious a student to publish any but his best work in permanent form, he gave relatively few books to the world. What he published was of all the more solid worth, and, while in such a work as "Constantinople" (Beautiful Books series) he showed that he could do the work of a *vulgarisateur*, his other works, and especially his last, "Byzantine Churches in Constantinople," are monuments of erudition and accurate scholarship.

Professor van Millingen remained in Constantinople for some time after the outbreak of war between Great Britain and Turkey. He left, however, with his wife and daughter, early in the present year. He remained for some time in Italy, but eventually he came to this country. Shortly after his arrival he fell ill in London, and, though he was able to move to Tunbridge Wells about three weeks ago, he steadily lost ground. The immediate cause of his death was heart failure. It cannot be doubted that his end was hastened by the disturbance of an ordered life in his beautifully placed house at Rumeli Hissar, on the Bosphorus, as a result of the war. He looked eagerly for the triumph of our arms at the Dardanelles, and his personal interests were to a large extent bound up in it; but it is worth recording, as an example of the broad sympathy and largeness of view of the man, that, in almost his last conversation with the writer, he should have expressed what he called a kind of satisfaction in finding that the Turks, so long our friends, could fight so clean a fight and were proving themselves adversaries not unworthy of our steel.

Professor van Millingen was twice married. His first wife was Miss Cora Welch, daughter of the late Hermanus Welch, of New Haven, Conn. His second wife was Hope, daughter of the late Henry Somerset Mackenzie, of Penwenack, Cornwall. He leaves issue by his second wife two sons and one daughter. His elder son, Mr. Charles van Millingen, received his commission in the 14th Rifle Brigade on August 18.

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ROLL OF HONOUR.

British Subjects from Turkey in H.M.'s Forces.

The Editor of THE NEAR EAST *would be obliged if relatives of former British residents in the Near East who have joined H.M.'s forces would communicate additional names or other particulars for insertion in our Roll of Honour. Biographical details concerning those who have fallen in their country's service would also be appreciated.*

ASHE, Lance-Corp. R., R.E.
ATKINSON, Bombardier G. M., 266th Battery, 85th Brigade, R.F.A., Colchester.
ATKINSON, Gunner T., "A" Co., Royal Field Artillery.
BAKER, Captain A. Warden, 7th Royal Scots Fusiliers.
BARRON, 2nd Lieut. J. B., Worcester Regiment, France.
BINNS, 2nd Lieut. Harold H., Intelligence, M.E.F., c/o G.P.O.
BINNS, Lieut. C. E., R.M. (Interpreter to Mediterranean Forces).
BOLTON, Alfred, Naval Brigade.
BOND, Private H. C., 7th (Reserve) City of London Regt.
BOND, Gladwyn J. T., Inns of Court O.T.C.
BOND, Trooper S. (1779), Royal Horse Guards.
BOND, Corporal R., Royal Field Artillery, Durlston House, Park Road, Swanage.
BORRELL, Rifleman Alfred, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
BOWMAN, Private Henry J., R.A.M.C., Duke of York's Barracks, Chelsea.
BROOKS, Corporal G., Royal Field Artillery, Swanage.
BURN, E. R., 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
BURNS, Rifleman Edward, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade. (*Accidentally Killed.*)
CASTELL, Rifleman Henry, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
CAUCHI, Act. Corporal Henry (6113), 19th Service Battalion, C. Company, Royal Fusiliers, Epsom, Surrey.
CLIFTON, Capt. H., Interpreter, 11th Batt. Durham Light Infantry, 54th Division, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.
COLES, Dr. D. A., R.A.M.C. (formerly of the English Hospital, Haifa).
COLLEY, Trooper Isaac E., Royal Horse Guards.
CRAWFORD, Private James, 7th (Reserve) City of London Regiment.
CUMBERBATCH, Lieut. A. Noël, 9th East Yorkshire Regiment, Fulford Barracks, York.
CUMBERBATCH, 2nd Lieut. H. D., 9th Batt. the Buffs.
CUMBERBATCH, Lieut. and Adjutant R. C., 7th Batt. Rifle Brigade.
CUMING, Bombardier A. C., 262nd Battery, R.F.A., 84th Brigade, Colchester.
DAVIDSON, Bombardier C. T., 266th Battery, 85th Brigade, R.F.A., Colchester.
ELLIOTT, Eric C., 2nd Lieut., Essex Regiment, 11th Battalion.
ELLIOTT, Flight Sub-Lieut. Clifford W., R.N.A.S.
EPPSTEIN, Lieut. W. R., Durham Light Infantry.
FAULKNER, Lieut. M., Admiralty House, Malta.
FROMANT, Private F., Grenadier Guards.
GALLIA, Rifleman M., 7th (S) Batt. Rifle Brigade.
GOODACRE, Miss C., Red Cross, Shoreham.
GOUT, Lieut. Charles L., 4th (R) King's Own Yorkshire L.I., Drill Hall, Bank Street, Wakefield.
GOUT, Rifleman Evelyn, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
GOUT, Rifleman Richard, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
HADKINSON, Rifleman Vivian H., "A" Co., 7th Batt. Rifle Brigade, Queen's E1 Ward, Bed 40, Graylingwell War Hospital, Chichester. (*Wounded.*)
HIGGS, Private J., 6th Dragoon Guards.
HOLMES, 2nd Lieut. Gerald H., 2/5th Batt. Leicestershire Regiment.
HOLTON, Corporal Alfred, Royal Naval Division, Divisional Engineers.
HOLTON, Trooper John, B. Squadron, Essex Yeomanry.
HOYLAND, 2nd Lieut., H.A.D. (Interpreter to the Mediterranean Forces).
IRELAND, Private D. J. (3340), 15th County of London Regiment.
JACKSON, Rifleman Edward, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
KERR, Miss E., Army Nursing Corps, France.
KEYSER, Lieut. A. G., 8th Batt. King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry.
KEYSER, 2nd Lieut. R. N., 10th Batt. East Lancashire Regiment.
KEYSER, 2nd Lieut. Henry, 2/10th Batt. Middlesex Regiment.
KEYSER, 2nd Lieut. J. C., 2/9th Batt. (D.C.O.) Middlesex Regiment.
LA FONTAINE, Rifleman Fred., 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
LA FONTAINE, 2nd Lieut. Hugh, 2/7th City of London Regiment.
LA FONTAINE, Sub-Lieut. J. S., R.N.V.R., Hawke Battalion. (*Wounded.*)
LANDER, 2nd Lieut. Arthur.
LE BAILLY, Lieutenant R. F., R.N.V.R., Recruiting Officer for Royal Naval Air Service, Brook Green Road, Hammersmith.
LORIMER, Private D., Army Service Corps, Aldershot.
MACKENZIE, 1st Lieut. W., Egyptian Labour Corps.
MACKINNON, Private Eric, 9th Royal Scots Highlanders.
MACKINNON, Dr. J. M., Captain E.A.M.S., British East Africa.
MACKINNON, Patrick, Sapper, Divisional Engineers, 1st Canadian Contingent.
MACKRAY, E. D., Dardanelles Expeditionary Force.
MICHEU, Bombardier C. G., Royal Field Artillery.
MOORE, Miss K. M., Royal Red Cross, Serbia.
MORRISON, J., 2/4th Seaforth Highlanders.
MORTON, Private Stanley, 2nd Sportsman's Battalion.
MOSS, 2nd Lieut., Public Schools Battalion.
MUMFORD, P. F., Army Service Corps, R.E., Baldock.
MUNRO, 2nd Lieut. J. G., 4th Scottish Rifles, Fort Matilda, Greenock.
NOWILL, 2nd Lieut. Sidney J. P., 2/7th City of London Regiment.
PARKER, Trooper G., Royal Horse Guards.
PATERSON, Lieut. Alexander, R.A.M.C., 3rd Batt. Black Watch, Tain, N.B.
PEACOCK, Sapper Frank, R.E.
PENGELLEY, Sapper Walter, R.E.
POYNTER, Lieutenant H. E., Army Service Corps.
RAMSAY, Corporal F. R. F., 14th Service Batt. Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.
REES, Trooper R. (1709), Squadron D (in Egypt), Herts Yeomanry, c.o. G.P.O., Southampton.
ROBINSON, Lance-Corporal J. E., Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment (formerly of the C.M.S. College, Jerusalem).
RICE, Rifleman Cecil, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade. (*Died from Wounds.*)
ROUTH, 2nd Lieut. C., 3rd/8th (D.C.O.) Middlesex Regiment.
SACKVILLE-WEST, 2nd Lieut. Hon. B., R.N.V.R.
SAMSON, Seaman George McKenzie, V.C., R.N.R. (*Seriously Wounded.*)
SEAGER, Lieut. John Owen, B. Co., Public Schools Batt., 16th Middlesex Regiment, Woldingham.
SHAW, 2nd Lieut. T., R.E.
SIMMONS, Gunner H. C., 123rd Heavy Battery, R.G.A. (*Died from Wounds.*)
STOCK, Lieut. H. W., Royal Marines. (Serving abroad.)
SUMMERS, Lieut. H. C., R.N.V.R., H.M.S. "Europa."
SUNDERLAND, Interpreter (at the front).
THOMPSON, Lieut. Harold H., R.N.V.R.
THOMPSON, John, Interpreter, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, Alexandria.
THOMPSON, Commander W. A., R.N.V.R., H.M.S. "Egmont."
THWAITES, Dr. H., R.A.M.C., France.
TRENTER, Trooper T., Household Cavalry.
VAN LENNEP, Private E., 2nd Sportsman's Battalion.
VAN MILLINGEN, 2nd Lieut. Charles A. M., 14th Rifle Brigade.
VAN MILLINGEN, Private R. G. C., 3rd Batt. London Scottish.
VEDOVA, Rifleman Eghbert, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
VEDOVA, Rifleman Lionel, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade. (*Killed in Action.*)
VERE, Lieut.-Commander Harry, R.N.
WARREN, Act.-Corporal R. M., 7th (S) Batt. Rifle Brigade. (*Killed in Action.*)
WEALE, 2nd Lieut. W. W. C., 11th Batt. Devonshire Regiment. (*Wounded.*)
WHEATLEY Miss, Sister, Q.A.I.M.N.S.R. No. 21, Ambulance Train, British Expeditionary Force.
WHEELER, Captain P. F. C. d'Erf, 1st Dorset Regiment.
WHITTALL, Captain G., 1st Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry.
WHITTALL, 2nd Lieut. Arthur, 7th (Res.) City of London Regiment.
WHITTALL, Lieut. Hugh, Royal Marines. (Serving abroad.)
WHITTALL, Private Kenneth, 10th Batt. Royal Fusiliers, Colchester.
WHITTALL, Private Roland, 10th Batt. Royal Fusiliers. (*Died from Wounds.*)
WHITTALL, Rifleman Walter, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade. (*Wounded.*)
WOODS, Harold, Interpreter, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, Alexandria.
WRATISLAW, Captain J. C., 8th Leicestershire Regiment, 110 Brigade, 37th Division, B.E.F., France.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, etc.

Lieutenant James U. F. C. Alexander, Coldstream Guards, has been taken on the strength of the Egyptian Army, with the rank of Bimbashi, and posted to the 10th Sudanese.

El Kaim. G. B. Stoney Bey, Sudan Government, has been struck off the strength of the Egyptian Army.

The following officer is granted the temporary rank of Miralai:—El Kaim. L. K. Smith Bey, D.S.O., Officer Commanding 9th Sudanese (whilst Acting Officer-Commanding Khartoum District).

Kennedy Pasha, Director of the Sudan Public Works Department, has returned to Khartoum from the Dardanelles, after an absence of several weeks.

Mr. MacMichael, who was recently transferred from Khartoum to Kordofan, has left Khartoum for his new post. It is probable (says the *Sudan Times*) that Mr. Munro, Inspector of Khartoum North, will succeed him at Omdurman.

M. Léon Islavine has been appointed Russian Minister in Cettigne in place of M. de Giers, who retires from the Diplomatic Service, having reached the age limit.

The *London Gazette* announces the promotion of Paymaster H. P. W. G. Murray, to Staff Paymaster, for services in connection with the International Commission at Scutari, 1913, with seniority of September 9.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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

DEATHS.

BLAKENEY.—On August 20, at Heliopolis, Egypt, Joyce Yvonne, the very dearly loved little daughter of Major and Mrs. R. B. D. Blakeney, aged ten months.

HAYES.—On September 6, at Suez, Arthur J. Hayes, L.S.A. (London), Medical Officer Quarantine, Suez. son of the late George Hayes, of St. Michaels, Azores, and Mrs. Hayes, of Woodchurch Road, West Hampstead.

VAN MILLINGEN.—On September 15, at Rusthall, Tunbridge Wells, the Rev. Professor Alexander van Millingen, D.D., of Robert College, Constantinople, of heart failure; aged seventy-five. American and Italian papers please copy. (Funeral at Rusthall on Saturday at 3 p.m.)

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1915.

THE BALKAN KNOT.

The situation in the Balkans has the distinction of being unsatisfactory to the Central Powers, to the Quadruple Entente, and, it can hardly be doubted, to the Balkan States themselves. Hitherto Germany has played her cards to prevent Roumania and Bulgaria from throwing in their lot with the Allied Powers; but now a close observance of the rules of neutrality no longer suits the German game. Turkish appeals for further help are becoming more and more insistent, and the continued resistance of the Turks at the Dardanelles is far too valuable to the German scheme of military operations to allow these appeals to be lightly disregarded. Reports that the Porte has fixed a day in the present month as the last date on which the army can hold out without German assistance need not be taken too literally. The Turkish military authorities are well aware that under existing conditions the end must come sooner or later, and in urging their allies to hasten to their aid they will naturally underrate their own powers of resistance. What is established is that Turkey is being too hard pressed at the Dardanelles, and is feeling the pinch of war too acutely to face the future with any confidence. If help is to be sent to her, Balkan neutrality must go by the board, for German troops need to be conveyed by the State railways of Roumania and Bulgaria to Constantinople. The threat that an Austro-German army would hack its way through Serbia, and, if need be, through Bulgaria, could never have been intended seriously. Such a project might have been feasible at an earlier stage of the war; it is altogether out of the question as things are at present, in the face of the enemy's commitments and losses in the eastern and western theatres of the war and on the Italian frontier. The threat, however, was used, and to lend colour to it a small Austro-German force was moved to the neighbourhood of Orsova. But the last thing that the German Government can wish to bring about is the intervention of the neutral Balkan States in the war as the result of an invasion of their territory. Of the corn and oil that Germany requires from the Roumanians, some stands a chance of finding its way into Austria-Hungary and Germany if the relations between Roumania and these two countries remain outwardly friendly. A declaration of war would reduce Germany to the necessity of trying to fetch the goods she wants by force of arms. As for the help that she is anxious to send to Turkey, it could hardly count on reaching its destination in time to save the defenders on Gallipoli, if it had to force its way through hostile territory. Germany's only chance, therefore, of succouring her Turkish ally is to ignore the Serbians and to browbeat the Roumanians and Bulgarians into submission. Under penalty of invasion Roumania is required to allow German troops to pass into Turkey and to free large quantities of grain and oil for export into Austria-Hungary and Germany. If she were to accede to this demand, the acquiescence of Bulgaria, who commands the immediate approaches to Turkey, could be relied upon as a matter of course.

What, then, is to be Roumania's attitude towards this peremptory demand of the German Government? Will she maintain her refusal, or will she yield the point from a desire to avoid being dragged into the war? In the event of her rejecting the demand, can German diplomacy be relied upon in exercising pressure not to overstep the boundary of Roumanian tolerance in such a way as to precipitate war? These questions only restate in a different form the Balkan problem as it presents itself to-day in the middle of the European war. Roumania's desire to incorporate within her own dominions the three or four millions of her kinsfolk now under Hungarian rule remains constant. She is prepared to give battle for their liberation, provided there is a reasonable chance of success for her arms. But so long as the Austro-German forces are able to thrust back the Russian line the Roumanian military authorities hesitate to try the fortunes of war single-handed. If the Balkan States could participate as a united whole in the struggle, they would be independent of all considerations of the fate of the Russians. But the goal of a Balkan understanding remains almost as far off as ever. How difficult it is to reach is known to all who are acquainted with the conditions in the Near East. The antagonisms between the different States were crystallised by the events which led up to the Treaty of Bucharest, and until the memory of that unfortunate pact has been eradicated there can be no satisfactory meeting-ground for these close neighbours. Protracted negotiations have been in progress between the Powers of the Quadruple Entente and the Balkan States to secure the cancellation of the Treaty, for which Germany was mainly responsible. Some headway it was thought had been made, and the preliminary stages towards an understanding seemed to have been reached. But a complete change in the military situation in Europe supervened. The Balkan knot at once relapses into a state which defies all efforts to untie it. There remains the alternative of cutting it. Instead of waiting for the establishment, by a natural process, of goodwill among the Balkan States, an attempt might be made to force the respective Governments into line with their own national interests. Such a development in the situation is not altogether out of the question. The necessary pressure might come from one of two directions—from Germany, who may succeed in driving Roumania into the war, or from the Dardanelles, where the collapse of the Turkish resistance would inevitably modify the attitude of all the Balkan States.

Germany, therefore, finds herself on the horns of a dilemma. She must risk throwing Roumania into the arms of the Quadruple Entente, in order to bring help to the Turks, or she must face the elimination of Turkey from the war, if she is to avoid the possibility of complications with Roumania. At the present moment she is striving her utmost to reduce the risks of antagonizing Roumania if she tries to send the necessary reinforcements to Turkey. The ground has been prepared for some time by the employment of German gold, while no effort has been spared to convince the Roumanians of the invincibility of Germany's arms. Her successes in the eastern theatre of the war have come at an opportune moment, and she has been at pains to drive home their lesson by resorting to the crudest terrorism. The Allied Powers will do well to try to put themselves in the place of a small Balkan State that has lived habitually under the shadow of the overwhelming strength of the two Germanic Powers. Such a State may well feel that it has some excuse for being more impressed by the exhibition of German strength than by the reiterated assurances of the Allies' ultimate determination to win. To carry weight the resolve of the Entente Powers must be supported by some definite earnest of future victory. While that is delayed, it is surely suicidal to leave the field entirely to our German enemies. We have urged continually in these pages the necessity of adjusting our activities in the Balkans to local conditions and the temperament of the people. The British Government possesses full knowledge of all the means by which Germany has succeeded in terrorizing the different countries. To counteract her influence it is not always necessary to imitate her ways; but there can be no justification for an attitude which affects to disapprove of German methods and takes no steps to checkmate them. Our immediate task is to support the Roumanians in their refusal to allow German troops and munitions to pass through to Turkey, while reminding them that the realization of their national ideal, from which Germany is anxious to distract their attention, can only be attained through the agency of the Quadruple Entente.

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THE MAKING OF MODERN EGYPT. —II.

FROM MOHAMMED ALI PASHA TO THE KHEDIVE ISMAIL.

By Professor Todd.

The previous article (THE NEAR EAST, August 20, 1915) described the marvellous rise of Mohammed Ali to fame and power. As Pasha of Egypt he was really the sovereign of an independent country, for the suzerainty of Turkey over Egypt has never been anything but nominal from the conquest of the country by Sultan Selim in 1517. But the growing strength of Mohammed Ali moved the powers of the Sublime Porte to a more definite assertion of their authority, which, though couched in the form of a rightful claim for assistance, may well have been inspired by the further motive that if the venture proved too much for him, it would still serve a useful purpose by getting rid of him. On the outbreak of the Greek Revolution in 1822, they appointed him Governor of the Morea, and called upon him to send his new fleet to assist in the campaign. Thus came the battle of Navarino, where, in a quarrel not his own, Mohammed Ali's fleet was destroyed by ours, and his wings were severely clipped for a time. Within ten years, however, the fleet had been replaced, and Mohammed Ali determined to emulate the achievement of Greece and secure his own freedom from Turkish suzerainty. In 1832 his eldest son Ibrahim led a powerful army into Syria, and so successful was he that he quickly overran the whole of that province and part of Asia Minor, and was practically at the doors of Stamboul, when the intervention of England suddenly snatched the spoils of victory from his hand. After some years of diplomatic discussion, interspersed with further desultory fighting with the Turks, Lord Palmerston took up an attitude of definite opposition to Mohammed Ali, who had no alternative but to fight England, or withdraw. At first he tried to fight, but he had sense enough to know when he was beaten, and very soon was forced to withdraw the remnant of Ibrahim's army from Syria. The oppressive character of the latter's rule there is recalled by a story in Kinglake's "Eothen" which refers to the name of Ibrahim as a terrifying bogey, still in use. Then, in 1841, Lord Palmerston, as a concession to the old man's wounded pride, made the Porte grant the famous Firman upon which the political position of Egypt has ever since depended. Mohammed Ali was given the hereditary Pashalik of Egypt, the tribute was fixed, and his relations to the Porte with regard to the army, etc., were clearly laid down.

Thus in his old age (he was now over 70) Mohammed Ali returned to his task of creating a new Egypt, but under very different conditions. Financially crippled by the cost of the war, many of his great schemes were going awry, and in a few years his mental powers began to fail. In 1848, Ibrahim, himself in very feeble health, was appointed Regent. The old man's last public appearance was in 1847, at the laying of the foundation stone of the great Delta Barrage, the failure to complete which may be taken as typical of his life. He died on August 2, 1849, predeceased by Ibrahim, and, in accordance with the Turkish law of succession, the Pashalik, instead of going to the latter's eldest son, went to the eldest surviving male of the family. This happened to be his grandson, Abbas, who was actually ten years older than Mohammed Ali's own youngest son, Said Pasha; the latter, therefore, did not come to the throne until after his nephew's short reign was over. Abbas's policy may be described in one word as reaction, for everything that Mohammed Ali had done he proceeded to undo; while what Mohammed Ali had left undone was never finished. Pestered by European concession-hunters, he shut himself up in his palace, where his life became a mystery, ending in his murder by two of his attendants in 1854.

His uncle, Said Pasha, who succeeded him, was of a very different type. Frank and genial in his manner, well educated in France, and favourably disposed to foreigners and the advancement of his country, his name survives only in one connection. In 1854 he granted the first concession to Ferdinand de Lesseps for the construction of the Suez Canal, and it is after him that Port Said was named.

In many other ways that concession serves to link up past and present in the history of Egypt. De Lesseps' claim on Said Pasha is said to have been that his father, when French Consul in Kavalla, had rendered assistance to Mohammed Ali, who was then setting out for his first campaign in Egypt. The arguments by which De Lesseps gained the concession were that the Canal would restore to Egypt her ancient control over the trade between Europe and the East, and that it would cost Egypt nothing, for Europe would provide the capital. The whole subsequent history of Egypt is the tale of the falsification of those two promises. It was the Canal that made it necessary for England to acquire a position of authoritative control over the government of Egypt a generation later; and it was the financial burden which the Canal threw upon Said and his successor, Ismail, that were the chief excuses for the first of the great loans, which in the end brought the European creditors into financial control of Egypt. Mohammed Ali, in his later years, had been in sore financial straits, but did not resort to a national debt. Said Pasha was the first to avail himself of these modern methods, and Ismail carried them out to their logical conclusion by borrowing till he could borrow no more, and his creditors foreclosed.

It was on January 18, 1863, that the famous, or infamous, Ismail Pasha came to the throne, on the death of his uncle, Said Pasha. Ismail was the son of the great Ibrahim, but not the eldest son. His elder brother met with a terrible death in 1858, through one of those "accidents" which so often happen to members of a ruling family in Oriental countries. A special train carrying many members of the family to a *fantasia* in Cairo was being backed on to the train ferry over the Nile at Kafr-el-Zayat; by some mischance the forward gates on the boat had been left open, and the engine-driver unwittingly backed his train right over into the river. The whole of the party were drowned, but Ismail, who should have been with them, whether from accident or from secret knowledge on his mother's part, had pleaded indisposition and stayed at home in Alexandria.

Ismail began his reign under the brightest auspices and apparently with the best of intentions, strikingly illustrated by his published views with regard to the Suez Canal. "I am all for the Canal," he said, "but I want the Canal to be for Egypt, not Egypt for the Canal." But though he failed notoriously to live up to these expectations, it is a common mistake to write him down as an unmitigated failure. On the contrary, it is hardly too much to say that, in his own way, he was a worthy successor of Mohammed Ali, a real "chip of the old block." He was a man of great ideas, ever ready to listen to schemes for the advancement of his country, which, of course, meant himself, for in those days no Oriental ruler would ever have thought of regarding the country as anything but his own private estate. Ismail did many things for Egypt, and the only fair method of estimating his contribution to its history is to consider first what he did, and then what it cost.

His reign began under a lucky star: the cotton famine due to the American Civil War not only sent the prices of Egyptian cotton to famine heights, but also drew the attention of Lancashire to its peculiar qualities, and when the war was over it never entirely lost the position which it had thus gained. Ismail naturally took steps to secure his full share of this new-found wealth. With the Oriental instinct for land-grabbing, he proceeded to add to his comparatively small estates by every possible means. Lands were bought at prices fixed by the buyer, which, however, were seldom paid. Confiscation on the most flimsy excuses was resorted to at every turn, and in 1876, when the smash came, Ismail owned about one-fifth of the whole cultivated area of Egypt. Again one thing leads to another. These great estates required increased labour for their cultivation, and the labour supply of the country was being depleted by the *corvée*, or forced labour, which Said Pasha had undertaken to find for the construction of the Canal. Ismail was always quick to avail himself of the highest moral grounds for repudiating a bargain which he did not wish to carry out. The abuses to which this *corvée* had become subject, and the oppression and sufferings of the labourers, were a public scandal which Ismail refused to tolerate any longer. He stopped the *corvée* and diverted the labourers to his own estates, with financial consequences to Egypt which proved nothing short of disastrous. At the same time he cancelled the concession granted by Said to the Canal Company of all the land along the Sweet-water Canal, which carried fresh water from the Nile at Cairo to the Canal works at Ismailia and Port Said. These Ismail calmly annexed to

WHITE HORSE WHISKY.

HEART TONIC.

DIGESTIVE AND NON-GOUTY.

By Appointment to

KING GEORGE.

KING OF SPAIN

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his own domains, and for a time he was able to defy the company and ignore their protests.

But Ismail's ambitions were not entirely material. He had set his heart upon the acquisition of a higher title of dignity than that of Pasha, and upon having this title made hereditary in his own family. In 1867 he succeeded, at the expense of enormous backsheesh distributed in Constantinople, in getting the Persian title of Khedive conferred upon him. But in the East something more is required to establish one's title than merely a legal document. There were two dispossessed claimants to the throne—namely, an uncle and a brother—and these had to be got out of the country and their lands added by forced sale to Ismail's domains. By a curious irony of fate Ismail forgot at the same time to get rid of Tewfik, who was by a few hours actually his eldest son, but emphatically not his favourite; and it was not till nearly forty years later that his favourite son, Hussein (the present Sultan), did come to the throne through the British Government setting aside Ismail's altered succession. Again, Ismail was not content to pose merely as an Oriental potentate, and especially as only a vassal of the Sultan. The opening of the Suez Canal gave him the opportunity for a display of regal hospitality, to which practically every crowned head in Europe was invited, and many of them accepted the invitation or were represented. The lavish scale of the entertainments provided is still recalled by the great road built from the village of Giza to the Pyramids, five miles in an absolutely straight line, for the one day of the Empress Eugenie's visit, for which also the Opera House in Cairo was built, and the opera of "Aïda" specially written by Verdi for the opening night. Ismail's reward was seen in the almost royal reception accorded to him when he subsequently paid State visits to the capitals of Europe.

Mohammed Ali had begun the rebuilding of Cairo by ruthlessly driving the long straight street which bears his name through the centre of the city, as it was then, to the Citadel, where his own mosque now stands. Ismail, with the same ambition, built an entirely new quarter of the city on French lines, which now bears his name, Ismailia, as well as numerous palaces for his own occupation.

Lastly, Ismail again brought the Sudan under something like real control by Egypt. In 1869 he sent Sir Samuel Baker to explore the sources of the White Nile, and the regions round the source which he annexed were named by him Ismailia. From 1874 Ismail really tried to make something out of the Sudan; and perhaps the most surprising of all his acts was the sending of General Gordon to take over the Governorship of the new Equatorial province. In 1877 Gordon's commission was extended to that of Governor-General of the Sudan, and for the first time he brought something like civilization into the country. He at least was the only man who up till then had managed to make the Sudan pay its way, and he was the first to make an honest attempt to suppress slave trading; but the story of his tragedy belongs to a later period.

In fifteen years, then, Ismail had changed the whole face of Egypt, for on the surface at least it enjoyed peace and prosperity such as it had not known for centuries. The exports and imports of the country had increased by leaps and bounds. Law and order of a sort were maintained throughout the country to the extent that foreigners, even women, might roam it from end to end without fear of molestation. There seemed some justification for the boast attributed to Ismail that Egypt was no longer part of Africa, but of Europe. It remains, however, in a later article to turn to the other side of the picture and to count the cost of all this apparent progress.

TELEGRAPH MONEY ORDERS FOR EGYPT.

Beginning this week, and for the period of the war, the telegrams of advice of telegraph money orders payable in Egypt will be accepted for transmission at the deferred rate for the telegrams of advice if the orders are intended for payment to soldiers, sailors, doctors, or nurses serving with his Majesty's Forces. Telegrams for members of the Forces in Egypt must in all cases bear the number, rank, and regiment of the addressee, even though they may be addressed to a hospital.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

Subscribers to "THE NEAR EAST" who have left the Ottoman Dominions since the war will oblige by notifying the Manager of their new address as early as possible, so that the supply of the paper should not be unduly interrupted.

"THE NEAR EAST" has largely increased its circulation in the United Kingdom since the war, and the Management is convinced that there are many people still who would be glad to know of its existence. Specimen copies will be forwarded post free if the names and addresses of friends are sent to the Manager, at 16-17, Devonshire Square, E.C.

THE LAST CHARGE OF FUAD PASHA.

II.

We published last week the first part of the "political testament" of Fuad Pasha, Grand Vizier of Turkey from 1861 to 1866, and to-day we give some further extracts from this interesting document. As previously explained, it is in the form of a letter, addressed by the Minister to the Sultan Abdul Aziz. It was originally published in the Constantinople Press, and thence translated into Arabic and published in *Al Jawaib* and other Arabic journals; and we are indebted to a correspondent formerly resident in Syria for the translation from which we quote.

After dealing with the value to Turkey of British and French friendship and support, the document goes on to a consideration of the worth to the Ottoman Empire of the other European Powers, and a discussion of the internal policy recommended by Fuad Pasha. The following are the most interesting passages from the latter portion of the document:—

Austria-Hungary has been diverted from interfering with the Eastern Question by European interests. Surely she committed a grave blunder in the Crimean War, and she will find in future a great danger threatening her from the north, and that will be very serious for her as well as for us. . . . Prussia has up to the present paid no attention to the Eastern Question. Probably her policy has compelled her to sacrifice it on the altar of the German alliance; but when that problem is settled completely she will find her way to the Eastern Question just as the other Powers have done. I trust that the result of her policy will not lead to our enemies laying their hands upon our European possessions.

Russia is the natural foe of our country; for one of her essential sentiments is to seek for extension in the East. Had I been a Prime Minister in Russia I would not have allowed any obstacle to hinder me from capturing Constantinople. We should therefore not be surprised nor complain of her enmity towards us, for she is only treating us in a similar manner to our treatment of Greece. It is the height of folly for us to defend ourselves against her assaults upon our dominions by mere assertion of our rights; for we need force to protect them—but not such as we have resorted to in the past, which has already become obsolete, and such forms of force it is useless to attempt to revive. Our real need is now the new strength by which the European Powers have fortified themselves—that is, the force of education and of the new methods of civilization. Russia is no longer what she was in the time of Peter the Great, but she has advanced considerably, and, after a limited time, when the construction of her railways is complete, her progress will be multiplied tenfold. . . .

Speaking of Russia leads me to say a word about Persia, whose Government, owing to her stubborn fanaticism, has always been allied to our foes, for she even persuaded herself in the time of the Crimean War to be on Russia's side against us, though the winds of Eastern policy blew against her desire and prevented her from obtaining her wish.

The throne of the Shah is dependent upon the Russian Cabinet, while in the Government there is the utmost degree of frailty, folly, and poverty. Persia, therefore, cannot show us enmity or cause us real harm as long as we are free from complications and entanglements; but if Russia fights us, then Persia will be the first of our foes, and in spite of our great caution concerning her, she will attack us because of her desire to retain political independence. Fortunately, the Porte, possessing material resources, at the same time can make use of moral suasion in order to frighten the Government of the Shah, whose foundations have been shaken by despotism and manifold political trickery; and in the meanwhile she is being surrounded by the *Sunni* Mohammedans.

We should not forsake Greece, for while she has no personal importance of her own, she is an instrument employed by hostile Powers to do the work of the cuttle-fish—to obscure our clear waters and trouble us.

The European poets, with the object of reviving the names of Homer and Aristotle, resuscitated a nation which disappeared some 2,000 years ago, but the result of this work was that they brought into existence a home for intriguers and conspirators. It is possible that the Greeks will continue for some time, taking pride in their vanished glory, though they have been far away from it for many centuries and wandering in foolishness and ignorance. They are endeavouring to revive their Eastern empire, but, being self-deceived on the one hand and being separated

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from the other nations on the other hand, they will, as a consequence, be hated by the Eastern peoples.

The Turkish Government has found many skilful experts amongst the Greeks, but their racial spirit will always remain opposed to our interests. It is, therefore, our political duty to keep a separation between the Greeks who are our subjects and the other Christian communities, and also to keep up a division between the Bulgarian and that of the Greek Orthodox Church, and at the same time to prevent them from joining the Russian or the Roman Church. The Porte should also prevent any secret effort made to unite the Armenians, or the Gregorians, with the Orthodox Church. Let our efforts for rendering good services to our Christian subjects be directed and confined to liberating them from clerical autocracy, and the best policy we could follow is to prevent any interference in religious questions on the part of the heads of Christian communities.

Now concerning our home affairs. We have to direct our endeavour to one point, viz., the mingling of our peoples into one, for, apart from this, there is no other means of unification of our Empire. We must not permit it to become Slavonic or Ionian, nor allow it to be biassed by any particular community or race; for the stability of the Empire depends on the fusing of the races together. Stability is already secured for a country like Germany, or a nation like France, numbering 40,000,000, or a kingdom like England, which is fortified by the most impregnable natural forts. But Montenegro, Serbia, Armenia, and the other States, which possess nothing exceptional in the way of general advantage, if they continue to exist, will be fancy Governments, or the relics of ancient Powers which have already become obsolete; and they are left for a prey for every new conqueror or a stumbling-stone in the way of human advance and a danger to the general peace. . . .

The wisest means to preserve our Government from downfall is the reorganization of our laws upon a firm foundation, in order that we may be able to gather in one the differing elements of the country without distinction of race and religion, binding them together in the bonds of equality. This plan requires that our Christian subjects be permitted to occupy high governmental positions, which will place us in a difficulty, for if this shut door once be opened to them, they will rush through with full resolution and earnestness. They will endeavour to surpass those of their Moslem colleagues who have got on—and this feeling of competition has been lately exhibited by the Armenians. It, therefore, behoves us to be wise in undertaking this matter, keeping the door open only for the trustworthy who acknowledge and stand by the unity of the Empire.

The religion of our Christian subjects, generally speaking, contains two principles, moral and political, the former of which the Government ought not to notice, taking up an attitude of entire indifference towards it, while to the latter it should direct its most careful and watchful attention. We should have nothing to do with the manner in which one of our officials worships God, whether he worships Him according to the law of Moses or in compliance with the teachings of Christ; for that is not a sufficient reason to deprive us of the benefit of his services. But if we find that the same individual is not doing his best for the unification of the Empire, and if we are certain that he is turning his attention to resuscitating a new Byzantine kingdom, or that he serves the interest of some foreign country, we must depose him unhesitatingly, for he is a conspirator against both the country and nation.

Equality is the foundation upon which both the Government and the country can stand, and equality is the only rule I request that every official should adhere to.

In order that your Majesty should impress the import of this hidden principle, you have to try to establish justice. No one could deny that this path is a rugged one, and very difficult as well, but it is inevitable, and cannot be avoided. It tends to the security and the safety of both the life and the property of your subjects.

Your Majesty will have to take pains for the construction of railways, for when our lines equal those of the European Powers our country will occupy the most exalted position amongst them.

The most important question, which must not be neglected, is that of education, which is the very foundation of all progress, and apart from which one cannot hope to attain any moral or material greatness. It includes the Army and Navy and the administrative departments as well, without which we cannot retain power, independence, government, or even a future existence.

Education in our land is for certain reasons greatly behind, although Islam commands us to promote and spread it. Our numerous schools, which have cost us such heavy expenditure, have supplied us in very scanty measure with the principles of general education. I regret my failure to carry out this enterprise during my public career, as my time was continually taken up with foreign affairs, and I am therefore transmitting it to my successors. And this I affirm is the most useful and important of undertakings.

I know well that some Mohammedans will regard me, because of these opinions, as an infidel and adversary of Islam; but, being aware that they misunderstand my words and fail to comprehend my ideas, I forgive them. The time will come some day when they will ascertain that I, the reformer, was more loyal in my belief, and a better type of Moslem, than all those credulous Mohammedans who will shower upon me violent curses and expose me to the arrows of contempt. They will come to know—but it will be too late—that I fought more than any martyr for the cause of their religion and government, which they subjected to downfall and degradation.

The first principle of any law, whether it be divine or human, is that of self-preservation. My only purpose and desire has been the preservation of Islam; and in order to attain my object I did not make use of blind fanaticism, nor empty partizanship, but followed the methods set before us by the God of Islam, who sets the same before the other nations of the world.

My trembling and feeble hand can write no more. I therefore stop at this point, and beg your Majesty to direct your attention to the last words spoken by one of your unfortunate servants, who, in spite of his human frailty, still loves his countrymen and tries his best to do what will be of benefit for them, who is now departing this world without regret, and dies a Moslem, submitting himself to the decrees of destiny and surrendering his soul to the Great Judge, the Most Merciful and Compassionate.

THE TAKING OF NASIRIYEH.

The *Morning Post* publishes some extracts from the letter, in the form of a diary, sent by an officer with the Expeditionary Force in Mesopotamia to his mother at home. We reproduce the essential paragraph:—

July 24.—At. 4.15 a.m. our artillery started bombarding the enemy's position on both sides of the river. At 5 a.m. the —— with other regiments attacked one side, which was followed by an attack on the other side. A very big battle, lasting till 11 a.m. The —— did magnificently in spite of the heat, as did all the others. The Turkish position was a very strong one, and defended with barbed wire. At 1 p.m. some of our ships went in pursuit of the enemy, who had fled; some 350 prisoners already brought in by them. We hung about till 6 p.m., when we moved down to the river bank again. Meanwhile we hear that the troops who have moved on have captured fourteen guns and sunk the Thornycroft hostile motor-boat, which carries a pom-pom. The whole place full of ours and the enemy's wounded. Glad to be at the end of such a day and with such heat. The enemy have received a very heavy knock, and we should be in Nasiriyeh to-morrow early. Some of the captured mitrailleuses (French pattern) have been brought to our camp. The remainder of the enemy are said to be in full flight for Kut-el-Amara.

Another account of the same brilliant victory on the part of our troops is culled from a letter published by the *Times* from an officer with the same force:—

July 24.—The Brigade moved forward at 4 a.m. and were in position as a reserve by 5 a.m., when our artillery concentrated its fire on the enemy's front trenches on the left bank. At 5.30 a.m. the —th Brigade attacked and three-quarters of an hour after we heard that the —— regiment had secured their trenches near the river bank. Guns then switched on to the positions on the right bank, and this was followed up by the attack by the —th Brigade on that side. At 8.40 the —th Brigade and we of the headquarters with the ——s only remained on at divisional headquarters as the last reserve. At this time there was a distinct slackening of gun and rifle fire, and at 9.20 a.m. in a final burst the —th Brigade stormed the trenches on the right bank.

On getting back to headquarters I found the Mejidieh just getting alongside to embark the ——s, and by 3 p.m. we had disembarked on the right bank by the 17 palms position. Here we met our senior naval officers and —— of the Intelligence, hearing from them that the enemy had cleared from both banks south of the junction and appeared to be getting away material from their position there. Here was the opportunity of pushing troops through, and we got the O.C. Brigade's permission to re-embark the ——s, ordering the Mejidieh to move up to and under the cover of the bend of the river.

Meanwhile we landed just above the Maiyadiyah Creek, where we found the ground covered with ammunition, stores, and hastily discarded equipment and kits. The General took us off and boarded the Mejidieh with us. The Shusan and the Masoudi, with two horse barges in tow containing a 4.7 gun each, pushed ahead and opened fire on the Turks' position at the junction, from which a couple of shells had just come shrieking over the Mejidieh. A hail of shell was now sent on the Turks' position and completely silenced them. The Shusan pushed up to the junction and shelled the Turks, who were now commencing to retreat. Meanwhile the —th and —th Brigades had advanced up either bank. The affair was over. The Mejidieh turned the corner at the junction at 5.30 p.m., and shortly afterwards the enemy's position and camp were occupied, all the Turks that remained bolting off to the north.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Macedonian Question.

In the current issue of the Italian review *Nuova Antologia* there appears an interesting article on the Macedonian question by M. K. Stojanovic, Serbian Deputy and ex-Minister. In the most concise manner the author adduces arguments of a geographical, linguistic, historic, and economic order, proving that Macedonia is a Serbian country, and that she is indispensable to the Serbian State. "Macedonia," says the author, "forms, with Serbia, a geographical unit," the valley of the Vardar being simply a continuation of the valley of the Morava, while it is "separated from Bulgaria by great chains of mountains, which render all communication between the two countries impossible. The only means of communication between the two is through Serbia." By language the country is Serbian, and, according to M. Stojanovic, "Serbia governed Macedonia with the Serbian language, never having had need of interpreters." Historically, "Macedonia is not a Bulgarian country"; she abounds in Serbian monuments and traditions, whereas no such traces of the Bulgarian conquest are to be found. From the economic point of view Macedonia is "the most important Serbian province." The Macedonians have always regarded themselves as Serbians. In 1804 the Macedonians fought in large numbers for the deliverance of Serbia, and to-day in the towns and villages of Serbia are to be found numerous families of Macedonian origin.

The Persian Situation.

In a leading article on Wednesday morning the *Times* analyses the "well-meant" communiqué issued on Tuesday by the Persian Legation in London, and emphasises the fact that "the only protection which the Persian authorities seem able to have offered the British, French, and Russian residents at Ispahan was a small escort to Teheran."

The situation thus revealed is extraordinary. Ispahan is a city where for some years past the authority of the Persian Government has often been vague and shadowy. The foreign residents have, however, enjoyed reasonable immunity from personal danger, and have generally remained on good terms with the local Governor. The position altered when German agents, plentifully supplied with gold, began to bribe the lawless tribesmen who swarm in Southern Persia to attack prominent Englishmen and Russians. The tribesmen fulfilled their part of the bargain so ardently that the British and Russian banks and consulates at Ispahan had to be guarded by the Persian gendarmerie under Swedish officers.

The attack on Mr. Grahame, continues the article, "was evidently the culminating episode in a minor reign of terror," but its effect was "that the entire Allied community thought it prudent to leave Ispahan." The Persian authorities made excellent arrangements for their departure, but "we cannot be impressed by the control exercised by a Government which is unable to guarantee the safety of Allied residents in a great Persian city while the German agents presumably remain in undisturbed tranquillity." In conclusion, it is stated that—

Unsatisfactory though the condition of Persia has become, particularly in the southern provinces, the problem must probably await a larger settlement until a more convenient season. It is full of anomalies and difficulties, but the central factor is the weakness of the Persian Government.

The Balkan Riddle.

In a leading article under the above heading, the *Daily News* (September 11) reviewed the Balkan situation up to the end of last week. In reference to the agreement between Bulgaria and Turkey the writer says:—

The agreement, even if actually signed, need not be taken too seriously. It gives Bulgaria the Dedeagatch railway. What it gives Turkey is not known. It may be munitions; it may be merely a diplomatic entente. It is improbable in the last degree that Bulgaria has bartered her neutrality at so low a price. Agreement or no agreement, her hands must be assumed to be still free.

On the other side, the *News* considers that everything points to the success of our diplomacy and that of our Allies:

Roumania, at least, is making it daily clearer by her rigorous veto on the passage of munitions that her decision is finally taken. There is little doubt that Rumanian activity will be materially stimulated by the Russian successes in Galicia. Indeed, through the whole of the Peninsula the Tsar's assumption of the chief command, auspiciously coinciding with Russian victories in the region where the fortunes of the campaign most intimately concern the Balkans, must substantially simplify the task of the Entente diplomacy.

Turkey's Prisoners.

In a short article upon the treatment of Turkey's prisoners, the *Manchester Guardian* (September 11) again calls attention to the difference between Turkish and German methods of warfare, and more especially in the relative treatment of prisoners:—

As far as can be judged from British prisoners' letters which have reached this country, as soon as the captives have been removed from the firing zone they have been in very much better case, both for what medical attentions they needed and for accommodation and rations, than the British prisoners made by Germany on the western front. Extracts from the letters of an Australian officer which we publish to-day speak of both officers and men as receiving "splendid treatment."

Education in Egypt.

The *Times*, in its Educational Supplement (September), contains an article from its Cairo Correspondent on this important subject. He shows that considerable progress has been made in the extension of technical education during the fifteen years that have elapsed since the first serious effort in this direction was made. "The people are being gradually brought to realise that a technical or an industrial career carries with it no social stigma, and that instruction in agriculture or the arts and crafts is just as necessary as it is in law or in medicine." The writer proceeds to detail the lines upon which the educational system has been based, and shows that technical education has been divided into three main branches—industrial, agricultural, and commercial.

Of these the first two are, for obvious reasons, the most important. The organisation in these branches has been subdivided into three sections to correspond with the social grades of the people and with the requirements of the various classes of either branch. In this manner the elements produced by the three main divisions in the scheme of general education—the Kuttabs (village schools), the primary schools, and the secondary schools—have been provided for so as to produce efficient manual workmen, foremen and managers, and skilled professional workers. Thus under industrial education there are trade schools, a technical school, and a school of engineering; and under agricultural education farm schools, intermediate schools, and a school of agriculture.

The activities of the Department of Education do not end with the mere training of pupils. It keeps "a watchful eye on any local industries which it thinks could be profitably encouraged or in which new methods might with advantage be applied."

In summing up the advantages and disadvantages of the present system the writer says:—

One cannot help feeling that, albeit in a measure it may be necessary to equip young Egyptians so that they may be able to take their place in the industrial world, it is most desirable that they should be assisted to retain as many as possible of their national characteristics. . . . A scheme for the promotion of industrial education in a country like Egypt should not be directed at assisting the masses to compete with Europe or to run their industries on European lines. Its mission should primarily be educative, in the sense that it should discountenance all attempts at wasting energy on turning out articles which . . . will always be produced and supplied by Europe at much lower prices; it should encourage the masses to continue and develop their purely native industries and so be able to meet the local demands of the districts; and it should endeavour to improve their methods not by the introduction of European machinery and contrivances, but by means that are easily understood by them and are within the reach of all.

The writer considers some modification in the existing system to be necessary, but he does not anticipate any difficulty in effecting it when the authorities find that in some respects their efforts are having an effect opposite to the one they had in view when they embarked on their present scheme.

Articles to Note.

"Bulgaria as the Centre of the Position," by Cheddo Miyatovich, in the *Standard*, September 14.

"A Frontier Outpost in Serbia," by Miss E. Chivers Davies, in the *Morning Post*, September 14.

"Athens at the Cross Roads": An Interview with Dr. Ronald Burrows, by Mr. Percy Alden, M.P., in the *Daily Chronicle*, September 13.

"The Senussis," in the *Standard*, September 13.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

In the latest issue to hand of the Turkish paper *Hilal* there appears a paragraph to the effect that the exploitation of the chrome mine of Kous-Jegaz, in the vilayet of Broussa, granted three years ago to a German, by name Karl Reiser, has been annulled, owing to the fact that the concessionaire has done nothing to work his concession. The case illustrates the way the Teutons open up valuable Turkish tracts for the greater benefit of the Ottoman Exchequer!

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On the whole, letters from Cyprus which reach me express satisfaction at the agreement concluded between the Government of the island and the Cairo Motor Company, because it tends to keep alive the much-wanted motor service. Regret is, however, expressed that the amount of the Government grant has not been made public, because, until this is done, it is impossible to judge the maximum schedule of fares as published. Letters tell me that unless the fares are reduced to "half, or even less," very few Cypriot passengers are likely to travel by the motors, and then only the well-to-do ones. The natives will compare the rates with those charged for carriages, which will carry four to six passengers. As regards these latter rates, I am told that four years ago the charge for a carriage from Limasol to Nicosia was advertised as follows: — Without change of horses half-way, 25s., which in the case of a party of four clubbing together enabled them to do the journey for about 6s. a head. The charges have not changed much since then, so that the new service, unless its rates are much lower than the maximum published, or enormous reductions are made for parties or families, will be up against serious competition. The general opinion is that the Cairo Motor Company will not begin by charging the maximum rates allowed for; but unless their grant is a high one they will not be able to make both ends meet, in which case, as I predicted last week, they will be forced to renounce their agreement, and then there will be another lull in the service, which is just what all friends of Cyprus wish to avoid.

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Another grievance from our island in the Eastern Mediterranean is contained in the following extract from a letter received this week:—"The island export trade still suffers to some extent from want of accommodation in the weekly mail steamers to Egypt. Recently the difficulty has been due not so much to want of space as of time. If the hours allowed for Cypriot ports are insufficient wherein to load, merchants consider that arrangements should be made which would curtail the time spent in Egyptian ports." Even supposing the latter remedy to be unfeasible, surely there are other means whereby the stay in Cyprian ports can be sufficiently lengthened to enable the loading of goods that are ready to be shipped?

News from Turkey continues contradictory and unreliable, but, from all accounts, it seems that, in spite of Russia's serious attempts to stop the transport of coal from Zunguldak to Constantinople, there is still some blockade-running going on. As long as this is permitted, so long will the Turks be able to hold out at the Dardanelles, but not a day longer. As for the city itself, and apart from military considerations, the absence of coal is beginning to make itself seriously felt—as our Special Correspondent in Athens points out. The price of bread has gone up, and there is even difficulty in obtaining it; factories are, of course, closed, and the supply of gas is practically non-existent.

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On the other hand, rumours were current on the 'Change yesterday that the feeling of insecurity in Constantinople had grown so intense within the last few days that the Government had already decided to move its offices and archives into the interior, and would be accompanied by the larger financial institutions. It is, of course, impossible either to confirm or deny the rumour; but I am inclined to think that it is, at least, premature. The fact, however, that a French official communiqué reports anarchy and brigandage in Broussa shows that the Young Turk régime, under German tutelage, is on the brink.

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The writer of the article on "British Electrical Trade with Egypt," which appeared recently in the *Electrical Review*, and from which we reproduce some extracts, is, as the Editor of the *Review* states, "most highly qualified to report upon the Egyptian electrical trade." His warnings and suggestions must therefore be carefully read and pondered by those wishing to keep the Germans away in future from the Egyptian market. I have frequently insisted that the end of this military and political war will see the beginning of the real trade war between the great industrial centres of Central Europe and ourselves, and evidently the writer of the article under review has no illusions as to the truth of my assertion. The German electrical industry (and it was by no means the only industry) practically ousted us from the world market before the war, and after it is over the struggle will begin again. We must be prepared for it. Egypt, certainly, is a market which should be ours, and ours only; but unless we organize our resources and learn to rely more on our own efforts than on the "nationality" of the goods we sell, results will be discouraging rather than otherwise. In the electrical trade, if a powerful combine is necessary to compete with the Siemens and A.E.G. combine in Germany, let it be created—without delay.

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I have received a copy of the following circular, issued last week by the Cunard and Ellerman Lines:—"Until further notice persons or firms desiring to export goods to Greece, otherwise than on the authority of a Privy Council licence, are to be informed that before exportation can be allowed, the consignees in Greece should place themselves in communication with H.M. Legation at Athens and state what guarantees they can offer that the goods will be consumed in Greece. If the guarantees are satisfactory, instructions as to further steps which they should take in the matter will be communicated to them by H.M. Legation. Any correspondence submitted by would-be exporters purporting to contain acceptance of guarantees, etc., by the Legation is to be forwarded to the Board before being accepted as an authority for exportation."

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Mr. W. Lawrence Balls, the well-known expert in cotton, addressed the Botanical Section of the British Association at Manchester on Wednesday last on "The Application of Science to the Cotton Industry." After touching on the industrial importance of his subject, Mr. Balls stated that in the course of nine years in Egypt, conducting scientific research with the cotton plant, he had found a great gulf fixed between the grower and spinner of cotton. On the grower's side of the cotton industry science had made many advances, and the objectives of applied science in the growing of cotton were:—Increase of the yield from existing areas, quick and reliable methods of testing the suitability of new areas, reporting and forecasting the crop in any given season, and, lastly, the adaptation of the qualities of cotton cultivated to fit with the demand. These objectives were attainable by two very distinct paths: the behaviour of the individual plant in relation to its environment was chiefly the study of yield, while the kind of plant grown was chiefly responsible for quality. The lecturer showed how science might be applied to steady the market by providing precise crop reports and crop forecasts, which might even be issued daily like weather charts. Outlining the methods which he had originated in Egypt, he also showed how the seed supply might be controlled, to provide seed which did not deteriorate with the lapse of time, and how such supply might be so arranged as to anticipate and meet the coming demands of the spinning mills.

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The great object of Mr. Balls's lecture was, however, to urge on his audience the necessity for the creation of some body "which would take upon itself the function of connecting the grower with the spinner"—on scientific as well as administrative grounds. This becomes all the more vital to our industry in view of the fact that the Germans are "developing a new industry in regenerated cellulose 'silks' and films." The *Manchester Guardian* dealt favourably with Mr. Balls's advocacy of the proposed cotton department in its leading article, and the Vice-Chancellor of Manchester University intimated that the University was willing to do everything in its power to help forward "the scheme for a central research department" to which the lecturer had referred.

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Mention is made elsewhere of the expected arrival shortly of "British" dates on the London market. At first sight this strikes the layman as remarkable, but when it is remembered that our men are occupying Southern Mesopotamia, the great date-producing country of the world, the statement becomes explicable. From private sources I learn that the Mesopotamia date crop this year is, on the whole, a good one, so that shipments to this country should almost be up to the average.

COMMENTATOR

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Trade of Aden.

Under the above title, the United States Consul at Aden publishes an informative article in the American Consular Reports for July 28, from which the following are some extracts:—

Though its commerce is in itself very limited, Aden is the great distributing centre for British, French, and Italian Somaliland, Abyssinia, and Arabia from Jedda on the Red Sea to Bussreh on the Persian Gulf. It receives from these countries for transhipment to America and Europe olibanum and Arabic gums, dates, beeswax, mother-of-pearl shells, ivory, coffee, and large quantities of hides, goatskins, and sheepskins. It distributed to these large tracts of territory the products of America, Europe, China, and Japan, including machinery and tools, kerosene, gasoline, coal, canned goods, alcoholic beverages, automobiles, carriages, silks, wheat, flour, starch, tobacco, aniline dyes, soap, candles, groceries, wearing apparel, hardware, typewriters, and millions of yards of grey, white, and coloured cotton piece goods.

Great Distributing Centre.

Aden's import and export trade is divided into foreign, Indian, and inland. The foreign and Indian commerce is carried in the many vessels that call at Aden, and in the myriad dhows, or sambuks, that ply between Aden and the French, British, and Italian Somaliland, Hodeida, Mocha, other ports on the Red Sea, and on the southern Arabian coast. Its inland commerce is borne upon those "ships of the desert" that compose the many caravans that travel between Aden and the Arabian mainland, including the fertile Yemen.

There is no sewerage system, waterworks, or street railway. The drinking water, obtained by condensing sea water, is as pure as can be obtained anywhere. This water is supplied to the many ships that make Aden a port of call. A project to bring water from a distance of about thirty miles from Aden is now in abeyance on account of the European crisis. When this is accomplished a much-needed sewerage system will be installed.

An electric railway between the various parts of Aden—Tawahi, Maala, Crater, and Sheikh Othman—would undoubtedly pay well upon the comparatively small capital required for its installation. Not only could it carry passengers between these places, but also freight from Tawahi and Crater to the wharves at Maala. The same power plant could develop sufficient electricity to supply Aden with electric lights and power for electric fans, which would tend to make life endurable in one of the hottest places on the globe.

Among its few manufactures Aden has two large salt works, whose unique Dutch windmills, outlined against a cloudless sky, pump the sea water into large reservoirs, where it is evaporated by the fierce rays of a sun that shines nearly every day in the year.

Other products are cigarettes of a medium quality and Turkish delight, a candy made of starch.

Aden's total sea-borne trade in merchandise during the fiscal year ended March 31, 1914, amounted to £6,827,760, of which £3,651,960 was in imports. Added to this was the caravan trade by land, which amounted to £301,845. Thus the total trade of Aden, excluding treasure and Government transactions, amounted to £7,129,605, or £589,167 less than in the preceding year, the decrease in imports being £270,637. The fiscal years 1912 and 1913 were abnormal in respect to imports and exports, the Italian blockade of Red Sea ports then diverting to Aden much trade that otherwise would have gone directly to those ports and their hinterland. Nevertheless, the trade of Aden for the year under review was exceeded only by that of 1913, and showed healthy progress in both imports and exports with one exception, cotton piece goods.

Bombay sends to Aden a large amount of merchandise that is listed under imports from the United Kingdom and possessions, but these goods may have been originally imported into Bombay from the United States, Austria, France, Germany, or some other European country. On the other hand, French Somaliland, whose chief port is Jibouti, and Italian Somaliland, or Eritrea, of which Massowa is the principal port, also tranship to Aden considerable merchandise that is probably of French, Italian, or other European origin. It is therefore impossible to obtain an accurate account of the origin of merchandise imported into Aden.

Principal Imports.

There are about 100 automobiles in Aden, probably 75 per cent. of these being of American manufacture, Fords and Overlands, over 50 per cent. being the former. A cheap car is more economical at Aden, as the climate and dust have a bad effect, and the inexperience of the chauffeurs assists in the rapid deterioration of the cars. The carriage is fast being supplanted by the automobile for private use and public hire. The natives who can afford to own a car or pay the fare prefer automobiles to carriages. There is scarcely any demand for carriages.

Only two countries sent kerosene to Aden in 1913, the United States and Sumatra. Petroleum has been discovered near Berbera, in British Somaliland, and on the Fursan Islands, in the Red Sea, but no efforts at development have thus far been made at either place. However, the proximity of these oil fields may have a very serious effect upon the sale of American oil in the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean districts. Nearly all of Aden's coal supply comes from England. At the beginning of the war, when there was fear of a shortage, it was hoped that American coal would find an entering wedge. However, a plentiful supply of English coal is now on hand. There was a decrease in imports in coal during the year under review of 8,955 tons.

The demand for phonographs and records at Aden is extremely limited.

There is a good market for a cheap soap; the natives prefer a very hard soap, for though it is not as serviceable as a softer one, it lasts longer.

The demand for American shoes is very limited, English shapes in footwear being preferred by the European residents, most of whom are English.

The following table shows the imports of wheat by countries during the last three years:—

Countries.	1911-12.	1912-13.	1913-14.
	Pounds.	Pounds.	Pounds.
India	14,510,888	25,245,696	17,971,464
Other British Possessions	16,856	6,300	24,752
Austria	33,600	41,888	—
France	—	9,856	—
Russia	133,056	182,084	296,570
Egypt	40,180	71,652	146,020
All other	48,944	31,164	10,388
Total	14,783,524	25,588,640	18,419,194

American starch is in good demand, in fact the only times that merchants availed themselves of the catalogues at this consulate were on two occasions when they wanted the names of American starch manufacturers. Little is used for laundry purposes, most of it being consumed in the manufacture of Turkish delight and other native sweets.

There were no imports of canned goods from the United States during the period under review, but as most of the canned fruits on sale are from California, especially peaches, these goods were undoubtedly transhipped from Bombay. While there are only a few hundred Europeans at Aden, there is a fairly large demand for canned fruits, as fresh fruits are scarce and extremely difficult to obtain. The natives seldom purchase canned goods of any description. They prefer dates, fresh and dried, and sweets brought from the Persian Gulf ports in the many dhows therefrom that make Aden their objective.

Coffee Exports.

According to the report of the Aden Port Trust, Aden's exports of coffee in 1913-14 amounted to £473,415. Mocha coffee goes principally to the United States and Harrar coffee to France, Harrar coffee being preferred to Mocha in Europe. At times the price of Harrar coffee is higher than that of Mocha. Though the entire output of Harrar and Mocha is insignificant as compared with the world's total production of coffee, the peculiar and highly aromatic qualities of these beans give them a unique position that is not sensibly affected by movements in the great coffee markets of the world.

The following tables show the imports and exports of coffee from Aden during the last two years:—

Countries.	1912-13.	1913-14.
Imports—	Cwt.	Cwt.
Abyssinia (Harrar coffee)	49,234	54,612
Arabian ports (Mocha coffee)	76,175	65,269
Straits Settlements	9,062	3,302
Other countries	5,709	4,350
Total	140,178	127,543
Imports—		
United States	36,402	38,394
France	30,909	26,571
African ports	32,643	21,345
United Kingdom	8,725	6,224
Other countries	44,195	46,489
Total	152,874	139,023

Upon the declaration of war between Great Britain and Turkey it was thought that the imports of Mocha coffee would materially decrease, but 1,109,596 pounds were imported into Aden between August 1, 1914, and March 1, 1915, which shows that imports thereof since the commencement of the present war have been about normal. The caravan trade from the Yemen and through the country of friendly tribes near Aden has not ceased. Medi, Ghizan, and even Mocha, are permitted to ship coffee to Aden by means of dhows. Up to the time of the entrance of Italy into the war much coffee from Hodeida reached Aden via Massawa, but it is quite improbable that the imports of Mocha coffee into Aden will be affected by the cessation of trade between Hodeida and Massowa.

In the early part of March, 1915, Mocha coffee advanced in price to about twenty-four cents per pound, but later in the same month it declined to about sixteen cents, at which price there is plenty now on sale in the Aden market. The only difficulty in the way of exports of this coffee to the United States is the lack of shipping facilities at Aden.

Skins.

During the year under review imports of goat and sheep skins into Aden fell off by 425,490 skins, and exports by 739,719 skins. The decrease in imports is attributed to famine and drought at the sources of supply in Arabia and Somaliland. In the report published by the Port Trust at Aden, the "high tariff in the United States" is mentioned as one of the causes therof. However, there was during the year under review no duty on raw skins imported into the United States. Moreover, the total exports thereof to the United States, according to the report of the Aden Port Trust, increased over the preceding year by £18,273, notwithstanding the decrease in the total exports to all countries from Aden.

The following table shows the exports of goat and sheep skins for the last two fiscal years:—

Countries.	1912-13.	1913-14.
Goatskins—	Number.	Number.
United States	2,786,192	3,161,002
United Kingdom	1,087,875	270,185
France	496,775	483,550
India (Bombay)	250,060	295,090
All other countries	18,002	58,340
Total	4,638,904	4,268,167
Sheepskins—		
United Kingdom	899,944	697,401
United States	523,921	302,846
France	453,430	485,857
Belgium	265,070	42,940
Netherlands	6,000	32,950
All other countries	119,730	291,529
Total	2,268,095	1,853,523

In Somaliland skins could have been purchased soon after the outbreak of war at 40 per cent. of their real value. However, prices have since advanced until they are now about 20 per cent. below those prevailing before the war. If increased freight, war-risk insurance, lack of shipping facilities, and loss in interest on account of delays be taken into consideration, the present prices are

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very little under those ruling prior to the war.

Since the outbreak of the war there has been a large demand for hides in Europe, particularly in Italy where large quantities have been shipped from Jibouti and Massowa.

It must be appreciated that the demands of Aden, its hinterland, and the many peoples contiguous to the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean supplied by it, are limited to actual necessities. Where 90 per cent. of the people wear no stockings or shoes, no other wearing apparel than two pieces of cotton to cover the upper and nether parts of the body, whose food is principally rice and dates and whose houses are of the crudest an cheapest construction, there is a very limited market for anything but these necessities. The table of imports only too truly demonstrates this fact, for the principal import from America or Europe to Aden, outside of food, is cotton piece goods. However, as these peoples develop and their material resources increase, what are now luxuries will become necessities and the country that first introduces its manufactures will have a decided advantage over those that make the effort later.

Present Outlook.

Manufacturers will not profit at present by sending salesmen to these countries, and the introduction of manufactures by correspondence is not very satisfactory. However, it is believed that an inexpensive method of introducing American (British?) manufactures into these districts would be for the manufacturer to make arangements with business nouses at Aden, having branches at Massowa, Hodeida, Jibouti, Harrar, Berbera, Adis Ababa, and other places, to put in a sample line of articles or products for which a demand has commenced or for which one may be created. By this inexpensive method the customer may see, touch, handle, and examine the article, may compare it with others and convince himself that it is just what he needs and wants. If he were to purchase an article by correspondence, it is quite probable that it would not be the particular one he wanted, thereby creating a prejudice that is difficult to overcome.

An ordinary square box, lined with zinc, is used as an ice box, into which the ice, provisions, etc., are thrown promiscuously. If an American (British?) manufacturer were to induce a merchant here to put in a sample line of refrigerators there is very little doubt but that a demand would be created for the article. There is now an excellent opportunity in this district to make permanent the predominancy of American cottons and for the increased sale by American manufacturers of starch, canned goods, soaps, candles, groceries, hardware, and glassware. Kerosene and automobiles offer a good field, but there does not seem to be any opportunity of increase in the sales thereof until after the war. The sale of automobiles will probably decrease until the war is ended.

The *Echo de Paris* learns from Salonika that M. Diamantidis, the Greek Minister of Railways and Communications, has opened negotiations with Bulgaria and Rumania with a view to regulating the freedom of transport by way of Salonika so that Greece may secure Bulgarian and Roumanian wheat instead of, as usual, purchasing from America. Bulgaria and Rumania will receive, in exchange, any goods which may be sent them by the Quadruple Entente. [There is no confirmation here of the latter part of the message.]

DELICIOUS COFFEE.

RED WHITE & BLUE

For Breakfast & after Dinner.

Wholesale, of Hanson's, London, England.

Greek Currant Industry.

Annual Report.

The following are extracts from Messrs. Burlumi's annual report on currants, published on September 14:—

The shipments of currants from Greece during the year ending August 22 reached 105,000 tons. To the retention stores of the Privileged Currant Company there were delivered 49,000 tons; about 3,000 tons of fresh and dried currants were used for wine making and other industrial purposes in Greece, and it is estimated that about 1,500 tons of old fruit has been carried over to the new season, making a total of 158,500 tons. Deducting 4,000 tons of old fruit brought over from the previous season of 1913-14 and 9,500 tons of retention currants sold to the exporters by the Privileged Currant Company, we find that the crop of 1914 has given 145,000 tons, against 161,000 tons in 1913 and 167,000 tons in 1912.

The 105,000 tons shipped to foreign countries were distributed as follows:—

To the United Kingdom and New Zealand, 71,300 tons, against 65,500 tons in 1913-14; to the United States and Canada, 13,600 tons, against 17,700 tons; and to the Continent of Europe, 20,100 tons, against 34,800 tons; with a total of 105,000 tons, against 118,000 tons.

Home Consumption.

The clearances for home consumption in the United Kingdom from August 1, 1914, to July 31, 1915, have been 69,332 tons, against 63,015 and 63,690 tons in the two seasons ending in July 1914 and 1913 respectively. A large increase was registered in the deliveries of the first four months of the year 1915, which cleared 21,106 tons, against 12,269 tons in the same period of 1914, showing an increase of 8,837 tons, equal to 73 per cent. This large increase is accounted for in many ways; some of the experts believe that the rise in wages has enabled workers to spend more money in the purchase of currants, and others attribute the increase to the large use of currants by the fighting forces of the country. It may be that both these causes, with the comparative dearness of sultanas, have contributed to the increase.

The Privileged Company received during the season in their warrant stores 17,000 tons of currants, on which they made advances to the owners. The whole of this quantity had been redeemed and withdrawn by the end of the season. They have bought for wine making a quantity of fresh currants equivalent to about 1,800 tons of dried fruit. No dried fruit has been offered to the company for purchase by the growers, but on the contrary the company sold to the exporters 9,500 tons of retention currants at 145 drachmas per 1,000 Venetian pounds. In their retention stores the Privileged Company received 49,000 tons, making 57,000 tons with the certificates in circulation at the end of the previous season. The Land Tax in kind, including the additional 15 per cent. on the exported quantity, absorbed 46,500 tons, leaving 10,500 tons represented by certificates in circulation on August 22, 1915. The retention currants and the fresh fruit purchased by the company have been sold, as to 9,500 tons to exporters at 145 drachmas per 1,000 Venetian pounds, in accordance with the Act 633 of 1914, and the balance to the Wine and Spirits Company and to the local distillers. The total weight of fresh and dried currants used for industrial purposes in Greece has been during the season 44,500 tons, against 60,000 tons in 1913-14, and 59,000 tons in 1912-13. The stock of retention currants in Greece at the end of August was about 4,500 tons, against 25,000 tons at the end of August, 1914.

New Crop.

The new crop promised an abundant yield, until early in June *peronosporos*, in a virulent form, attacked the vines. The farmers did their best to fight the pest, and sprayed the plants with such a profusion of sulphate of copper that the supplies were soon exhausted and the price of the article rose to more than three times its normal level. The effort has not been very successful; the plants were so weakened by the disease that they could not retain the fruit during the process of maturity, and the still unripe berries fell from the bunches to the ground, diminishing the yield to a considerable extent. To avoid total loss many districts hurried the harvest and gathered the fruit in an immature and unripe condition. To make matters worse heavy rains fell while the later cuttings were still on the drying grounds, and this part of the crop as well as what remained still on the plants has been seriously damaged. The yield is now estimated at about 125,000 tons, of which about 40,000 tons have been damaged by rain, and the main part of them are finding their way into the retention stores. Samples of the sound fruit received overland show the crop to be deficient in size and in colour, but in all other respects fairly satisfactory. Forward sales of new Pyrgos currants were made in the spring at 22s. per cwt., c.i.f. London, in quarter cases. The price rose later much higher by degrees, until it touched 30s. This was the price demanded by the shippers in Greece, but buyers on this side resisted and the sales effected at the higher figures must have been very few. There are now four steamers afloat for the United Kingdom, and the prices demanded for g.a.s.d. Pyrgos are the following:—At from 29s. to 29s. 6d. in quarter cases, and at from 26s. to 26s. 6d. in half bags per cwt., c.i.f. London. Many causes have contributed to this rise in prices. The shortness of the crop and the higher cost of cultivation, in consequence of the dearness of all materials and especially of sulphate of copper, have made the farmers very reluctant to part with their diminished crop, unless at a price commensurate with their expenses and their labour in producing it. The rise in the cost of all accessories is another material cause. Packages are dearer than they have ever been. Quarter cases, the packages mainly used for and preferred by the trade of the United Kingdom, cost now 4s. 6d. per cwt., against 1s. 9d. per cwt. a year ago. Half bags cost now 1s. 6d. per cwt., against 6d. per cwt. a year ago. Freight and insurance and labour cost more, so that it is not in any way the greed of the grower that makes the article dear, but a combination of causes over which he has no control. The estimated supplies allow for a total export of about 100,000 tons, without touching the retention currants; but these currants of about 25,000 tons become available for export as soon as the lowest market price in Greece touches 200 drachmas per 1,000 Venetian pounds, equivalent at the present exchange of 24.80 to 24s. 3d. per cwt., f.o.b. Greece, in half bags.

ANGLO-GREEK CONVENTION.

In connection with the publication in THE NEAR EAST last week of the general terms of the Anglo-Greek Convention recently signed, our Athens correspondent sends us the following further particulars:—

"Great Britain permits the free export of tobacco and currants from Greece, for all destinations, but from neutral ports and in quantities not exceeding the usual proportions exported to each respective destination. The export of goods from Great Britain and the British Colonies to Greece will also be permitted within the limits of the quantity available, and on the basis of a formal request to be tendered by the Greek importer to the British Legation, in which the amount of goods required must be stated and the importer's title as merchant proved. Those requests will be forwarded to London and a commission there will decide whether they can be fulfilled. It will also be permitted to re-export goods received in Greece to Russia and Roumania under a guarantee from the Greek Government. Export to Turkey is, of course, not permitted. Customs Superintendents will be appointed by the Greek Government at the suggestion of the British Government, with executive powers to control exports.

"Since the conclusion of this convention the Greek merchant marine has ceased to be subjected to visitations from the Allied fleets, to the great satisfaction of the whole country."

On September 1 the rate of exchange at Sofia for cheques on London was 34.10—34.60 lewas per pound sterling.

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Cyprus Vintage Outlook.

(From a Correspondent.)

Cyprus, September 4.

Vintage prospects are less satisfactory than was hoped. The yield of grapes will be small in many areas. This is partly due to want of timely and sufficient sulphuring of vines, which are largely attacked by oïdium. The apathy of villagers, in view of Government efforts extending over many years, is deplorable. Full instructions have been given by successive Directors of Agriculture and Commissioners as regards the times and methods of spraying, both orally and by leaflets, some of them printed in "village Greek." Sulphur and appliances have been sold practically at cost price. Experience, it must be confessed, seems fully to confirm the view that in Cyprus, as it is, the only way to accomplish any practical improvements in agriculture is for the Government itself to undertake them, and to charge the cost to agriculturists or communities, as in the case of locust destruction. Failure on the part of individuals to apply a remedy involves spread of disease, or pests, for all. In some localities the influence of individuals has been able to accomplish a great deal. As an example may be taken the large wine-producing village of Omodhos in the Limassol district. Here the fact that villagers have shown commendable zeal in combating the destructive mildew is largely due to the personal energy and magnetic example of the Mukhtar, Mr. Herodotus Modinos, who has for years taken a spirited lead. This year the yield of grapes in this village will be large in quantity and quality as a result of local effort in sulphuring.

Carobs.

The yield of locust beans, gathered in the latter part of August, will be below the average. In Limassol district, the largest producing area, the crop is disappointing In the Kyrenia district, where the "short-pod" disease (brachikarpía), although combatted to some extent, has worked considerable havoc, the yield will be unsatisfactory. Prices, however, so far are good, in parts reaching 20s. 6d. the kantar.

SUDAN CROP PROSPECTS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Khartoum, August 20.

A very opportune rain just after Ramadan has very much improved the prospects of the crops, which were already very fair. The Gezira is expected to do better than last year, as more land has been watered and the natives have no difficulty in supplying the necessary seed. In the southern part, towards Singa, the rain has, if anything, been on the side of excess, insomuch that natives have had to sow two or even three times to replace seed that had been washed out. There was, too, in places a pest of grasshoppers that did considerable damage to the young shoots, but their number decreased and fresh sowing replaced the damage. Sesame is reported on extremely well throughout. In Kordofan and the west, as in the northern Gezira, there was a slight drought which caused a little alarm and made the price of grain rise temporarily, but the rain came in time, and there is every prospect of a good harvest.

Shipments continue to be made to Port Sudan and Suakin for transport to Jeddah, which is good evidence to show that the native is confident of the future.

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Near East Markets.

BULGARIAN CROP NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Sofia, August.

Now when the corn is almost all gathered in, it can be positively affirmed that the damage from the various cryptogamous diseases of lying down, rotting, growing weedy, scorching, etc., the wheat harvest this year is unusually excellent, not only in quantity, but also in quality. According to the results of the trial thrashing-floors in chosen agricultural parts of the country, a decare (equal 0.247 acres) of autumnal wheat in Northern Bulgaria has given from 90 to 180 kilos against 80 to 150 kilos during 1912, which, equally with 1911, was one of the most fruitful years in recent times. In South Bulgaria, a decare of autumnal wheat has given 75-150 kilos against 70-120 last year.

Maize promises a very abundant crop.

Millet is very good and even excellent, the harvest has already begun.

Beans of the Raslog district, of North-East Bulgaria, and generally of the whole country, are abundant. There are, however, some places where they have been considerably damaged. Potatoes promise well. Conditions for beet growing have been exceptionally favourable, especially in North Bulgaria.

In places where water is abundant, rice has grown splendidly, and the crop promises to be an extraordinary good one. Damage by hail has, on the whole, been very insignificant.

Tobacco is everywhere either moderately or very good.

The vines, although damaged in places where copper solutions were unobtainable, are better than last year.

"BRITISH DATES."

The Christmas fruit season which is now beginning, says *The Times*, will be one of the most extraordinary ever known. All dried fruit is expected to be dear, while some of the familiar varieties will not reach the British market at all. An interesting feature will be the shipments next month of "British dates" from the part of Turkish Arabia now in British occupation. A few dates are received from Egypt, but the bulk of the supply comes from the Tigris and Euphrates valley, and the success of British arms in the Garden of Eden district means that large shipments will be made to this country. Supplies will also be sent direct, in British ships from Bussorah, to Australia and South Africa.

PALESTINE ORANGE CROP.

The citrus-fruit industry of Palestine, which, prior to the war, was rapidly becoming of great commercial importance to that historic country, is experiencing serious reverses, says an American consular report. In the 1913-14 season exports of oranges to Egypt and Europe from Jaffa alone were 2,128,570 boxes, but of the 1914-15 crop only about 150,000 boxes could be shipped, the balance of the fruit being lost. Alexandretta also had 400,000 boxes of oranges available for export, and Tripoli in Syria a like number, all of which were a dead loss to the growers, because the war prevented shipment.

Added to these troubles, a scourge of locusts has now devastated the citrus groves of Syria. Consul-General Hollis (U.S.) reports from Beyrout under date of June 30, 1915, that about two-thirds of this season's (1915-16) orange, mandarin, and citron crop has been destroyed by locusts. The U.S. Consular Agent at Haifa adds, under date of July 3, 1915, that "the locusts have eaten all the leaves and peeled the small branches of the citrus trees." Mr. Hollis reported just prior to this last disaster that prospects for the citrus fruits this season were unfavourable, as there was no petroleum available to run the motors to irrigate the land.

These many reverses will give a great setback to the orange-growing industry in Palestine, which was started only a few years ago, but with the resumption of normal conditions in Europe, it will probably be further extended. Jaffa and other Syrian oranges have been gaining a strong foothold on the markets of England and northern Europe.

PRODUCE REPORT.

London, September 16.

Currants.

In spite of the continuous advance of prices there has been a steady demand for all grades, although very little, if any, remains available. It is asserted that many country buyers, fearing higher rates, have placed substantial orders for new fruit. It is believed, however, that after the first arrivals the market will be in a more settled form. Steamers with new season fruit are reported on their way for this and the Liverpool ports.

Sultanas.

Spot prices are dearer. Nothing can be said yet with certainty as to any arrival of Smyrna fruit in the near future, whilst the crop in Greece is reported as very moderate.

Figs.

New season's fruit is now being freely offered, especially Calamata, with good business passing.

Dates.

The demand is moderate, Sairs being 16s. to 17s., Hallowi 21s. to 22s., and Egyptian 23s. to 27s.

Seeds.

Linseed is quiet and buyers inclined to hold off. Calcutta, spot, passage, and Aug.-Sept. 56s., Sept.-Oct. 56s. 3d., Oct.-Nov. 56s. 6d. Rapeseed is steady but quiet. Guzerat, Sept.-Oct., quoted 60s., and brown Cawnpore, pure basis, Aug.-Sept., 53s. Cottonseed is firmly held, but inactive at unchanged rates. Rangoon beans are steadily held at £18 per ton; and mustard seed, being in restricted supplies, does not offer very freely.

Oils.

Linseed oil is firmer, and to-day is 2s. 6d. dearer for near positions, with a moderate inquiry. Spot, London, pipes, sold at £26 10s., barrels £27 2s. 6d., month, £27 2s. 6d., Oct.-Dec. ditto. Cotton oil remains quiet; crude, spot, pipes £26 15s. to £27, refined pale pipes £29 10s., and barrels, sweet, £34 to £35. Rape oil keeps firm. Ordinary brown, naked, spot, £34 to £35, English refined, barrels, £36 to £38.

Oilcakes.

Cotton cakes: Egyptian, spot, is all cleared, but business is being done for early new crop arrivals at £7 15s. ex ship, whilst for Nov.-April shipments prohibitive prices are asked. English makes are offered at £8 2s. 6d. to £8 5s. Linseed cakes are of rather slow demand, and quotations are unchanged.

Locust Beans.

The scarcity continues, prices being firm at £8 per ton for whole, and £8 10s. for kibbled.

SYRIAN OLIVE GROVES.

The U.S. Consul-General at Beyrout, writing on June 30, said:—

"During the past two months dense swarms of locusts have devastated the country, and it is now an established fact that the olive oil crop has been greatly affected by them. The olive trees growing near the sea coast have suffered less than those in the mountains, but it is estimated that two-thirds of the entire olive crop has been totally destroyed by these pests. Prices of olive oil have, in view of this fact, greatly advanced, and are at present as follows:—First quality, 16 piastres per oke; second quality, 14 piastres per oke."

COTTON MARKET.

Liverpool. September 16.

Egyptian Spot.—The market has been less active this week, but a fair business has been done at advancing prices, and quotations show advances ranging from 65-75 points for the week. The sales, which include 750 bales of Sudan cotton, are estimated at 3,700, against 5,500 bales last week.

Manchester.

In cloth for India the inquiry has been better than for some time past.

EGYPTIAN COTTON STATISTICS.

The State Statistics Department has published the annual report on the Egyptian cotton crop.

The quantity of cotton received at Alexandria from September 1, 1914, to June 30, 1915, is estimated at 46,344,349 cantars, which, calculating at 12 talaris per cantar, represents a value of £E15,277,723. During the corresponding period of last year cotton was estimated at 19 talaris per cantar, and was estimated as being worth £E29,946,199.

The quantity of cotton seed received at Alexandria during the period in question is estimated at 3,513,283 ardebs, worth £E2,513,283 at an average of P.T. 67 per ardeb; the figures for the preceding year were £E3,898,782.

The value of cotton and cotton seed this year is £E17,741,006, as against £E32,844,982 during 1913-14, a decrease of £E15,103,975.

EGYPTIAN COTTON REPORT.

The following reference to the cotton crop has been published in the Egyptian Minister of Agriculture's monthly report for August:—

"Cotton worm attack is over without any damage to the crop. The pink boll worm has rapidly spread over the whole country, and is severest in the southern provinces of the Delta. In the northern provinces the increase in the intensity of the attack has been slight. In Upper Egypt, the attack has been moderate with the exception of Beni Souef and Minieh, where it is more marked. The common boll worm attack is almost negligible. The cotton is opening well, and a large amount is almost ready for picking. In a fortnight picking of the early sown cotton is likely to be general throughout Lower Egypt. In Upper Egypt the first picking is general in Minieh and south, and is about to begin in the north. On the whole, the crop prospects are very satisfactory, but the fear of a serious pink boll worm attack in some provinces where cotton has been planted late has caused a lowering of the general estimate in Lower Egypt."

ADANA COTTON.

The U.S. Consul in Mersina, writing on July 10, said:—

"The local cotton situation has been unchanged during June, except that the ravages of locusts threaten to reduce this year's crop to 30,000 bales, or one-fourth of that of 1914. In addition to the cotton goods of local manufacture, the stock of cotton goods of European origin is valued at £76,000, while on July 1, 1914, it was valued at £90,000."

DATES.

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British Electrical Trade with Egypt.

In the current issue of the *Electrical Review* "Anglo-Egyptian" has published an exceedingly informative article on the above subject, from which we reproduce the following extracts:—

"Egypt has hitherto been largely exploited by the important German and Austrian electrical houses, and also in a measure by the French; indeed, it may be truthfully stated that during the last ten years only a very small percentage of the total electrical material which has been imported into that country has been manufactured in Great Britain. . . . Let us prepare for the future, for the time will come when we may start afresh without the fear of foreign competition, as it is to be assumed that home competition alone will have to be dealt with. One must not, however, lose sight of the fact that practically the same circumstances will govern the conditions under which business will be carried out in the Egyptian market, the difference being solely that foreign competition will be eliminated. I trust that in making this latter statement I shall not be regarded as too optimistic, for is it not one of the great advantages that we are fighting for at the present moment? It is but a natural sequence to the satisfactory termination of the war.

"Various English electrical manufacturing companies have already announced their intentions of slipping into the breach caused by the recession of their antagonists from the Egyptian market. Several of these concerns are capable in all ways as regards manufactures of supplying fully the requirements in that part of the world. But there are few amongst them who manufacture the complete range of electrical supplies catalogued by such firms as the A.E.G. and the Siemens combinations. And there are fewer still who have brought to bear upon the Egyptian market that system of organisation and thoroughness of business methods which have won for them practically the whole of the Egyptian trade.

"The question which now arises is this: What was the reason for our failure in the past? The answer is that it was simply a question of price and organisation. In the majority of cases where British manufacturers have failed to capture Government contracts during the last nine years I am of opinion that it may be attributed to one of the two foregoing reasons.

Government Tenders.

"Government tenders as regards electrical plant usually call for the plant to be erected on site and handed over in working order. Payments are effected partly against shipping documents, erection and tests on site, the balance, which is usually 20 per cent., being paid after satisfactory working for, say, three months, or other pre-determined period.

"It is feasible to believe that it is in the unknown factor that the manufacturer meets his pitfalls—that is to say, he is in many cases at a loss to define correctly his real expenses after the goods arrive at the unloading port. To meet this deficiency he covers his estimate with a margin which would be unnecessary if he understood thoroughly the procedure and numerous items of expenditure to which the goods were subject on landing; in addition, the intricate questions of supervision, labour, railway freight, cartage, cost of excavation and materials for erection, all generally form very important items in the estimate.

"These difficulties may be met by the appointment of a reliable and experienced commercial engineer as agent, who should assume responsibility for all goods after their reception at the unloading port.

"German, Austrian, and French competitors go further than this. With the exception of the A.E.G., who do business through a firm of old-established agents having branches at Cairo and Alexandria, such firms as Siemens and Halske, Siemens Schuckert, Ganz and Co., and the French Thomson-Houston Co. are represented by branch houses under the control of technical commercial managers, aided by competent staffs. Each branch comprises also a retail department replete with large stocks of all classes of electrical supplies. Expenses are paid by retail sales and small contracts for electric light and wiring installations. The bulk of the stocks are on consignment, and are paid for in accordance with arrangements made with the parent firms.

"It seems that, with the exception of a few firms in this country who manufacture a complete line of electrical supplies, the branch system of doing business would be inadvisable on account of the diversity of material required to maintain an efficient stock. An easy method of getting over this difficulty would be for a number of firms to collaborate for opening a branch and sub-divide the expenses and profits in accordance with their proportionate interests.

"If it is desired to cater only for the requirements of the various Government departments, then a local agent residing at Cairo is all that is necessary.

"It may be useful to terminate these notes by giving some idea of the present situation in Egypt as regards our competitors. At the commencement of hostilities the British authorities carefully segregated the German and Austrian branches from their parent houses. The A.E.G. agents discontinued their representation and opened up negotiations with an important English manufacturing concern. The management of the Ganz and Co. and of the Siemens branches was taken over by certain of their English and Swiss employees. This step was taken with the approval of the British authorities, who exercise control over their financial transactions. Goods of proved enemy origin coming into Egypt through neutral countries are confiscated, so that there is no possibility of stocks being replenished from sources which are prejudicial to British interests."

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Engineering Notes.

Present Demand for Machinery.

Now is the time that landowners and farmers in the Near East begin to realise their products, and decide as to what machinery and implements they must purchase for the approaching season. It is also the time for putting into effect any projects that they may have for the improvement of their estates, such as the establishment of flour mills, olive oil mills and presses, cotton gins, pumping plants for irrigation, brick and tile making machinery, wood-sawing mills, and many other small plants of machinery which in recent years are being successfully introduced on private estates throughout the East. Such little factories are not only profitable as an enterprise, but are also the means of a general improvement in the locality where they are established. This latter fact carries with it to the owner a local influence which is highly appreciated by the Oriental squires. As this year has been a good one for all crops, and landowners and growers in the Eastern neutral and friendly countries have realised good prices for their products, there is a probability that agricultural machinery and implements, as well as light machinery for industrial purposes, will be in greater demand than usual. Large British firms may be too busy at present to undertake new orders for such machinery, but there are hundreds of smaller ones who can do so, and there are many stores in the country with good stocks of new and second-hand machinery and implements which could supply what is at present wanted in those markets. Second-hand machinery is not objected to if guaranteed as sound and in good working order, and as for terms of payments, as we mentioned in these columns before, no *bonâ-fide* buyer expects in these war times to obtain goods on credit. The Americans, who did a very good trade in the Near East during the past two years in all classes of machinery, worked mostly on the cash system.

Small Machines and Implements

We made allusion in last week's notes to the weight of the English plough as a drawback to its employment in the East, and we mentioned the existence of a very small plough, weighing only 50 lb., made in England, and most suitable for the requirements of the average Oriental farmer. In the same way we allude now to the apparently very limited sale of ploughing tractors, and other similar contrivances. Their weight and the number of men (2) required to work them are responsible for these limited sales. The demand for low-priced, easily handled, light, and simple motor-ploughs is continuously growing everywhere; and sales would be good in the East if people there were to be approached by makers of such machines. In describing, in these columns, machinery or implements which, from local experience, we consider suitable for the East, we often receive inquiries as to where such machines can be obtained. It is a proof, therefore, that they are wanted, and with regard to the new motor-ploughs, it is probable that such machines are not yet introduced or, perhaps, known there. It will, therefore, interest proprietors who are contemplating to buy mechanical ploughs this year to know that there is a small motor-plough, of English construction, easily handled by one man, and of a price within the reach of the average farmer. It is arranged for ploughing two furrows; and, it is said, can plough three acres (twelve stremata) in a day, with an average consumption of one and a-half gallon of fuel per acre. As the implement requires the attention of a ploughman only, its economy over horse-traction is pronounced. The engine has an enclosed centrifugal governor, and, therefore, adjusts itself automatically to its work, the ploughman having only to consider the starting and stopping clutches, control levers not being required.

Easy Adjustment.

Each wheel is driven independently, and both are so mounted that they can be raised or lowered to give the correct position for the ploughs; the wheel adjustment being arranged for a maximum depth of 10 in. when ploughing only one furrow. Its overall length is 12 ft., its height 3 ft. 3 in., and its width is under 2 ft. 6 in., whilst its weight, inclusive of the ploughs, is merely 12 cwt. The gearing is entirely enclosed, all the moving parts work in oil, two speeds are provided, and the engine is guaranteed to develop 8½ h.p. when using petrol or benzol, or 10 per cent. less when using paraffin. Cultivators, harrows, horse hoes, or other implements may be attached in place of the ploughs by simply removing a drawpin, and the engine is capable of driving such barn machinery as generally receives its power from small stationary motors. The implement is balanced on its two driving wheels, a form of construction which renders the machine extremely easy to manipulate, especially among fruit trees and at the headlands, whilst the method of adjusting the driving wheels enables one to plough furrows of equal depths along hillsides, as well as to easily open and neatly finish the work.

Motor Boats for Persian Gulf.

The U.S. Consul at Karachi foresees a demand for motor boats and automobiles in the Persian Gulf district at the close of the present European war. Addressing himself to the American exporters, he suggests that catalogues and price lists be sent to his office, in order that they may be ready for use as soon as contraband conditions make it possible for the Consulate to assist importers and exporters of these lines. We hope that the suggestion will not be lost on the British authorities on the spot, and that they will facilitate propaganda in favour of British cars and boats.

Port Said Drainage.

According to the recent report of Heddaya Bey, the Governor-General of the Suez Canal, the Port Said drainage scheme is making highly satisfactory progress and will, it is confidently expected, be in working order at the end of this year. The purification works and sewage farm are situated to the west of the cemetery, and have the object in view of utilising the purified sewage in irrigating crops instead of passing it into the sea. Forty feddans (about 168,000 square metres) have been laid out for the sewage farm. This area is limited on the north by the cemetery road, and on the south by the Lake, thus having an average width of 200 metres by 840 metres long. This area being exposed to the strong north wind and to the high tides, it has been found necessary to raise strong banks on the north and south sides and plant thereon several lines of trees. An experiment which was tried lower down on the foreshore opposite the abbatoir proved that the tamarisk is the tree that most successfully resists the wind in this salty climate. Cuttings were planted round the farm in March, 1915, with a view to developing the trees whilst the drainage was in progress. This sewage farm will furnish the town, in the future, with vegetables, which now have to be brought from the interior, and will doubtless make the sea front the most agreeable promenade in Port Said.

Estimates.

The investigation of the scheme was finished in 1911, leaving only the financial aspect of it to be settled; about £170,000 was required to complete the drainage scheme. On May 28, 1915, negotiations were opened between the Government and the Municipality with respect to a loan to be advanced by the Suez Canal Company, repayment to be guaranteed by the Government. These negotiations were concluded in November of the same year.

Contracts.

The work was opened in July, 1913, and was divided into seven parts:—(1) Sewer reticulation; (2) Sealed sewage and air mains; (3) Ejectors; (4) Sewage disposal works; (5) Air compressing machinery; (6) Power station; (7) Public latrines. Each of these parts formed a separate contract. The four first contracts were signed before 1914, and were let as follows:—Sewer Reticulation to the Industrial Building Co., of Egypt; Sealed Sewage and Air Mains to Messrs. Sayer and Culley; Ejectors to Messrs. Hughes and Lancaster; and Sewage Disposal works to the Industrial Building Co. The contracts for parts 5 and 6 were let in 1914 to the following contractors:—Compressor Station Machinery to Messrs. Sayer and Colley; and the Power Station to Messrs. Mattioli and Famaroli. The work followed a normal course until August, 1914, when the Industrial Building Company suspended work owing to financial difficulties as a result of the outbreak of war. The committee advised under the circumstances the reletting of these two contracts.

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Trade Notes.

Egypt.

The Egyptian Council of Ministers, at a special meeting on August 30, approved a decree, which the Sultan signed, increasing the Customs dues on imported alcoholic liquors, tobacco and cigarettes, and timber for building purposes, to take effect on August 31. The impost on alcoholic liquors is increased to 10 per cent., and that on timber to 8 per cent. The tobacco increases vary with the character of the article. The cigar impost is increased to 400 milièmes a kilo., that on cigarettes to 420, and that on leaf tobacco to 320, the latter two, however, being 100 milliemes less from countries that have an agreement with Egypt.

H.M. Consul-General at Alexandria reports that tenders are invited by the Egyptian Coastguard Administration for the supply of (1) 4,500 kilogs. of engine oil, and (2) 1,500 metres of Imperial Navy canvas for making water bottles and awnings. Copies of the specifications and conditions of tender may be obtained from the Director of Stores, Coastguard Administration, Alexandria, by whom sealed tenders will be received up to noon on September 30. A provisional deposit equal to 2 per cent., or a bank guarantee of 10 per cent., of the value of the offer must accompany each tender. The tenderer must be a person residing in Egypt, or must have a representative in that country, and must give in his offer an address in Egypt at which notices may be served upon him.

The *Journal Officiel* for August 16 contains revised Tariff Valuations (No. 27) for use in assessing duties on iron and steel manufactures imported into Egypt, with effect from August 16 to October 15, 1915, or until denunciation.

The Val de Travers Asphalt Paving Co. were the successful tenderers recently to the Cairo Tanzim Department for the supply of 100 tons of natural asphalt.

Sudan.

The director of the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Central Economic Board at Khartoum reports that a general merchant in that town, who claims to have over twelve years' experience in the business, desires to secure the representation, on a commission basis, of United Kingdom manufacturers of enamelled ware and china and glass ware, brooms, and bentwood chairs. The inquirer states that these articles have hitherto been imported from Germany and Austria, and that since the war began no supplies have been imported from other countries. United Kingdom manufacturers of the goods mentioned should apply to the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C., for the name and address of the inquirer.

The following general statement of the imports and exports of the Sudan during the years 1907-1914, is taken from the Customs Reports recently issued :—

Year.	Imports. Public.	Imports. Government.	Exports.
1907	916,243	687,894	449,329
1908	1,183,054	709,744	515,938
1909	1,119,072	656,885	673,702
1910	1,213,915	717,511	977,621
1911	1,508,974	764,975	1,376,958
1912	1,471,039	496,390	1,373,119
1913	1,605,600	499,698	1,185,180
1914	1,400,333	470,199	1,020,260

Cyprus.

Tenders are invited by the Postal Department, Nicosia, for the supply of approximately eighteen pairs of brown boots for the year ending March 31, 1916. All boots to be supplied before December 15, 1915. All tenders should be sealed, and should be addressed to the President of the Tender Board, the Office of the Treasurer, Nicosia. Tenders should be marked "Tender for Boots, Postal Department," in the left-hand top corner of the envelope, and should reach the office of the Treasurer not later than 11 a.m. on November 2, 1915. All details regarding the articles to be supplied can be obtained from the office of the Island Postmaster, Nicosia.

The Government of Cyprus has published a statement declaring the following articles to be treated as absolute contraband: "Raw cotton, cotton linters, cotton waste, and cotton yarns.

Bulgaria.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of telegraphic information to the effect that the Bulgarian Government have authorised the exportation from Bulgaria of rye, the produce of the 1914 harvest.

Morocco.

The Acting British Consul at Casablanca (Mr. H. L. Rabino) has forwarded an extract from the local Press containing a list of manufactured and food products which, before the war, were imported into Morocco by Germany or Austria-Hungary. Among the principal manufactured goods in this list are:—Steel and iron bars for blacksmiths and locksmiths, toys, phonographs and musical instruments, common joinery timber (pitchpine, walnut, and oak), candles, cement, colours and varnishes, china and table glassware (particularly tea and coffee glasses), felt for praying carpets, fezzes, watches and clocks (especially wall, cuckoo, and chiming clocks), which the Moors value more as ornaments than timepieces, steam engines, stout paper for making Moorish slippers, packing paper, perfumery, soaps and cosmetics (strongly perfumed and cheap), chemical products, ironmongery, enamelled ware, cutlery, carpets and hangings of showy colours, woollen tissues and drapery of appropriate shades and very "dressy," glass beads, cheap imitation coral and pearl necklaces and bracelets. Food products include the following: Green tea and coffee, preserved meat and fish, condensed milk, rice, pepper and spices, sweets, and moist and (cheap) refined sugar.

There have been appointed in Morocco agents for the import of American flour and matches. An American laundry soap is also being introduced on the market.

Greece.

The American dollar is the one foreign currency that is at a premium on this market, writes the U.S. Consul at Patras. It has been well above par for six months past, with every indication that it will continue indefinitely to hold its ranking position.

Direct banking facilities have been established by leading banks with correspondents in New York, so that there is no longer need for the old indirect communication via London. According to information given to this consulate, American buyers of products of the Patras consular district may in future do their banking direct to Patras and in dollars instead of in pounds sterling, as formerly. Local exporters indicate their willingness to quote in terms of dollars whenever American clients desire it. The establishment of direct banking facilities will, no doubt, play an important part in the development of trade between this district and the United States.

Arabistan.

The following information is extracted from the Consular Report on the Trade and Commerce of the Province of Arabistan for the year ending March 20, 1914 :—

The imports show an increase of £205,432 over those of 1912-13. Out of the total imports, amounting to £812,096, the share of the United Kingdom and India is £612,354, or 75 per cent. The imports include material to the value of over £200,000 imported by the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, Ltd.; of this £188,000 was from the United Kingdom and £22,000 from British India. Sugar, loaf (£127,183) showed an increase of £63,245. Very large imports were made and the market was flooded. Wool, raw (£22,562) showed an increase of £9,089. The export of wool seems to be increasing steadily. It is chiefly sent to British India.

No considerable opening is apparent unless British or Indian manufacturers can produce sugar of suitable quality at a cheap rate. At present British-made sugar is a little too expensive, while Indian cane sugar is not appreciated. The people like a very white sugar, whether loaf or crystal, and do not seem to mind if its sweetening quality is inferior. A great deal of the sugar imported came from Austria and Germany. An Indian trader might be able to do profitable business in wood. Enamelled iron, glass and cheap lamps were imported from Austria-Hungary and Germany; possibly British manufacturers could compete in the market for these commodities.

The principal hindrance to British trade is the Customs tariff, which is so high on certain classes of goods that it puts a premium on smuggling. Traders who import by legitimate means cannot compete in the sale of tea, coffee, spirits and various other commodities. The other well-known hindrance to trade in Persia, viz., the lack of proper communication with the interior, affects Mohammerah as well as the rest of South Persia, but not quite so badly, as the Ahwaz-Ispahan road is safer than the other roads from the south.

The number of British and British-Indian subjects is steadily increasing. By far the larger proportion are employed by the Anglo-Persian Oil Co., Ltd., and owing to extensions in the company's undertakings the number will increase.

There is a British Consul at Mohammerah and a Vice-Consul at Ahwaz. The latter visits Ispahan from May until October in connection with Bakhtiari affairs. Trade inquiries should first be made at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade in London.

ADEN SHIPPING.

The U.S. Consul at Aden gives the following table showing the number and nationality of all vessels that called at the port during the years ended March 31, 1913 and 1914 respectively :—

Nationality.	1912-13.	1913-14.
	Number.	Number.
British	793	767
British Indian	152	172
Austrian	132	151
Danish	3	1
Dutch	20	18
French	108	117
German	162	180
Italian	116	84
Norwegian	30	4
Swedish	3	3
Russian	9	19
Spanish	6	9
All other	1	4
Total	1,535	1,529

Of a total of 1,529 merchant vessels that entered this port during the year under review, 151 were of Austrian and 180 of German nationality. These 231 vessels obviously have not called here since the outbreak of the war. If to these were added the many ships now used as transports, or elsewhere employed, the number of vessels now calling at Aden is materially decreased. Moreover, nearly all the ships that now enter Aden have little or no space for cargo, as they are able to procure more freight than they can carry from ports entered before reaching Aden.

Exporters of skins and coffee, therefore, find it difficult to ship their products to the United States. Interest charges, moreover, accumulate on their purchases. A short time ago several Aden merchants tried to charter a vessel to take their merchandise to the States, but they were unable to obtain satisfactory terms. The situation now has eased up somewhat, and shipments are going forward without unreasonable delay, though freight rates are about 25 per cent. higher than they were prior to the war.

All the large English, French, Austrian, German, and Indian lines, whose ships entered or enter here, are subsidized by their respective Governments. The nation that sends its products in its own ships has an advantage in foreign trade. The native sees in the ship and its flag the personification of the nation.

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The Savings Bank of Bulgaria

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

SOFIA, August 30.

In 1914 the Savings Bank of Bulgaria received deposits to the amount of 33,318,954 lewas, as against 31,996,612 lewas in 1913. The total sum of repayments amounted to 35,754,479.58 lewas, as against 27,458,779.41 lewas in 1913. Comparing repayments with deposits, the former exceed the latter by 2,415,525.58 lewas, which reduces the balance at the end of the year by 2,415,525.58 lewas. Instead of 50,962,290.98 lewas, as on January 1, 1914, at the end of the same year the total savings fund was reduced to 48,546,765.40 lewas, this being due to the European war, which made life more expensive than before, and compelled many people to draw upon their savings.

Effective of the Savings Bank.

The deposited capital of the Savings Bank in the National Bank of Bulgaria on December 31, 1913, was as follows:—

		Lewas.
(A) In metallic gold	42,719,628.50	
In metallic silver	7,306,767.58	50,026,393.08
(B) In shares:		
6 % State Mortgage Loan, 1892		10,825,500.00
5% Sofia City Loan, 1906		4,926,000.00
5% Varna City Loan, 1907		2,000,000.00
Total		67,777,893.08

During 1914 there were deposited in the bank in cash 401,660 lewas gold and 32,923,999.75 lewas silver, or 33,325,659.75 lewas, which, with the above, gives a total of 101,103,552.83 lewas. During the same year the National Bank of Bulgaria paid on account of the Savings Bank 36,572,655.63 lewas, leaving 64,530,897.20 lewas, which, with the interest for 1914 (3,254,053.40 lewas), gives a total of 67,784,950.40 lewas at the end of 1914, against 67,777,893.08 for 1913.

Comparing the deposited and paid-up funds in the bank during 1913 and 1914, we find in the latter year an increase of 1,138,881.45 lewas deposited, and of 8,156,149.77 lewas paid up.

The gold effective of the Savings Bank on January 1, 1914, amounted to 42,719,628.50 lewas, which, together with the sums received in gold during 1914 (4,038,507.74 lewas), gives a general amount of 46,758,136.24 lewas as follows:—

	Lewas.
Capital in gold on January 1, 1914	42,719,628.50
Interest	1,980,092.74
Interest on coupons of 6% State Mortgage Loan, 1892	638,955·00
Redeemed bonds of the 6% State Loan, 1902	653,000·00
Interest on coupons of the 5% Sofia City Loan, 1906	246,300·00
Interest on coupons of the 5% Varna City Loan, 1907	100,000·00
Redeemed bonds of the 5% Sofia City Loan, 1906	18,500·00
Receipts in gold	401,660·00
Total	46,758,136·24

Interest and Profits.

During 1914 the funds of the Savings Bank deposited in the National Bank of Bulgaria gave:—

	Lewas.
Interest—	
On deposited funds	2,268,798·20
On 6% State Mortgage Loan (1906) shares	638,955·00
On coupons of 5% Sofia City Loan, 1906	246,300·00
On coupons of 5% Varna City Loan, 1907	100,000·00
	3,254,053·20
Profits	14,738·25
	3,268,791·45

From the last sum has been spent:—

Interest on deposits	2,448,764·95
Commission due to the bank	2,762·97
2% of profits due to the subsidiary cash office at the Chief Director of Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones	16,345·27
	2,467,873·19

Leaving a balance of profit of 800,918.26 lewas.

The average value of deposits during the year was 160.54 lewas, and of repayments 201.73 lewas, against 211.62 lewas for deposits, and 183.76 for repayments, in 1913.

The growth of the operations of the Savings Bank and the constant increase of the amounts saved (except in 1914) are shown in the following figures for the last ten years:—

Year.	Deposits. Lewas.	Repayments. Lewas.
1904	14,866,735	10,462,063·44
1905	18,032,022	12,752,150·70
1906	21,809,659	16,858,059·80
1907	22,842,472	19,956,271·54
1908	23,458,894	21,286,410·75
1909	28,132,547	23,725,019·55
1910	30,526,733	27,349,166·65
1911	35,784,557	29,741,205·37
1912	33,149,113	29,794,703·96
1913	31,996,612	27,458,779·41
1914	33,318,954	35,734,479·58

CYPRUS CURRENCY COMMISSION.

A supplement to the *Cyprus Gazette* (September 4) announces the appointment of the Treasurer of the Island of Cyprus to be Currency Commissioner with the following attributes:—

The Currency Commissioner may from time to time issue notes in the prescribed forms, copies of which may be seen at the branches of the Imperial Ottoman Bank or the office of the Treasurer, and in such numbers as he may think fit, not exceeding such maximum value as the High Commissioner in Council may prescribe.

The notes shall be for the value of five pounds, ten shillings, and five shillings respectively.

The notes so issued shall be redeemed at their face value by the Government at the expiration of six months of the termination of the present war or before that date should the Government so desire.

Under the title of Pyramids Estate, a private company has been registered at Somerset House with a capital of £150 in £1 shares. The objects are stated to be:—To acquire and turn to account lands and properties in the Province of Gizeh, Egypt. The company has been registered by Messrs. Surtees, Phillpotts and Co., of 6, St. Helen's Place, E.C.

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Head Office: ATHENS.

BRANCHES.

Aegion, Agrinion, Almyros, Amalias, Amphissa, Arta, Atalante, Calamata, Calavryta, Céphalonia, Chalkis, Corfu, Corinth, Cythère, Dimitzana, Gythium, Ithaque, Janina, Karditza, Kyparissia, Lamia, Larissa, Lévadia, Mégalopoli, Messina, Missolonghi, Naupacta, Nauplia, Patras, Paxos, Piræus, Poros, Pylos, Pyrgos, St. Maure, Salonika, Santorin, Sparta, Syra, Thèbes, Trikkala, Tripoli, Volo, Zante,

Every kind of Banking Business Transacted. **Correspondents in all Parts of the World.**

Cable Address—NATIONALBANK, ATHENS. Codes Used—LIEBER'S; A.B.C. (5th Edition).

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BANKING IN ADEN.

The U.S. Consul reports that there is only one bank in Aden, a branch of the National Bank of India, Limited; but one of the large shipping and commercial houses does a private banking business. The Indian Government has not declared a moratorium. It will probably not do so, as it is unnecessary and would be very detrimental to business, and otherwise prejudicial. The bank here is not extending any credits except upon securities actually delivered to the bank. However, advances are freely made against produce about to be shipped, or in the negotiation of export bills drawn under approved credits, opened either in London or the United States. Bills drawn under such credits are taken on D.A. (documents to be delivered against acceptance) terms. Where such credits are not opened the bank insists upon D.P. (documents to be delivered against payment) terms.

Bills drawn on all countries of continental Europe are strictly avoided. The bank insists that on all produce upon which advances are made, insurance covering war risk be taken out with the British Government or a first-class British insurance company in London. Its rate of interest is 2 per cent. above the prevailing rate at Bombay.

PRIVILEGED CURRANT COMPANY OF GREECE.

Messrs. Burlumi report:—

The Privileged Company distributed to its ordinary shareholders a dividend of 4 per cent. for the year ended August 22, 1914. The profits were sufficient for the payment of the whole statutory dividend of 6 per cent., but the board proposed, and the general meeting of the shareholders accepted unanimously, that large amounts should be written off certain doubtful accounts, and that over 100,000 drachmas should be and was carried over. The profits of the company for the year ending August 22 last have been larger than those of the year before, and there is very little doubt in Greece that the full statutory dividend will be shortly distributed. The Wine and Spirits Company have paid 9 per cent. for the year 1914, and an interim dividend of 5 per cent. for 1915.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The firm of Johann Herny and Son, of Prague, the largest Czech cotton works, working chiefly for the Balkan States, has been, says the *Morning Post* Berne correspondent, declared bankrupt. The liabilities amount to £680,000, and the assets to £560,000.

The U.S. Consul at Aden has telegraphed to Washington to the effect that American-owned skins, of which there is a considerable amount awaiting shipment at Aden, may be allowed to be exported on guarantee by British consular officer in America of the *bona fides* of the consignee, subject to a bond to be executed by the shipper.

At Wednesday's meeting of the British Association in Manchester, Sir Charles Macara, Bart., in the Economics Section, spoke principally on labour disputes, and said that the chief factor in creating unrest had been the rise in the price of commodities. He deprecated the interference of politicians in industrial disputes. These frequently were due to a mistaken belief in the existence of large returns to capital. Compulsory arbitration when large bodies of men were concerned was impracticable, but an inquiry into the merits of a dispute by experienced men representing capital and labour, and the publication of their findings, would with public opinion provide the only possible compulsion. It was desirable not to grant war bonuses or wage advances until after investigation by the leaders of labour and capital.

Receipts for the Bulgarian financial year 1914, up to May 31, 1915, amounted to 215,925.850 frs., as against expenditure totalling 217,234,502 frs.

Annamite workmen to the number of 574 have arrived in France. They will be employed at Tarbes and Pau in making munitions.

COMPANY RESULTS, &c.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN OILFIELDS.—Gemsah production for week, 150 tons (last week, 168 tons); Hurgada production for week, 163 tons (last week, 237 tons).

MACEDONIAN TOBACCO CO., LIMITED.—Notice is given that a dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, free of income-tax, has been declared on the shares of the above company for the year ended September 13, 1914, and is now payable at the offices of the company in Cavalla, Greece. Holders of share warrants to bearer must deposit their coupons (No. 3) at the company's office as above, and leave them three clear days for the purpose of examination.

PIRÆUS, ATHENS AND PELOPONNESUS RAILWAY FOUR AND A HALF PER CENT. BONDS.—Messrs. R. Raphael and Sons announce the numbers drawn for repayment at par on October 15.

PRINCE LINE.—The directors recommend a final dividend of 15 per cent., making 19 per cent. for the year.

NATIONAL BANK OF BULGARIA.

BALANCE-SHEET, JULY 14-27, 1915.

ASSETS.

	Francs.
Metallic	88,115,979·02
Unissued Capital	2,174,527·62
Foreign Securities	73,476,137·69
Portfolio	37,386,706·25
Portfolio abroad	21,650,000·00
Special current accounts	60,000,102·63
State Treasury	124,348,681·51
Short-dated loans	823,174·83
Long-dated loans	78,617,987·97
Bulgarian State and Public Funds	4,193,804·15
Public funds of the Reserve Capital	4,466,009·19
Participations	3,336.800·00
Movable and Real Estate	1,387,500·79
Real Estate adjudged to the Bank	1,737,078·82
General expenses	1,934,761·15
Sundry assets	24,245,611·78
Total	527,894,963·40

LIABILITIES.

	Francs.
Capital	20,000,000·00
Reserve	7,323,671·00
Creances douteuses funds	6,331,213·64
Mortgage fund's reserve	842.142·64
Liquidation of property adjudged to the bank	966,135·56
Bank notes in circulation	240,257,622·00
Current accounts	145,605,952·30
Drafts at sight	2,392,000.00
Administration of State loans	281,137·98
Short term deposits, with interest	58,538.063·59
4½ per cent. debentures, 1909	28.320,000·00
Interests and various earnings	6,063,483·00
Sundry accounts	10,973,141·69
Total	527,894,863·40

NATIONAL BANK OF ROUMANIA.

BALANCE-SHEET, AUGUST 25/7, 1915.

ASSETS.

Metallic reserve: Gold (specie)	167,024,314	
On deposit	25,220,000	
Gold (bars)	205,000	
Foreign bills payable in gold	75,814,310	268,263,624
Silver and other coins		477,055
Roumanian and foreign bills		209,888,515
Advances against Government securities	24,998,700	
On current account	48,924,800	
Unused balance	25,624,800	48,298,590
Loan of 15 millions to the State		11,273,958
Loan to Government on 3 per cent. Treasury Bonds (1914-15)		229,979,851
Bank's capital invested in Government stock		10,699,576
Reserve invested in Government stock		16,411,177
Reserve, depreciation of buildings, furniture and printing machinery		3,956,681
Premises		6,738,025
Furniture and printing machinery		1,111,081
General expenses		258,621
Government and other securities deposited		138,821,941
Three per Cent. Gold Treasury Bonds as security for loan to State		300,000,000
Securities held against advances or temporarily lodged		158,542,215
Current accounts		17,712,786
Security accounts		22,487,276
Sundry accounts		34,774,910
Total Lei		1,479,695,882

LIABILITIES.

Capital	12,000,000
Reserve	39,780,616
Reserve, depreciation of buildings, furniture and printing machinery	5,907,700
Notes in circulation	680,720,350
Profit and loss account	4,902,667
Interest and various earnings	1,380,219
Current accounts and drafts at sight	64,932,452
Securities, etc., held on account of customers	597,364,156
Sundry accounts	72,707,722
Total Lei	1,479,695,882

Bank Rate, 6 per cent.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE	Mean Price. July 27.	Min. Price. Mar. 20.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	—	89½xd
Do. 4½% do. Bonds, 1907	82	—	—
Do. 4½% do. Bonds, 1909	80	—	66
City of Alexandria 5%	99	—	90½
City of Constantinople 4% Bnds	96	—	—
Egypt, Gov. 3% Guar. Loan	93½	87⅞	87⅞
Egyptian 4% Unified Debt	98	85	85
Do. Pref. Rd. 5%, 1890	88	78	78
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82½	73½	78⅜
Do. 4½% State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	80½	75	75½
Greek 5%, 1881	57	52	56
Do. 5%, 1884	56	52	55
Do. 4% Monopoly, 1887	49	45	45½
Do. 4% Rentes, 1889	45	40	42
Do. 5%, 1890	56	52	53
Do. 5% Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	—	50
Do. 4% Rails. Loan, 1902	77	—	65
Do. 5% Nat. Ln., 1907	94	—	90
Do. 5% Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	—	75xd
Montenegro 5% Loan	82½	—	—
Persian 5% Loan (1911)	91	—	80
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £60p.	92	—	85
Servian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—xd
Turkish Guar. 4% Loan, 1855	103	97	—
Do. 4%, 1891	94½	—	83
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	—	73½
Do. 4% Loan, 1902	82½	—	—
Do. 4% Unified	79	—	54
Do. 4% Loan, 1908	65½	—	49
Do. 4%, 1909	69	—	47⅞
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	—	2⅜
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	—	6½
Do. 3½% Bonds Red.	80	—	73
Do. 3½% Guar. Bonds Red.	83	—	75
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	—	9
Bank of Abyssinia	½	—	—
Bank of Athens	£2	—	1½
Bank of Roumania	8½	—	—
Eastern Bank	5	—	82/6
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅜	—	6
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	—	—
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅞	—	3½
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	—	4⅜
National Bank of Egypt	13½	—	10⅜
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½% C.P.	8	—	nom.
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8¼	—	5xd
Do. do. 5% Debs., Red.	98	—	95
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½% Debs., Ser. I.	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88½	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17⅜	—	13
Do. do. 6% Cum. Pref.	22	—	13½
Do. do. 4% 1st Deb.	87	—	57
Do. do. 5% 2nd Deb.	101	—	69
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	90	—	—
Do. do. 3% Bonds	61	—	—
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1⅛	—	⅝
Do. 5% 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	—	95
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	¼	—	—
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	—	2
Do. Do. Def.	¼	—	—
Béhéra Co.	8½	—	7
Do. Pref.	4¾	—	3½
Daira Sanieh	2/2	—	2/6
Do. Def.	⅜	—	20/-
Egyptian Agr. 5% 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	9/-	—	7/-
Do. Gov. 4% Irr. Tst.	98	—	90
Do and Foreign Trust	5/-	—	2/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	—	1
" " Founders	¼	—	—
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—	—
Do. 5% Debs. Red.	—	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	9⅜	—	7½
Do. 4½% 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	—	87½xd
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	—	2/6
Sidi Salem Co.	⅝	—	⅜
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1¾	—	⅝
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	—	-/9
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	—	10⅜
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt	97	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	—	—
Egyptian Hotels	1½	—	—
Do. 4½% 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—	—
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅝	—	1⅜
Do. do. 5% Debs. Red.	99½	—	95
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	⅝	—	14/3
Do. 5% 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	96	—	95
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅝	—	9/3
Do. do. Prefs.	3⅜	—	3xd
Do. do. 4½% 1st Mt.	90	—	85
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (fr. 500)	£179½	—	£—
Upper Egypt Hotels	2¼	—	—

OIL.	Price on July 30.	Sept. 15.
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	⅝	4/9
Anglo-Persian	22/1½	⅝
Cyprus Oil Trust	2/3	—
European Oilfields	4/9	3/6
Roumanian	20/-	13/-

PARIS BOURSE.

	Jan. 4.	Sep. 15.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane	—	445
Canal de Suez	4050	4020
Credit Foncier Egyptien	639	500
Turkish Unified 4%	61.50	61
Egyptian Unified 4%	87.75	89.75
Serbian, 1895	—	61.80

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 229.—Vol. IX. FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1915.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The general mobilization of the Bulgarian Army, which was ordered by Royal Decree on September 19, is an event of first importance. According to the official interpretation of this measure, Bulgaria is maintaining her neutrality, but it is to be an armed neutrality. It may be permissible to ask, "*Qui trompe-t-on ici?*" We are not in the secrets of the Bulgarian Government, which has kept its own counsel well. But there are certain outstanding features in the situation, and these it can do no harm to analyse. In the first place, if we accept the official interpretation, an "armed neutrality" implies that it is felt that there is some danger of a violation, by design or accident, of Bulgarian territory. There is only one quarter from which Bulgaria is in danger of invasion. It is from the north-west, where Germany and Austria-Hungary are collecting troops ostensibly for an expedition across Serbia and Bulgaria to Constantinople.

Both Holland and Switzerland have maintained a neutrality which may be termed armed or semi-armed; and they have their justification in the fact that their territories adjoin the actual theatre of war. Bulgaria is not in exactly the same position, as is evident from her omission to adopt armed neutrality at the beginning of the war. If she takes this course now, it must be—always supposing that the official interpretation covers the whole ground—that a new situation has arisen bringing the danger of invasion appreciably nearer than it has been before. This may be the case. We know that Germany has been inclined to take up of late a firmer attitude towards the neutral States of the Balkans. There is the gathering of troops on the Hungarian bank of the Danube, and it may be that the bullying methods of German diplomacy has caused umbrage at Sofia. If Germany were to undertake the threatened expedition to the assistance of the Turks, she would not only have to march through Bulgaria, but would have to make sure that her lines of communication remained intact. To safeguard herself in this way there cannot be the least doubt that Germany would have to interfere more or less drastically with Bulgaria's liberty of action, if not with her actual independence. A tardy realization of this fact might well induce the Bulgarian Government to view Germany's threatened move with misgiving.

If Bulgaria has nothing to fear from the Central Powers, then "armed neutrality" becomes a costly and meaningless proceeding, for by no stretch of the imagination can it be urged that there is any danger of an invasion of Bulgarian territory from any of her immediate neighbours, Serbia, Roumania, and Greece. There are certain unsatisfactory features of the situation which cannot be ignored. The Bulgarian Premier is reported to have told his political followers that the mobilization is the outcome of "a convention with Turkey for the future maintenance of armed neutrality" on the part of Bulgaria. The first divisions of the army to be affected by the Royal Decree are on the western frontier. As far as is known any pressure that has been brought to bear upon King Ferdinand has been in the direction of co-operation with the Entente. His own leanings are towards Germany, and it is he who will have suggested the mobilization.

If doubt is cast on the theory of "armed neutrality" and the Bulgarian mobilization is regarded in the light of a normal preliminary to the declaration of war, we have to inquire, in the absence of definite knowledge on the subject, whether Bulgaria is likely to be going to throw in her lot with the Central Powers or with the Quadruple Entente, whether she will fight hand in hand with Turkey or will make common cause with the Serbians, and possibly with the Greeks and Roumanians. From the German point of view the ideal situation would be a declaration of war by Bulgaria against the Allies, followed by a joint attack of an Austro-German and a Bulgarian force upon the Serbians and the rapid advance of a Teuton-Bulgar expedition to Constantinople. If Roumania and Greece have been persuaded to acquiesce in this course, there would be no great obstacle to the German plan, until the Allied Powers were in a position to reverse its effects. On the other hand, if, in the far more probable eventuality, Roumanian and Greek sympathies are with the Entente, it would be impossible for them to stand aside and see Germany drive a wedge through the Balkans and be-

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come linked up with Turkey. The first hostile movement on Bulgaria's part must cause Roumania and Greece to fall upon her, and it would be very problematical whether the Austro-German forces could deal with the Serbian resistance rapidly enough to come to the help of Bulgaria.

There remains the possibility of the Bulgarian mobilization being a preliminary to co-operation with the Allied Powers. We know it to be the one course entirely consonant with the real interests of the country. Germany's ambitions in the Near East can only be realised at the expense of the Balkan States. She may pretend for her own purposes to be willing to gratify all their aspirations; but no Government with any claim to statesmanship could convince its countrymen that an alliance with Germany would be of lasting benefit to the Balkans. Bulgaria least of all, it would be thought, could dally with such a notion. The victory of the Germanic Powers in this war would mean that Turkey would have to be compensated. She could only receive compensation in any way satisfactory to her at Bulgaria's expense. Is it likely that the Bulgarian Government will deliberately set about to compass the ruin of the country?

It must be admitted that up to the eve of mobilization Bulgaria has shown no sign of wishing to co-operate with the Allied Powers. A deputation from the Opposition had an audience of the King only last week in order to protest against Bulgaria throwing in her lot with the Central Powers. King Ferdinand is reported to have given assurances that no action would be taken against the wishes of the nation, but it has to be admitted that the fears of the Opposition are shared in well-informed circles outside Bulgaria. On the other hand, the strikingly candid statement of the Premier will be recalled in which he declared that Bulgaria was ready to march against Turkey as soon as her claims in Macedonia had been satisfied. This utterance and the activities of the Allies' diplomacy to bring about an understanding among the Balkan States justify the expectation that the Bulgarian mobilization may yet prove not to bear the meaning which there is a natural tendency to attach to it. We shall do well, however, not to raise our hopes too high. There are many wheels within wheels in the Balkans, and after the experience of the second Balkan War it would be rash to prophesy that the course that will be followed by a Balkan State will necessarily be the one prompted by its own interests. Dr. Radoslavoff is reported to have spoken of the quickly developing situation, and to have assured his followers that a general mobilization has only been ordered to enable Bulgaria to be prepared for all eventualities. It must be left to the near future to show us which of the courses open to her Bulgaria is really going to adopt.

The activities shown by the German and Austrian forces on the north bank of the Danube might seem to lend colour to the threats of an Austro-German invasion of Serbia. According to a statement published in Berlin there has been an artillery duel near Semendria, and on the Save, as well as at other points on the Danube, the enemy's guns have been in action. The Serbians, however, continue to regard the threatened invasion with equanimity. French airmen report that so far no considerable concentration of troops has taken place near Orsova. As was suggested in these columns some weeks ago, nothing would be more calculated to close up the Balkan ranks than a German invasion. This view is now shared in Roumania, where it is held that Roumania's determination to intervene in the event of a German attack on Serbia has contributed to the abandonment of the scheme.

In view of the confidence expressed in these pages and elsewhere that the co-operation of Roumania with the Allies might be expected at quite an early stage in the war, it is of interest to note what M. Filipesco, the head of the Roumanian Conservative Party, has to say on the subject. In an article in the organ of his party he writes:—"If I did not press matters farther towards our entering into the conflict in September, 1914, it was because on September 2 last year I had the promise that within twelve days the army would pass the Carpathians. If yesterday I was the dupe, to-day it is M. Bratiano (the Premier), who awaits an occasion like that of a year ago, when we could have gained an indestructible title to the gratitude of Europe." The assurances which M. Filipesco received were also given in other quarters entitled to the same credence as was to be placed in the Premier's word.

A noticeable point in Lord Kitchener's references in the House of Lords to the operations in Gallipoli was his tribute to the Turks. "It is only fair to acknowledge," he said, "that—judged from a humane point of view—the methods of warfare pursued by the Turks are vastly superior to those which disgrace their German masters." Reference has frequently been made in these columns to this characteristic of the Turkish troops in Gallipoli, and we can only hope that their clean record will be maintained to the end of the war. Instances have been reported of prisoners being allowed to telegraph to their relatives during the afternoon of the day on which they were captured, and to write letters the next day. In some cases our wounded have been recovered after they had received first-aid from the Turks, and left with water by their side. Such acts justify the hope that, when the breach comes with Germany and all her methods, it will be complete and lasting.

The reverse of the shield is presented in the reports of Turkish treatment of the Armenians. We have yet to learn the full extent of the persecution and massacres of which these unfortunate people have been the victims. Some idea of the wholesale manner in which they have been dealt with may be gained from the fact that French cruisers found a large body of men, women, and children taking refuge against the Turks in the massif of Jebel Musa, to the north of the Bay of Antioch. Here they had been besieged for some weeks. They were able to signal to the French squadron, and were ultimately rescued to the number of five thousand and conveyed on men-of-war to Port Said. The contrast between the treatment of British prisoners of war and that meted out to the Armenians goes to prove that while the instincts of the Turks are sound, they are constitutionally unfitted to govern subject races. If peace and prosperity are to be introduced into Turkey after the war, this characteristic must receive attention in the settlement imposed upon the Turks.

A report from Teheran to Petrograd states that as a result of their wages not having been paid for several months the chief of the Gendarmerie, after three warnings, has proceeded to disband the force. The guards at the Legations and Government institutions are said to have been withdrawn, and the detachments of Gendarmerie stationed in various parts of the country are returning to Teheran. If this report be true, the situation may be a very critical one for Persia unless the matter is handled promptly and satisfactorily by the British and Russian Governments. It may be that in the face of the extreme step taken by the Swedish commandant the Persian Government will release the money owing to the Gendarmerie, and that the force will continue to exercise its functions within its existing limitations. If, on the other hand, the Teheran authorities are actually without the means to pay the Gendarmerie, it would be thought that the two protecting Powers would not choose the present moment for allowing the Gendarmerie to be disbanded for arrears in their pay. It may be necessary to let the Swedish officers carry out their intentions as a convenient method of escape from an impossible position. But there ought to be no delay in the reforming of a Gendarmerie force, commanded by British officers from India, whose pay will not be dependent on the state of the Persian Exchequer.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Correspondent.)

Cairo, September 8.

Attempt on Minister's Life.

The historic assassination of General Kleber in the early part of the last century is, unfortunately, no more the unique incident of the kind it used to be in Egypt. The assassination of Boutros Pasha Ghali, Prime Minister of Egypt, a few years ago, has been the prelude to a new epoch in the history of this very rare crime in modern Egypt. The attempt on the life of the ex-Khedive in Constantinople last summer was committed by an Egyptian, who was not allowed to live and tell his tale, which might have revealed his accomplices. The two attempts on the Sultan of Egypt are too fresh in the minds of the public to need recapitulation here. But hardly had the inquiry regarding the last of the two been completed when a similar attempt was made to assassinate Ibrahim Pasha Fathi, the Minister of Wakfs, on Saturday evening, the 4th inst.

Before proceeding with the account of the crime I wish to convey to your readers some idea as to the person, character, and past achievements of the Minister who was the object of this base attack. Ibrahim Pasha Fathi is a military man. He enjoys the rank of a ferik, or general, in the Egyptian Army, and was one of the most trusted of Kitchener's officers. His achievements in the Sudan campaign covered him with glory, and when, later, he was sent by Lord Cromer at the head of a military and political mission to arrange the Sinai affair, he displayed a good deal of tact and acumen and impressed the Turkish delegates very favourably. He was able, with the other members of the mission, to settle the question in a fair manner, and was publicly thanked here. Until Lord Kitchener came back to Egypt as H.M.'s Agent, General Ibrahim Pasha was on pension. Lord Kitchener, knowing his ability, employed him in an administrative capacity. He was nominated Governor of Assiut, and later of Gharbia Province, where his work was conspicuous. A few months ago he joined the Ministry upon the resignation of Ismail Pasha Sidky.

The Minister was last Saturday proceeding to Beni Suef, Upper Egypt, on a short tour of inspection. Standing on the station platform, before the express started, he conversed with some of his old brothers-in-arms, when suddenly a young man approached and, from behind, plunged a long two-edged dagger, which he had wrapped in some newspapers, into his left shoulder. The Pasha turned about and received two more stabs, one in the right cheek and the other in the left. The Pasha produced a pistol and fired at the feet of the assassin, but missed him. An officer standing by struck twice with his cane at the assassin, who fled out of the station brandishing his dagger and threatening people. He was, however, arrested, and the Pasha's wounds were attended to. Although the wound in the shoulder was grave there is absolutely no danger. Fathi Pasha is doing well, and it is hoped he will soon be able to leave his bed. The attempt has caused intense resentment and abhorrence all over the country.

The assassin is a Government employee, attached to the Treasury Department in the Ministry of Finance. It came as no surprise to anybody to know that his past life is a series of failures, debaucheries, hard drinking, and an inveterate addiction to hashish. Just before his attempt he had embezzled £E800 of public funds, which he spent in his debaucheries, but claimed in the inquiry to have expended in benevolent objects. On Friday night he had been seen with a native *demi-mondaine* in a café in the Boulak quarter, where he had indulged in drinks and hashish. This is the class of patriot who pretends to save the *patrie* from despots and the accomplices of despots. Such was Wardani, the assassin of Boutros Pasha, and Mohammed Khalil, who attempted the Sultan's life in Cairo last winter—a set of mean, despicable, uncontrollable individuals who are "wanted" for some crime, or who have lost all and plunged deep in the Slough of Despond. And they are the would-be "saviours" of Egypt!

At the inquiry, conducted in the presence of the Prime Minister and the Minister of Justice, the assassin boasted of his guilt, and coolly stated that he had carefully planned the crime and armed himself with the dagger and a loaded revolver that had been found on him. He further stated that he wanted to rid Egypt of all the Ministers and high functionaries. Turning to the Minister of Justice, he said: "Before this inquiry is through you will be no more, for your turn is sure to come soon." This is believed to be an empty threat used by the assassin in the hope of influencing the Minister in question. To the member of the Parquet who was conducting the inquiry he said: "Why do you prevaricate? Would you not do the same thing if you had a chance?" In short, the assassin, whose name, by the way, is Saleh Abdel-Latif, has been displaying remarkable sangfroid and a total disregard of the consequences of his base crime. *Exalté*, callous, and morally wrecked by the life he led, he takes pride in being an assassin, and exults in his "courage." His only regret is that his attempt has been abortive.

The Bomb Outrage.

The inquiry in connection with this crime has now been closed. Four persons are implicated and are in custody, two of whom are Shams ed-Din and Helbawi, the tenant of No. 99, Ras el-Tin Street, and the man who is alleged to have thrown the bomb. The official *communiqué* on the subject, which was promised about twenty days ago, will soon be published.

The Blockade of Syria.

A great sensation was caused among the Syrian colony and the public in general by the announcement of the blockade of the Syrian coast. This was followed this week by a statement, published by *Al-Mokattam*, that the Aroad Island, the only island in the vicinity of the Syrian coast, was occupied by the French on August 31. The hopes of Syrians are now raised, and it is believed that the turn of the Lebanese to show their devotion to the Allies has come at last. They are only anxious to display their sympathy by acts. The news has impressed the Egyptians, as it brings the war again very near their country. Thinking people are beginning to realise that Turkey's dissolution is drawing nigh, and that before the end of October some of the greatest events in the latter-day history of the Near East will have taken place.

EGYPT'S SULTAN AND THE WAR.

According to the Havre correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph*, M. Firmin van den Bosch, a Belgian judge of the Mixed Courts in Egypt, on his return from Europe, showed the Sultan of Egypt photographs of the atrocities committed in Belgium by the Germans. The Sultan on seeing them exclaimed, "They talk of peace! Do you know what every neutral whom Germany wishes to use as a mediator ought to reply? 'Commence by repairing the injustice which you admit you have committed against Belgium, restore the liberty to the nation which you have martyred, give back their country to the soldiers who are fighting solely for liberty, restore to his kingdom the hero King. Only then can one talk of peace. Doubtless peace is desirable, but a peace based on justice and not on force. Force can do much, can exterminate an army, massacre women and priests, and destroy monuments, but it cannot destroy the soul of a people, especially when that people has been personified in the sight of the world by figures like King Albert and Queen Elisabeth, the Premier, M. de Broqueville, Cardinal Mercier, and Burgomaster Max.'"

The Sultan rose, and, emphasising each word, said: "The independence of Belgium is a matter of interest not only to the Allies nor even to Europe. It is a matter for the world, for it is not a political question only. It is a moral matter."

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NEWS FROM TURKEY.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Athens, September 13.

The past week does not appear to have been productive of any developments of importance at Constantinople. The Greek papers announce that the Sheik-ul-Islam has resigned, and that a large fire has occurred at Ismid, but no confirmation of these rumours has yet come to hand here.

The Question of Coal.

Probably the most unsatisfactory item of news is the announcement of further small arrivals of coal from the Black Sea. How these vessels are able to remain several days at Zunguldak or Eregli without being destroyed by Russian warships is a mystery. At this rate sufficient coal is available for naval and military requirements, but desperate efforts were apparently being made last week to bring in large supplies, and three steamers—the Seihoun, the Patmos, and another of the Deutsche Levante Linie—laden with coal are reported to have been sunk by Russian warships. The Hamidieh and the Goeben went into the Black Sea to convoy these steamers into the Bosphorus, but were apparently unsuccessful.

The number of steamers that have been destroyed in the Black Sea is said to be thirty, and in the Sea of Marmora forty-two. Amongst those recently sunk in the Marmora are the German steamers Tenedos, Chios, and Lily Rickmers; and the Bosphorus passenger boats Nos. 33, 34, and 39 have also disappeared.

Shortage of Bread and Oil.

The supply of bread has recently been reduced to a quarter of an oke per person. The mills have either no coal or no wheat, and it was feared that bread would be almost unobtainable in a few days. The Mussulman communities receive preferential treatment in obtaining their daily requirements, to the detriment of the Christians.

In spite of the optimism of the Prefect of the city, referred to in a recent article, petroleum, which in normal times is sold at about twelve piastres per tin, is now only obtainable with difficulty at 150 piastres. A cargo has been expected from Roumania, but nothing had arrived last week. Rice and sugar are selling at twelve piastres per oke. The Prefect has issued a recommendation to the Medical Faculty to avoid, as far as possible, prescribing syrups to their patients, in view of the scarcity of sugar.

Turkish Sick and Wounded.

Numbers of wounded arrive in Constantinople daily. It is estimated that there are now about 70,000 in the capital, and a very large number were expected last week, as all empty houses and large buildings of residential flats were being converted into hospitals. Foreigners are now not allowed to visit the hospitals.

The Turkish losses at the Dardanelles during the days of the Suvla landing are said to have amounted to 32,000 men. Dysentery appears to have broken out amongst the Turks on the Gallipoli Peninsula, and 500 cases per day are reported.

Submarine Operations.

The Turks in their *communiqué* of the 4th claim to have sunk a submarine of the Allies, but the following account of the incident is reported. A British submarine landed four men somewhere near Buyuk Chekmedjeh with the object of destroying the bridge there; but the men were caught, and on receiving information a Turkish destroyer hurried to the scene. When the destroyer came in view the submarine appears to have submerged and caught up a tug boat on which their four men had been placed with the object of being taken to Constantinople. The submarine took off her four men from the tug boat, sank her, and then turned her attention to the destroyer, which she also sank, as well as some other small craft. In their *communiqué* of the 5th the Turks, however, make a definite statement with regard to submarine E7, which, they say, they sank in the Dardanelles on the previous day, and took three officers and twenty-five men prisoners.

Fresh Regulations for Foreigners.

The authorities in general are becoming much more aggressive towards foreigners, and the military authorities have issued the following regulations:—

First.—The male subjects of enemy countries are not allowed to circulate in the streets of the capital before sunrise and after nine o'clock at night. Shopkeepers must also conform to this regulation.

Second.—Any subject of enemy countries being obliged for urgent reasons to leave his house during the prohibited hours must obtain permission from the nearest police station.

Third.—Any subject as above having already registered his residence at the police station must notify the police several days beforehand if he wishes to move. A delay of twenty-four hours is given to those who have moved before the publication of these regulations.

Fourth.—Any subject intending to spend the night away from home must notify the police and obtain a special permit.

Anyone offending against these regulations will be brought before the court-martial.

NEWS OF SYRIA.

(From a Correspondent.)

Alexandria, September 10.

As a result of the blockade of the Syrian coast by the French Fleet, the U.S. cruiser Chester, which left Beyrout on August 26, had to proceed to Canea (Crete) and land there about 450 refugees, the majority being Jews, naturalised British and French subjects, with a sprinkling of Greeks. The military authorities at Beyrout are said to have prevented the Italians from embarking. The destitute among the British subjects will be sent over to Cyprus, while the French Government will look after the destitute among its own subjects. The authorities here, having encountered no little difficulty in coping with the problem of affording relief to the thousands of destitute refugees who have been brought over from Palestine by American warships, could not allow of further numbers being thrown on their hands.

A Wholesale Execution.

Among the British subjects on board the Chester was a wealthy Jewish merchant, who has, by special permission, been able to join his family at Alexandria. He reports the shocking news of the hanging at Beyrout on August 21 of twelve notables accused of being partisans of the Arab movement. As the informant declares that he was an eye-witness of this revolting act of vengeance, and even gives the names of the victims, there can, unfortunately, be little room for doubt. These unfortunate victims of the Young Turks' barbaric vengeance were leading members of representative families in Tripoli, Beyrout, Damascus, and Nablus. One of them was a lawyer and a promising leader of thought among the new generation of Moslems at Beyrout; while another was the President of the Arab Club at Constantinople. It is said that Jemal Pasha came over from Damascus expressly to attend, with the Vali of Beyrout, this wholesale execution, and that the bodies of the hanged remained exposed in Liberty Square for six hours, after which they were carried to the sands on the western outskirts of the town and there buried ignominiously.

Jemal Pasha's Dream of Power.

More than mere punishment or vengeance for a supposed political crime seems to have been the aim of the Young Turks. The shocking manner of this wholesale execution was no doubt meant to strike terror to the hearts of the population and nip in the bud the Arab movement that was showing fresh signs of activity, especially among the grievously disillusioned Moslem element. Curiously enough, the list of hanged does not contain the name of a single Christian. This, coupled with the fact that Jemal Pasha had lately shown the Maronite Patriarch marked courtesy, lends verisimilitude to the persistent rumours of secret proposals having been made by the Pasha to the Allies. There seems to be good ground for crediting the reports of disagreement between Enver and Jemal, and of the refusal of the latter to conform to the repeated orders for him to proceed to Constantinople. It is said that on the occasion of an entertainment given in his honour by one of the leading notables of Damascus the Pasha, in the course of a speech, went so far as to refer to the disastrous consequences of this war into which Turkey has been dragged, and, after flattering his hearers with an allusion to his Arab descent, to emphasise the need for all the Arabs at this critical juncture to think seriously of their political destiny and to organise their activities accordingly. Another version—for the authenticity of which persons of authority vouch—is that Jemal Pasha once threw out a tentative suggestion regarding his being declared eventually Sultan of the Arabs, and when one of his hearers received the hint with an exclamation expressive of his feelings as to the absurdity of the mere thought, the Pasha made a mental note of the fact, and, realising the hopelessness of his dream of power, has since shaped his policy in regard to the Arab movement accordingly.

Now that Ruad Island, of historic fame, has entered the possession of the Allies as a naval base, probably foreshadowing imminent action on the Syrian coast, we may, sooner than is expected, be able to judge, by the character of Jemal's opposition, how far these rumours of his secret proposals to the Allies rest on fact.

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ROUMANIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, September 1.

Austria-Hungary and Roumania.

There are many rumours afloat regarding Austro-Hungarian preparations for an attack on this country. The *Epoca* publishes a long description, which it says it has received from a trustworthy source, and according to which all the defiles on the Hungarian side of the Carpathians have been fortified, while lines of trenches have been dug along the whole Roumanian frontier. Batteries of heavy artillery are also reported to be posted opposite the various passes, and 150,000 troops are said to be held in readiness at various places. It is certain that for a week or more the Hungarian officials have been moving away from Predeal, where only a single seller of railway tickets now remains. The examination of passports takes place at Kronstadt (Brassov), where everybody is most carefully searched and baggage is gone through minutely. On the journey between Predeal and Brassov all blinds of railway carriages are drawn, and nobody is allowed to look out of the window on any pretext.

All this makes the public very uneasy, and rumours of mobilization are once more heard on all sides, though no signs of any such move are to be seen anywhere, and military circles appear to discredit the reports; indeed, the entry of Roumania into action at the present juncture seems highly improbable.

A Policy of Pin-pricks?

The raising of the prohibition against the export of cereals does not seem likely to be of any great benefit to those merchants who were so clamorous to export, for the Hungarian authorities have for some days refused to allow their wagons to cross into Roumania, which has led to none being allowed out of this country. As to discharging at the frontier and loading into Hungarian or German trucks, that is impossible, for the Hungarian authorities will place none at the disposal of would-be exporters. The result is that cereals and other goods have been accumulating in enormous quantities at the frontier stations; and the Ministry of Public Works has issued a circular informing farmers and exporters of the facts, and requesting them not to send any more grain to the frontier till further notice. For the past few days even carts have not been allowed to come to the frontier to load grain from this side, and as a consequence many of the roads are blocked with carts and wagons waiting for orders.

It is not easy to see what the Austro-Hungarian authorities hope to achieve by their present tactics. Is a system of "pin-pricks" to be introduced, or are the trucks all needed for military purposes? Certain it is that before the unloading and loading at the frontier was stopped the Customs authorities had insisted on examining every sack of maize, alleging that pamphlets of a revolutionary character were being smuggled through in them for distribution amongst the Roumanian inhabitants of Transylvania; and it is even said that there was a fear of bombs, arms, etc., being taken into Transylvania in similar fashion. Again, the Hungarian authorities allege that they found chalked on some trucks the message, "To-day we send grain in them; to-morrow we shall come ourselves." Even if this be true, it can only have been a joke, and to take it seriously is surely pure childishness on the part of the Hungarian authorities. In so doing, they appear to be cutting off their nose to spite their face, for, according to all reports received here, both Austria and Germany are beginning to feel seriously the shortage of grain.

Judging by the following incident, it would seem quite likely that the whole business is a campaign of spite, initiated by Germany, as a consequence of this country's steady refusal to permit the passage of munitions of war for Turkey. A paper here reports that a Jassy firm which had commercial relations with a Belgian house in Charleroi was surprised at receiving no reply to any of the numerous letters it had occasion to send. A few days ago, however, it received back the whole of the letters it had despatched over a period of four months, with a notification from the German Post-master at Charleroi stating that the Belgians are not permitted to receive correspondence from Roumania!

Further German Attempts at Smuggling.

Although attended by little success, attempts to smuggle munitions of war across the frontier and through to Turkey continue to be made. The latest discovery made is of two cases, one containing dynamite and the other caps, at a house in Bucharest. These, it was proved, had been smuggled over the frontier with the connivance of two railway porters. Whether the dynamite was intended to be passed through into Turkey is not known; but some papers hint that it was intended for use in this country, by German agents, in the event of Roumania going to war.

Another case of attempted smuggling by Germans was discovered two days ago at Predeal, on the arrival of some 120 tons of "textile goods" destined for Turkey. On examining them, the Customs authorities found that nearly every one of these bales contained little cases of picric acid and melanite. The twelve trucks containing the goods, and the goods themselves, were promptly forwarded to Bucharest for confiscation.

Smuggling in the other direction is also attempted, several lots of cattle having been seized by the frontier guards while being "passed" over the Carpathians. The risks of this business are very great, but so are the profits, and many persons are tempted to try their luck.

Another article that engages the attention of the would-be smuggler is motor tyres, which are evidently in great request across the frontier. The attempts to "run" them seem, however, to be attended with as little success as those of the cattle smugglers. Two motor-cars full of tyres were stopped on the frontier yesterday. Two individuals, who were caught while in the act of carrying some tyres over the frontier by way of forest paths, confessed that they were from Sinaia, where there was quite a collection of stolen tyres awaiting a chance to smuggle them over the border. These had been collected by a contractor (with a German name) for certain work in connection with the rebuilding of the railway station, upon whom, it is said, suspicion had rested for some time.

Balkanic Rumours.

For the past few days certain papers have been spreading alarmist reports to the effect that an attack on Serbia by Bulgaria was imminent, the latter country having reached a full understanding with Turkey; and that in such case Roumania would not stand idly by, but would immediately go to the help of Serbia. There seems to be very little doubt that if such a situation should arise, both Roumania and Greece would at once move to Serbia's assistance; but the chance of its arising is surely remote, for it is now announced that although negotiations have been very actively carried on between Sofia and Constantinople, no conclusion has been reached as yet.

The German Legation has issued, through the local Press, a formal denial of the report that Germany had actually presented an ultimatum to the Roumanian Government with reference to the question of permitting the passage through this country of munitions of war for Turkey.

GAY ROUMANIA.

A Roumanian correspondent writes:—

Sinaia is suffering not at all from the strained political situation. A good many people had intended remaining at home this year, instead of holiday making, but the warm weather sent them flocking to the cool shade of the forests, which stretch away to the frontier; and just now not a room is to be had for love or money at any of the hotels or lodging-houses along the Prahova valley. Sinaia is crowded, and the Casino and other "attractions" are in full swing. A French theatrical and variety company performs to crowded houses nightly, and gambling goes on unrestricted until the early hours of the morning, large sums being won and lost—chiefly lost—nightly. One would have thought that with things as they are, and Roumania uncertain if and when she may be drawn into the war, a slightly less reckless life would be better. But, no; not only at Sinaia, but at Constantza, Busteni, Lacul Serat, and elsewhere play—and heavy play—goes on. Yet, within an hour's drive of the first-named place Hungarian troops are massing and trenches are being dug, even in Sinaia itself and the surrounding mountains soldiers are numerous; and as one journeys from the capital one sees every railway bridge guarded by militia and gendarmerie.

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BULGARIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Sofia, September 4.

A Critical Situation.

The Serbian reply to the Note (of August 3) of the Entente Powers was last Wednesday handed to the four representatives, at Nish, of those Powers; but so far no communication as to its tenour has been made to the Bulgarian Government.

Feeling in this country is entirely in favour of the Entente, but even the most fervent supporters of its cause insist that as a condition of Bulgaria joining the Entente and undertaking action against Turkey, Bulgarian troops must immediately occupy the "undisputed zone" of Macedonia as defined by the Serbo-Bulgarian Treaty of 1912. Unless this condition be fulfilled, Bulgaria will not stir. But, on the other hand, although Austro-German diplomacy is straining every nerve to induce the Government to attack Serbia, the nation is, I believe, entirely opposed to such a perilous adventure, which would involve it in a war against Russia, Great Britain, France, and Italy.

New British Minister Received.

Yesterday morning, at 11.30, the new British Minister, Mr. Hugh O'Beirne, C.V.O., C.B., was received in audience by King Ferdinand, and presented his credentials. Dr. Radoslavoff, Prime and Foreign Minister, and Crown Prince Boris were present. After presenting his credentials, the new Minister had a conversation with His Majesty, which lasted until one o'clock. His reception, though informal, was very cordial.

The Duke of Mecklenburg's Visit.

Last Sunday the Duke of Mecklenburg-Schwerin arrived here by special train, and was met at the Royal station at Podueni by the Crown Prince Boris and the staff of the German Legation. The Duke, who is a brother of the Russian Grand Duchess Vladimir Marie Pavlona and a near relation of Queen Eleonore, is accompanied by Herr Rosenberg, of the Berlin Foreign Office, who is acting as his secretary. From the station he was driven to the Palace here, where he still remains. He has had a long interview with Dr. Radoslavoff. The Duke, it may be mentioned, is a Knight of the Order of SS. Cyril and Methodius, the premier Bulgarian order.

Greek Sailings to Dedeagatch.

The Greek trading vessels which, as already reported, had stopped calling at Dedeagatch, have resumed their calls since the return to power of M. Venizelos. The latter, it seems, has succeeded in removing the restrictions which led to the abandonment of the Greek vessels' visits.

The State of Constantinople.

Travellers who have arrived here recently from Constantinople report that there is a great scarcity of bread there, and that the population is in a state of considerable distress. The wealthier citizens are able to obtain corn and bread, though at very high prices; but the majority of the citizens are said to be eating boiled maize and boiled wheat. Some cases of death from starvation have been reported lately; the numbers of the poor have been greatly increased owing to lack of work, and their condition is wretched in the extreme.

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THE BULGARIAN ARMY.

Some particulars of the Bulgarian army have been supplied to Reuter's Agency by a reserve officer who has been recalled by telegram to Sofia. He said:—

"The general mobilisation includes ten divisions of the Bulgarian army, the latter having been increased by one division since the Balkan War. Before the war this would have involved 216,000 rifles. Now it affects 250,000 rifles, but the response is always about 10 per cent. greater than the calculation. The deficiency in officers caused by the Balkan War has now been supplied by Bulgaria's two military schools. The military school for reserve officers at Sofia graduated a class of about 800 last year. This year a fourth class of 1,400 was enrolled, including a great many men who had interrupted their courses in European universities. The reserve officers are all men of completed university or secondary education. In June last this class held its rifle practice, and it is presumed that it will now be assigned to the various regiments. The Bulgarian Sandhurst also responded to the demand by admitting a class of nearly one thousand. The summoning of the Macedonians a week ago indicated a disposition on the part of the new Minister for War, General Jecoff, to tap the whole of the able-bodied men of the country.

"From what I know, the Bulgarian regimental stores in the past months have been amply replenished on the basis of providing for each of the forty regiments 6,000 complete equipments, so that the reservists now called to the colours will be better uniformed than during the Balkan War.

"The Krupp artillery taken from the Turks in 1912-13 was sufficient to turn all the non-quick-firing regiments into quick-firing regiments, but the non-quick-firing cannon have also been retained for service, implying a virtual increase of Bulgarian artillery of nearly one-third. The Army has worked very hard, and the spirit of the officers is splendid."

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Cyprus, September 4.

The Locust Plague.

A fresh and serious invasion of locusts has taken place from Syria, where they have caused great havoc. Swarms have appeared in many parts of the island. In a group of villages in the Limassol district considerable damage has been done to olive-trees and gardens. The Government arranged to purchase them by the oke, four piastres having been paid, till, owing to the large quantities brought in, the price was reduced to three piastres (4d.), and subsequently to two. This visitation adds to the calamities of Cyprus and foreshadows trouble next year.

Officials and the War.

More officials have applied for permission to offer their services during the war, including Mr. Russell, King's Advocate; Mr. Thorn, President District Court, Larnaca; Mr. Fenn, Acting Treasurer; Mr. Francis, Government Analyst; and Mr. Moncrieff, Government Veterinary Surgeon.

The summer has been an oppressive and trying one. At Nicosia the heat has been excessive. On the coast, where damp adds its effects, the indoor temperature has reached 102 degs. F. at times. Convalescents continue to arrive from Egypt at intervals. Generous gifts of cigarettes and many other comforts have been forwarded to Troödos from all parts of the island.

Murder of a Zaptieh.

As an outcome of a quarrel between two Turks at the village of Louroutzina, in the Nicosia district, during which one drew a knife, a Turkish zaptieh, named Ibrahim, who arrived at the moment and was proceeding to apprehend the offender, was stabbed in the breast and mortally wounded.

Any newsagent or bookstall in the United Kingdom can supply copies of "The Near East," which are on sale early on Friday morning. Should any difficulty be experienced in obtaining the paper, the Manager would be glad to receive a post card giving particulars, and he will take steps to rectify the matter.

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SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITALS IN SERBIA.

(From a Correspondent.)

The Scottish Women's Hospitals have been doing excellent work in Serbia. There are now three hospitals at work at Kragujevatz, Mladenovatz, Valievo, and, in addition, a military hospital of 200 beds is under their supervision at Lazaravatz.

The Scottish Women's Hospitals were organised by the Scottish Federation of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, and, in addition to these hospitals in Serbia, they have two in France, at Royaumont and at Troyes.

The first Serbian unit left this country in December, being conveyed by Government transport to Salonika, where it landed early in January. It was immediately sent up to Kragujevatz, and given a hospital of 250 beds, although it had only gone out staffed and equipped for nursing 100 beds. Dr. Eleanor Soltau was in charge of the unit, and it is a remarkable fact that within forty-eight hours of their arrival the party were ready to receive patients. No praise is too great for the devotedness of the members of this first unit, who remained at their posts through all the dreadful typhus epidemic in the beginning of the year. The hospital was ever full to overflowing, and the work of nursing sick and wounded Serbs back to health continued ceaselessly night and day. As the typhus increased further reinforcements were sent out from home, to the number of twenty nurses; and further equipment to the value of over £1,000, and in particular large supplies of disinfectants, were forwarded. After a visit to Valievo, in the north, those in charge of the unit determined to open another typhus hospital at Kragujevatz. In the beginning of the war Valievo suffered terribly at the hands of the Austrians, who had swept over the frontier, laying waste all around them, and when they were driven back by the Serbians they left in Valievo alone 70,000 sick and wounded. Hospital accommodation was taxed to its uttermost, and every available building became a hospital. The Scottish Women's Hospitals Unit agreed to take typhus patients from Valievo, and the first batch arrived early one cold grey morning, having travelled the whole distance from Valievo to Kragujevatz in bullock wagons. It was a pitiful sight: some of the men were mere shadows of their former selves, and appearing to be in the last stages of exhaustion.

The Serbs are a wonderful people, having marvellous recuperative powers, and respond quickly to good doctoring and nursing. At first they looked upon their "Englesha Sestra" (nurse) with grave suspicion, but gradually they responded to the kindly treatment they received, and proved excellent patients.

About this time there were many cases of recurrent fever in the district, and the Scottish Women's Hospitals took charge of a recurrent fever block. In March five additional women doctors were sent from home by the Scottish Women's Hospitals at the request of the Serbian Government, and these doctors were stationed in the various blocks which were under the charge of the first unit. In addition to the very large supplies of equipment, the hospital possessed an X-ray apparatus, which was practically the only one in the district, and it proved of immense value.

In April Dr. Elsie Inglis, who had been the commissioner of the hospitals at home, left for Serbia to inspect the work, and it was decided that another complete unit, staffed and equipped to nurse 200 beds, should be despatched to Serbia. This unit was under the charge of Dr. Alice Hutchison, and in order to minimise infection as much as possible tents were taken out to house the staff and patients in.

This hospital, on its way out, was retained at Malta to nurse our own wounded Tommies from the Dardanelles, and on arriving in Serbia was sent straight to Valievo. This hospital is situated on the slope of a hill outside the town, and Sir Ralph Paget, who is in charge of British interests out there, says he has nothing but praise for the splendid organisation of this hospital. The sanitary arrangements have been carried out in the most up-to-date manner, and the whole hospital is organised on the most modern lines.

About this time it was decided to divide up the unit at Kragujevatz, and start another centre at Mladenovatz. This hospital at Mladenovatz likewise has the advantage of being housed under canvas, and there the sanitary arrangements have been carried out with great care. Also at Lazarevatz a hospital, which has been taken over from the military, has quite recently been opened. It was taken over at the request of Colonel Gentitch, who was very anxious that the Scottish Women's Hospitals should supervise it. All these hospitals are placed in the north-west district of Serbia, the area in which there has been the greatest amount of distress, and which, in the event of further hostilities, must again suffer severely.

Those who have returned home have nothing but praise for the Serbs. They are a brave, heroic people, and their endurance in the face of suffering is truly wonderful. The Serbs have shown great kindness to their Austrian prisoners, who are used in all the hospitals as orderlies, and from reports we learn that they make excellent orderlies.

Travelling is a great difficulty in Serbia. The roads, especially after the heavy rains, are always in very bad condition, and it has been found necessary to send out motor ambulances and touring cars for the use of the hospitals.

A great deal could be done amongst the women and children. Splendid work could be carried out by instructing the Serbs in the most up-to-date methods of sanitation. In many of the towns the old cesspools still exist, and this is always a danger to public health.

We owe to Serbia a great debt, which let us hope we will be able to repay; for during many centuries she has been the buffer State between the Turkish Empire and the rest of Europe. Had it not been for her heroic stand at the beginning of the war the powers of Austria and Turkey would undoubtedly have joined hands across the Balkans. She is sad in her songs, but in her songs only. Let us do all we can to safeguard the liberties of this heroic little State.

C. M. C.

Those desirous of helping the Scottish Women's Hospitals should send subscriptions to the Hon. Secretary, Dr. Elsie Inglis, 2, St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh, or to the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Laurie, Red House, Greenock.

SERBIAN FLAG DAY.

The Serbian Flag Day collection in aid of the funds of the Serbian Relief Committee was held in London on Wednesday, similar "days" having previously been set apart for the purpose in some of the larger provincial towns. The effort to raise money was well organised, and, supported by a host of willing helpers, was crowned with success. Londoners were glad to have an opportunity to show their appreciation of our gallant Ally's prowess; and wherever one went, in the City and in the West-end alike, the pretty little flags were very much in evidence. There were nearly eight thousand collectors, and about 3,000,000 flags were disposed of. Very rarely was the recipient of a flag content to give copper coin in exchange, and in one case at least a £5 note was paid for the emblem.

The majority of the London boroughs lent their aid to the movement. In some there were as many as seven depôts. There were three in the City of London, where a tremendous number of flags were disposed of. That at the London Chamber of Commerce was under the care of Lady Primrose; Lady Grogan was in charge of the centre at the Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street; while Mrs. Masterman superintended the activities at Bishopsgate Institute. A large number of flags were also sold in the City of Westminster, where there were five depôts. Lady Webb had a station in Oxford Street, and Lady Lethbridge had charge of a depôt at Brompton Road. Many flags were sold in the large drapery establishments, where assistants were specially told off to dispose of them, and many well-known actresses did good work during the day, and had the satisfaction of returning full boxes to the depôts. At the railway stations and Tube entrances the collectors were very busy, and at the close of the day, when the boxes were taken from the depôts to the banks, the view of the organiser and his assistants was that London's Serbian Flag Day had been a distinct success.

Leicester had its own Serbian Flag Day on the 11th inst., when £2,128 was collected in the streets—by far the largest sum that has been collected in Leicester for any object of the kind. Prominent amongst the workers and helpers here were the Mayor and Mayoress, Sister Scott (of Lady Paget's unit), and the Rev. J. D. Freeman.

Brighton's Serbian Flag Day was held on September 7, when upwards of £500 was raised. 150,000 flags were on sale, and 500 collecting-boxes were used.

THE POPE AND THE ARMENIANS.

At the request of the representatives of the Armenian Committee in London, Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., addressed to Cardinal Bourne a request that the intervention of the Pope might be asked to protect the Armenians from further massacre. In reply to his letter Mr. O'Connor has received the following from Cardinal Bourne:—"September 14, 1915. Dear Mr. O'Connor,—Immediately on receipt of your letter of August 23 I communicated with the Cardinal Secretary of State. I have to-day received a letter from his Eminence assuring me that the Holy See has done, and is doing, all in its power on behalf of the unhappy Armenians who are subjects of the Ottoman Empire. The facts are evidently well known in Rome, and have awakened the keen sympathy of his Holiness.—Believe me, yours very sincerely, F. Card. Bourne, Archbishop of Westminster."

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ARMENIAN REFUGEES IN CAUCASIA.

By Mirza Firooz Khan.

BAKU, July 30.

The Armenian refugees who fled from Turkey, escaping with practically nothing but their lives, were received in Caucasia by their kinsmen and brethren with all the sympathy, kindness, and love that they could expect—or more than they could have expected. Every individual Armenian, I believe, took part in receiving them and providing for their ease and comfort. Nor were all the refugees Armenians. About 60 per cent. were Armenians, 30 per cent. Greeks, and the remainder Nestorians, Jacobites, Maronites, etc. But the Armenians of Caucasia made no distinction between them; they welcomed all alike with open arms, with brotherly kindness, and hearty sympathy. How, indeed, could any distinction be made between them? They were all Christians, and all were fleeing from the sword of the common enemy, the Turk and the Kurd.

There were thousands upon thousands of these worn-out men, frightened women, and hungry children, emaciated, with blue lips, fingers and toes. It was winter, remember; and cold winter, too. The flight took place between the latter half of December and the first half of January, which are the two coldest months in Armenia. And these refugees had come all the way from Van to Erivan on foot, crossing many untrodden passes and snow-covered hills and mountains. Forty per cent. of them had caught cold, and were sick with pneumonia or typhoid, while 60 per cent. had both their toes and their fingers frozen, which later on were amputated by the doctors provided by the Armenian Committees.

When the stream of refugees began to flow in a "Committee of Brotherly Help" was at once formed in Etchmiazin under the presidency of his Holiness the Catholicos, the members being mostly archbishops, bishops, vartabeds, and the professors of Kevorkian Academy—a seminary in Etchmiatzin, founded by the Armenian Catholicos Kevork (George), and named after him. An "Armenian Central Committee of Tiflis" was formed. Another committee, also formed in Tiflis, and called "Help-giving Society," began to work for the homeless and penniless emigrants, and "The Armenian Benevolent Association of Kavkaz" (thirty years old) came in and joined hands and funds with the "Central Committee of Tiflis" for the same cause and the same purpose. A "National Bureau" was also formed in Tiflis, the funds of which were to be used to arm and clothe the "Armenian Volunteer Armies," which are now fighting gallantly side by side with the Russian regular troops in Persia, Turkey, and Armenia. Another society was formed in Cairo under the presidency of H.E. Nubar Pasha, which was to aid the other societies and look after the Armenian national interests and aspirations in general.

The societies of Etchmiatzin and Tiflis, which were called "Central Societies," had branches in nearly every town and village in Caucasia, and in some of the larger cities in Russia, and contributions both in money and kind began to flow in from all parts of the country and from all classes of the people. Contributions came, too, from Egypt, India, the United States, Canada, London, and Persia (east of Azerbaijan). These societies at once rented large and spacious houses for the reception and accommodation of the thousands of refugees, and the Armenian young ladies and school teachers volunteered their services to assist the committees in caring for the homeless unfortunates. They prepared beds for them, hot water for laundry purposes, and provided them with tea, bread, and soup. These ladies came from good, wealthy homes, where they had never had to work, but had been waited on by servants; but now they were glad to toil for their unfortunate sisters and brothers, and their work was literally a labour of love to them. I have met many of them, and they have told me of the real pleasure they found in their service; and I believe they spoke the simple truth.

The committees established good hospitals for the care of the sick and wounded—frost-bite and gangrene cases chiefly—and gave the direction of them to capable medical men. I have visited some of these emergency hospitals, and the doctor in charge of one of them, a great friend of mine, told me they lacked nothing but trained nurses. "We have," he said, "good beds, warm, thick blankets, plenty of drugs, though not all we need—there are none in Tiflis, and it takes a good deal of time to order them from Petrograd. We have a good cook and servants, and nearly all the instruments that I may need. To make up for the lack of nurses, I am training some myself. I have in my hospital a few ladies who come from wealthy homes and are students in the local gymnasia. They know practically nothing of hospital work and nursing, but they are willing to learn, and I am teaching them. They do not work for pay; they are simply anxious to help these unfortunate patients, and are glad to make themselves useful; and they have mastered a good deal of work already. They can take the temperatures, hardly ever having broken a thermometer, and can undress and redress any of the wounds. I perform four or five operations—amputations of gangrenous toes and fingers—daily, and these girls help me, and they do not seem to mind the sight of the blood and ugly wounds at all! I have thirty-five beds in my hospital, and receive about forty to fifty out-patients daily. These out-patients ought to have been in the hospital as well. They are as sick as any, and one-half of them need operations; but I have no more beds. These out-patients occupy most of my time. I have applied several times to the trustees of the hospital to increase the number of beds at least to sixty, and I hope soon to have that number. The out-patients do not seem to take care of themselves, and fall sick again and again."

My friend went on to say that there were in the "homes" scores of children suffering from measles and scarlet fever. The mortality was very high, 15 per cent. of the little patients dying for lack of good food and proper ventilation. "You see," he said, "it is a terribly cold winter, and these refugees, being mostly peasants, have no idea at all of the value of good fresh air. The lack of good nursing, too, accounts for the high rate of mortality to a large extent; for the mothers, though glad to have the doctor call, frequently neglect his instructions entirely. And, remember, I have nearly 1,800 refugees to look after myself alone!"

Fresh batches of refugees continued to arrive daily; and the earlier arrivals, as they recovered sufficiently, were sent out to the villages to make room for the newcomers, who were in the same plight as, or worse than, the earlier ones, suffering from typhoid, frozen fingers, gangrenous toes. Said my friend the doctor: "I have inquired how they got so frost-bitten, and they tell me that when they fled on the approach of the Turks they had to climb high, snow-covered mountains, and there hide until the pursuers disappeared. 'Sometimes,' they say, 'we had to remain amidst the snows for three or even as long as five days, hungry, shivering with cold, and unable to sleep. There on those snowy mountains we got our fingers and feet frozen; and when it was safe to come down and continue our flight we could not walk—our feet became the sores and wounds you see now. Most of the children and babies were frozen to death—and we left them there on the mountains unburied.' And the poor man or woman will break down, sobbing."

The refugees who were sent off when they were fit, to make room for fresh unfortunates, are distributed amongst the Armenian villages, according to the size and wealth of each village; and so many persons are assigned to the care of each family, according to its means and ability to care for them. The total number of these refugees is about 120,000, mostly women, children, and old men. The able-bodied and young men have been taken by the Turkish Government either as soldiers or as labourers, to work on the newly constructed railroads; or they have been arrested as a precaution against any "Armenian rebellion," and have been hanged or severely used; though some of them are being used as beasts of burden to transport the heavy baggage of the Turks, who, on the advance of the Russian forces, are moving to the interior of Asia Minor, carrying with them everything that can possibly be moved.

Up to the present it is estimated the Armenian villagers, patient and hospitable in an extraordinary degree, have spent, in cash and kind, some seven million roubles in entertaining their persecuted guests. There has been some grumbling amongst the poorer villagers, who complain that they cannot possibly support their own families and at the same time another family of six or eight persons indefinitely, and that if this thing continues long they themselves will soon have to go begging. But the grumbling has never been translated into action. The villagers have never actually refused to receive and entertain the refugees.

Besides this enormous outlay by the villagers, large sums—hundreds of thousands of roubles—have been spent by the various Armenian committees in maintaining their many hospitals, paying doctors, feeding and clothing the refugees in the larger cities, transporting them to various places, and—the most important work of all—in forming Armenian volunteer regiments, several thousands strong, and equipping them with uniforms, arms, and even small sums of money! Of these volunteers I hope to write more fully in another letter.

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LIFE IN URMIA.

We are indebted to a correspondent for permission to publish the following portions of a letter written from Urmia by an American missionary. The letter tells its own tale of heroism, and is a wonderful record of suffering patiently borne and of tireless self-sacrifice for the helpless and homeless victims of the Huns' tools and mercenaries. Some idea of what the refugees owe to the American missionaries was given by the article published in THE NEAR EAST of September 3. This letter helps to fill in the picture. Unfortunately, the writer lost his own wife, who gave her life in the service of the suffering refugees.

URMIA, July 20.

We have had a terrible time here. The Kurds and Turks took possession of this city on January 2, and held it till May 20. The interval can only be described as a reign of terror. After the Turks got possession of the city, and the Kurds were in a measure put under control, there was no great danger to us missionaries, but the poor people all over this plain have suffered terribly in the destruction of property, the dishonouring of their women, and the loss of life. It is estimated that 90 per cent. of the property of the Syrians has been destroyed. Very many girls were carried into captivity and many more women ravished by the brutal Kurds.

We recovered many girls, even while the Turks were here, and others have been restored since the return of the Russians. These last, however, have had more difficulty in getting back to their people, as they had been longer with their Moslem masters or husbands. They have been thrown upon us, and we have now some thirty of them still on our hands. Their friends feel the disgrace of it, and some of the Syrians harbour a bitter spirit toward them because, through fear, they had denied their faith. This feeling is so bitter it is not safe for them to leave our yards. Only a few days ago some of them ventured out on the street (against strict orders) and when they were recognised a mob of Syrians gathered and chased them back into our compound. Only the timely appearance on the scene of one of our ladies prevented bodily injury being inflicted on them.

As to the loss of life, 4,000 died of disease on the mission premises, most of these right here in our city yards. Over a thousand were killed by the Kurds and Turks, and of those who fled perhaps a thousand died in exile. This will give some idea of what the Syrian people have suffered.

The bulk of the inhabitants gathered here in our mission premises, to the number of about 15,000, most of them (10,000 to 12,000) in our city yard; and we had to keep them over four and a-half months. It would be too long a story to tell of the difficulty we have had in feeding these people, nursing them, and caring for their sick; there were 2,000 cases at one time of typhoid and typhus. It was while engaged in this work of visiting and caring for the sick that Mrs. McDowell fell a victim to the disease. Of the 18 missionaries, counting the young Swiss lady teacher of the missionary children, Miss Perrochet, 13 of them have been laid up with typhoid or typhus, also two of the children. Miss Perrochet, Mrs. McDowell, and Mrs. Shedd died of the fever. Dr. Shedd and I are the only men who have escaped the disease. Mr. Muller was the last to recover, and he is just getting around.

Of our family at the seminary, there were taken down in rapid succession Mrs. McDowell, Miss Lewis, Miss Schoebel, the cook, the second maid, the man servant (Miss L. and Miss S—— had taken it at the college). Then, of those who came in to nurse Miss L. and Miss S., viz., Miss Bridges, of the American Orphanage, three or four teachers who volunteered their services, and, following them, several of the girl pupils. Two or three died. I was the only one of the house who escaped.

The hospital circle was equally hard hit. Mrs. Cochrane, the matron, and Miss Lamme and Miss Coan went down in quick succession. Dr. Packard nearly succumbed, his chief native physician died, and also the Syrian physician who took his place, besides three other physicians, the two druggists and several nurses. Finally, the hospital ran itself, the patients helping themselves to drugs!

Of our other troubles I need not speak. We have still 5,000 mountain people from the adjoining mountains and Gawar whom we have fed up to the present. Conditions are still unstable, and any day may precipitate a repetition of those experiences. The people are fearful. Added to these our mountain districts have been attacked. Kochanis and —— are in the hands of the Turks and Kurds; villages have been burned and many people killed. Mar Shimon and his people have taken refuge on a high mountain, whence they are sending out a pitiful cry for help. They are entirely surrounded by three armies of Turks and Kurds, who are bent on exterminating them. From Gawar to Van, across to the Persian border, there is not a single village left, and I fear very much that by the close of the war my entire field will be nothing but a waste of ashes.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Letters to Mediterranean Force. September 16.

Mr. O'SHEE asked the Under-Secretary for War whether letters and parcels sent to soldiers in the 10th Division of the Army with the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force from ten weeks to two months ago had not reached them at the end of August; what caused this very long delay, and whether these letters and parcels had yet reached their destination?

Mr. TENNANT: As regards the particular point raised in the question, the hon. member will recognise that it is quite impossible for me to say whether particular parcels or letters addressed to a particular unit have been received or not. As regards the general question, proposals are under consideration for giving an accelerated service, and no doubt my right hon. friend the Postmaster-General will make a statement as soon as the arrangements are settled.

Persian Unrest.

Replying to Sir J. D. REES, Sir E. GREY said: No information has been received as to an attack having been made on British and Russian Consular officers near Hamadan. His Majesty's Consul-General at Ispahan was shot at and slightly wounded on the 1st inst., one of the Indian orderlies of his escort being killed. The British Vice-Consul at Shiraz was seriously wounded on the 7th inst., and I regret to state that he has since succumbed. The present state of disorder in Persia is engaging the anxious attention of his Majesty's Government, who will omit no measures which can properly be taken to safeguard British life and property.

Persian Gulf Medal. September 21.

Colonel YATE asked the Secretary of State for India whether the medal rolls of the officers and men of the Royal Indian Marine who took part in the operations for the suppression of the arms traffic in the Persian Gulf during the years 1909 to 1914 had now been completed, with the view to the grant to them of the naval general service medal lately sanctioned by his Majesty in recognition of those services.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN: The Government of India have not yet furnished the rolls of officers and men of the Royal Indian Marine whom they recommend for the medal. The question of eligibility will be determined by the Admiralty on consideration of the information contained in the rolls.

Inroads into Mekran.

Colonel YATE asked the Secretary of State for India if he could give any information as to the inroads into Mekran, in the Baluchistan province of India, by Persian raiders from Persian territory, which were said to have been driven out again by the Mekran Levy Corps; and whether steps would now be taken by the Government of India to increase the strength of the Mekran Levy Corps, with a view to a more adequate protection of the frontier and the due punishment of these Persian raiders.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN: I think the incident to which my hon. and gallant friend refers is an inroad into British Baluchistan by a force of Persian Baluchis from the direction of Bampur at the end of June. The raiders were driven out with heavy loss by the Mekran Levy Corps. Since that date another raid has been threatened, but, as far as I am aware, it has not taken place. The strength of the Mekran Levy Corps was increased last year, and a further increase was sanctioned last month.

Grenades for the Dardanelles.

Lieutenant-Commander WEDGWOOD asked the Under-Secretary for War whether complaints had been received as to a shortage of hand-grenades or trench mortars in the Dardanelles; and whether the remedying of this shortage came under the War Office or the Ministry of Munitions.

Mr. TENNANT said demands had been received from the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Mediterranean Force, from time to time for grenades and trench mortars. For some weeks the supply of grenades had exceeded the demand, but the supply of trench mortars had not reached the number required. More would be sent as soon as they and the requisite ammunition for them were delivered. All these stores were supplied by the Ministry of Munitions on the requisition of the War Office.

Post to Dardanelles. September 22.

Mr. H. SAMUEL, replying to Mr. A. SYKES, said: It is not clear to what extent deficiencies in the postal service to the Dardanelles are due to causes within the control of the Post Office and to what extent they arise from the difficulties with which the naval and military authorities are confronted in transporting the mails from the bases to the front. I am taking steps to review the whole of the existing arrangements, and will make a statement as soon as I am in a position to do so. In answer to a supplementary question, Mr. SAMUEL said he was told that there had been cases of theft from the mails. The inquiry would cover that matter also.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

Out of the medley of conflicting rumours which come to us from Turkey from time to time, one alone seems to be assuming the definite form of fact. Turkey, of all our enemies in this titanic struggle, appears to be suffering most heavily in so far at least as her non-combatants are concerned: the women and children behind the lines and those of her manhood who, standing at the extremes of life, are immune from the call of war. Gradually we are finding a certain consistency in the dispatches which reach Fleet Street from the various correspondents afield; they all point to the peril of Constantinople, which alone among the capitals is languishing under the dreadful strain of siege warfare. At any rate, that is the picture drawn for our comfort by the correspondents aforesaid. As I have hinted before, I am inclined to think it is too rosy (from our point of view). But we shall see. Meanwhile the knot of Balkan affairs remains tied, and a period, we are told, has been put to the possibility of further Turkish resistance. From whatever point we regard it, we are passing through one of the most dramatic phases of the war. And almost equally is it one of the most pathetic. As an admirer of the Turk—the true Turk, not the Germanised variety—I feel a certain amount of sympathy for him as he struggles bravely to save the ashes of the Empire that he was deluded into laying upon the altar of German ambition; as an admirer of Greece with her deathless tradition I find it hard not to pity her in her inaction in the face of wonderful opportunity. I do not meddle in politics, and I am no prophet, yet it seems to me that already the supreme moment of centuries is passing from the fair land of Greece into the limbo of lost opportunities, just as with Turkey it passed with the first shot of war. And: "Of all sad words of tongue or pen, The saddest are these: 'It might have been.'"

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I had already written the above paragraph when I came across a quotation from an article by Dr. Rohrbach, which has reached England through the medium of the Press Association. For the benefit of the uninitiated I may explain that the learned doctor is a German humourist of the most approved type, who is good enough to make public all that is to happen concerning Constantinople, Egypt, and England. His opinions differ from mine and they are penned in a spirit of great and abiding confidence in the ultimate *straffing* of England, and at the hands of the Turks, too. So much is to be done when the German armies have linked hands with Turkey through Serbia, when the English are driven from the banks of the Nile—in fact, when the German millenium of Dr. Rohrbach's imagination arrives, that it seems all my sympathy in the former paragraph was futile. Still, rather than waste a paragraph already in type I'll leave it as it stands, leaving Time to judge between us.

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The Egyptian scribe is at times a picturesque writer, with a natural kink for rhetoric. He can also sum up a political situation with innate acumen. Thus, for instance, the following graphic picture of the precarious tight-rope instability of some of the Balkan States is worthy of a more lasting monument than the leading column of a daily Egyptian paper:—

"It is, perhaps, premature to talk of any of the Balkan States taking sides as yet (says the writer); they are all sitting on the fence, a pastime at which they have all become very proficient of late. Which one loses its balance first, and then whether it falls into the pebbly bottom of the Germanic whirlpool or into the down-lined armchair of the Quadruple Entente remains to be seen."

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Like the rest of us, the archæologists must find it hard indeed to see any good in the War, which has been responsible for the destruction of many precious relics of the past. But occasionally we hear of its leading to interesting discoveries which might never have been made but for its coming. Such, for instance, was that of the discovery of some fine early Greek pottery in the Dardanelles, which filled the heart of at least one French soldier—perhaps he was a bit of an archæologist himself in the piping times of peace—with delight; and such is the find, reported this week of gold and silver coins of the Seventeenth Century, which were unearthed in the forest of Champenaux, near Nancy, by some soldiers who were digging a trench. The treasure was apparently buried during the reign of Louis XIII., and it appears to have been of considerable value. These things lead us to wonder whether amongst our troops in Lower Mesopotamia there happen to be any ardent Assyriologists. If so, they are to be envied; for in their spare moments—if they have any!—they should enjoy unrivalled opportunities of securing really choice *antikas*. Close to the Shatt-el-Hai, which runs from Kut-el-Amara to Nasriyeh, there are such promising hunting grounds as Tello, where De Sarzec dug, Yokha, where, I believe, the Germans have carried on excavations, Surghul, and many another likely mound. And further north there are Sinkereh, Warka, Tel Ede, Fara, Abu Hatab, and Niffer, to say nothing of Hillah itself, the finest site, I suppose, in all Babylonia.

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Far be it from me to suggest that our soldiers should go in for indiscriminate plunder of any of these venerable mounds. But—well, in a flat country such mounds are almost bound to be made use of by the opposing forces and—things will happen! A crater caused by the bursting of a shell might provide some souvenirs of an unique kind, and it would surely be a good deed to remove any interesting relic that was threatened with destruction to a place of safety—the B.M. for preference. Moreover, in digging trenches it would do no harm to "make a job of it." If only I could be given charge of such operations at Niffer, for example, I think I should not be tempted to spare the spade work to the north and north-east of the great Ziggurat, which the Americans had not time to explore. For does not tradition record that somewhere thereabouts there was a "golden boat" which should be worth finding?

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I do not like locusts; in fact, I dislike them almost as much as I dislike scorpions, snakes, and those weird beetles that the people of Busreh call "flying scorpions." I have never suffered any personal injury from them, as I have from other insect pests of the East; but I have seen enough of them and of the harm wrought by them to make me loathe them heartily. And a friend who knows my feeling has been at the pains to send me a cutting from the *Egyptian Gazette* of August 19, which has increased my dislike of the destructive creatures. The cutting referred to contains a description of the harm done by locusts in Palestine this year, and of the fight put up against them by the unhappy agriculturists. Unfortunately, that fight was waged in vain in many parts: the Hauran wheat fields were ravaged completely, according to the account, and elsewhere, though "women, men, and children fought day and night for many weeks on end," they became finally "too weary and tired to drive off the last invasion which broke into their plantations and ravaged everything. All the orange, almond, and olive groves were destroyed, most of the other fruit trees and vineyards, too. . . ."

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It is a pitiable picture, especially to anyone who has ever seen for himself what an invading horde of locusts can do. The writer (who is a resident of Haifa) reports that in two cases the creatures actually killed and partially devoured infants. And this horrible fact lends point to the comparison he institutes between the insects and those other baby-killers the Huns. "It is only after seeing the locust at work," he writes, "that one can have a clear and vivid conception of the German 'organisation.' Just the same discipline and order, just the same blind desire to fill the belly at the cost of whatever expense and suffering to others."

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Painful though the subject certainly is, it is not without a touch of humour—supplied, we need not be surprised to learn, by the Ottoman officials. These gentry were at pains to persuade the Arabs that the locusts had been let loose on the land by French and British warships, which had brought cargoes of them from Egypt for the purpose. After that, the Germans' employment of bees against our troops in East Africa seems quite humane, not to say lacking in imagination, does it not? Another humorous feature of the situation was the storing of the locust eggs gathered by the inhabitants, by order of the Government, and the typically Turkish failures to sterilize them. When in due course the young locusts hatched out, the soldiers who had been stationed on guard over the eggs, to see that nobody stole them—or that no landing parties from the Allies' warships came to their rescue, one supposes!—were quite at a loss how to deal with the young insects, which, being Government property, were commonly left to wander off at their own sweet will. Truly Turkey is still quite Turkish in parts.

CORSAIR.

CENSORSHIP EVASION AT BUSREH.

The Military Governor of Busreh recently issued the following proclamation:—The authorities have reason to know that a practice has been started whereby passengers proceeding by vessels from ports in the occupied territories to India and other countries carry letters for persons who wish to evade the censorship. Such letters are usually carried concealed in the baggage or on the person of the passenger. In some cases as many as 30 letters have been found on one individual. It is to be distinctly understood that the sending or carrying of letters or papers to or from the occupied territories other than through the recognised postal channel is prohibited by the Military Government and that offenders will be severely dealt with. All necessary steps will be taken to stop this practice, and passengers and their baggage will be liable to search on the journey.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

RELIGION AND NATIONALITY IN SERBIA*

Father Velimirovic—one of the foremost present-day writers of Serbia, who has the merit of having modernised the Christian preaching of his country, imparting to it not only deep faith but also philosophical reasoning and literary touches—has paid with an excellent pamphlet, under review, his tribute to the cause of welding the Jugoslav people into one political State. As a monk, he looks on the question from the clerical point of view. "The future Jugoslav State will contain about fifty dioceses, half of them Catholic, and the other Orthodox," he says. Is this, however, the reason for fearing in the future State an eventual dissension among the believers of these two Churches? Categorically, Father Velimirovic answers: "No." The Jugoslav clergy, both Orthodox and Catholic, has shown, through centuries of struggle and bondage, the greatest mutual tolerance and a perfect identity of their aspirations. Many examples quoted by Velimirovic renders his thesis obvious and bring him to the following conclusion:—"The people," he says, in the solemn, rhetorical style of ancient preachers, "who were united in bondage will certainly not be divided in freedom, otherwise freedom would not be better than bondage, but worse. The people who learnt the lesson of love in bondage will surely continue to love in freedom, otherwise freedom would be a worse temptation. The people who learnt tolerance in bondage will not forget to be tolerant in freedom."

A token of the prevailing religious tolerance among Jugoslavs is given by Father Velimirovic when he, an Orthodox monk, dedicates his pamphlet to the memory of a great Catholic bishop, the Jugoslav patriot Strossmayer.

WHY AND WHITHER ?†

The problem of Fate and Free-will is one which will probably continue to agitate the minds of thinkers until the end of time. Many people pass the better part of their lives in the unquestioning acceptance of life as it appears to them, without taking thought of the guiding motives of existence to others. To the author of the book under review the struggle for knowledge begins early in life, and peace is only to be found when the mind has definitely accepted a permanent and unassailable theory. In his English dedication he writes:—

"I remember as a boy being taken to task by my father for failing to do something which he thought I could certainly have done if I had brought to it a little more of will and exertion, and which I even then half-consciously felt I could never have done even had I willed and exerted my utmost. The incident was insignificant enough, and that half-conscious feeling I experienced was only momentary, but insignificant and momentary as the incident and feeling may have been, in them was laid the germ of this book."

In other words, the child's mind was for the moment face to face with the problem to which, grown to manhood, he has subsequently devoted so much thought and interest. Was energy or will power combined sufficient to carry one over the hills of life or was there something that was mightier than both, a nameless obstacle that no will power in the world might remove? Mr. Wadia, half-consciously interested at that time, has devoted much time and study to the question in later days, and the interesting little volume before us is the result of his inquiries.

The first portion of his book is mainly confined to a statement of authoritative opinion—that is to say, they contain the conclusions arrived at of leading thinkers of the past. To a great extent these opinions have been reproduced in the author's own words, and where actual quotations have been made they have been unavoidable. Of the fifth, the last chapter is devoted to an expression of the author's personal opinions, but this is a very long chapter. It might well, indeed, have been sub-divided. Arrived at the definite belief in a fixed and determinate future, the author proceeds to expound his reasons for this belief. We must leave to the reader an examination of his arguments, as a quotation here and there would be valueless. Such a belief is not arrived at by one argument or a dozen; it is the blending together of innumerable evidences that convinces the soul. On the other hand, one of the author's replies to readers who inquire the reason for his belief carries one far on the road towards understanding. "Has he," asks the author, "never seen the stars?" Such, we take it, would be the reply of any dweller in the wide lone spaces of the world where a profound, if only half realised, belief in Fate grips the hearts of the people.

Mr. Wadia has written an interesting book, and he has written it in a style that robs a seemingly heavy subject of its weight.

* "Religion and Nationality in Serbia." By Father Nicholas Velimirovic. With prefatory note by R. W. Seton-Watson, D.Litt. (London: Nisbett and Co., Ltd. 3d.)

† "Fate and Free Will." By Ardaser Sorabjee N. Wadia, M.A. (London and Toronto: J. M. Dent and Sons, Ltd. 4s. 6d. net.)

AN IMPORTANT NEW BOOK ABOUT EGYPT.

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Sometime English Controller-General of Egyptian Customs.

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JOHN LANE: THE BODLEY HEAD, W

NEAR EAST BOOK NOTES.

"The History of Tyre," written by Professor Wallace Fleming, and published by Milford, is a new volume in the Oriental Studies series of Colombia University. It gives the history of the city from its earliest days up to the present times.

"Sumerian Business and Administrative Documents from the Earliest Times to the Dynasty of Agade" is the title of a volume recently issued by the University of Pennsylvania. It is from the pen of Mr. George Barton, and contains numerous plates.

A new publication of the British Museum is Part III. (Sections VIII. and IX.) of the Catalogue of the Hebrew and Samaritan Manuscripts in the Museum. It deals with miscellaneous manuscripts and charters, and is edited by the Rev. G. Margoliouth.

The new edition of Sir William Muir's "The Caliphate, its Rise, Decline, and Fall," which, as announced in these columns last week, has been published by Mr. J. Grant, Edinburgh, follows the system of transliteration adopted by the Royal Asiatic Society.

The Anglo-Hellenic League has published pamphlet No. 22 of its series of informative articles. It is devoted to an analysis of the "Greeks in Asia Minor," and gives some valuable particulars concerning this vexed question. Disagreements, economic and other, between Moslems and Greeks are duly emphasised.

The Faith Press announces for publication to-morrow "Hellenism in England: A Short History of the Greek People in this Country, from the Earliest to the Present Day." The book which is published at 2s. 6d. net, is written by Theodore E. Dowling, D.D., sometime Archdeacon in Syria, and Edwin W. Fletcher, F.S.A.Scot., Honorary Secretary of the St. Paul's Ecclesiological Society, and H.E. the Greek Minister, M. Gennadius, contributes an Introduction. There are seventeen illustrations.

BOOK RECEIVED.

Geographical Aspects of Balkan Problems. By Marion I. Newbiggin. With a coloured map of South-Eastern Europe and sketch maps. (Constable, London. 7s. 6d. net.)

MANCHESTER ARMENIANS' APPEAL.

On Monday a deputation of Armenians residing in Manchester waited on the Lord Mayor of that city in order to enlist his help for their countrymen in Turkey. Murder and outrage were, they said, the lot of multitudes of their people in the Turkish dominions. Great numbers of Armenians have had to fly for refuge into Russian territory. In these circumstances the Armenians in Manchester wished to appeal to the Manchester public to help them in devising means for the relief of their fellow-countrymen. "We are fighting for the Allies," one of the speakers said, "and that is the only reason why our people are being murdered and outraged by the Turks."

The Lord Mayor said he would do what he could to bring the appeal of the deputation before the Manchester public. The position was fraught with difficulty, but whatever he could do to alleviate the situation of the unfortunate Armenians would be gladly done.

THE PUBLISHER

would be obliged if Readers would inform him if they experience any difficulty in obtaining copies of the paper.

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1915. Sept.	1915. Sept.		1333. Julkada.	5676. Tisri.
24	11	Friday	15	16
25	12	Saturday.....	16	17
26	13	Sunday	17	18
27	14	Monday	18	19
28	15	Tuesday	19	20
29	16	Wednesday	20	21
30	17	Thursday	21	22

Sunday is the birthday of the King of Denmark.

Prince Paul of Serbia has left London for Berwick.

Lady Lang has returned to town for the winter months.

H.H. Prince Said Halim is leaving England shortly on a tour.

Our Bucharest Correspondent reports that H. M. Queen Marie has not, as previously stated, taken up regular residence at Sinaia this year, but has only been there occasionally, for a day or two at a time. Her Majesty has, apart from visiting Constantza for some few days, been making excursions to parts of Roumania little known to her, and recently returned from a journey which she made accompanied by her daughters and M. B. Mortzun, Minister of the Interior, in the Valley of the Bistritza, where she visited several ancient monasteries. The journey down part of the Bistritza valley was performed by the royal party on one of the immense timber rafts.

Sir Mark Sykes, M.P., left Viceregal Lodge, Simla, on August 23.

The Venerable Archdeacon Ward and Mrs. Ward left Alexandria on the 9th inst., and proceeded to Port Said to embark on the P. and O. liner Persia for home.

On the previous Saturday some of the ladies of St Mark's congregation assembled to bid good-bye to Mrs. Ward, to offer her their best wishes for the future, and to present her with an Egyptian necklace, which had been subscribed for by her many friends. The necklace, which is a copy of the "Uselch" painted on the mummy cases of ladies of rank in Ancient Egypt, was presented by Mrs. Critchley on behalf of the subscribers; and Miss Dodd, who had acted as secretary, also spoke of the pleasure of the donors in making the gift and of their warm appreciation of Mrs. Ward's work in the church and of her kindness to its members.

The Right Rev. H. McC. E. Price, Bishop in Fuh-Kien, South China, who, as recorded in these columns last week, is visiting Egypt for the purpose of performing the ceremony of confirmation in that country, has now undertaken the duties of a Chaplain to the Forces in the Dardanelles for a year.

The Rev. L. G. P. and Mrs. Fry have returned to Alexandria from England, and are at present staying at 7, Rue Adib, in the flat formerly occupied by Archdeacon Ward.

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Lieutenant H. E. Poynter, A.S.C., has been transferred to No. 2 Base Supply Depot, Portishead, Somerset, where he has been joined by Mrs. Poynter.

Mr. C. E. Heathcote-Smith is now serving as H.B.M. Vice-Consul at Mytilene.

We are informed that Lieutenant H. A. D. Hoyland has been appointed H.B.M. Acting Vice-Consul for Thasos.

Lieutenant Summers, R.N.V.R., who left Constantinople on the outbreak of war, is now serving in the Eastern Mediterranean Squadron.

Our Special Correspondent in Athens writes (September 13):—

Mr. Charles Ferguson, of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, who arrived in Constantinople some time ago from Urfa, to which place he had been exiled from Aleppo, has now been sent to Tchorum, on the grounds that his coming to Constantinople had been a mistake.

The marriage took place on Wednesday of last week, at the Chapel Royal, Savoy, between Nadine, younger daughter of the late Sir Reginald Beauchamp, Bart., of Longley Park, Norwich, granddaughter of the fifth Earl of Roden, and George Bettesworth Piggott, formerly a Judge of his Majesty's Supreme Court for the Ottoman Dominions, son of Mr. Fraser Piggott, of Fitz Hall, near Midhurst. The bride was given away by her brother-in-law, Major Barker-Hahlo. Lady Dorothy Walpole was to have attended as bridesmaid, but was prevented at the last moment through the death of a near relative. Major Bradshaw, Queen's Bays, acted as best man. On account of the bride's uncle, Colonel Sir Horace Beauchamp, Bart, C.B., being reported missing at the Dardanelles, the wedding was very quiet.

The Rev. H. C. Robins, chaplain, Khartoum, was married to Miss Dorothy Lloyd, daughter of the late S. Zachary Lloyd, of Areley Hall, Stourport, Worcestershire, at St. Bartholomew's Church, Areley Kings, on September 16. The marriage was performed by the Rev. Canon B. K. Cunningham, Warden of the Bishop's Hostel, Farnham, assisted by the Rev. D. Vaudrey, rector of the parish. The bride wore a dress of white charmeuse veiled with old family lace, and was attended by three of her little nieces, and one of the bridegroom's, as bridesmaids, and was given away by her eldest brother, Mr. F. Z. Lloyd. The best man was the Rev. E. S. G. Wickham, of Aldershot. After the service a reception was held at Areley Hall by Mr. and Mrs. F. Z. Lloyd, and the bride and bridegroom left for Little Stretton, where the honeymoon is being spent. They will sail for Egypt towards the end of October, as, at the request of Bishop Gwynne, who is still at the front as Deputy Chaplain General, Mr. Robins will continue his chaplaincy work at Khartoum for another twelve months.

Our Bucharest Correspondent, writing under date of September 1, says:—

M. Marinkovitch, the Serbian Minister, accompanied by Mme. Marinkovitch, has left on a few days' leave, and M. Rakitch will be in charge during his absence.

Colonel Langlois, the French Military Attaché at Petrograd, has arrived at Bucharest.

M. Mihaly, leader of the National Roumanian party in Transylvania, has arrived at Bucharest, and has been received by Dr. Aughelesco, Minister of Public Works.

M. Titus Maioresco, the late Prime Minister, who has been abroad for some weeks, is expected back shortly in Roumania.

Dr. V. H. Rutherford has recently returned from a tour of inspection of the Wounded Allies' Relief Committee's hospitals in Serbia and Montenegro. He says that to make the W.A.R.C. hospital the very best in Kragujevatz, if not in the whole of Serbia, an X-ray apparatus is required. The Committee appeals to the public for donations towards the cost of the apparatus and of the radiographer. Contributions should be sent to the hon. treasurer, Mr. T. O. Roberts, manager, London County and Westminster Bank, 217, Strand.

Captain John Sweetland Dallas, who died of wounds in the hospital at Alexandria on September 12, was the only son of Mr. William Liscombe Dallas, of Simla, India, I.C.S., retired, and was born at Simla in 1885. Educated at Blundell's, Tiverton, he proceeded thence to Sandhurst with a view to joining the Indian Army, though his original intention and wish had been to enter the Royal Engineers. He was appointed second lieutenant (unattached) in January, 1905, and joined the Indian Army in March, 1906, becoming a lieutenant in the 6th Gurkhas. On the outbreak of the present war he accompanied his regiment to Egypt, where he first saw active service in the defence of the Suez Canal; but was chiefly occupied in the duties of musketry instructor to some of the colonial troops in Egypt. Early in the year he went with his regiment to the Dardanelles, and very shortly afterwards was severely wounded and was sent to hospital in Alexandria. He made a rapid and complete recovery and on June 28 was passed as again fit for duty. He returned at once to the front and very shortly afterwards was dangerously wounded in the head. He was sent back to Alexandria, where it was found that one eye was destroyed and the brain seriously injured. For a short time hopes were entertained of his recovery, but almost without regaining consciousness he died of his wounds.

A Dardanelles Day is being organised by the Edridge Habitation of the Primrose League for November 6. Lady Ian Hamilton, who is attending at Thornton Heath Baths Hall to receive the comforts, has written: "Our men will need constant supplies of warm things and cigarettes for the winter, and I shall be glad to have plenty to send to Gallipoli."

A cablegram reached the Church Missionary House from Persia on September 11, conveying the information that all the mission staff had withdrawn from Ispahan to Ahwaz. It is gathered from the message that the workers and the work at Yezd and Kerman are, for the time being, safe, at least.

The death has occurred, at his residence, Stoke Knoll, Bishopstoke, of Major-General H. G. Robinson, late Bombay Staff Corps, who went through the Crimean War, and acted for some time as Deputy Assistant Quartermaster-General of the Cavalry Turkish Contingent, for which he received the fourth class of the Order of the Medjidieh and the Turkish Medal.

". . . You remember Captain Parker, of Jerusalem fame. I came across his grave in —— wood, surrounded on every side by the extreme ravages of war. Even the little cross exhibited bullet holes, and the trees round about were leafless, standing torn and bruised, broken and disfigured, through the fierce shell fire. Yet, in spite of the utter desolation of the scene, the spot somehow suggested peace. Captain Parker was serving with the 8th Rifle Brigade. . . ."

This mention of Captain the Hon. M. Parker (which is extracted from a private letter received by a correspondent) will recall to readers of THE NEAR EAST a side of his connection with Jerusalem. The manner in which the famous and mysterious "excavations" in Siloam came to an abrupt end was at the time the subject of much keen and acrimonious discussion, in which the whole matter blazed up and was forgotten. But not so soon was Captain Parker forgotten by the natives in his employ. He had to the full the Englishman's rare knack of ruling the Eastern with understanding, and none of those who worked under him as interpreters, clerks, or for the rough labour, ever spoke of him save with liking and affection. During a period when unusually heavy snowstorms had made it necessary to close the work Captain Parker relieved the distress of the Siloam villagers, himself riding out to see that their wives and families were cared for, and even administering a little simple medical help when necessary. His native clerks, one and all, spoke of his unvarying patience in teaching and superintending their work; their regret when he left was genuine. Captain Parker was a familiar figure to the congregation at St. George's Cathedral, and was generally to be seen at the choral evensong on Sunday afternoons.

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OBITUARY.

THE REV. ALEXANDER VAN MILLINGEN, D.D.

The following appreciation of the late Prof. van Millingen reached us last week, too late for publication. It will, however, be read with interest by many friends and admirers of the Professor:—

A large number of friends, who are now in England, will hear with regret of the death of Dr. Alexander van Millingen. He was professor of history at Robert College, and the writer of this notice was informed by the deceased only three or four weeks ago that he had insisted upon resigning his post because of failing health. His services there were greatly valued both by the late Dr. Washburn and by Dr. Gates, both of whom had urged him to continue to hold the office, though unable to lecture. He was the son of Dr. Julius van Millingen, who attended Lord Byron on his death-bed. He was twice married, his first wife being an American lady. The day before his death, the 14th inst., was the twentieth anniversary of his marriage to Miss Hope Mackenzie, granddaughter of Mr. Mackenzie, the author of "The Man of Feeling," and a friend of Sir Walter Scott.

During the last quarter of a century, Dr. van Millingen was largely occupied with the archæology of Constantinople, and his two contributions to the literature on the subject will continue to be standard works as long as people take interest in the history of that city. The first is a description of the walls of the city, and the second of the Christian churches within it and of the remains of them which still exist. Both are works of genuine and careful research, which will always be valuable to students. The high appreciation in which he was held by the faculty of Robert College was always gratifying to the British community in Constantinople, because, though he had been in America, and was associated with Americans in his life's work, he always remained a Briton in spirit and sentiment. His elder son, Charles, has already received a commission in H.M.'s Army. The doctor's family was of Dutch origin, and came to England with William III. His loss to the British community in the Near East has come at a particularly trying time. Everyone will sympathize with the members of his family, and especially with his widow, who has long been endeared to all sections of British and American residents in Constantinople.

E. P.

SERGEANT JOHN EDMUND ROBINSON.

A correspondent writes:—

The news of Mr. J. E. Robinson's death at Gallipoli on August 21 (as reported in the *Daily Telegraph* of September 7) will come as a shock to those who knew him at Jerusalem. He was a Yorkshireman, and was for three or four years Science Master at the C.M.S. College at Jerusalem. Mr. Robinson had gifts above the average. He was extremely clever in his own work, and his pupils liked him well and enjoyed his vivacious lessons; but it is his music that will be long remembered by all who had the delight of listening to him. He had a tenor voice of unusual purity and feeling, and was also a good violinist. He was full of music to his finger tips, and had the impressionable and sensitive temperament that goes with that talent, but nothing was able to chill his interest in things, nor his real kindness of heart. Mr. Robinson enlisted at the beginning of the war in the (Duke of Wellington's) West Riding of Yorkshire Regiment. He threw himself heart and soul into his new life, and one of his officers spoke of him to a friend as "one of our most promising men." His promotion was quick, for he was a sergeant at the time of his death. He was twenty-five years of age. Mr. Robinson always gave one the impression of being so brimful of life, so eager, friendly, and impulsive, that it is hard to reconcile the memory of him with the news that has just come. It is safe to say that the tidings of his death will awake in his Jerusalem friends many kind and friendly memories, and not one that is otherwise.

MR. DAVID REES.

We greatly regret to have to report the death of Mr. David Rees, Chief Agent of Reuter's Telegraph Company in Egypt and the Sudan. The immediate cause of death was pneumonia, but Mr. Rees had been in indifferent health for about twelve months, having been seized with a heart attack in September of last year. He had only recently returned to Cairo from Alexandria, where he had taken a month's holiday, when he was attacked by the illness to which he succumbed.

Mr. Rees will be greatly missed in Cairo, where he had resided for over thirty years, having gone to Egypt in 1884, to take up the appointment that he still held at his death. He was born in 1845, and was educated at Clifton and Cambridge. His wife was a daughter of M. Leysen, a distinguished Belgian engineer, and the deepest sympathy will be felt for her and for his son and two daughters in their bereavement. Mr. Rees was a keen fisherman, and had been accustomed to spend a considerable portion of his annual leave among the streams of the Austrian Alps, but this year he did not leave Egypt at all, owing to the war. Mr. Rees' long residence in Egypt, combined with the fact that he was personally acquainted with all the leading figures of its cosmopolitan society, made him an exceedingly interesting man to meet, and with him Cairo has lost one of the few members of the British community who knew Egypt in the days of the old *régime*, before its regeneration.

Sir Reginald Wingate was one of the first to send a telegram of condolence upon hearing of Mr. Rees' death, and expressions of sympathy have reached the family from all parts of the world. The funeral took place at the old English Cemetery, Cairo, and was attended by his wife and two daughters (the elder of whom married Mr. MacLoughlin some time ago) as chief mourners. Sir Reginald Wingate was represented by Miralai Pearson Bey, and the High Commissioner by Mr. Alban. Among others present were Mme. Carton de Wiart, Miss James, Harvey Pasha, Sir John Rogers, Major Spong, Major Liddel, Dr. Murison, Dr. Keatinge, Maitre Merzbach, Messrs. Peckitt, Campbell, Grainger-Stewart, G. C. and W. B. Delany, and Aspinall.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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

MARRIAGES.

CLAUDIUS—RICKARD.—On September 22, at Christ Church, Westminster, by the Right Rev. Rennie McInnes, Bishop in Jerusalem, assisted by the Rev. F. K. Aglionby, Salid Claudius, Inspector-General of the Post Office in Egypt, to Marcia Rickard. Mr. and Mrs. Claudius will be proceeding to Holy Rood, Bulkeley, Alexandria, towards the end of October.

ROBINS—LLOYD.—On September 16, at S. Bartholomew's Church, Areley Kings, by the Rev. Canon B. K. Cunningham, assisted by the Rev. D. Vaudrey, rector of the parish, the Rev. Henry Charles Robins, Chaplain, Khartoum, to Dorothy, daughter of the late S. Zachary Lloyd, of Areley Hall, Stourport.

DEATH.

PAPANTONOPOULOS.—On September 21, at 35, Chepstow Place, W., Soterios Papantonopoulos, in his 83rd year. Funeral service at St. Sofia's Church, Bayswater, on Saturday, at 10.15.

TO OFFICERS leaving for War Zone Special Terms. ANY LANGUAGE under the sun TAUGHT, TRANSLATED, TYPEWRITTEN and DUPLICATED on machines in shortest periods.—Apply or write, The British Egyptian Syndicate, 90, Bishopsgate, E.C. Wire, "ABDELMALEK, London." 'Phone, 2947 London Wall.

EGYPT and the SOUDAN.—AGENCIES WANTED, by a gentleman of many years' residence in Egypt, and now on a visit to this country, for articles of general demand. Reasonable terms would be accepted.—Address Z.J., care of THE NEAR EAST Devonshire Square, London.

CAPTAIN ARTHUR CHARLES DAVIES, 6th BATTALION ROYAL WELSH FUSILIERS, Reported WOUNDED and MISSING on August 10 at the DARDANELLES.—Any INFORMATION will be gratefully received by his Wife, Mrs. Arthur Davies, Treffos, Menai Bridge, Anglesey.

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1915.

POLITICAL PARTIES IN BULGARIA.

Recent indications of distinctly Germanophil tendencies in the Bulgarian Government have led to widespread agitation amongst the people, and as this agitation has taken in the first place the form of a demand on the part of the Opposition leaders for the immediate convocation of the Sobranje, it may be interesting to consider the condition of parliamentary parties in that assembly. The Sobranje consists of 244 members, of whom 128 have been until recently classed as supporters of the Government and 116 as belonging to the Opposition. But neither the Government majority nor the Opposition minority has ever been at all homogeneous. The Government majority has been made up of Liberals, under the immediate leadership of the Prime Minister, M. Radoslavoff, of National-Liberals, or Stambolovists, whose leader was M. Gennadieff, and of Young Liberals who followed M. Tontcheff, the Minister of Finance, reputed to be the most devoted adherent of Germany. These three groups, however, would not have commanded an absolute majority in the Sobranje had they not been able to rely on the votes of the Mohammedan members, who to the number of 16 represent Turkish constituencies in the newly acquired territory in Thrace as well as in the old Turkish districts of Northern Bulgaria.

Of the Opposition groups the most important numerically, and perhaps the most influential in the country, are the Agrarians, or Agriculturists, numbering 50, who represent almost exclusively the peasant electorates which are the backbone of the country. The Democrats only muster 20; but their leader, M. Malinoff, has been Prime Minister in his day, and his party includes such prominent men as M. Takeff and M. Laptcheeff, who have played important parts in Bulgarian public life. Another group which certainly exercises an influence in the country quite out of proportion to its parliamentary representation is the Nationalist party, which has only nine members, but is led by the former Prime Minister, M. Ivan Gueshoff, than whom no Bulgarian politician enjoys greater respect both as a veteran statesman and as a man of unblemished reputation. M. Daneff has only two followers, who call themselves Liberal-Progressists, and there is, besides a small Radical group of five, a Socialist party of 21 divided into two sections, known respectively as "broad" and "narrow."

The differences, often very microscopic, in regard to domestic politics which divide these groups both on the Government and the Opposition benches, are not of much interest at the present moment. Far more important is their attitude in regard to international politics. Since M. Gennadieff openly threw his influence into the scales in favour of intervention on the side of the Entente Powers, the National-Liberal or Stambolovist party, which was regarded as irreconcilably hostile to Russia, has been split up into two rival factions, and the followers of M. Gennadieff claim to be more numerous than those who have stuck to M. Petkoff, the leader of the Germanophil—or, at any rate, of the neutralist—wing. They are certainly sufficiently numerous to jeopardise the Government's majority on any straight issue which would commit Bulgaria to the Germanic cause, and they might not improbably recruit some adherents amongst the other groups upon which M. Radoslavoff relies. More important still is the fact that they include many active Macedonians. On the Opposition side M. Gueshoff, M. Malinoff and M. Daneff are pronounced supporters of the Entente, and could depend upon every one of their followers to oppose any departure from neutrality in favour of Germany. Of the Socialists, the larger number are also friendly to the Entente, whilst the "narrow" minority, which is, above all, pacifist, would on principle oppose co-operation with the Central Powers. The Agrarian party represented perhaps most truly of all the feeling of the bulk of the Bulgarian peasantry, which, at the beginning of the European War, was one of lassitude and discouragement resulting from the last Balkan war, but for many months past its attitude has been changing considerably. It was originally all for neutrality, but it has been steadily moving towards intervention on the side of the Allies.

It will be seen from the above that M. Radoslavoff's reluctance to convoke the Sobranje is quite intelligible, if he is contemplating a policy of closer co-operation with Germany. His majority would in that case certainly fall to pieces, and he could not look for support from any of the Opposition groups who, in so far as they do not actually advocate co-operation with the Entente Powers, are, at any rate, staunch neutralists. Nor could he hope to retain power by forming a coalition cabinet except by displacing some of his Germanophil colleagues and giving their portfolios to Opposition leaders, who would in no circumstances sanction any action which would bring Bulgaria into collision with the Entente Powers. It must not, however, be forgotten that a state of siege exists all over Bulgaria, and that with the help of an influential military coterie who, like King Ferdinand, have absolute faith in the ultimate triumph of Germany, a dissolution of the Sobranje, though in present circumstances it would resemble a *coup d'état*, might be attempted and perhaps even carried through successfully, if M. Radoslavoff's Government has already committed itself more deeply to the German cause than it has yet admitted. In view of the mobilization now ordered, it is difficult to avoid the conclusion that something in the nature of a *coup d'état* has commended itself to King Ferdinand and his advisers. Whether they will be in a position to commit the country to the policy to which the majority is opposed only the future can show. It is not too late to express the hope that Bulgaria will not repeat the mistake of 1913, but will allow herself to be warned in time, and will adopt the only course of action consonant with her interests.

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THE GATE OF PERSIA.

BY JOHN CLIVE ROOME.

British troops have occupied Bushire. A file of one-storied mud houses with quaint flat roofs and zig-zag lanes is Bushire, the first seaport of Persia and the despair of the traveller's dreams. Here there are no gardens of roses, no gazelle-eyed houris of the poet's ecstasy, no taverns where Hafiz caroused or Omar revelled; this is no land of milk and honey. Bushire is the Gate of Persia, but it is not Persia—not the Persia of song and story. It is the market-place of the subjects of the Shah; it is a seaport, but it has no harbour.

Out in the distance, seawards, may be seen in normal times one or two steamers, British, Russian or German—carriers of trade; probably a light cruiser of the Royal Indian Marine, symbolic of Britain's rôle as the policeman of the Persian Gulf, and the little gunboat which singly figures in official documents as the navy of the Shah. Shallow reaches of water intervene between the messengers of commerce and Bushire; and the native raft, with its picturesque, ragged, half-Arab, half-Persian crew, is the only link between the old world of Persia and the new.

The traveller looks at the woe-begone town in the desert and wonders if it is Persia—the Persia of Hafiz. No sooner has he set foot on Persian soil than a seedy-looking individual claims to represent to him the Imperial Government of Persia and asks for his passport. This formality over, the Belgian Customs officer begins to search his luggage for contraband, while the Arab smuggler elsewhere is busy arranging the details of a small expedition which would convey to the Persian traders in the bazaars India tea, rice, and sugar duty-free. By the time the Belgian Customs officer has bidden the traveller adieu an army of ragged muleteers and donkey-boys has gathered outside the Customs office, and the traveller gets his first glimpse into the character of the Persians.

There is what appears to him an interminable haggling over the charges of the donkey-boy, and when the caravan eventually decides to start on its way, the donkey desires to have the last argument.

"Hoon-oon-oon," groans the donkey-boy, and the simple traveller turns round to see what has caused the Arab to emit that mournful wail; but the groan has an electric effect on the donkey's tympanum, and the obstinate creature takes a sudden lurch forward, depositing his burden in an undignified position on the ground. Solemnly, without even a suspicion of a smile, the donkey-boy assists the traveller to his feet. Another groan and the donkey begins to amble up the pathway skirting the town. But, like the Persian himself, his donkey is addicted to philosophic reflection: it cannot go ten yards without halting for any period from a minute to an hour to think over the mystery of this vale of tears. After an experience of a donkey-ride in Persia, one begins to realise why Persians attach so little value to time.

Once at the confines of Bushire proper, the donkey has a stretch of sandy waste to traverse, and, true to its Persian instincts, it cannot do so without pondering over the why and wherefore of life. Beyond the sandy stretch of land lie the bungalows of the European residents of Bushire and of the Persian *élite*. There is also a promenade by the sea along which are situated the Consulates. The British Consulate, however, adjoins the town itself. Beyond the desert, the first building on the promenade is the Russian Consulate, and a short distance away is the German Consulate. The Europeans in Bushire are mostly engaged in trade or are employed in the Consulates. The town itself presents a puzzling maze of narrow, winding, filthy lanes with the houses on either side tumbling over each other. Few women are seen about in the streets, and those who do venture out are shrouded from head to foot in a thick black veil. The bazaars, with their two rows of dark and dismal shops, crammed with cheap Manchester, Birmingham, and German goods, emit the hundred odours of the East.

One of the most popular institutions of the town is the hospital maintained by the British Consulate. The medical officer belongs to the Indian Medical Service. In other ways also it is the influence of the British officers sent out by the Government of India that has made Bushire what it is to-day. To the small detachment of Indian soldiers attached to the British Consulate has fallen the task on many occasions of maintaining peace in Bushire, and to the Royal Indian Marine has been assigned the work of policing the Persian Gulf.

Powerless as is the Persian Government itself in exerting any influence over the unruly tribesmen of Southern Persia, it is only the fear of British reprisals that keeps them in check. In spite of the moral influence of Britain, the tribesmen do, now and then, attack Bushire; but the sight of a British cruiser soon restores them to sanity, and they take to their heels. They then take advantage of Britain's unwillingness to interfere in the internal affairs of their country to wreak their vengeance on the Persian traders who use the roads, by wholesale plundering of caravans. Trade suffers, and British merchants also sustain heavy losses.

Since the establishment of the new régime in Persia, insecurity of trade routes has become a normal condition of trade in Southern Persia. The tribesmen have shown themselves absolutely unamenable to discipline. They are slaves of "baksheesh," and although they own allegiance to their chiefs, a little persuasion backed up by gold can easily seduce them even from their loyalty to their chiefs. Moreover, besides the two principal tribes in Southern Persia who have found it impossible to live peacefully together, there are numerous irresponsible bands of vagabonds infesting the country. They acknowledge the authority neither of the Shah nor of any chief, but only of the man who hires their services. It is chiefly due to the excesses committed by these irresponsible tribesmen, at the instigation of the Germans, that it has been found expedient to send British troops to Bushire. This is by no means the first occasion that British troops have been landed at the port to restore peace and order, but the troops have always been withdrawn after they have accomplished their task. The Persian soldiery, innocent of drill and discipline as it is, is worthless as a police force, and where dealing with unruly tribesmen is concerned it believes in discretion being the better part of valour. There is a Persian Governor of Bushire, a perfect pattern of a Persian nobleman, who, by the way, is also the High Admiral of the Persian Navy, but his authority does not extend beyond his own threshold. Leaving aside the tribesmen of the *dasht*, even the Persian merchants in Bushire look upon the King of Kings of Teheran as only a relic of an old institution, and the Mejliss, or Persian Parliament, as the plaything of the populace.

BALKAN ETHNOGRAPHY AND THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—Allow me to relieve the mind of your correspondent, "C. R.," and incidentally of Mr. Crauford Price, who had sent a similar complaint to the *Morning Post*.

The fact that there was to be a discussion on the ethnography of the Balkan races had been public property for months and was well known to those interested in the work of the British Association. Professor Elliot-Smith's communication was of a very general nature on the origins and affinities of these races. My own object was to lay before the Anthropological section a map illustrating the extension of the Serbo-Croat and Slovene peoples on the Adriatic and the Drave. It had nothing to do with Macedonia, and was based on personal observations throughout the region in question. My whole statement was a plea for the claims of Serbian nationalities to the North and West.

Professor Elliot-Smith regarded the Macedonian Slavs as more closely allied to the Bulgars than to the Slavs. In discussing his paper I mentioned the result of my own observations, made *sine ira et studio*, years ago, before the outbreak of the recent troubles, and lately recorded in your columns. I was able to substantiate the fact that, except at least on the Upper Vardar, the Macedonian Slavs used the article after the noun, which itself is regarded as a Bulgarian shibboleth; that they called themselves Bulgars, and had from the earliest Middle Ages been called Bulgars by the Greeks. No competent authority can deny these statements.

As to the vexed question of the Southern boundaries of Slav and Greek, nothing, I think, was said by any speaker—certainly not by myself—that could arouse Greek susceptibilities. No prudent man, who bears in mind the shifting and partial extermination of populations during the recent internecine struggles in that unhappy province, would wish under present circumstances to dogmatise on this question.

The scientific discussion of questions of Balkan ethnography and the record of neutral observers were themselves a quite legitimate subject for the consideration of the Anthropological Section of the Association.

Let me add that the complaint made by these critics that the Greek and Serbian Legations were not specially notified of the forthcoming discussion is singularly beside the mark. As the matter had been publicly announced months before, anyone interested was at liberty to attend the discussion. But it is hard to believe that the participation of persons, who, both by their nationality and their official position, were bound to take an *ex parte* view, would have promoted a dispassionate consideration of the questions at issue.—I am, etc.,

ARTHUR EVANS.

Youlbury, Berks, September 18, 1915.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Balkan Situation.

In the *Westminster Gazette* (September 20), Mr. H. Charles Woods has an interesting résumé of the Balkan situation. He insists that—

The first and primary condition necessary to insure the creation of this Balkan League, and therefore to enable the present neutrals to realise their national aspirations, is that Bulgaria should be provided with those concessions or compensations for which her people have lived since the signature of the disastrous Treaty of Bucharest on August 7, 1913.

Roumania has already, he thinks, recognised that her interests lie on the side of the Allies. It is quite an open question whether the concessions that she would be willing to make to Bulgaria would amount to the whole of the territory taken from the latter country at the time of the second Balkan war, but Mr. Woods continues:—

But in any case, provided she is assured of a good strategic frontier on the south of the Dobrudja, any sacrifices which Roumania may make there would be far more than repaid by the fact that she would thus now undoubtedly secure a free hand to conquer the districts of Austria and Hungary which contain a Rumane population estimated to number nearly four million souls.

Serbia, in making the sacrifices necessary to securing a united Balkan front in opposition to the Central Empires, would be "amply repaid by the acquisition of various Slav areas situated on the west and by the permanent possession of such an outlet upon the Adriatic that the little kingdom will be no longer dependent for her export trade upon the goodwill of neighbours whose interests can seldom be the same as hers." Mr. Woods regards Greece as an uncertain quantity at the present moment, although he looks to M. Venizelos to extricate his country from the grip of those who still consider that the Central Powers may win, and who are, therefore, anxious to maintain their neutrality to the end.

The Serbo-Bulgarian Situation.

In the *British Review* (September), Mr. A. H. E. Taylor continues his series of articles on the Balkans and the War. His article in this number is devoted to the Serbo-Bulgarian situation. In the beginning of his article he says that "It is natural that many should be urging upon our gallant Balkan ally the necessity of meeting Bulgarian demands in the general interest, yet the essential questions at issue are largely misunderstood, partly owing, perhaps, to the prevalence of a strong pro-Bulgar sentiment and partly to a misapprehension of the circumstances attending both the conclusion and rupture of the Serbo-Bulgarian Treaty of 1912." He then proceeds to a brief examination of the treaty, its origin and aims, and of the events leading up to the second Balkan war. In order to show the origin of Balkan rivalries Mr. Taylor goes back to the time prior to 1870, when the Exarchist Church was formed and conditions began to change.

The original sphere of the operations of this body, which, it must be remembered always, differs in no matter of doctrine, ritual, or religious observance from the Patriarchist Church, was in Bulgaria proper. Its operations were gradually extended to Macedonia, where it became a Bulgarising agency. The Serbs of the Principality had their own autocephalous church in communion with the Patriarch, and this body was unable to send a mission into Macedonia without committing an act of schism. The result was that the Exarchist Church had matters all its own way, since the only method by which the Slavs could obtain the services of a Slav clergy was by adhesion to the Exarchist body.

The necessity of obtaining a port on the Adriatic was the chief reason that led Serbia into the signing of the agreement of 1912, and according to Mr. Taylor the Balkan States desired no disclosure of the fact that they intended a root and branch settlement of the Balkan question, because they feared that in doing so they might alarm Europe, and they were thus forced by the jealousies of the Powers to conceal their plans. Coming down to the time when the first peace negotiations between the Allies and Turkey were broken off, the writer says:—

The negotiations had been broken off on the question of Adrianople at the demand of Bulgaria, though, in fact, the great Powers had signified that they would themselves see to it that the town should pass into Bulgarian hands. The other allies had obtained all that they required, and there was no mention in the treaty, implicit or explicit, of Adrianople or Thrace, both of which by race are predominantly Greco-Turkish, yet they loyally continued the war. The action of Bulgaria appears to be the more self-willed as she now declares that Thrace is of only secondary interest to her and not worth bothering about. If that attitude represents her real opinion, then her action in 1913 becomes almost incredibly foolish.

The following quotation refers to the situation as it stood when Russia had informed Serbia that she could give no support at that juncture:—

It has been suggested that Serbia did not at this juncture demand an alteration in the Macedonian terms of the treaty. I am in a position to set that right. Serbia replied that she was sending forward two divisions, 50,000 men, with practically the whole of her siege artillery, but in view of the altered circumstances must demand compensation. This compensation, of course, could only be had in Macedonia. Bulgaria tacitly accepted the aid, but made no reply to the note. The demand was not, as has been represented, for compensation for aid given at Adrianople.

The writer's sympathies seem to be entirely with Serbia regarding the incidents which led up to the second Balkan war. In coming down to the present time he says:—

The danger lies precisely in the attitude that declares that Bulgaria cannot "permit" a greater Greece. What is required is a sense of realities and an honest attempt to arrive at a practicable agreement. The dangers to Bulgarian aspirations of an intransigeant attitude should be manifest, and it is false friendship not to point them out. At the moment of writing, Bulgarian arrogance is increasing to a point that would be ludicrous did it not contain the seeds of tragedy.

After analysing the reasons which are presumably holding Bulgaria from action now, Mr. Taylor concludes:—

But Bulgaria must seize the opportunities that present themselves while there is yet time, or her disillusionment will be great and may be final. The language recently held to Serbia by several writers is altogether deplorable, and the idea of coercing a superbly brave ally in our own interests is little less than iniquitous. To requite her services by forcing her to yield in matters vitally affecting her future and even her real independence in response to the blackmailing demands of Bulgaria—who would doubtless be as false and hostile in the future as in the past—would be an act worthy of our foes. No such reward should be given to the cynical *realismus* openly avowed by the Bulgarian premier.

Germany and Turkey.

The Military Correspondent of the *Outlook* (September 18), in a review of the situation, adopts a most optimistic tone regarding the progress of events at the Dardanelles, and after commenting upon the various theories which have appeared recently from time to time regarding the possibilities of a speedy end to the campaign, writes:—

Be that as it may, of one thing we may now rest confident: whichever the Germans may favour of their various alleged plans for conveying assistance to Turkey, there is no longer the slightest prospect of their succour arriving in time. Had they attempted the crossing of the north-eastern corner of Serbia and secured the co-operation of Bulgaria, they would have ruined the latter country, but they might have accomplished their object within the limits imposed by transport difficulties, but, however, efficiently organised, that operation would have needed time that is no longer available.

Armenia.

According to the Paris correspondent of the *Standard* (September 20), who quotes from information gathered after patient research by the *Temps* and other papers, the Turkish massacre of Armenians which is now proceeding exceeds anything that occurred in the worst days of Abdul Hamid. The local authorities are said to preside over the massacres; only robust children are spared and are sold as slaves, whilst the women and young girls are distributed among the harems of the Turkish officials. It is also affirmed that while the Porte officially denies the existence of a war of extermination, no secret is made of the intention of making an end of the Armenians.

The Turks are determined that if the Allies are to enter Constantinople there shall be no Armenians left to exult. The able-bodied men were set to work at the fortifications as long as they were able and were useful, but no news was ever obtainable from them when once they had gone. Their women and children were separated from them, and whilst the former were placed in Turkish households in any and every capacity, the children were put in Moslem schools. . . To give an idea of the state of desperation to which the Armenians are reduced my informants said that mothers had over and over again thrown their children into the rivers rather than see them die slowly of starvation or be mutilated before their eyes.

This unfortunately only confirms the statement recently made by the correspondent of *The Times* at Salonika, who concluded an article dealing with the

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various reports from Constantinople with the following paragraph:—

Meanwhile one point on which all are agreed is the terrible character of the Turkish atrocities against the Armenians. It is believed that it is the official intention that this shall be a campaign of extermination, involving the murdering of from 800,000 to 1,000,000 persons. Christians can escape murder by embracing Mohammedanism; in which case all the female members of the convert's family of a marriageable age—wife, sisters, or children—are distributed around to other Turks, making reversian to Christianity in the future practically impossible. The American Minister at Constantinople is said to have protested recently against the massacres in view of the danger to which they exposed American missionaries. The only response to his protest was the hanging of twenty leading Armenians next day in the streets of Constantinople.

Bulgaria and the Allies.

In an article under the above heading a "Bulgarian Diplomatist" deals, in the *National Review* (September), with his country's position at the present day. The writer begins his article by commenting upon the change which has been wrought in the attitude of the Great Powers towards the Balkans during the past few months. He considers that "whereas the general tendency at first was to discount the military value of a Balkan intervention, the danger now is that public opinion might rush to the other extreme and exaggerate the potentialities of that factor." This he regards as being due to no lack of faith on the part of the Allies in their own armies, but to a clearer realisation of the magnitude of the task before them. His attitude in this regard is clearly emphasised in the following paragraph:—

It would be absurd to claim for the Balkan States the power of turning defeat into victory, or to pretend, as some have done, that they hold in their hands the issue of the war. But so long as the military situation has not been definitely compromised, their intervention on either side might have a considerable influence on the duration of the war.

Bulgaria could, by her geographical position, render the greater service by intervention, while, on the other hand, her inaction necessarily makes it difficult for Roumania or Greece to take the initiative. He continues:—

The Bulgarian nation is not blind to the fact that an Austro-German victory must sooner or later end in German hegemony over the Balkans. This danger is common to all the Balkan countries and creates between them a bond of solidarity. On the other hand, the Bulgarians have little to fear and much to gain from the success of the Allies. The prospect of Russia as mistress of Constantinople causes some searching of heart and is adroitly exploited by German emissaries. People in Bulgaria, however, have common sense enough to realise that German supremacy on the Bosphorus would be an infinitely greater misfortune.

The stumbling block in the way of the realisation of Bulgarian sympathy with the Allies is to be found in the presence of Serbia among the group of the Entente Powers. The Bulgarians recognise her popularity among the Allies, but they cannot be enthusiastic at their rival's prowess, while the latter "holds territories and populations which she had previously recognised to be Bulgarian by right of nationality." In dealing with the possibilities of Bulgaria's ultimate intervention, the writer thinks such intervention possible, but only if, and when, the Allies are in a position to satisfy her claims. He adds:—

For each district which the Bulgarians now claim they can point to a violated treaty. They insist upon recovering Macedonia because her retention by Serbia is contrary to the Serbo-Bulgarian treaty. Although . . . that treaty became nugatory, its moral force continues, since its enactments were based on equity. . . . As regards the Dobrudja question, Bulgaria takes her stand on the Protocol of Petrograd which embodied the verdict of entire Europe. In the same way, she can appeal to the Treaty of London as a title to her right on the Midia-Enos line. The only Bulgarian claim which cannot be justified by reference to a former treaty is that affecting the port of Kavalla and its hinterland. And the reason for this is that the war against Turkey broke out before Greece and Bulgaria had been able to define their mutual rights by way of treaty. Had this been done, no one doubts that Bulgaria would have obtained the territories now coveted, and a great deal besides.

In regard to Kavalla, it is pointed out that Bulgaria's claim to that region is not based on ethnic consideration, but "on the circumstance that, geographically, Kavalla forms part of Bulgaria, and is for her an absolutely indispensable port on the Ægean coast."

The following quotation is from the concluding paragraph of the article:—

For months past Bulgaria has stood at the parting of the roads. More than once the Allies had splendid opportunities of winning her to their side, but allowed them to pass by unutilised. Even now, when conditions have changed for the worse, it is not too late to secure her co-operation. The sympathies of the large majority of the Bulgarian nation are with the Allied cause. But sympathies, however strong, will not induce the Bulgarians to face the horrors of a fresh war. Bulgaria must be given unequivocal proofs that by taking such a fateful step she will obtain the certain reparation of her many wrongs.

Punishment in Baghdad.

Dr. F. Johnson, of the C.M.S., who was in charge of the mission's hospital at Baghdad at the time of the outbreak of war with Turkey (and who, it will be remembered, contributed an account of his experiences to THE NEAR EAST shortly after his arrival in this country), has some interesting notes in the October *Gleaner*. While he was in Baghdad, he writes:—

Scenes both pathetic and humorous were of daily occurrence. On two occasions lads were brought in for stealing; punishment in the shape of stripes on the hand was dealt out and bravely borne. An officer consulted me as to what the lads could stand in the way of punishment. I replied that it was not my business to express an opinion, but I remarked that many in the city were feeling the pinch of hunger and that consequently temptation to the lads was strong.

The Moslem World.

With the October number, the *Moslem World* completes its fifth year of issue, and we are glad to be able to congratulate the editor, the Rev. S. M. Zwemer, upon the position which, under his able guidance, the review has won for itself.

This new number is full of valuable and informative articles, amongst which we should be disposed to award the palm to "The Moslem Press and the War," by Stephen van R. Trowbridge and Selim Effendi Abd-ul-Ahad. "The main purpose of this article," the writers tell us, "is to give a poll of the Cairo Press, as the most reliable interpretation of what is really going on in the minds of Moslems. Official communiqués and official interviews are not worth as much as the newspaper editorials, though even these leave much unsaid because of the censorship." "The War and Islam from the German Missionary Point of View," by the Rev. H. U. Weitbrecht, is another article of considerable interest, though the interest is of a somewhat peculiar kind. Bishop Stileman contributes an inspiring message on relinquishing his work in Persia. "Uthman and the Recension of the Koran" is a translation of a scholarly essay by Prince Leone Caetani; and other important articles are "Mohammedan Tradition and the Gospel," by the Rev. W. H. T. Gairdner; "An Old Turki Manuscript of the Koran," by the Rev. Adolf Mingana; "A Moslem Apocryphal Psalter," by the Editor; and "The Use of the Apocrypha by Moslems," by Professor D. S. Margoliouth. We hope to refer to some of these articles at greater length in our next issue.

Articles to Note.

"The Spirit of the Serb," by Mrs. Arthur Moore, in the *Daily Chronicle* (September 22).

"La guerra italo-turca. Cause e scope," by F. Evoli, and "I Bulgari e la Macedonia," by G. Nurigianoff, in *La Vita Italiana* (September 15).

"At the Gate of the Balkans," by Mrs. Arthur Moore, in the *Daily Chronicle* (September 18).

"Our Turkish Opponent," by a British Resident of Thirty Years' Standing, in the *World* (September 14).

"Gallipoli Hindrances," by H. W. Nevinson, in the *Yorkshire Post* (September 20).

"To Durazzo," in the *Manchester Guardian* (September 20).

"Europe's War Bill," by H. J. Jennings, in the *British Review* (September).

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BINNS, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence G., 12, Ramshill Road, Scarborough.
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BINNS, Mr. and Mrs. W. Hylton, 20, South Hill Park Gardens, Hampstead, N.W.
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BOND, A. W., 16, Wilton Mansions, Kelvinside N., Glasgow.
BOND, Miss E. G., 16, Wilton Mansions, Kelvinside N., Glasgow.
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BOND, Miss I. A., 16, Wilton Mansions, Kelvinside N., Glasgow.
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BOND, Mrs. S. J., and daughter, 4, Oxford Terrace, Kingston Road, Wimbledon, S.W.
BOND, Stephen J., 16, Wilton Mansions, Kelvinside N., Glasgow.
BOND, Mr. and Mrs. Valentine, and family, 11, Neville Street, Riverside, Cardiff.
BOROUGH, Rev. Roland, Eaton Bank, near Duffield, Derby.
BOWMAN, Joseph, and family, 5, Crewdson Road, Brixton, S.W.
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BRIGSTOCKE, Dr. and Mrs. P. W., C.M.S. Hospital, Old Cairo, Egypt.
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BROOKS, W. W., Royal Naval Torpedo Factory, Greenock, N.B.
BROOKS, Mrs. W. W., and daughter, Hotel Metropole, Athens.
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CAMPBELL, Mr. J. L., and family, Old Phaleron, Greece.
CAMPBELL, R. J., and family, Old Phaleron, Greece.
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CHALMERS, Mrs. D., jun., and family, Old Phaleron, Greece.
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CRAWFORD, Sir Richard, British Embassy, Washington, U.S.A.
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CUMBERBATCH, Mr. and Mrs. A. H., Odessa.
CUMBERBATCH, Miss Lilian, c/o Mrs. J. Gilbert, Manor Lodge, Egham, Surrey.
CUMING, Bombardier A. C., 262nd Battery R.F.A., 84h Brigade, Colchester.
CUMING, Mrs. J. B., "Fleet View," Fleet R.S.O., Hants.
CUMING, Miss M. Constance, "Fleet View," Fleet R.S.O., Hants.
DASTON, John Philip, H.M.'s Foreign Office, Passport Department, S.W.
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KERNEY, Henry P., Ranelagh, Dublin.
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KEYSER, The Misses, Slion Palace Hotel, Athens.
KINGHAM, Mr. and Mrs. H. P., Rupert Place, Henley.
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LA FONTAINE, Sub.-Lieut. J. S., "Hawke" Battalion R.N.D., Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, c/o General Post Office.
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MACKRAY, E. D., Daira of H.H. Princess Emina, Berdein, Egypt.
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MUMFORD, Pat, Army Service Corps, Richmond Park, S.W.
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RAWE, Reuben, Old Phaleron, Greece.
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ROWELL, Mr. and Mrs. Robert, and family, 124, King Henry's Road, South Hampstead, N.W.
RUSSELL, J. MacDowall, British Postmaster, Shanghai, China.
RUSSELL, Mrs. J. MacDowall, c/o Mrs. J. Bruce, Bogs of Blevrie, by Forres, N.B.
RYAN, Andrew, Foreign Office, S.W.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

The monthly bulletin of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture on the condition of the cotton crop as on August 31 appears to have created a favourable impression, and yet I fail to see why. The weather and Nile, admittedly, have been favourable to the plant's growth and to the maturing of the boll; but, on the other hand, the spread of the pink boll-worm has been general, with the exception, perhaps, of the southern provinces of the Delta, and even in the latter it is feared that the dread pest will assert itself. The damage done varies: whilst in Upper Egypt, as a whole, "the attack has been moderate," in Beni Suef and Minia it appears to be rather "marked." From a private source I learn that the more recent reports reaching Alexandria are still less favourable, so that, what with the pink boll-worm and the reduction in the acreage sown with cotton, the crop outlook is far from being optimistic. To which must be added the report of the appearance of a third species of boll-worm, announced elsewhere. No further details are to hand concerning this new menace, but if it has come to join hands with the pink boll-worm the Government will have its hands full. As it is, at present Government is taking the most energetic steps to get the fellaheen to help exterminate the pink boll-worm by burning the cotton plant after the cotton has been picked. Unfortunately, it is not an easy task, because the fellah relies more or less on his dead plants for fuel during the winter, and to destroy his stock of fuel is, to him, a wicked waste of what Allah in his wisdom intended him to use.

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Whilst on the subject of the Egyptian cotton crop, it is of interest to note that last Friday Reuter's Cairo correspondent cabled that *it is stated* that "the Council of Ministers has decided to remove the prohibition by which cultivators are not allowed to devote more than one-third of their property to cotton cultivation." On the face of it this is merely a rumour, as there are many current in Cairo at this time of the year, when cotton prices and prospects are the one and all-absorbing topic. Consequently all remarks on the subject are premature. This much can, however, be said: if the measure, which is really a war measure and was introduced last year, is to be repealed, it shows either one of two things—that the restriction of cotton cultivation is no longer imperative, or that it has proven a failure. Presumably we shall ultimately be told the real reason for the repeal.

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One aspect of the War Budget introduced by Mr. McKenna is of particular interest to Near Eastern exporters, namely, that applying to an increased import duty on dried fruit. Sultanas, which hitherto paid a duty of 7s. per cwt., will now have to pay 10s. 6d., as will also raisins, figs, dates, etc. As regards sultanas, the increase will hardly affect them, as in any case imports will not be considerable, the great shipping port of Smyrna being practically closed to trade with this country. Smyrna figs are in precisely the same position; dates, on the other hand, are peculiarly placed, because, whereas in former years they were imported from abroad, from Turkey—or, better still, from Mesopotamia—this year they will be imported from British territory, the Mesopotamian groves having fallen into our hands. It would be a pity to penalise these "British dates" in the first year of their appearance on the London market.

***

The most questionable effect, however, of the new duty in dried fruits concerns Greek currants. According to an arrangement between the British and Greek Governments, an exception has been made in the duties levied by Great Britain on dried fruits in favour of Greek currants. Thus, whereas sultanas, raisins, etc., have paid a duty of 7s. per cwt., Greek currants only paid a duty of 2s. per cwt. In exchange for this concession, the Greek Government allowed certain British textile goods to enter Greece at reduced import rates. The question now arises: What effect will the increase on the duty of currants have on our arrangement with Greece, and how will it affect our exports of Manchester goods to Greece? Has the matter been duly considered at the Treasury? It will be interesting to know.

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We have been so accustomed during the past year, when glancing at the traffic returns of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways, to a decrease in the takings for each period of ten days, as compared with the same period in the preceding year, that the return dated September 9 comes as a welcome surprise with its increase for the eleven days ended August 31 of £E344. Of course, as compared with 1913 the takings will still show a considerable decrease, which is, however, no criterion to go by, because war returns can only be compared with other war returns. In the case of the Delta Light Railways this can now be done, and I hope to see in the future a steady and continual increase over last year's returns.

***

Another Near Eastern railway, of particular interest to the British public—namely, the Ottoman Railway, from Smyrna to Aidin—has just issued its half-yearly report. The report commences with the statement that the line in still in the possession of the Turkish Government, and that no returns have been received since August last. Little can, therefore, be now said concerning this undertaking, but I heartily agree with the directors' optimism when they say that, provided no serious damage is done to the company's property, it should not take long to get matters straight again once the Allies have disposed of the Turkish resistance and are at Constantinople. Up to the present I do not think, from what I have heard, that any serious damage has been done. As a matter of fact, from reports reaching me, the situation at Smyrna is infinitely better than in Constantinople, and the Vali of the former port seems to be acting more like a gentleman than a German, which cannot be said of all "Young" Turks as opposed to "Old" Turks.

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Reference to gentlemen Turks reminds me of a statement made to me recently by an officer who had been serving with his Majesty's forces at the Dardanelles. "It is wrong," he said, "to compare the Turks with the Germans. The Turks can teach the Germans lessons in behaviour. They fight like gentlemen, and not like Huns." In trade, likewise, the Turk is a gentleman. "His word is as good as his bond," says Mr. A. W. Arnold, writing in the *Pall Mall Gazette;* "as an example of Turkish honesty, there were at Fiume many hundreds of girls in the great tobacco factory. In spite of the strict supervision a quantity of tobacco is stolen. The girls put dust, etc., in the cigarettes, and take the tobacco. There are Austrians, Italians, Greeks, Czechs, Slavs, etc., and I saw a few Turkish. The manager told me they were slow, and they seemed singularly quiet, but they were known to be so honest that their cigarettes were not examined, nor even weighed."

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In view of the rise of telegraphic charges in the United Kingdom, it may be recalled, says the *Evening Standard,* that Roumania holds the record for cheapness of telegraphic communication. Telegrams of not more than a certain number of words can be sent anywhere within the Roumanian borders for 2½d., and at that price prove a fruitful source of revenue.

***

I have received the following communication from a Bradford firm:—"We have lately had some orders sent from Bulgaria, and after taking a great deal of trouble with preliminary information as to prices and deliveries, we accidentally learned that no cargo for Bulgaria is allowed to be shifted without the express sanction of the Foreign Office. In practice this means that shipments to Bulgaria are prohibited. We have in front of us a circular from the Johnson Line, Limited, Liverpool, dated July 6, where this information is given."

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Perhaps by the time these lines appear in print any discussion of the above communication will only be of academic interest. Matters are moving so rapidly in the Balkans. But this much can be said: During the past few weeks the British Government has, rightly, no doubt, taken extreme measures to prevent exports from Great Britain, which might be useful to a possible enemy, reaching Bulgaria, and it is therefore quite likely that general preventive measures have been introduced. As regards the G.P.O., they were yesterday quite ready to take parcels for transmission by parcel post to Bulgaria, though they refused to guarantee safe arrival. Prior to the new situation created in the Balkans, goods for Bulgaria could be shipped in British bottoms via Salonika for transmission to Sofia or Dedeagatch by rail; but in that case they had to submit to the Greek import regulations obtaining at the port. Or they could be shipped in neutral or Allied bottoms direct to Dedeagatch; as a matter of fact, the Messageries Maritimes advertise a boat to sail from Marseilles to Salonika and Dedeagatch or October 1. This was impossible in the case of British vessels, because our Admiralty had declared the Dedeagatch approach to be a danger zone. Beyond this there were, to the best of our belief, no restrictions placed on exports to Bulgaria. That the situation has changed within the past few days—or even weeks—can come as a surprise to no one, and it is therefore to be supposed that Foreign Office action has taken place in the decisive manner alluded to above.

COMMENTATOR.

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Alexandria Prize Court.

In re S.S. "Koerber" and S.S. "Lutzow" (ex Cargo).

The following judgments have been delivered by Judge P. Grain in the Alexandria Prize Court in the above demands for the disposal of cargo on board the s.s. Koerber and the s.s. Lutzow.

S.S. "Koerber."

Judge Grain said:—The goods in this case, consisting of 72 chests of tea, were shipped by Messrs. Westphal King and Ramsay, Ltd., on July 17, 1914, at Foochow, on board the s.s. Koerber, an Austrian ship already dealt with by this Court. The consignees were Austrian subjects in Vienna and Trieste, and the contract was documents against acceptance. Westphal King and Ramsay, through the Bank of Taiwan, Ltd., drew bills on Messrs. Brandt and Co., bankers and merchants, of London, an admitted British firm. Messrs. Brandt and Co. accepted the drafts on August 24, 1914, after the outbreak of war. An affidavit put in by one of the directors of Messrs. Westphal King and Ramsay states "that owing to a Proclamation issued at the commencement of August, 1914, it was impossible for Messrs. Brandt and Co. to accept this draft and enter into liability on an account of an alien enemy, and I am informed that they accepted the said draft to protect the interests of the shipment, with the intention of retaining the goods themselves to meet the draft." And in a letter put in from Messrs. Brandt and Co. they say: "It was impossible for us to accept on the aforementioned date a draft for account of an enemy interests. We accepted the draft solely on our own account."

On these grounds Mr. Halford, who appears for Brandt and Co., claims a release for the firm. The Procurator, Mr. Preston, opposes it, and asks that the goods shall be confiscated on the ground that Brandt and Co. had no power to accept on their own behalf, and that in reality they accepted on behalf of the alien enemy, and in so doing were trading with the enemy, and that therefore the goods should be confiscated. He cites Kershaw v. Kelsey, Scott's Cases, 1902 Ed. p. 537; Smalls Administrators v. Lumpkin's Executors, Scott's Cases, 1902, pp. 539, 541; The Rapid, Scott's Cases, p. 558; Amoy and others v. McGregor, Scott's Cases, p. 561; Southfields (cargo ex), lately decided by the Prize Court in London.

In the first place I am of opinion that Messrs. Brandt and Co. had no power to accept on their own behalf, as there was no contract or contemplated contract as regards the vesting the property of the goods between them and Messrs. Westphal King and Ramsay. The contracting parties were Westphal King and Ramsay and Austrian consignees, and I cannot see how Brandt and Co. can have power to thrust themselves into the contract after the outbreak of war in order, as it is stated in one of their letters put in, "to protect the interest of the shipment, retaining the goods themselves to meet the draft." If Brandt and Co. had accepted on August 24 on behalf of the enemy I am inclined to think that this case would come under the case of the Rapid, and the goods would be liable to confiscation, but it appears that they intended to accept on their own behalf and not on behalf of the enemy. It may be that this was done for the purpose of defeating the prize law with regard to bankers' lien, and converting their lien into direct ownership. I hold therefore in this case that there has been no such acceptance as is sufficient to pass the property in the goods, and as the contract is one of "documents against acceptance," the property in the goods remains vested in the consignors, Messrs. Westphal, King and Ramsay, and the order of the Court is that these goods be released to that firm.

S.S. "Lutzow."

Judge Grain said:—The goods in this matter, cases of coatings, were sold and shipped by Heisch, Heinrichsen and Co., a German firm at Hamburg, and were consigned and invoiced to Messrs. Tomisai and Co. in Japan. The contract is one of "documents against acceptance," and the drafts drawn by the shippers on the consignees, through Lloyds Bank, in consequence of the outbreak of war, have not been accepted. So far there is no difficulty about the matter; the drafts not having been accepted, the property in the goods has not passed and remains in the German firm at Hamburg.

But Mr. Booth, who appears for the Sumitomo Bank of Japan and the consignees, Messrs. Tomisai and Co., urges that there is another element in this case to be considered, namely, that the Sumitomo Bank have given Lloyds Bank a letter of credit to accept drafts on behalf of the consignees; that in consequence of this letter of credit whenever a draft arrives it will be, and is bound to be, accepted as a matter of course. And Mr. Booth therefore argues that the letter of credit being in existence the drafts are really accepted as soon as they are drawn and forwarded, and that it must be assumed in this case that the drafts have been accepted and the property passed to Messrs. Tomisai and Co., of Japan.

But, in my opinion, this is assuming too much from a letter of credit; many things might happen to prevent the drafts being accepted notwithstanding the letter of credit, such as the Bank holding the letter of credit going bankrupt and being closed down, and, as is the case here, the outbreak of war.

A letter of credit is merely a request by one party to another party to advance money or give credit to a third party or accept bills drawn upon himself. And the person to whom the letter of credit is addressed is merely in the same position, and in no better position, than the person on whose behalf the letter is given. It only gives him authority to accept drafts when they come before him. In this case the cargo is shipped under special conditions, viz., documents against acceptance, and until the drafts are actually accepted no property passes. And although in this case, had it not been for the war, the drafts were certain to have been accepted by reason of the letter of credit, nevertheless no actual acceptance has taken place.

I therefore hold that the property in these goods remains in the consignors, the German firm at Hamburg, Heisch, Heinrichsen and Co., and are consequently enemy goods. The order of the Court will be confiscation and sale.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Cyprus, September 4.

Motor Service.

So far only three motors have arrived, and these are smaller than those of the late Cyprus Motor Transport Company. The charges for fares do not meet with general satisfaction. From Nicosia to Larnaca, the fare is 4s. 6d.; to Limassol, 13s. 6d. Complaints are also made that the Nicosia office of the company is not in a central position. There was bound to be some grumbling, but the difficulties which attend the working of any company in Cyprus are not always recognised. It must be hoped that after a fair trial matters may be arranged to the satisfaction of all.

Pottery Works.

The new pottery works at Lapithos (Kyrenia district)—an example of enterprise—are doing very successful work, and are turning a large number of articles of domestic use, which will no longer be required from abroad.

Carob Trees.

An Order of the High Commissioner defines various areas in the districts of Nicosia and Famagusta, in which the Director of Agriculture, and agents appointed by him for the purpose, may take the necessary steps for dealing with carob trees affected by disease.

The Astra-Romana has obtained the authorization of the Roumanian Mining Department to bore its first well on the new lands which the company has acquired at Floresti. This well will be first bored by the Canadian system until it reaches the sand strata, after which it will be continued by the rotary system. By means of this exploration well the company means to establish relations between the two productive fields of Baicoi-Ferbatori and Filipesti de Padure.

DIRECTORY—*continued from page 590.*

Sackville-West, Hon. B. G., 13, St. George's Road, Eccleston Square, S.W.
Samson, Major L. L. R., C.M.G., Junior Army and Navy Club.
Scrimgeour, Dr. and Mrs. Maadi, Egypt.
Seager, Basil, c/o H. S. Sellar, Esq., 22, Palace Road, Streatham Hill, S.W.
Seager, Edward J. P., c/o British Consulate, Dedeagatch, Bulgaria; or c/o H. E. Mountain, Hotel Minerva, Athens.
Seager, Lieut. John Owen, Public Schools Battalion, 16th Middlesex Regiment, B. Co., Woldingham.
Seager, Mr. and Mrs. Walter, and family, 18, The Promenade, Hoylake, Cheshire.
Sellar, Miss, c/o F. B. Sellar, Esq., Ranworth, Eastcote, Middlesex.
Silley, Alfred C., Agent, Khedivial Mail Line, Dedeagatch, Bulgaria.
Silley, Bernard, 37, Elliscombe Road, Charlton, S.E.
Silley, E. C., 37, Elliscombe Road, Charlton, S.E.
Silley, Mrs. Alfred C., Miss Alice, and Miss Beryl, Dedeagatch, Bulgaria.
Silley, Mr. and Mrs. C. C., 70, Kingsdown Avenue, Ealing, W.
Silley, Mr. and Mrs. Walter, and family, c/o Imperial Ottoman Bank, Limassol, Cyprus.
Simmons, Mr. and Mrs. Albert, 146, Worple Road, Wimbledon, S.W.
Simmons, George H., c/o Imperial Ottoman Bank, Larnaca, Cyprus.
Skrimshire, C. R., Sand Haven, Weston-super-Mare.
Smith, A. H., c/o Mrs. Gwilt, Hillsboro', Llandrindod.
Smith, F. W., "Heathcote," Bexley, Kent.
Smith, Mrs. H. Watson, Balmoral Hotel, Parade, Llanfairfechan.
Smith-Lyte, Mr. and Mrs. William, 30, Westbourne Terrace, Hyde Park, W. Tele., Paddington 7191.
Sofiano, Mrs. Alexander, and sons, Rue Nikis, No. 11, Athens.
Sprowson, Mr. and Mrs. William, and family, The Ferns, Harrow-on-the-Hill.
Stelianidi, Mr. and Mrs. L. N., and family, Hotel Métropole, Athens.
Streater, Mr. and Mrs. Frank, British Consulate, Dedeagatch, Bulgaria.
Stock, Mrs. H. W., and family, 13, Norland Sq., Holland Park, W. Tel., Park 3770.
Strong, Miss K. M., Thorpe Hall, Peterborough.
Summers, Mrs. H. C., and family, 34, Broadmead Road, Folkestone.
Summers, Misses L. and M., Old Phaleron, Greece.
Swan, Mr. and Mrs. T. Angus, 12, Ramshill Road, Scarborough.
Swan, Mrs. Charles, 43, Lythoe Road, Finchley Road, N.W.
Sykes, Mrs. W. Norman, and family, 21, Osborne Road, Birkby, Huddersfield.
Talbot, Miss, The Homestead, Basingstoke.
Thewlis, Frank, 33, Randolph Crescent, Maida Vale.
Thompson, William A., Glenmore, Avenue Road, Falmouth.
Thompson, Mrs. Harold, Glenmore, Avenue Road, Falmouth.
Thomson, Mrs., 124, King Henry's Road, South Hampstead, N.W.
Thompson, Miss C., c/o Dr. Thompson, The Quay, Bideford.
Thompson, Miss Gladys, 124, King Henry's Road, South Hampstead, N.W.
Thomson, J. Crabtree, Cairo.
Tristram, Mr. and Mrs. U. B., and family, 84, Worple Road, Wimbledon, S.W.
Tubini, Mrs. T., 84, Worple Road, Wimbledon.
Tucker, Thomas C., and family, 18, Odos Kehaya, New Phaleron, Greece.
Tucker, Thomas J. V. Ferid, c/o A. H. Brace, Esq., 46, Goldshill Road, Handsworth.
Vidovich, Nicholas, and daughter, Hotel Centrale, Rue du Stade, No. 22, Athens.
Watt, Mr. and Mrs. A. B., Grand Hotel, Larnaca, Cyprus.
Weakly, E., C.M.G., Norfolk Hotel, Kensington, W.
Weale, W., Foreign Office, S.W.
Weale, Miss Mary, 10, Upton Road, Slough.
Weale, Miss Norah, Lydgate House, Hunstanton.
Werndel, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. G., Grand Hotel Bulgarie, Sofia.
Wheatley, Miss N., "Falklands," Birkdale.
Whitehouse, Rev. Canon F. C., and family, 6, St. Andrew's Square, Surbiton.
Whittall, Hugh E. C., Royal Societies' Club, 63, St. James's Street, S.W.
Whittall, Reginald, and family, 60, Scarsdale Villas, Kensington, W.
Whittall, W. H. J., 1, Princes Square, Bayswater, W.
Whittall, Lady, Moda Cottage, Esher.
Whittall, Kenny, 62, Princes Square, W.
Whittall, Edwin, and family, Hotel Minerva, Athens.
Whittall, Miss Enid, 84, Worple Road, Wimbledon.
Whittall, Miss Lucy, 60, Scarsdale Villas, South Kensington, S.W.
Whittall, Mrs. Jack, Hotel Minerva, Athens.
Wilkinson, J. W., and family, Chios, Greece.
Woods, Mrs. Harold, Baynton House, Westbury, Wilts.
Woods, Harold, Continental Hotel, Cairo.

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Trade Notes.

Egypt.

The Director, Coast Guard Stores, Arsenal, Alexandria, calls for tenders for the supply of 500 metres of canvas Imperial Navy No. 1, and 1,000 metres of canvas Imperial Navy No. 2. Close September 30.

The Egyptian State Railways and Telegraphs Administration, Cairo, calls for tenders for the supply of 12,000 kilograms of Fifal rope. Close October 27.

The Vacuum Oil Company and the Asiatic Petroleum Company (Egypt), Limited, were recently the successful tenderers to the Egyptian Government for the supply of petroleum at the Citadel Stores, Cairo.

Sudan.

According to the report for 1914 of the directors of the Sudan Central Economic Board, the value of the imports into the Sudan in 1914, inclusive of Government stores, amounted to £E1,891,454, as compared with £E2,109,776 in 1913. In the first quarter of the current year the value of the import trade was £E342,901, as compared with £E519,109 during January—March, 1914.

The following table shows the values of the imports of some of the principal articles in the years 1913 and 1914 and in the first quarter of each of the years 1914 and 1915 :—

—	Calendar Year.		Jan.-March.	
	1913.	1914.	1914.	1915.
	£E.	£E.	£E.	£E.
Dura and maize	58,193	214,197	46,118	356
Rice	25,049	29,805	4,921	500
Wheat flour.....	86,168	102,352	27,988	12,351
Sugar	258,750	239,076	70,002	52,933
Coffee.....	67,545	57,319	7,305	6,019
Tea.....	39,114	36,502	6,786	4,492
Tobacco, tombac, cigars, & cigarettes	47,303	43,880	11,961	10,292
Coal	108,037	76,222	25,426	10,093
Soap	28,536	24,498	7,541	6,014
Cotton fabrics	503,616	343,222	110,421	95,431
Machinery (electrical, agricultural, etc.) and parts	32,526	47,325	21,246	2,810
Empty sacks	29,815	14,097	7,139	11,474

The value of the exports during the year 1914 amounted to £E1,020,260, as against £E1,185,186 in 1913. In spite of the war exports increased, every effort being made to get produce out of the country while opportunity offered.

The values of some of the principal articles exported in 1913 and 1914 and in the first quarter of each of the years 1914 and 1915 are shown in the following table :—

—	Calendar Year.		Jan.-March.	
	1913.	1914.	1914.	1915.
	£E.	£E.	£E.	£E.
Cattle	74,664	99,868	40,069	27,347
Sheep and goats	97,059	85,975	32,456	20,296
Hides, untanned	22,821	49,080	14,217	20,478
Skins, untanned	31,906	38,427	15,905	6,400
Ivory.....	113,236	84,605	23,568	6,099
Dura.....	21,716	4,429	2,701	44,293
Cotton seed.....	21,097	12,509	3,862	32
Sesame	104,939	52,899	34,739	24,262
Dates.....	31,872	29,372	8,127	4,074
Gum	371,528	314,919	84,838	39,824
Cotton, ginned	152,110	93,555	33,266	7,885
Gold	43,802	68,146	10,267	18,041

Cyprus.

The *Cyprus Gazette* of September 10 contains an Order in Council to the effect that for a period of two years from and after the first day of November, 1915, the importation of motor cars, parts of motor cars and their fittings and gearing shall be admitted into Cyprus free of all duties of Customs whatsoever.

During the quarter ended June 30, 1915, Cyprus imported goods to the value of £118,507 (exclusive of specie amounting to £5,866) as against £156,408 (exclusive of £9,756) for the corresponding period of 1914, or a decrease of £41,731.

Figures for exports during the corresponding periods were, respectively, £121,825 (£1,773) and £122,705 (£20,256), or a decrease of £21,363.

Bulgaria.

Our Sofia Correspondent writes:—From January 1, 1915, to August 1, 1915, Bulgaria imported goods to the amount of 72,063,865 lewas, and exported to that of 52,694,000 lewas.

Greece.

The following particulars regarding the trade of the Cyclades in 1914 have been received from H.M. Consul at Syra.

The Cyclades include the islands of Syra, Zea, Santorin, Chio, Mitylene, and Samos, and the total value of the trade of these islands (with the exception of Mitylene, for which no figures have been obtained) for the year 1914 amounted to £1,739,915.

Of the total import trade of Syra during 1914, valued at £305,535, the United Kingdom supplied £142,000 worth, or nearly half, and thus continues to hold the first position. Imports of coal amounted to 58,311 tons in 1914, as against 74,883 tons in 1913. Other goods imported from the United Kingdom in 1914 included cotton and woollen goods, iron and other metals, chemicals, herrings, and other salted and dried fish, all of which showed a decline. With regard to the island of Samos, the imports consisted chiefly of manufactured goods, colonial produce, and flour, and amounted in value to about £280,000. The exports, chiefly wine, tobacco, cigarettes, leather and olive oil, amounted in value to about £265,000. Until recently the major portion of manufactured cotton and woollen goods were obtained from the United Kingdom. The travellers from Germany and Italy who have visited the Island regularly have, by affording greater facilities for payment, gradually secured a considerable portion of the trade.

The value of the imports into Zea in 1914 was £12,240, as against £10,320 in 1913, and consisted chiefly of food stuffs and provisions.

Chio prefers British goods, which have been imported in large quantities, and the import of these would be still larger if greater facilities in respect of payment were afforded by United Kingdom firms. A first and successful attempt to ship oranges and mandarines, the staple exports of Chio, to London was made in 1914, but the disorganisation of shipping prevented the full development of this scheme.

As regards Mitylene, business in cotton goods of United Kingdom manufacture was done on a restricted basis. Merchants complain of high freights, and that British exporters do not closely follow the wishes of their clients.

Roumania.

Our Bucharest Correspondent, writing on September 1, said :—An important adjudication for the Roumanian State Railways has just been closed for the supply of 330 passenger carriages, of which 50 are first class, 80 second class, and 200 third class, all provided with Westinghouse brakes, steam heating, electric lighting, and to be delivered in eight months. The value of the whole order is 7,500,000 lei. More than twenty firms were invited to tender, out of which only five did so. The result of the adjudication has not been made public.

WAR ON GERMAN TRADE.

In connection with the campaign undertaken by the Board of Trade, on the advice of their Advisory Committee on Commercial Intelligence, to assist British manufacturers and merchants to secure trade formerly in the hands of German or Austro-Hungarian firms, the Board continue to receive a very large number of inquiries for the names of sellers or buyers of articles of which the sources of supply or markets have been interfered with.

Special arrangements have been made in the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade for dealing with these inquiries, and the weekly list of articles (No. 39) which inquirers desire to purchase is ready, and may be obtained by United Kingdom manufacturers and exporters of British goods.

FRAUDULENT PRACTICES IN EGYPT.

The *Monthly Journal* of the British Chamber of Commerce of Egypt has an article on the above subject, from which the following extracts are taken :—

"In every case in which a home firm has been defrauded, the loss might have been avoided or, at all events, mitigated, if the services which the Chamber offers to all British traders had been taken advantage of.

Questionable Agents.

"A case in which the advice of the Chamber was recently asked, was that of an important British firm who had been represented in Egypt for some years by a certain commission agent. The man in question was originally of good financial standing, but during the last few years had suffered heavy losses. The firm complained that proceeds of bills which had been collected through their agent had not been remitted to them. The amount involved was important, and although the Chamber, owing to special circumstances, was not able to ascertain whether the agent himself was responsible for the fraud, we were in a position to furnish valuable legal advice as to the various courses which existed for the obtaining of reparation or satisfaction. The moral of this example is that home firms, even though the results of their business relations have been quite satisfactory, should regularly each year institute inquiries regarding the status of their representatives, for in Egypt changes in position are often rapid, and in the present instance we would have been in a position some two or three years previously to report that the affairs of the man in question were in an unsatisfactory condition. The loss might thus have been avoided, or, at all events, reduced.

"Another class of fraud which is not very uncommon is that in which firms have been induced, either by plausible promises of good business results, or through the giving of false references, to ship goods to a stranger.

"An attempt at fraud which we were, fortunately, able to prevent, as a result of a home exporter investigating references through the Chamber, was in the case of a man who, in sending a trial order for goods, gave as a reference 'X. Y. and Co.,' bankers, Alexandria. As the result of our inquiries we found that the address given by this man was that of a second-rate hotel, and that 'X. Y. and Co.' were unknown locally, and we reported to our friend accordingly. Either he or a confederate, it would appear, intended to obtain possession at the post office of any inquiries addressed to 'X. Y. and Co.' and reply favourably to them.

"Home firms buying produce for which they pay cash against documents in Egypt are also warned to exercise great care in selecting a reliable export house. A recent instance of a British firm of produce importers who bought dates in this manner, which turned out on delivery to be of so bad a quality as to be almost worthless, is one amongst several that have been brought to our notice. Intending buyers should apply to the Chamber for a list of reliable shippers in their particular line to avoid loss in this manner.

"In conclusion, we would repeat that it is our experience that in by far the larger number of cases that have come to our knowledge in which home manufacturers have been defrauded, the most elementary precautions have been omitted, and often no inquiries have been made as to the status of the proposer of the business. The Chamber is ready on all occasions to recommend agents or shippers, to investigate references and to furnish reports to members, who, it is suggested, should communicate with us in the event of any difficulty or irregularity in their relations with local firms.

"The above examples are mentioned with the object of placing our home members on their guard against similar frauds, and to demonstrate to them the advantage of consulting the Chamber should they meet with difficulties of this description."

According to a telegram received by an indirect route from Baghdad (states Reuter's Agency) all the British subjects in Baghdad were in good health at the end of August, and were being well treated.

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VESSELS SUNK IN THE SEA OF MARMORA.

(From an Occasional Correspondent.)

Dedeagatch, Sept. 10.

The following is an incomplete list of the steamers which have been sunk by the Allies in the Sea of Marmora. There are many more than those indicated herewith, but unfortunately I have not been able to obtain their names: Madeleine Rickmers, 7,000 tons; Derindje, 7,000 tons; Stamboul, Skyros, Tenedos, Chios, Patmos, and Kerkyru, all about 4,500-5,000 tons each; owners, Deutsche Levant Line. Iskander, ex Craigforth (British) which struck a mine at Kavak, damaged, repaired, but detained by the Turks, eventually released to find the Straits closed. Bahr Ahmer, 5,000 tons; Bezmi Alem, 5,400 tons; Midhat Pasha, 4,500 tons; Izne Adha, 2,400 tons; ex Russian s.s. Ida seized by Turks; Yechil Irmak, 2,000 tons; Niloufer, 1,200 tons; Nika, 700 tons; Bigha, 700 tons, and several others whose names have not been received belonging to the Société Ottomane de Navigation, Heliopolis, 3,200 tons; Mahmoud Shefket Pacha, 3,000 tons; On Temouz, 2,300 tons; and Ella, 3,000 tons; the last three owned by M. Gumuchdjian, Selanik, 2,700 tons; Morna, 2,200 tons; Hilal, 2,000 tons; Prinkipessa Djounia, 2,000 tons; Dafni, 1,800 tons; Ispahan, 1,800 tons; Nedjat, 1,700 tons; Persia, 1,600 tons; Washington, 1,500 tons; Addis, 1,200 tons; Taxiarchis, 1,200 tons; Guzel Guirid, 1,200 tons; Aidinjik, 1,200 tons; Beicos, 1,300 tons; Oghour Ola, 1,100 tons; Gheorgios, 110 tons; Marie Roget, 1,000 tons; Nikea, 1,000 tons; Heibeli Ada, 900 tons; Alexandros, 950 tons; Saadet, 800 tons; Millet, 700 tons; Erdek, 750 tons; Edirneh, 700 tons; Newa, 700 tons; Banderma, 650 tons; Terraki, 350 tons; Broussa, 300 tons; Hairoullah, 150 tons; Chelidon, 80 tons; and Marmara Express No. 1 (passenger steamer). Practically all the tugboats belonging to the port of Constantinople, including the Bordeaux, Rhone, etc., etc., of the French Cie. de Sauvetage, also numberless sailing craft of all sizes and description which were engaged in the transport of coal from Heraclea, Zunguldak, etc., etc.

There are several other steamers of large tonnage which have been sunk in the Black Sea, but whose names I have not been able to ascertain.

ADEN COTTON IMPORTS.

During the year ended March 31, 1915, says the U.S. Consul, imports of cotton piece-goods into Aden were valued at £550,212, a decrease of £114,118, as compared with the preceding year.

Purchases by Abyssinians and Somalis represent 56 per cent. of the cotton piece goods shipped from Aden as a distributing point. German East Africa, Hodeida, Mocha, Jedda, and Loheia will probably be closed to the trade during the war, which will mean a possible loss of over 30 per cent.

The quantity and value of imports of grey goods from March 31, 1914, to March 31, 1915, by countries, is shown in the following list:—

Countries of Origin.	Yards.
United States	16,711,440
Austria	1,377,600
Belgium	98,500
Italy	401,950
United Kingdom and possessions	14,851,642
Other countries	189,650
Total	33,630,782

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CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

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Athens and the War.

The U.S. Consul-General at Athens reports for the year 1914 as follows (extracts):—

The year 1914 opened auspiciously and general conditions throughout the twelve months, despite much political uncertainty and the existence of war in other parts of Europe, were fairly good.

With the outbreak of the European war, conditions were immediately sharply affected. There was an atmosphere of great uneasiness and alarm, and this was especially manifest among the smaller merchants, savings-bank depositors, and the weaker financial institutions. In a short while, however, matters began to adjust themselves, and because of the quickened demand for supplies of all kinds many merchants who had found themselves overstocked at the beginning of the war were able to clear their storehouses at profitable figures

Greek Marine.

But it is the Greek merchant marine that has especially profited by the war, and that has affected for good, either directly or indirectly, the whole commercial structure of the State. Various independent estimates place the earnings of Greek ships for the six months ended December 31, 1914, at over $20,000,000. The withdrawal of many British and French ships for use in other parts of the world and the disappearance of the Austrian and German and, later on, the Turkish flag from Mediterranean and other waters gave to the Greek mercantile fleet a great opportunity, which it was quick to grasp.

Local manufacturers of textiles did well, especially the last half of 1914. Flour millers and other producers of foodstuffs also profited.

There has been a steady rise in the cost of living within the district the past year, and this has been felt sharply by the lower classes This rise has been caused in a large measure by the closing of the Dardanelles and shutting off of the supply of Russian wheat, the large advance in ocean freights, the augmented demand for food brought about by the presence of vast armies in the field. with the presence in the district of large numbers of refugees of Greek nationality from Turkish dominions and elsewhere.

Magnesite and Chrome.

The yield of magnesite from Greek magnesite ore is unusually high. The following shows the percentages of magnesite obtained from the Grecian ore and that from the product of other countries:—Grecian, 97.8; Transvaal, 96.5; Austrian, 95.36; Californian, 93.66.

The abnormal increase in exports of this ore from Greece to the United States in 1914 may be ascribed to the closing to American buyers of the markets in Hungary from which supplies are usually drawn. In ordinary times it is difficult for the Greek magnesite miner to compete with the Hungarian producers because of superior freight facilities offered through the port of Trieste. The war has radically changed the situation, and despite the sharp advance in freight rates Greece is now the principal source of supply for the American market.

Shipments are usually made from Bubœa, either in the form of raw magnesite for firms who desire to do their own calcining, or else as dead-burnt or calcined magnesite. Much of this product is used in the making of "seamless" floors or in the form of bricks for lining furnaces in smelting industries.

The exports of chrome ore from Greece to the United States in 1914 amounted to 8,155 tons, as against 4,600 long tons in 1913. This ore is produced in Pharsala, in Thessaly, and the entire product is exported. The United States is one of the principal consumers. From this ore is produced potassium chromate, lead chromate, etc., which are brilliantly coloured and are used in dyeing, calico printing, etc.

Many of the largest marble works and quarries have been shut down since the beginning of the war, save a few that have been kept working to supply local demands and for occasional shipments abroad. Exports to Antwerp and Hamburg have ceased, while stocks on hand at New York are reported to be sufficient to meet current needs.

Skins sent to the United States from Greece are mostly from the goat. For lamb and sheep skins Austria and Germany usually offer better prices. There is nothing of special significance in the decline in the movement to the United States in the past year save a diminished demand due to a waiting attitude on the part of buyers. Strong efforts have been made in recent months by local merchants to increase sales in the United States, but without success.

Tobacco.

During 1914 the district of Argolis-Corinthia produced about 4,232,250 lbs. of tobacco, which went almost entirely to Italy and the Netherlands, much of which found its way into Germany. The price of this tobacco was 6 to 8 cents per lb.

In the Province of Attica is grown a tobacco known as "Basma." The total yield of this quality is small, amounting in the past year to some 85,000 lbs., which was sold for delivery in 1915. Prices were 20 to 33 cents per lb.

A small quantity of tobacco is grown in the islands of Amorgos and Paros, of the Northern Cyclades, the yield for last year being estimated at 225,000 lbs., which is for delivery in the current year. Prices ranged from 17 to 20 cents. per lb.

The principal tobacco-producing section of Old Greece is in Thessaly. In 1914 on its fertile plans were cut more than 10,000,000 lbs. of this plant, the prices paid to the growers being from 17 to 20 cents per lb. These prices were in excess of the preceding year, and may be ascribed in a large measure to the closing of the Dardanelles, which has affected trade in so many lines.

Local buyers estimate the crop of 1914 as being 20 per cent. ahead of the preceding twelve months, and of superior quality. Although weather conditions during the season were unfavourable, yet the increase in the area under cultivation which has marked recent years was sufficient to more than offset the effects of this. The tobacco-buying season begins here in August.

Agriculture.

The consular district of Athens is essentially agricultural in character, but the industry is largely pursued in a primitive manner. The ancient wooden plow with an iron point is seen everywhere, while machinery fr irrigating and drainage schemes aore of the simplest character. The alluvial soil of the many valleys is extremely fertile and would yield rich results if properly tilled. The Government is taking an increasing interest in agriculture, and efforts are being made to teach the farming class modern methods of agriculture, the necessity for rotation of crops, the use of natural and artificial fertilisers, etc.

Wheat and barley are the principal crops grown, but these are far from meeting the requirements of the population. The acreage of cotton is being increased; the chief cotton-growing section is in Bœotia.

In many parts of the district there are extensive flocks of sheep and goats. Sheep farming is the most profitable branch of stock raising. In general, however, the situation in Greece as regards this pursuit is not encouraging. In the past few years there has been a decrease in the number of horses and cattle, perhaps due to the existence of war during 1912 and 1913 and the resulting requirements of the Government. Furthermore, within recent years foot-and-mouth disease has done much harm; this is now believed to have disappeared.

Industry.

There are but few industries in this consular district outside of the principal cities, such as Athens, Piræus, Volo, Laurium, Trikala.

At Laurium are to be found mines of lead and silver, with smelting works therefor. In addition to the lead ore (galena blend, pyrites, sulphuric leads), a certain amount of zinc and iron ore is produced. Some of the leading ports to which shipment are made are Antwerp, Marseilles, Newcastle, and Swansea. Many small industries flourish at Volo, including manufactories of agricultural implements of simple character. At Trikala there is an electric-lighting plant, cotton gins, and factories producing shoes, gloves, hats, and silks.

Athens and Piræus, lying about six miles apart and connected by steam and electric railways, form for many purposes an economic unit. Piræus is the shipping point for Athens and is the chief port of the district and of Greece. It is also a busy manufacturing town of nearly 100,000 inhabitants. Knit goods and textiles, ice, paper, flour, wines and beers, oil, and soap are some of its manufactured products. In the city there are about 30 distilleries, some 15 flour mills, a dozen oil factories, with an equal number of iron-working plants; there are also 14 cotton and weaving mills.

The milling of flour at Piræus is an important and growing industry. To-day some 80 per cent. of the flour consumed in Old Greece is milled there. The adoption of modern appliances has increased the output as well as improved the quality of the flour manufactured. The average daily production of these mills is now 750 tons.

During the past year the Standard Oil Company made arrangements for the construction of a complete plant for the storage of oil, as well as a factory in which cans and cases will be manufactured for their own use in supplying oil otherwise than in bulk.

Naval Yard.

One of the largest works now receiving the attention of the Hellenic Government is the construction of a new navy yard and arsenal at Scaramanga, on the Bay of Eleusis, to supersede the present yard, which lies opposite on the island of Salamis. This construction is being carried out under the supervision and after the plans of a corps of British engineers. The estimated cost is in the neighbourhood of £3,000,000. No definite data is obtainable regarding this work, but it is understood that it will be several years before it can be completed. It will give to Greece a landlocked harbour for its fleet, with ample facilities for repair work. It will also provide a much more convenient location than the present one.

An adequate water supply for the cities of Athens and Piræus is a question that has been agitated for a long time. In recent years the augmentation of the population has made the need an even more pressing one. At present water is brought in from springs on Mount Parnes, an ancient Roman aqueduct and reservoir being partly utilised. An additional supply is also received from Kephissia, some ten miles above the city, where artesian wells have been driven.

Almost every year there are epidemics of typhoid fever, the cause of which can be traced in some measure to an impure and imperfect water supply. Almost every house in Athens has its own small reservoir, into which water is received at certain hours of the day from the city pipes. For this purpose the city is divided into districts, whose mains are in turn filled from the central reservoir.

Sewerage.

Not less important and pressing is the need for an adequate sewerage system. Many houses now have their cesspools, which are pumped out as occasion requires, but a large number have their pipes connected with the city drains, which were originally constructed to carry off surface water.

To meet this situation a bill was laid before the Greek Parliament at the close of 1913 looking to the construction of an elaborate water and sewerage system. The total cost of the work is estimated at £2,800,000.

Within the past year British architects have visited Athens to examine the ground with a view to beautifying the city. Many buildings are to be demolished; boulevards and avenues are to be laid out, etc. The outbreak of the war has put a stop to the project, but it is believed to be only in abeyance. Part of the general plan is the construction of a union station, the building of workmen's cottages, the reforestation of near-by hillsides in pines and cypresses, etc.

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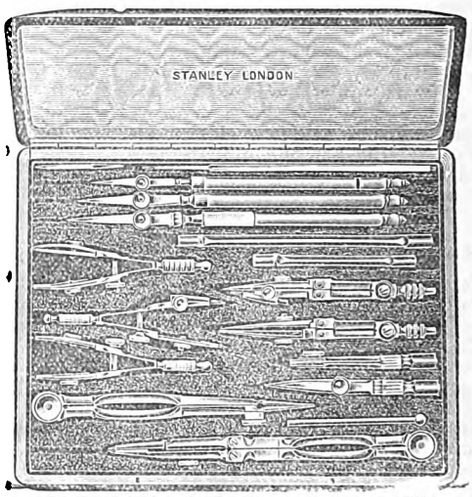

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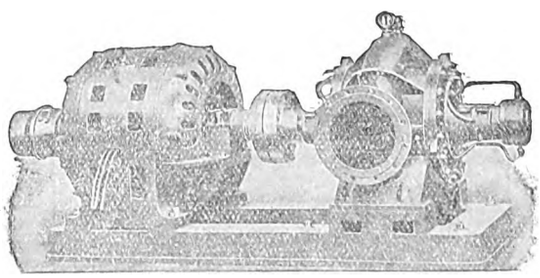

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Engineering Notes.

Labour-saving Tools.

It is wonderful to notice the great progress that has been made within the last few years in the design and efficiency of this class of machinery. Everything to-day is for a rapid and accurate production at a minimum cost of labour. Screws, bolts, nuts, studs, handles, etc., are produced from the bar in hundreds per hour by a boy working one machine. Brass fittings, bushes, etc., are produced with equal rapidity, while surfacing, boring, milling, and drilling can be done all with one machine at high speeds by an ordinary man. It must be mentioned that some of the best designs of these machines are British, made as a rule in the Midlands.

A Small Pumping Outfit.

Considerable interest was attracted at a recent show by a 1½-h.p. pumping outfit specially adapted for small factories, country houses, and light estate duties, this being capable of raising approximately 600 gallons of water per hour. The engine and pump are mounted on one base, and the weight of the outfit (which was listed at £28) is roughly 490 lbs.

Dredger for Persian Gulf.

It is stated that a powerful suction dredger is being despatched to the Persian Gulf, and will be engaged in dredging the bar in the Shatt-el-Arab. At present vessels drawing 19 ft. of water can cross at high tide, but in view of the necessity for vessels of larger draught being able to proceed high up the river further dredging operations are to be started.

New Method of Galvanizing.

The galvanizing of metals, that is to say, the process in electro-metallurgy of depositing metals from solutions of their salts upon metallic surfaces, by the action of electric currents, is not unfamiliar to the metal workers in the East, whilst other processes of coating baser metals with gold, silver, zinc, copper, etc., were known to Oriental workers long before Galvani and Volta's electro-chemical discoveries were known and utilised in the West. Indeed, there are some very old "plated" Oriental jewellery, ikons, and articles used in Eastern churches and other places of worship that prove the above assertion, and likewise prove the superiority in appearance and substance of the old coating as compared with that on modern electro-plated articles. However, with reference to the "galvanizing" of metals, such as iron or steel plates, sheets, pipes, and other articles for commercial purposes, the ordinary modern process forms, in the East, an important part of an industry, which at the present time, owing to the scarcity and high price of zinc, spelter, and other metals, is, like everywhere, considerably embarrassed. The new method, therefore, of what is termed "dry galvanizing" may be of use to those who are interested in the industry, because it is more economical than the ordinary "galvanizing" method. It must be mentioned here that "galvanized iron" is wrongly named so, for it is not in any way electrically treated, as the name might seem to imply. It is simply iron dipped in molten zinc. The zinc forms with the iron an alloy which resists rust. This process, obviously, requires large quantities of zinc.

Dry Galvanizing.

The process of dry galvanizing differs from hot and electro-galvanizing in many respects. A point of particular interest in the former is that iron and steel can be coated with a thin, even deposit of zinc, at a temperature several hundred degrees below the melting point of zinc. The first step in the process is to free the iron from scale and oxide by any of the well-known methods, such as dipping in an acid solution or sand blasting. The articles to be "galvanized" are then placed in a closed iron receptacle, charged with zinc dust, heated to a temperature of from 500 deg. to 600 deg. F., for a few hours, and allowed to cool; the receptacle is then opened and the iron articles removed, when they are found to be coated with a fine homogeneous covering of zinc, the thickness depending on the temperature and the length of the immersion. It will be observed that the temperature required to bring about this result is about 200 deg. below the melting-point of zinc. The low temperature required and the economy effected on the zinc consumed make the process cheap, as compared with the process of dipping in molten zinc, and it is claimed to have the additional advantage that it does not deteriorate iron or steel of small section to the same extent as hot "galvanizing." The whole of the zinc is utilised, and there is no waste. The process of dry-galvanizing is not limited to the coating of iron with zinc, but can also be applied to coating iron with copper, aluminium, and antimony. It can also be applied to coating various other metals, such as aluminium and copper with zinc. Copper and its alloys subjected to this process are case hardened on the surface and rendered so hard that they are scratched with difficulty. The zinc powder used in the process is the zinc dust of commerce, and must not be confused with zinc oxide. It is obtained during the process of distilling zinc from its ores; and as zinc dust is used for a variety of purposes. It can be obtained in any desired quantity. One of the peculiar properties of zinc dust is that it cannot be melted or reduced to the metallic form under ordinary conditions, even when heated to a very high temperature under considerable pressure. Articles coated with grease receive as good, if not a better, coating of zinc, than those which are free from grease. This fact is important, as it enables machine work, such as bolts, nuts, screws, etc., to be thrown direct after machining into the receptable without any preparation or cleaning. This process of dry "galvanizing" offers many facilities and great economy to those manufacturers who have not sufficient work to keep a large bath of molten zinc continuously employed. Articles can be "galvanized" by this process at a few hours' notice, as the receptacle can readily be heated by gas or coke furnace. A useful type of furnace for small work consists of a closed iron chamber in the form of a cylinder or polygon, and arranged to be rotated or oscillated about an axis. The chamber is provided with an iron door, either at one end, or at the side, according to the class of articles to be treated. A side door is found to be the most suitable for small articles, such as bolts, nuts, small castings, etc., and the end doors for tubes, oblong or cylindrical articles. The surfaces obtained by hot and cold galvanizing and by dry galvanizing are different in each case, but they can readily be distinguished by those conversant with the three processes. In the case of hot galvanizing, the surface is spangled, or, if not spangled, has the appearance of cast metal. In the case of cold galvanizing the surface is free from spangles, and has a matted or frosted surface, uniform, if the work has been well executed. Dry galvanizing is again distinctive from the two former processes; the general appearance resembles more that of cold galvanizing, but is more lustrous and metallic, and is uniformly distributed over the whole surface, which is not always the case with the hot and cold galvanizing processes. The advantages that this dry galvanizing claims are, that there is no waste of zinc due to the formation of zinc iron alloys; less zinc is required; the temperature required is lower, consequently, the amount of fuel consumed is less; labour is less, as the articles do not require to be cleansed as carefully as in hot galvanizing; the cost of working is less; and the plant is very much cheaper.

Export of Merchandise to Roumania.

A petition has been submitted to the Ministry of Communications in Athens by the merchants of Salonika for the disposal of a number of wagons on the Bucharest-Salonika line for the export of merchandise to Roumania. The Minister of Communications promised that he would attend to the matter and take the necessary measures this week.

FIRE IN ALEXANDRIA.

On September 4 no fewer than four fires broke out at Alexandria, says the *Egyptian Gazette*.

At 9.15 p.m. the Tamvaco shoonah, at Gabbari, was found to be on fire. Cotton and cottonseed was stored there and a great deal of damage was done. At 11 p.m. a fire broke out in the shoonah belonging to the Presse Allemande. Twenty minutes after a fire broke out at Gabbari station, and soon after midnight a native house in Gamaa el-Miri Street was found to be on fire.

The Tamvaco fire was a somewhat serious affair, as, in spite of the efforts of the brigade, the shoonah has been almost completely gutted, and the loss may be estimated at anything from £E25,000 to £30,000. The shoonah contained two hundred thousand sacks, four thousand ardebs of cottonseed, and a hundred ardebs of wheat.

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Near East Markets.

BULGARIAN HARVEST.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Sofia, September 4.

According to the calculations of the Ministry of Agriculture, the average figures of this year's crops amount to:—Wheat, 1,257,699 tons; rye, 193,605 tons; other grain, exclusive of maize, 2,078,789 tons.

SUDAN DATE CROPS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Khartoum, August 31.

From Halfa Province it is reported that the prospects of the coming date crop are very favourable. In order that the natives may be able to dispose of their dates to the best advantage, it has been decided to establish Government date markets at Kosha and Delgo, and to forbid all transactions in dates in the districts of Sukkot and Mahas outside the limits of the Government markets.

SUDAN GUM.

The *Sudan Times* recently published an interesting article in its Arabic edition on the best means for improving the gum crops. The following are the suggestions proffered by the author:—

To make a commercial agreement for fixing a minimum price for gum. It is a well-known fact that whenever the prices of gum on the market fall, there is a proportionate fall in the interest which the population take in the gum trees; and vice versa.

To take precautions against the extension of forest fires, which are caused by burning of the dry grass during the dry season. The best precautions consist in clearing up long belts of land running east by west, and thus dividing the land into separate zones. As the prevailing wind during the dry season is from the north, if the fire should start in one zone or area, it is carried southwards by the wind until it reaches the cleared belt.

To dig up wells in the old or defunct gum gardens, in order to make it possible for the natives to cultivate these lands with grain crops.

A practical scheme for working out a system of rotations is suggested by the writer. He suggests that when the Ushur Assessment Committees in the gum districts proceed to assess the ushur, they should keep their eyes open to those lands where there appears to be a number of trees springing up among the dura. Such lands will be expropriated and taken up by the Government, the owners being compensated with equal tracts of land which were formerly gum gardens, and which are of great fertility for grain.

RICE CULTURE IN MACEDONIA.

Rice culture has not made great advance in Greek Macedonia. Domestic production is not equal to the demand, although the possibilities for the development of the local industry are considerable, says the U.S. Consul at Salonika, because of the abundance of marshy land in certain parts of this district. During 1914, 5,408 tons of rice were imported through the port of Salonika, while 1,125 tons were exported. The lack of development of the industry and the present large importation of rice is due to the shortage of agricultural labour in this district.

Vodena, near Salonika, is the chief centre of rice production in Greek Macedonia, the annual production in this region being estimated at from 30 to 40 long tons. Water runs continually through the soil in this region. The sowing season is in April and the crop is reaped in October. The yield per dounoum is from 300 to 800 okes of unshelled rice. One hundred okes will supply about 50 okes of shelled rice. About 10 okes of seed are required for sowing a dounoum.

M. Aristide Blank, of the firm of Marmorosch Blank and Co., who has been abroad on financial matters, has returned to Bucharest.

PRODUCE REPORT

London, September 23.

Currants.

The s.s. Erato arrived on Sunday, the 20th, and the s.s. Daphne on Tuesday with the first new crop fruit. The two ships together brought 2,000 tons. Some disappointment is expressed with regard to quality, which has evidently been affected by unseasonable rains and want of more spraying, the latter owing to an apparent scarcity of sulphate of copper. An unusual thing is the arrival of Vostizza fruit in bags, for which the scarcity of wood is responsible, as we alluded to in previous reports. Hitherto only common Provincial was sent in bags; but since boxes to contain ½ cwt. of fruit jumped from 8d. to 1s. 10d. each—and even at the latter price could not easily be obtained—nothing else could be done but to send even the higher grades in bags. Pyrgos is to-day quoted 30s. 6d., in bags, duty paid, and 33s. 6d. in boxes, also duty paid. Vostizza 41s. to 45s., and in some instances 50s. It must be mentioned that these prices are not the result in any way of the proposed new tax, as the currants, owing to a convention between England and Greece, pay only 2s. per cwt. duty, which, with the increase of 50 per cent., will be 3s., and not 10s. 6d., as in some papers was stated. The addition, therefore, of 1s. per cwt. on the duty will not affect the retail prices at all.

In Liverpool the s.s Fabian arrived on Monday with the first new fruit. The market there is now becoming active, as, owing to the scarcity of spot parcels, there was very little doing during the last two or three weeks.

Sultanas.

Prices continue to advance, and it is said that 65s. to 85s. has been asked for new fruit.

Figs.

Greek figs have advanced in price, and a fair business is being done for fruit to arrive.

Seeds.

Linseed.—The market is dull, and values easier; the demand generally has been unsatisfactory this week, and there is no improvement at closing. London-Calcutta spot is quoted 55s. 3d., Aug.-Sept. was sold 55s., Sept.-Oct. quoted 55s. 6d., Oct.-Nov. 56s. Cotton-seed is firmer, but quiet; London-Egyptian Sept. is quoted £10, October £9 16s. 3d., and Nov.-Jan. £9 5s. per ton. Rapeseed remains quiet, but held for full rates. Guzerat Sept.-Oct. quoted 60s., and brown Cawnpore pure basis, ditto, 53s. A moderate business is passing in canaryseed, and, although there is an improved tone in the market, no appreciable alteration in prices has taken place.

Oils.

Linseed oil is dull and neglected, but prices improved since last report; spot pipes £26, barrels £26 15s., landed, month £26 12s. 6d., Oct.-Dec. £26 15s., Jan.-April £26 17s. 6d., May-Aug. £27 7s. 6d. Cotton oil has been fully maintained, and there is a better demand; crude spot in pipes £27, refined pale pipes £30, and barrels sweet £35 to £36. Rape oil maintains a very firm tone, ordinary brown naked £34 to £35, English refined, barrels, £36 to £38.

Oilcakes.

Cotton Cakes.—There is no Egyptian to be obtained on the spot, but moderate business is being done in early new crop positions at £7 10s. to £7 15s., ex steamer to arrive. English makes are offered in moderate quantities at £8 2s. 6d. to £8 5s. per ton. Linseed Cakes.—Owing to the limited quantity available values are fairly well maintained, but trade is very restricted in consequence of the little consumptive demand. Best London made is quoted at £11 12s. 6d. to £11 15s., East Indian pures may be bought at £11 5s. ex steamer to arrive.

Locust Beans.

The demand is very good, but the scarcity continues, and prices are fully maintained at £8 per ton for whole, and £8 10s. per ton for kibbled.

Gums.

There is very little doing. Arabic, Turkish sorts offered at 57s. 6d. to 65s., Ghezira 15s to 46s., Myrrh, good to fine, 96s. to 100s. cwt.; Tragacanth, first, 560s. to 900s., and low to good sorts 96s. to 130s.

EGYPTIAN COTTON.

(From Our Correspondents.)

Cairo, September 8.

It is stated that a third species of boll-worm has been discovered. I have not been able to obtain, at the time of writing, any scientific description of this fresh pest, but, if reports are to be trusted, it is a serious menace to future crops.

[Further mention is made of the Egyptian cotton prospects on page 591.]

Alexandria, September 15.

Prices have steadily gone up. It seems as though high prices were to prevail this year, in view of the restriction of the acreage sown with cotton seed, and of the boll worm damage The crop this year will not exceed 5,500,000 to 6,000,000 kantars, and, together with last year's stocks still held, will suffice for the world's demand. The fellah is selling his cotton as he harvests it, fearing a drop in prices.

The quality of the new crop is satisfactory, and the fibre is good, but the yield per acre is low.

The demand from abroad is active, but arrivals could be improved.

The first gathering has given good results, but it seems as though the second and third gatherings will be insignificant.

Cotton seed prices show a tendency to rise, and are in great demand owing to the high price of oil and oilcakes.

COTTON MARKET.

Liverpool, November 23.

Egyptian Spot.—There has been less demand this week, but a fair business has been done at fluctuating prices. Quotations show an advance of 30 points for the week. Sales are estimated at 3,500 bales against 5,500 last week.

Manchester.

Since our last report the turnover in cloth for shipment has been disappointing, largely due to advancing prices in raw material which has checked business for India. There is a wide difference between offers, and prices put negotiations out of the question.

MEASURES AGAINST THE BOLL WORM.

Reuter's Agency reports from Cairo that a circular has been issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, in which cultivators are warned that the most stringent measures will be taken to ensure the strict enforcement of the terms of the Law No. 19 for 1912 as modified by Law No. 4 for 1914. The object of this law is to destroy all bolls which remain on the cotton plants after the last picking, and thus to prevent the worm from living to attack the crop of the following season.

It is so obviously in the cultivator's interest to save their cotton crop from the attack of this worm that they should be prepared to spare no effort in this direction. As it is a very simple matter to carry out the terms of the law, and the expense entailed is next to nothing, there is no excuse for those who fail to neglect to do so.

In order to rid the cotton sticks of the bolls remaining after the last picking, which are those in which the boll worms lie hidden, all that is necessary is either to let a herd of sheep or goats on to the field, or to engage a few children to go through the field after the last picking has been completed to pick and burn all the remaining bolls.

If cotton-sticks are found with bolls attached after the dates laid down in the law, they will be invariably burnt without delay, whether still standing in the field, stacked at the sides of the fields, in the dwellings, or in heaps ready for use in engines.

The Cunard S.S. Co., Ltd., and the Ellerman Lines, Ltd., have issued the following advice:—

"Until further notice persons or firms desiring to export goods to Greece, otherwise than on the authority of a Privy Council licence, are to be informed that before exportation can be allowed, the consignees in Greece should place themselves in communication with H.M. Legation at Athens and state what guarantees they can offer that the goods will be consumed in Greece. If the guarantees are satisfactory, instructions as to further steps which they should take in the matter will be communicated to them."

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ALEXANDRIA NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Alexandria, Sept. 5.

The Situation.

The situation is improving. When war broke out Egypt was in a trying position, but since the beginning of the year the economic situation has improved so markedly that to-day it is almost normal.

Last year's depreciation in the price of cotton hit the fellah very hard. But the present rise will enable him easily to meet his debts and taxes.

The commercial balance in favour of Egypt has never been so marked as it is now. From January 1 to July 31, 1915, imports were £E9,634,713, as against £E16,356,196 in 1914, or a decrease of £E6,721,483 in seven months. The decrease in exports, on the other hand, was only £E2,415,715 (£E14,318,516 as against £E16,734,231). It will thus be seen that exports are higher than imports, which signifies increased revenues for the country. To the latter must, moreover, be added the revenues accruing from the presence of an increased British Army.

Sir J. Maxwell's Proclamation.

Sir John Maxwell's proclamation commandeering certain foodstuffs and articles of first necessity has had a most salutary effect. It will no longer be possible for unscrupulous dealers to make enormous profits at the expense of the public. One of the effects of the proclamation has been a drop in the price of sugar. The high prices prevailing for this commodity have been a source of great profit to dealers and to the Sucrerie et Raffinerie d'Egypte. The latter company will, as a matter of fact, be able this year to redeem some of its heavy mortgages.

Crown Brewery of Alexandria.

The Société des Sucreries is not the only one to realise good war profits. Another company is the Crown Brewery of Alexandria, whose output and sales have increased owing to the absence of German and Austrian beers on the market. Net profits for 1914 amount to £E5,323, distributed (after deductions made for amortisation) as follows: (1) 5 per cent. to reserve; (2) 5 per cent. interest on the share capital; (3) 10 per cent. to the Board; and (4) 15 per cent. to the special reserve. The remainder has been distributed to shareholders in the form of a bonus of 2 frs. per capital and preference share.

Results of the company's working during the past few months are brilliant, and it is expected that a higher dividend will be paid next year.

Increased Import Dues.

The increase in the import tariff on alcohol and tobacco has been favourably received by the public, who understand that the Government is intent on making both budget ends meet. As regards timber, however, the increase is openly criticised, principally in view of the scarcity and dearness of wood.

Alexandria Cotton Company.

It is announced that the important firm of P. Pilavachi and Co., Ltd., with offices at Liverpool and Alexandria, has been converted into "The Alexandria Cotton Company, Limited."

Credit Franco-Egyptien.

At the last meeting the directors' report was approved, and also the proposal for the reduction of capital with a view to cover doubtful credits. This will tend to normalise the company's position.

Credit Foncier Egyptien.

The board has proposed a dividend of 15 fr. per working share for the past financial year.

New Companies.

The following new companies have been formed:—Zoltos Frères, with a capital of £E4,000, importers; N. Alfieri and Co., with a capital of £E3,000, brokers.

COMPANY NOTES.

Ottoman Railway from Smyrna to Aidin.

The report of the Ottoman Railway from Smyrna to Aidin for the half-year ended June 30 states that incorporated therewith are the accounts from Smyrna to August 31, 1914, since which date no further returns have been received. These accounts will be subject to adjustment as and when later returns are received. Payment of the interest on the preferred shares due May 1 last, amounting to £9,000, was postponed, the funds of the company being insufficient to meet it; but in view of the interest falling due on July 1 upon the Four per Cent. and Five per Cent. debenture stocks, meetings of the debenture holders were summoned and held in accordance with the deed of trust on June 11, when special resolutions were unanimously passed deferring all payments of debenture interest on both issues for twelve months after the signing of peace between the British and Turkish Governments, or for the period of three years from June 30, 1915, whichever period should be the shorter. The scheme provided, *inter alia*, that the deferred payments should carry interest in the case of both issues at 5 per cent. per annum, payable at the termination of the above-mentioned period either in cash or debenture stock at the discretion of the company. A special meeting of shareholders held on June 10 approved this scheme, and certificates for the interest due July 1 last, amounting to £74,175, were accordingly posted to the Four per Cent. and Five per Cent. debenture stockholders.

Our Bucharest correspondent writes:—"The creation is announced of a munitions factory in Bucharest, under the title of Fabrique de Munitions et d'Armes Soc. Anon. Bucarest. The capital is 1,000,000 lei in 2,000 shares of 500 lei. Only Roumanian capital is to participate. The principal shareholders are Marmorosch, Blank and Co., Jacques Catz, M. A. Badulescu, and Kiritzescu and Co. Thirty per cent. of the capital has already been deposited in the National Bank. The construction of the factory will commence immediately, the necessary machinery having already been acquired.

Constantinople Water Company.

The Constantinople Water Company, a French concern in which Swiss capital is largely invested, has declared a dividend of 55 piastres per share of 500 fr. on account of profits made in 1914. This belated payment (says the *Financier*) will be made on presentation of coupon No. 28 to the Imperial Ottoman Bank in Constantinople or at the offices of bankers in Neuchatel (Switzerland), a declaration being required in the latter case that the shares do not belong to enemies of Turkey, and the company will retain the bulk of the money until the Dardanelles are forced.

AGRICULTURAL BANK OF BULGARIA

(BANQUE AGRICOLE DE BULGARIE).

PRIVILEGED CREDIT ESTABLISHMENT.

ESTABLISHED IN 1864.

CAPITAL (fully paid-up) - - Frs. 45,500,000
RESERVE FUNDS - - - ,, 14,500,000

Head Office: SOFIA.

85 Branches and 100 Agencies in all the principal centres of Bulgaria.
Banking and Stock Exchange Operations undertaken. Special Service for Debt Collection, Transfers, Letters of Credit, etc.

NATIONAL BANK OF BULGARIA.

State Bank of Emission. Established 1879.

Head Office - - SOPHIA.

Branches at Sophia, Roustschouk, Varna, Philippopolis, Tirnovo, Burgas, Widin, Plevna, Sistov, Sliven, T.-Pazardjic, Shumla, Stara-Zagora, Gabrovo, Dede-Agatch, Xanthie, Gumuldjina, and 70 agencies.

Capital - 20,000,000 leva gold = £800,000. Reserve Funds - 10,500,000 leva gold = £420,000

EVERY KIND OF BANKING BUSINESS TRANSACTED.

Governor, CHR. TCHAKALOFF.

NATIONAL BANK OF GREECE.

ESTABLISHED IN 1841.

CAPITAL - Dr. 20,000,000. RESERVES - Dr. 13,500,000.

Head Office: ATHENS.

BRANCHES.

Aegion, Agrinion, Almyros, Amalias, Amphissa, Arta, Atalante, Calamata, Calavryta, Céphalonia, Chalkis, Corfu, Corinth, Cythère, Dimitzana, Gythium, Ithaque, Janina, Karditza, Kyparissia, Lamia, Larissa, Lévadia, Mégalopoli, Messina, Missolonghi, Naupacta, Nauplia, Patras, Paxos, Piræus, Poros, Pylos, Pyrgos, St. Maure, Salonika, Santorin, Sparta, Syra, Thèbes, Trikkala, Tripoli, Volo, Zante,

Every kind of Banking Business Transacted.
Cable Address—NATIONALBANK, ATHENS.

Correspondents in all Parts of the World.
Codes Used—LIEBER'S; A.B.C. (5th Edition).

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Prince Line.

The Hon. Robert James presided at the annual meeting of the Prince Line Steamship Company held at York yesterday. The proceedings were private. The Press was subsequently informed that the report and balance-sheet had been unanimously adopted by the shareholders, and that a dividend of 15 per cent., making 19 per cent. for the year, had been declared. It was stated that at the subsequent extraordinary meeting a resolution was carried by an overwhelming majority approving the proposal of the directors to so alter the articles of association as to give the directors authority to, "in their discretion, without assigning any reason, decline to register any transfer of shares to any person not approved by them or any transfer of shares upon which the company may be entitled to a lien or any transfer of shares made to an infant or person of unsound mind."

Baku Russian Petroleum.

The report of the Baku Russian Petroleum Company (1909), Limited, states that the accounts show at the credit of profit and loss account (including £10,527 balance carried forward from previous year) a gross trading profit of £48,346, from which has to be deducted debenture interest, £5,532, and provision for taxes in Russia and England, £5,000, leaving a sum of £37,813, against which there has to be debited £60,236, the depreciation charged in the accounts, and accordingly the £40,000 already standing to credit of that account is reduced to £17,577, whilst the £40,000 standing to credit of general reserve remains intact. When considering the accounts, the year 1914 should be looked upon as consisting of two distinct periods—the first period from January to the end of May; the second from that date to the end of the year. During the first period operations of the company's properties at Baku were carried on under normal conditions, and the gross trading profit for the five months was satisfactory. During the second period strikes prevailed at Baku in June and July, which were followed shortly by the outbreak of the war. In this latter period the trading profits of the company were adversely affected by the loss of two months' production; by damage to wells arising from stoppage of work, and by unsatisfactory labour conditions owing to the war. The figures, therefore, are the result of ten months' working, whilst, of course, the standing and other charges and expenses are in respect of twelve months. During the year oil was obtained from eighty wells, also boring was proceeding on five new wells. At the end of the year sixty-five wells were producing, nine were undergoing repair, whilst operations on six were temporarily suspended. Owing to the outbreak of the war and closing of the Dardanelles, important parts of new boring machinery could not be delivered at Baku. The Dutch and German drillers engaged in connection with this work were either repatriated or interned. The commencement of operations with the new plant and machinery was delayed for some time until other drillers could be engaged and the missing parts could be procured in Baku. Some of the items and charges in the Russian accounts seem to be rather heavy. Steps have already been taken to effect some economies at Baku. The directors propose to make a closer investigation into the expenditure at Baku as soon as war conditions permit. The London administration charges have also been engaging the attention of the board and arrangements made securing considerable reductions.

COMPANY RESULTS, &c.

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields. — Gemsah, week 134 tons, previous week 150 tons. Hurgada, week 245 tons, against 168 tons.

Baku-Russian Petroleum.—Mr. Herbert Allen has ceased, dating from August 11, to be a director of this company.

Egyptian Delta Light Railways.—Traffic returns for the 11 days ended August 31 amounted to £E4,775, as against £E4,431 for the corresponding period of last year.

Khedivial Mail Steamship and Graving Dock.—Holders of preference share warrants to bearer should present coupons Nos. 33 and 34. Transfer books will be closed from 27th to 30th instant, inclusive.

Ottoman Railway from Smyrna to Aidin.—Meeting 28th inst., noon, Winchester House, E.C.

Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields.—Production for the week ended 11st inst. : 1,581 tons. Moreni well No. 30 still flowing steadily.

Suez Canal.—Receipts for the 21st inst. amounted to 190,000 frs., as compared with 330,000 frs. the corresponding day a year ago.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Situation au 31 Juillet, 1915, publiée en conformité de l'Article 8 des Statuts.

SERVICE DE BANQUE.

	£E.
Titres d'Etat et Titres garantis par le Gouvernement Egyptien	1,134,247
Titres divers	384,703
Comptes-Courants	337,802
Avances sur Marchandises	773,846
Avances sur Titres Locaux et Etrangers	1,568,087
Avances sur d'autres garanties	1,217,686
Effets sur l'Etranger	1,586,226
Effets sur l'Egypte	349,703
Immeubles et mobilier	246,071
Placements à courte échéance	307,125
Comptes Banquiers	768,014
Ministère des Finances	14,446
Gouvernement du Soudan	428,717
Encaisse:	
Espèces:	
Or £E.171,347	
Argent et nickel £E.196,207	
£E.367,554	
Billets de Banque £E.696,921	1,064,475
Divers	219,102
	£E.10,400,250

	£E.
Capital	2,925,000
Réserve:—	
Statutaire	1,267,500
Comptes-Courants, Dépôts et autres	4,234,989
Tribunaux Mixtes	1,285,860
Ministère des Finances	17,554
Ministère Compte spécial	6,920
Comptes Banquiers	107,385
Chèques et effets à payer	193,377
Divers	361,665
	£E.10,400,250

SERVICE D'EMISSION DE BILLETS DE BANQUE.

Espèces	£E.3,474,111
Titres	2,975,889
	£E.6,450,000
Billets émis	£E.6,450,000
	£E.6,450,000

NATIONAL BANK OF BULGARIA.

BALANCE-SHEET, AUGUST 7/20, 1915.

Assets.

	Lewas.
Metallic	87,823,991·26
Unissued Capital	2,174,527·62
Foreign Securities	69,984,019·06
Portfolio	37,275,844·35
Portfolio abroad	24,550,000·00
Special current accounts	59,589,814·31
State Treasury	132,411,742·78
Short-dated loans	878,514·58
Long-dated loans	79,066,519·45
Bulgarian State and Public Funds	4,193,367·95
Public funds of the Reserve Capital	4,471,729·59
Participations	3,287,200·00
Movable and Real Estate	1,387,733·79
Real Estate adjudged to the Bank	1,733,679·24
General expenses	2,131,449·23
Sundry assets	25,132,325·75
Total	536,092,458·96

Liabilities.

	Lewas.
Capital	20,000,000·00
Reserve	7,323,671·00
Creances douteuses fund	6,331,159·41
Mortgage reserve fund	842,142·64
Liquidation of property adjudged to the bank	967,176·15
Bank notes in circulation	249,503,463·00
Current accounts	145,646,162·03
Drafts at sight	2,392,000.00
Administration of State loans	248,624·00
Short term deposits, with interest	58,495,326·80
4½ per cent. debentures, 1909	28,320,000·00
Interests and various earnings	6,815,505·03
Sundry accounts	9,207,228·90
Total	536,092,458·96

Bank Rate, 6½ per cent.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE	Mean Price. July 27.	Min. Price. Mar. 20.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	—	89 1/2xd
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907	82	—	—
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909	80	—	66
City of Alexandria 5%, 1909	99	—	90½
City of Constantinople 4% Bnds	96	—	—
Egypt. Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan	93½	87½	87½
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	85	85
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	88	78	78
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82½	73½	78⅛
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	80½	75	75½
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	52	55
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	52	55
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	45	45
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	40	42
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	52	53
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	—	50
Do. 4 % Rails. Loan, 1902	77	—	65
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	94	—	90
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	—	74
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	91	—	80
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913, So., £60p.	92	—	85
Servian 4 % Unified Bonds	67	—	—xd
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855	103	97	—
Do. 4 %, 1891	94½	—	83
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	—	73½
Do. 4 % Loan, 1902	82½	—	—
Do. 4 % Unified	79	—	54
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	65½	—	49
Do. 4 %, 1909	69	—	47⅛
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	—	2⅞
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	—	6⅝
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.	80	—	73
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red.	83	—	75
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	—	9½
Bank of Abyssinia	½	—	—
Bank of Athens	£2	—	1½
Bank of Roumania	8½	—	—
Eastern Bank	5	—	82/6
Imperial Bank of Persia	7½	—	6
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	—	—
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅞	—	3½
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	—	4¼
National Bank of Egypt	13½	—	10½
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½% C.P.	8	—	nom.
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8½	—	5½xd
Do. do. 5 % Debs., Red.	98	—	95
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I.	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88½	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17⅝	—	13
Do. do. 6% Cum. Pref.	22	—	13⅝
Do. do. 4 % 1st Deb.	87	—	57
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb.	101	—	69
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	90	—	—
Do. do. 3 % Bonds	61	—	—
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1⅛	—	⅛
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	—	95
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	¼	—	—
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	—	2
Do. Do. Def.	¼	—	—
Béhéra Co.	8½	—	7
Do. Pref.	4½	—	3½
Daira Sanieh	2/2	—	2/6
Do. Def.	⅝	—	20/-
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	9/-	—	7/-
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tst.	98	—	90
Do and Foreign Trust	5/-	—	2/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	—	1
" " Founders	¼	—	—
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—	—
Do 5 % Debs. Red.	—	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	9⅜	—	7½
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	—	87½xd
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	—	—
Sidi Salem Co.	⅝	—	⅝
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	—	½
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	—	-/9
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	—	10⅞
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt	97	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	—	—
Egyptian Hotels	1½	—	—
Do. 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—	—
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅝	—	1⅛
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	99½	—	95
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	⅛	—	14/3
Do. 5 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	96	—	95
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅝	—	9/-
Do. do. Prefs.	3½	—	3
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt.	90	—	85
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (fr.500)	£179½	—	£—
Upper Egypt Hotels	2¼	—	—

OIL.	Price on July 30.	Sept. 22.
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	⅝	4/6
Anglo-Persian	22/1⅛	⅛
European Oilfields	4/9	3/6
Roumanian	20/-	13/-

PARIS BOURSE.

	Jan. 4.	Sep. 22.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane	—	—
Canal de Suez	4050	—
Credit Foncier Egyptien	639	560
Turkish Unified 4%	61.50	—
Egyptian Unified 4%	87.75	88.75
Serbian, 1895	—	61.70

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 230.—Vol. IX. FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1915.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The events immediately following the issue of the Royal Decree for the mobilization of the Bulgarian Army have made it possible to gauge the inwardness of Bulgaria's action. It was something more than a *coup de théâtre* on the part of King Ferdinand. Public opinion in Bulgaria is divided into three camps, representing those who wish to make common cause with the Central Powers, those who realize that the country's interests require its co-operation with the Quadruple Entente, and those who think that Bulgaria ought to remain neutral. To the first category belong King Ferdinand and his advisers, but in view of the attitude of the bulk of the nation they have hesitated to take the fatal step. German insistence and German threats, however, became more alarming, and it was decided to try the effect on all concerned of a mobilization of the army. Dr. Radoslavoff, the Premier, would seem, if a statement attributed to him be true, to have been told off to represent the mobilization as undertaken in friendly understanding with Turkey. The explanation at least coincided with the chief factors in the situation that a leaning towards the Germanic Powers had prompted the step, and that the latter alone would be inclined to regard the mobilization with favour.

If the Bulgarian authorities were anxious to know how the mobilization order would be received, they were not kept long in uncertainty. In Bulgaria itself it was obeyed without enthusiasm, in such a way as to leave no doubt as to the unpopularity of the step. Abroad the effect was instantaneous. Within twenty-four hours after the facts were known in Greece the Government of M. Venizelos had obtained King Constantine's signature to a Decree for the mobilization of twenty classes of the Reserve. Bulgaria's opportunity for effecting any surprise movement on Germany's behalf had practically vanished. It became necessary, therefore, to explain away her action. The mobilization, it was pointed out, was not directed against Serbia. Bulgaria entertained no aggressive intentions, but was firmly resolved to defend by force of arms her rights and independence. In view of the possible extension of the area of hostilities the necessity of taking precautionary measures for the defence of the country was apparent. This subtle allusion to the threatened invasion of Serbia by an Austro-German force was, no doubt, regarded as a master stroke of Bulgarian diplomacy, as it would tend to put Bulgaria right with the Entente Powers.

The actual effect of the explanation can hardly have been what Bulgaria's rulers anticipated. They were shown to be playing fast and loose with both belligerent parties, and to be prepared to sacrifice the interests of their country merely from a desire to adopt a policy of adventure. If it were true that the Radoslavoff Cabinet had any reason to anticipate a menace to its independence from an Austro-German advance, its duty to Bulgaria was clear. It ought at once to have made common cause with the Quadruple Entente for the protection of its rights. If there were no danger of such an advance, then Bulgaria's integrity was in no way threatened, and there was no justification for the costly indulgence in mobilization. A week ago we ventured to hope that behind the mobilization lay the first glimmerings of a realization on the part of the Bulgarian Government that an Austro-German victory would ultimately lead to Bulgaria's loss of independence, and that Bulgaria's salvation must be worked out in co-operation with the Entente Powers. If this had been the case, no time would have been lost in overtures to the Allied Governments. But it is now known that the Bulgarian Government took no step in this direction.

The last hope of there being some honest purpose behind Bulgaria's action was shattered by the Foreign Secretary's speech in the House of Commons on Tuesday. Sir Edward Grey's remarks showed conclusively that Bulgaria had mobilized without seeking to arrive at the shadow of an understanding with the Quadruple Entente on the subject. They showed too, unfortunately, how wide is the breach brought about between Bulgaria and Great Britain by the policy of King Ferdinand and his advisers, for Sir Edward Grey was not even at pains to cloak his meaning in diplomatic circumlocution. He began by recording the traditional attitude of Great Britain to Bulgaria. "Not only is there no hostility in this country to Bulgaria, but there is traditionally a warm feeling of sympathy for the Bulgarian people. As long, therefore, as Bulgaria does not side with the enemies of Great Britain and her Allies, there can be no question of British influence or

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forces being used in a sense hostile to Bulgarian interests; and, as long as the Bulgarian attitude is unaggressive, there should be no disturbance of friendly relations." The British Foreign Secretary then added this deliberate warning:—"*If, on the other hand, the Bulgarian mobilization were to result in Bulgaria assuming an aggressive attitude on the side of our enemies, we are prepared to give to our friends in the Balkans all the support in our power in the manner that would be most welcome to them, in concert with our Allies, without reserve and without qualification.*"

Sir Edward Grey would not have uttered this warning unless the British Government had some ground for believing that there was a distinct danger of Bulgaria adopting the course against which she is thus warned. The fact that such a danger existed has been recognized in these pages, for the reason that, with the destinies of Bulgaria in the hands of its present rulers, there can be no guarantee that the real interests of the country will be the deciding factor in any State decision. We have believed, however, as was stated last week, that in the present instance the sound instinct of the Bulgarian nation would prevail over folly and worse in another place. Before Sir Edward Grey's speech was made the Bulgarian mobilization had been thwarted of its real purpose A variety of circumstances had combined to give King Ferdinand and his advisers pause—the check to the German arms in the eastern theatre, the significant successes of the Allies in the west, and, last but not least, the manifest reluctance of the Bulgarian nation to embark upon a policy of national suicide. Sir Edward Grey will have helped the Bulgarian Government to retrace its steps into a course of sanity, which, we may hope, will ultimately lead Bulgaria to the realization of her national ideals. We could have wished, however, that the whole of Sir Edward Grey's speech could have been delivered many months ago, for we cannot help thinking that if the British Government could have shown at the outbreak of the war the same firmness in dealing with the Balkan situation, the course of events in the Near East would have taken a very different course.

For the future, the Bulgarians have no excuse for misunderstanding the attitude of Great Britain. It was very clearly laid down by Sir Edward Grey. "Our policy," he said, "has been to secure agreement between the Balkan States, which would assure to each of them, not only independence, but a brilliant future, based, as a general principle, on the territorial and political union of kindred nationalities. To secure this agreement, we have recognized that the legitimate aspirations of all Balkan States must find satisfaction. The policy of Germany, on the other hand, has been to create for her own purposes disunion and war between the Balkan States. . . . . It would naturally be Germany's policy to use any Balkan State she could influence to further this plan [to realize the German aspiration of German influence from Berlin to Baghdad], with the inevitable result that that State would eventually be subordinate to her; and, though territorial gains might be promised, it would lose real independence. This is directly contrary to the policy of the Allies, which is to further the national aspirations of the Balkan States without sacrificing the independence of any of them."

Bulgaria's difficulty will now be to remove the obstacles which stand in the way of her realizing her national ideals through the agency of the Quadruple Entente. If King Ferdinand and his present advisers had been able to have their own way, Bulgaria would have been bound to the German chariot, and the knell of her independence would have sounded. It remains to be seen whether they can trim their sails in a manner acceptable to the nation as a whole, or whether important changes in the government of the country will have to be effected before Bulgaria can come into her own. Great Britain will be anxious to make the task as easy as possible, but the matter rests in Bulgarian hands.

In contrast with the absence in Bulgaria of enthusiasm over the mobilization of the Army, the steps taken by M. Venizelos have evoked the most gratifying response throughout Greece. The first point that emerges from the course of events during the last week in Greece is that a complete understanding exists between King Constantine and M. Venizelos. There was no delay in the issue of the Royal Decree mobilizing the Army, and there is ample evidence that, if Bulgaria moved against Serbia or her Allies, Greece would at once act. Roumania could hardly fail to follow her example. For the moment the Roumanian Government is adopting a watching attitude. It has 160,000 men under the colours, and all preparations have been made for the instant mobilization of the remainder of the army, when the time comes. The faith of the Bratiano Cabinet is not robust enough to make it throw in its lot "without reserve and without qualification" with the Quadruple Entente, while Russia is still being driven back by the Germans. It would prefer to find an opening for military co-operation when there is a surer prospect of a speedier termination of the struggle; but if Bulgaria were to adopt an aggressive attitude, Roumania would not hesitate to act. There is a desire on the part of many Roumanian politicians to come to an understanding with Bulgaria, but the intransigeant attitude of the Bulgarian Government has so far checked the scheme.

Recent events in the western theatre of the war, the Russian stand against the Austro-German forces, and the prospect of developments at the Dardanelles, are likely to make a profound impression on all the Balkan States. The Allies' successes in France and Flanders offer the first concrete proof that Germany does not necessarily possess the invincibility to which she lays claim. If they are followed by successes of a similar nature on Gallipoli Peninsula, we may expect to see the present power of the Pro-Germans in the Balkans at once swept away, and the last hindrance to the adoption of a common policy in the interests of the Peninsula as a whole will have been removed.

Significant news comes from Mesopotamia. The British Expeditionary Force has engaged and defeated the Turks at Kut-el-Amarah, and the possibility of an advance up the Tigris to Baghdad need no longer be ignored. The Turkish advanced position was seven miles east of Kut-el-Amarah, astride the Tigris, which here runs due east, and extending for some miles on either bank. After a fight which only lasted until the early afternoon, thanks to a successful night march which brought some of our troops on the enemy's left flank, where they were least expected, the Turks evacuated their trenches and retired west. They were pursued, and abandoning the position immediately defending Kut-el-Amarah, fled "towards Baghdad." The official report adds: "Our force is pushing in pursuit." Baghdad is little more than a hundred miles as the crow flies from Kut-el-Amarah, but double that distance by the tortuous course of the Tigris. Kut, in turn, is some 300 miles from the Persian Gulf. The expeditionary force has, therefore, covered three-quarters of the distance to Baghdad, and it is very doubtful whether the terrain between Kut and Baghdad lends itself to the preparation of any formidable defence works by the enemy. Throughout its advance it has been uniformly successful. The Turks have in nearly every instance fought well, but have not been equal to resisting the British attacks. The pre-occupations of the Ottoman Government in Europe have doubtless prevented it from giving all the attention it would have liked to give to the campaign in Mesopotamia. Even Djemal Pasha's force for the conquest of Egypt melted away before the imperious demands for reinforcements for the Dardanelles. It was unlikely that troops would be spared for a still more distant theatre at the head of the Persian Gulf. Reports are still being spread of what is yet to be done against Egypt; but even if the preparations for a fresh attack were being made seriously, it might be doubted whether they will be in time to forestal far more important developments in European Turkey.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, September 21.

H.H. the Sultan.

It has now been definitely decided that the seat of government will not be removed again to Cairo until the end of October. H.H. the Sultan and the Ministers were to have returned to the capital for the winter in another fortnight, but as Kourban Bairam falls about October 18, it was thought best to defer their departure from Alexandria until after the five-day feast. By that time it is hoped that the repairs and alterations to Abdin Palace, including the erection of iron railings round the section facing the square, will have been completed.

The Attempt on Fathi Pasha.

The inquiry into the attempted assassination of H.E. Ibrahim Pasha Fathi, Minister of Wakfs, has for all practical purposes been concluded, and the Procureur-General has transmitted the *dossier* to the military authorities for the necessary action. There is but one accused in this case—Saleh Abdel Latif, the man who committed the act. He still maintains the callous and disdainful attitude that he adopted at the outset, and, in addition to the threat which he levelled at the head of the Minister of Justice at the beginning of the inquiry, he openly boasted of having shadowed Rushdi Pasha, the Prime Minister, whom he would have assassinated if he had got away from the station after his attempt on Fathi Pasha.

The information contained in a previous letter (of the 8th inst.) as to the bad antecedents and immoral conduct of Saleh Abdel Latif is now fully confirmed. Steps have been taken to ascertain what has become of the £E800 he embezzled from the public funds; for the theft was effected on the Thursday, and on the Saturday, when he was arrested, he had only a few pounds on him. It is not possible for him to have spent this large sum in such a short space of time, and it is believed that a large portion has been hidden away somewhere by him or by his boon companions. Albeit no accomplices have been found, and the accused claims for himself full responsibility for his act, those who understand the working of the Oriental mind, and have been close observers of the tactics of the reactionary Egyptian element during the past decade, are convinced that this is no isolated act, but that it is part of a widespread conspiracy directed from Europe by the Nationalist party. Naturally, the authorities are disinclined to make any statement on the point, but there are ample indications that these revolutionary acts owe their inspiration to a common source.

I am glad to be able to report that H.E. the Minister of Wakfs has almost completely recovered from his wounds. He has been out for several drives, and has been able to attend to part of his duties. It may be of interest to note that Fathi Pasha was sitting by the side of the Sultan when the recent attempt was made on the latter in Alexandria, and that he took a prominent part in the subsequent inquiry, and rendered material assistance in the detection of the accomplices. Nine persons are now in custody in connection with the outrage on the Sultan, and the authorities state that they have sufficient evidence to warrant their being brought to trial. One of the accused is a teacher in the Moslem Benevolent School in Alexandria, one an employee of the Egyptian State Railways, two are lawyers, one a doctor, and four are students or ex-students in the Government Schools. It is understood that all are being held at the disposal of the military authorities, but the date of their trial by a military court has as yet not been fixed.

H.E. Hussein Pasha Rushdi, the Prime Minister, gave an interview to a local contemporary this week, in the course of which he made some very pointed remarks as to the net result of any successful attempts on the life of the Sultan and his Ministers. He confirmed the view recently expressed by your correspondent that if this country were to lose its ruler at the hand of an assassin, annexation by Great Britain would ensue, and added that even if the threats levelled at those holding Ministerial posts did achieve the object of those responsible for the creation of what they hoped would be a reign of terror, i.e., the deterring of all Egyptians from accepting such high positions under the existing régime, the sole result would be that British Ministers would be appointed, and the national position of all Egyptians would be worse than before. Rushdi Pasha also pointed out that even supposing Germany proved victorious, and forced the British to leave Egypt, it would only be to replace them on the banks of the Nile; and that the history of the two nations plainly showed that such an eventuality would have the most disastrous consequences for the Egyptian nation. The statements made by the enlightened Premier are welcome. One is, however, tired of expressing the hope that they will be taken to heart by the wretched miscreants who have schemed, and are still scheming, against the lives of the Ruler and the Ministers of this country. It would appear that only the most drastic action in regard to both principals and accomplices will have the effect of setting a term to their machinations.

The Wakfs Scandals.

The cases against Khairy Pasha and others for misapplication of funds have been postponed until the 24th prox. Meanwhile Mohammed Pasha Said, the ex-Premier, who was appointed Curator of the Seif-ed-Dine Daira, has succeeded in settling out of court the action which he had brought against the Egyptian Enterprise and Development and Gharbia Land Companies for the cancellation of the land exchange which his predecessor, Hussein Pasha Moharrem, had arranged. It is understood that the Daira retains the two Alexandria buildings, and purchases only one of the estates, that had been offered in exchange, at £E15 per feddan less than the price originally fixed. Said Pasha is certainly to be congratulated on having extricated the Seif-ed-Dine Daira from its unfortunate predicament without a lawsuit, which, apart from the fact that it would certainly have proved protracted, would at the same time have been unpleasant for all parties.

TRIAL OF CAIRO ASSASSIN.

Saleh Abdel Latif, who, on September 4, stabbed Fathi Pasha, Minister of Wakfs, at Cairo Station, was on Monday charged with attempting to murder Fathi Pashi, and with compassing the death of the Premier and the Ministers of Justice and of Wakfs. He pleaded guilty to the first charge and not guilty to the second, although the second was based on statements which he himself made after arrest. The trial concluded at two o'clock, and the verdict was forwarded to the General Officer Commanding. On the Wednesday the prisoner received sentence of death.

ARREST OF BRITISH SUBJECTS.

According to private messages from Constantinople received in Sofia viâ Dedeagatch the Turkish authorities arrested and deported to the interior on September 18 nine British subjects.

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ARMENIAN REFUGEES IN EGYPT.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Port Said, September 19.

Two French warships which recently arrived here have landed over 4,000 Armenian refugees, the first instalment of a multitude of destitute, homeless people, who for weeks past have been tramping the mountains, escaping from their life-long enemies and oppressors, the Turks.

The stories told by these unfortunate refugees go to show that a descent was made by Turkish soldiers and Bashi Bozouks on the peaceful villages of Armenia, and that women, children, and old men were mercilessly turned out of their houses and driven with sword and whip into the mountains. A large number of the young men were forcibly enlisted in the Turkish army, death being the only alternative; while a certain proportion of the men fled at the approach of the Turks, and, armed with ancient rifles and revolvers, succeeded in keeping them at a distance while making their way with the women and children in a southerly direction to the coast.

For several weeks these unhappy people wandered over the mountains with little food and less shelter, and hundreds are said to have died through the privations endured. Women and children fell in the mountain paths, weakened through lack of food, and had perforce to be left to die of cold and starvation. A guerilla warfare was maintained all the time between those of the refugees who had weapons and the Turkish troops.

As the refugees came within sight of the coast at Antioch Bay, near Aleppo, two French cruisers appeared, and the Armenians signalled for help. The guns of the warships opened fire on the Turks, thus keeping them back, while the women and children were brought down the mountain side and taken off in the cruisers' boats. A large number of men also came with the boats, but some of them preferred to remain on the hills and continue the guerilla warfare against the hated Turk. In certain parts of the mountainous district almost impregnable positions have been taken up by the Armenians, who, having entrenched themselves, are successfully keeping the foe at bay. Desperate in the knowledge that they can expect no mercy at the hands of the Turks, they are prepared to sell their lives dearly, and are said to have already accounted for several hundred Turkish soldiers and irregulars.

The refugees are being temporarily harboured here in the spacious 'tween decks of an Australian transport, while shelters and tents are being erected for them on the Asiatic side of the harbour. As the greater proportion of these unfortunate people are very poorly clad, efforts are being made locally to provide them with clothing. The Armenian Patriarch of Egypt has arrived from Cairo with several Armenian doctors and other members of the colony, who are doing everything in their power to help alleviate the misery of their compatriots, the first and most necessary steps in this direction having been taken by the British military authorities.

The French cruisers, which returned after handing over their charges to the authorities here, are expected back shortly with several thousand more refugees.

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BARRACK LIFE IN KHARTOUM.

(From a Correspondent.)

The experiences of the British soldier in the Sudan, even more than in Egypt, are usually very pleasant, and the minimum of grumbling, even from the most chronic of malcontents, is heard. Notwithstanding the undoubted climatic and other trials to health and temper entailed by a long sojourn in Khartoum throughout the year, the lot of the British garrison is by no means unpleasant. Indeed, it may be said that everything that common sense, coupled with good discipline, can suggest for the advantage of our troops undergoing barrack life in the far Sudan has been and is being done. There is a complete absence of pampering, but a plenitude of comfort. The principal British barracks are those at Khartoum contained in a series of large and airy brick buildings, connected, and situated in a pleasant and healthy position upon the banks of the historic Blue Nile. An abundance of tree-shade is afforded—an immense advantage where the glare of the fierce African sun must be endured for three hundred out of the three hundred and sixty-five days of the year. Special attention has likewise been devoted to the number and the character of the bath-houses. "Tommy," above all things, is a very clean person; the lack of bathing facilities, to which so many residents in the interior of the generally waterless Sudan must accustom themselves, concerns him not at all, In addition to many bath-houses—including some fitted with showers—the British soldier upon occasion has the privilege of bathing in the waters of the Nile itself, and of that privilege he avails himself as fully as the regulations will permit.

The barrack-rooms are lofty, being constructed upon the bungalow system, and the electric light is found practically everywhere. The latter fact proves somewhat of a mixed blessing, since it attracts myriads of insects, ranging from the irritating, almost invisible midge to the lumbering, noisy night-beetle, which, in ever-increasing battalions, whirls madly around, and finally dashes against the electric-light globes, heaps of scaly bodies being swept up every morning and thrown away. Mosquitoes also are attracted, but owing to the excellent, severe sanitary precautions in force the number and deadliness of these tropical pests are not found to be very serious.

Like the rations served out, the barrack-room meal hours in force among the troops at Khartoum are strictly adapted to the peculiar climate of the country. Early breakfast is provided at 5.30 a.m., consisting of bread, some kind of preserve, and occasionally of some cereal food; dinner, served at noon, consists of meat variously cooked, vegetables, and plenty of good, wholesome bread; tea, taken at 5 p.m., includes tinned fruits, preserves, etc. Few, if any, complaints are recorded among the men in regard to the character of the catering, especially since a change was made in the contractors, whose services are carried out under the strict supervision of the military authorities.

"Tommy" is not permitted to fall into the pernicious sluggish habits which a sojourn in a hot climate, unattended by sufficient physical exercise, is calculated to produce. In the Sudan, as in India, during the intensely hot days and nights of summer the human being must be careful both of his food and of his drink. In the great majority of cases where long residence is obligatory—some of the British regiments have served in Egypt and the Sudan uninterruptedly for seven years, although the 2/3rd City of London Regiment (Royal Fusiliers), which has just left Khartoum, only arrived there from Malta in April last, thus remaining but four months in the Sudan—this rule is so well understood that the men go home as "fit" as they come out. There is but little necessity, perhaps, for either officer or man to measure out his food by ounces or his drink by gills, to abstain from this food or that, or dread to taste of an ice-pudding or to shudder at the mention of a cocktail. The present generation at least lead a hardy, simple life, enjoying it, in marked contrast, one would say, to the earliest military settlers in the East, who appear to have been an indolent, dissipated, gasping lot of swollen-livered individuals, from the general downwards.

The Sudan military authorities have very wisely ordained that "Tommy" shall have sufficient but not too much physical exercise. Rising at 5 a.m., he has two hours of sound drill from 6 to 8 a.m., and that is all the violent exercise for the day. Between 10 and 11 a.m. there is an inspection of the barrack-rooms, beds, rifles, and bayonets. Consideration is shown in many ways for the men's physical comfort, as, for instance, allowing them to discard their tunics when upon parade owing to the great and often prostrating heat of the summer climate.

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ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, September 17.

The Austro-German Invasion of the Balkans.

Much uneasiness was felt in Athens yesterday on account of telegraphic news received stating that a large number of German troops were concentrated on the Hungarian frontier and announcing their early descent upon the Balkans to go to the aid of their allies at Constantinople. As no official confirmation has up to the present been received, however, it is believed that this threat, held out repeatedly for so many months, is only a piece of bluff, at any rate for the moment.

The probable consequences of such an invasion are much discussed in the Press. Whatever route the troops might take to gain Constantinople, it is feared in political circles that such an advance, if made, would cause a general conflagration in the Balkans, which would probably involve Greece also. In certain Germanophil circles it is said that, in order to maintain Greece's neutrality, Germany would prevent Bulgaria from profiting by this invasion to attack Serbia, in which case Greece would be obliged to intervene on behalf of her ally; and in support of this assertion, it is added that it is in Germany's interests to prevent the uncovering of another front in the Balkans, above all at the present moment. From this it would seem that Bulgaria's *rôle* will be limited to guarding the flank of the German troops, by keeping Roumania in check should she seem disposed to come to the aid of the Serbians in order to prevent the Germans from reaching Constantinople. However, contrary to these statements, the latest telegrams say that Germany will make every endeavour to secure the co-operation of Bulgaria before deciding on the projected invasion.

Roumania's Attitude.

In spite of the rumours current that Roumania has definitely thrown in her lot with the Entente Powers, nothing is yet certain, and it would seem that, like Bulgaria, she continues to sit on the fence, finding herself in a very difficult position owing to her geographical situation, which, in a large measure, renders her financially dependent on Austria-Hungary and Germany. It appears that in consequence of her refusal to allow the transit of munitions for Turkey across her territory, the two allied empires, in order to exercise pressure upon her, threatened to close the outlets for her harvest, which this year represents a value of 700 millions (lei).

It is reported here that for some time Greece and Roumania have been endeavouring to come to an agreement, with the object of securing co-operation between Greece, Roumania, and Serbia against Bulgaria and her eventual allies. Greek official circles, however, are very reticent on the subject, and the *Patris*, the leading Government organ, denies that negotiations have yet been opened between the two States. The descent of the Germans on the East, should it take place, and that at a time when the Entente Powers are making a final effort to persuade the Balkan States to co-operate with them, would no doubt have a very considerable influence on the decisions of these States, and could not but increase their present hesitation.

M. Venizelos's Position.

The Greek Government is closely watching the new phase which the Balkan situation is tending to assume. Certainly no one would counsel Greek participation in the European struggle at the present juncture, for circumstances now are no more favourable than they were last February. Thus M. Venizelos could not help following the policy of neutrality advocated daily by the Germanophil Press if, contrary to expectations, Roumania should not offer any resistance to the passage of the Austro-Germans and prevent them from linking up with their Turkish allies. But should the Balkans be involved in a struggle on which the future of the various States of the Peninsula would depend, then M. Venizelos would not hesitate for a moment to intervene. If, therefore, Roumania departs from her neutrality and unites with the Russians and Serbs to prevent the projected Austro-German invasion, and Bulgaria seizes the opportunity to attack either Roumania or Serbia, how, asks the Ministerialist *Patris*, could Greece do anything but intervene to restrain Bulgaria and defend her own most vital interests, while at the same time serving the cause of the Entente?

In the event of Bulgaria mobilizing, Greece would be compelled to take the same step, to secure herself against a sudden occupation of Kavalla, or, perhaps, even of Salonika. Such an eventuality, which would have the effect of bringing the two armies face to face, would almost inevitably lead to a conflict, in view of the hatred which exists between the two peoples. M. Venizelos foresees that, one way or another, Bulgaria is about to aggrandize herself, and that as soon as she feels herself bigger and stronger than Greece, she will not fail to declare war on the latter, so as to wrest Macedonia from her. As for the guarantees which Germany would be disposed to give—that is to say, compelling Bulgaria to respect the territorial integrity of Greece—no value can be placed on these, even if she should be victorious. Therefore, judging by the tone of the Government Press, M. Venizelos appears to be of opinion that should it be impossible to obtain Bulgaria's co-operation on the side of the Entente—in which case Greece would also obtain an extension of territory—it would be preferable for the latter, should an opportunity present itself, to settle accounts with her now, while conditions are more favourable to Greece.

According to M. Venizelos, to maintain its policy of neutrality until the end of the war would mean the ruin of Greece. His principal mouthpiece, the *Patris*, openly declares that "Greece will in no case allow the creation of a Big Bulgaria, her natural rival and enemy, without obtaining a similar extension of territory. And if those (hinting at the King) who have the right to disapprove of the policy of the responsible Government of the country prefer that of the Opposition, the former is ready to make way for another Government."

In order to make the meaning of these statements more clear I may add that certain anti-Venizelist journals which are supposed to represent the opinions of high circles have stated more than once that the King is determined to insist on the continuance of neutrality, even should Bulgaria profit by the German invasion to attack Serbia, and that he would not recognise any *casus fœderis* that would compel Greece to come to the aid of her ally, Serbia.

Demarche of the Entente at Sofia.

It is with these same ideas in mind that the Venizelist Press again reproaches the Western Powers with treating Bulgaria too considerately, by leaving her free to choose at her leisure between the offers of the two belligerent groups, and thereby creating a danger not only to themselves, but also to Greece. It would seem that M. Venizelos has already made this view known to the Entente Powers, having declared that if they allow Bulgaria to negotiate indefinitely with both sides they will create a situation which no sacrifice on the part of Greece could remedy. It is hoped, too, that the *démarche* made by the representatives of the four Powers to Bulgaria last Tuesday took a peremptory form, and that the concessions offered aim at obtaining not simply her neutrality, but her effective co-operation.

The contents of this communication appear to have been kept secret. It seems, however, that, together with Serbia's reply, the Western Powers communicated to the Bulgarian Government the reply of Greece.

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BULGARIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Sofia, September 11.

Bulgaria and Armenia.

On Wednesday Dr. Radoslavoff received a deputation which presented to him a memorial regarding the situation in Armenia. The deputation, which was led by M. Nazarian, a representative of the Armenian Bishop in Bulgaria, consisted of six deputies of the Bulgarian Parliament, representing various political parties in the Chamber, and two representatives of the Bulgarian Press. The Prime Minister was extremely sympathetic, and declared that he has always been interested in the condition of the Armenians, and has always done whatever he could to alleviate their lot. He also informed the deputation that three days earlier King Ferdinand had received telegrams from the Armenian bishops in Armenia and Egypt, asking him to exert his influence to put a stop to the outrages perpetrated by the Turkish authorities upon the Armenians. These telegrams King Ferdinand had handed to Dr. Radoslavoff, who had forwarded them to the Bulgarian Minister at Constantinople, with instructions to deliver them to the Sublime Porte, and to declare that "the personal will of the King of the Bulgarians is that the outrages against the Armenians should be stopped."

Accepting the memorial, the Prime Minister promised that he would have it translated into French and forwarded to the Bulgarian Minister at Constantinople, with instructions to take the necessary steps at the Porte. He also expressed a hope that positive results might be expected from Bulgaria's action. Referring to Armenian refugees, Dr. Radoslavoff promised that every facility should be granted to them, that no difficulties should be raised over the question of passports, and that, as has been the case during the past twenty years, Armenian refugees will find a cordial welcome in Bulgaria.

Important Statement by Dr. Radoslavoff.

The Prime Minister declared to the delegates that Bulgaria is ready to face the events to which the general situation is leading up, and that the economic condition of the country is fairly satisfactory. This year's crops which are required in the country will be reserved, and only the surplus will be permitted to be exported.

A member of the deputation, Dr. Fadencheht, representing the Radical parliamentary group, seized the opportunity to express to the Prime Minister the misgivings of the Opposition lest the Government should commit itself and the country to an adventure by deciding to attack Serbia. To this Dr. Radoslavoff replied: "To-day, when I am negotiating with the Entente Powers regarding the concessions that Serbia ought to make to Bulgaria, it cannot be thought, even for a moment, that the Government is deliberating an attack on Serbia, thereby involving the country in a catastrophe. For one moment, gentlemen, do consider that the Ministerial seats are occupied by Bulgarians, who love—as you yourselves do—their country, our dear fatherland."

The Turco-Bulgarian Agreement.

Questioned regarding the course of the Turco-Bulgarian negotiations, the Premier readily made the following important statement:—"I may declare that our relations with Turkey are excellent. We are dominating in fact the territory along the Maritza and the railway to Dedeagatch. Our new frontier with Turkey follows the course of the river Tunja to Adrianople, leaving to Bulgaria a certain hinterland, with Kara-Agatch remaining in our territory. From Kara-Agatch to Sufli the frontier runs two kilometres east of Maritza, and from Sufli to Enos it runs along the left bank of the river Maritza. By the agreement Bulgaria has not undertaken any engagements towards Turkey. We have been granted these concessions in recognition of our neutrality up to the present."

Recruits Disbanded.

The Ministry of War has issued an order for the disbandment of the thirty-seventh class of recruits, their term of service having expired.

BULGARIA AND GREAT BRITAIN

DR. RADOSLAVOFF'S MESSAGE.

On Tuesday the *Morning Post* published a most interesting interview granted to one of its representatives by M. Constantine Stephanove, Professor of English at the University of Sofia, who is at present on a mission to this country to explain the position taken up with regard to the war by the Government and people of Bulgaria.

After explaining that he did not come in any official capacity, but that he represented Bulgarian associations which are anxious that the true position of affairs should be understood in this country, M. Stephanove said: "I had a long conversation with Dr. Radoslavoff, who had been informed of my intended journey, and he said: 'You can tell the English people that the Bulgarians entertain towards them the very friendliest feelings. Between the two nations there is an historical bond of sympathy. We, on our part, do not forget that in the past England has been the champion of Bulgarian unity and Bulgarian independence.'

"I ventured to ask what I should say to my English friends supposing they seemed to think that even if the Entente Powers agreed to the realisation of Bulgarian ideals, Bulgaria would still be powerless to help them because of some supposed understanding with the Central European Powers, whereupon he said: 'Tell your English friends that if the Entente Powers pledge themselves to satisfy our sacred wishes and legitimate claims we shall at once throw in our lot with them. That is my policy, and even if it were not I could not do otherwise, because if I did there would at once be such an outburst of popular feeling that no Government could stand against it.' I then asked him whether there was any truth in the rumours to the effect that Bulgaria had entered into certain obligations towards the Central Powers. He replied: 'None whatever, either with the Central Powers or with Turkey. My aim for the present is to remain neutral as far as I possibly can, until the time comes when the realisation of Bulgarian ideals compels me to take action.'"

M. Stephanove went on to inform the *Morning Post's* representative that he was in entire agreement with Dr. Radoslavoff, and to explain the Bulgarian view of the present difficulties in the way of a complete understanding between Bulgaria and her neighbours. "The trouble," he said, "arises out of the second Balkan war, when Bulgaria was robbed of the reward of her sacrifices. All Bulgaria asks is that the Treaty of Bucharest, which has never been recognised by the Great Powers, should be rescinded, and that the provisions of the London Treaty of 1913, which had their full concurrence, should be observed. If this had been done a year ago there would have been such enthusiasm throughout the country for the Allied cause that no Government, no matter how pro-German it might have been, could have withstood it, and within ten days Bulgarian troops would have occupied Constantinople."

The Macedonians, the Professor stated, are "more Bulgarian that the Bulgarians," and he estimates that not less than one hundred thousand Macedonians will respond to the call of the Bulgarian Minister of War if they are needed. In the war against Turkey they responded in such numbers that it was impossible to equip them until arms and clothing had been captured from the enemy. As to the feelings of his countrymen towards England, Professor Stephanove declared:

"Of one thing I can assure you, and that is that in Bulgaria there is nothing but admiration for England and for the straightforward methods she pursues as regards her foreign policy. While we have Austrophiles and Austrophobes, Russophiles and Russophobes, in fact 'philes' and 'phobes' of almost every description, we have not a single Anglophobe. The whole nation is unanimous in saying that it would be quite content to leave its fate in the hands of England. At the worst Bulgaria will remain neutral. Never will she throw in her lot with the Teutonic Powers against her old friend England. And amidst so much that is dark and tortuous in European diplomacy the Bulgarian people have implicit faith in England's word. If England only takes the initiative and promises that the obligations imposed by the Treaty of London shall be fulfilled a great popular movement will be at once started in Bulgaria, and Bulgarians and Macedonians will be ready to take up arms in favour of the Entente."

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SERBIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Nish, September 9.

The Peril of the Balkans.

The exact terms of the reply of the Serbian Government to the *démarches* of the Quadruple Entente are not yet known here, but one thing appears certain—that Serbia has consented to important concessions, and it remains to be seen if these concessions, made at the request of the Quadruple Entente, will enable the Entente to conclude satisfactorily their negotiations for the reconstruction of a Balkan Alliance, including Bulgaria as well as other Balkan States.

Five centuries ago it was the want of unanimity among the leaders of the Balkan countries that was the cause of the Turks' success and the fall of the Serbian Empire, and to-day if the young Balkan States, blinded by their own vanity, remain disunited, they cannot hope to enjoy a long career of freedom and independence. The Turks are crying out for help, and the German Press is urging Germany to attack Serbia in order to gain an open route to Constantinople. Union is strength, as was proved when the united Balkan States vanquished the Turks, and it is now high time, in this hour of danger, that quarrels should cease and the sores of dissensions be healed, so that the tried steel of the united Balkans may defeat the enemy's assaults.

Press Influence.

Unfortunately, the upbraidings of the independent Serbian Press and the provocative tone of the Bulgarian Press do not tend to soothe the angry feelings of the people of either country. The Serbians have lately been led to believe that their country is on the eve of again becoming as large and powerful as in the Middle Ages; that they have gained Macedonia, and would also acquire part of Albania, parts of Slavonia and Croatia, Dalmatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina; and they resent any action of the friendly Great Powers which would tend to deprive them of any of those territories which they have learnt to look upon as their just rights. Neither do they believe that the Serbian Government would acquiesce in any line of conduct that would deprive them of what they assert they have conquered and possess; and they give expression to feelings of resentment at what they term "the suicide" which their friends would impose on them.

To meet the demands of the Quadruple Entente was doubtless a difficult task for the Government, for it had to resolve, contrary to public opinion, to abandon cherished conquests dearly bought. But this has been done, and in pursuit of the new line of conduct measures have been taken to prevent the continuance of harmful writings in the independent Serbian Press. It is a pity that the semi-official organs did not sooner write in the generous and liberal tone now adopted.

The semi-official *Samouprava*, the organ of the Old Radical party, says that Serbia does not hesitate to make new sacrifices in order to renew the Balkan alliance; but in another article also states that the Bulgarian manœuvres in the proximity of the Serbian frontier, its too friendly neutrality to Germany, and other indices are not exactly signs to inspire confidence. The semi-official *Odjek*, the organ of the Young Radical party, expresses itself in conciliatory terms on the subject of compensation to be accorded to Bulgaria, which, it says, should be in proportion to the latter's action in the anti-Germanic cause.

The Bulgarian semi-official organ, *Bulgarie*, betrays a spirit of discontent. In an article headed "Serbia and the Entente" it asserts that the vote of the Serbian Parliament on the subject of the Note of the Quadruple Entente does not possess the significance given to it by the French Press, because the concessions agreed to are subject to such conditions as would render them unacceptable; and the article terminates by asking what would be the Serbians' attitude under less perilous circumstances if, with the danger of an Austro-German attack hanging over their heads, they now heed so little the suggestions of their great allies.

Roumanian Friendship.

The attitude of Roumania is favourably commented on here. The Press says that the first sign of Roumania's desire to link its destinies with the Quadruple Entente is its refusal to allow ammunition sent by Germany for Turkey to pass through its territory; and yesterday appeared the statement that the Roumanian Government has notified the Bulgarian Government that the Serbo-Greek-Roumanian friendship remains intact, and that in the event of the Bulgarian armies attacking Serbia, Bulgaria would have Roumania and Greece against her. On this subject the Serbian Press to-day states that the Bulgarian troops which were concentrated near the River Timok for manœuvres have been ordered to withdraw into the interior of the country.

The Serbian Parliament, which by a large majority passed a vote of confidence in the Government, is prorogued to October 17. The President of the House stated, however, that in case of urgency the Government reserves to itself the right to convoke Parliament before that date.

ROUMANIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, September 6.

M. Marghiloman's Position.

Not long ago Count Tiza invited M. Marghiloman to a conference to be held at any village in Transylvania that the latter might select. The Count stated that he wished to explain his own views on the question of the eventual autonomy of Transylvania, and to learn those of the ex-leader of the Conservative party. As your readers may remember, the Austro-Hungarian Government made proposals on this subject to Roumania some time ago, hoping to persuade her to remain neutral, or even to range herself on the side of the Central Powers. The idea was discussed in some of the Conservative papers at the time; but nothing ever came of what was regarded as the offer of the practically impossible. M. Marghiloman, according to reports, found it undesirable to take part in a conference which might be interpreted very variously by political parties in this country. However, at a meeting held in connection with the formation of a club, to consist of his political adherents, he declared that on the return of M. Maiorescu he would make a statement regarding the policy he has followed up to the present and his views of what should be done for the Roumanians of Transylvania. Immediately after the inauguration of the club, he (M. Marghiloman) will, with the collaboration of M. Maiorescu, M. P. Carp, M. Th. Rosetti, and other "old" members of his party, drew up a memorandum setting out the political programme of the Conservative party, which will be submitted to the King as the basis on which the party would prepare to accept office.

Unfortunately for M. Marghiloman the idea hangs fire. Without M. Maiorescu and his following nothing can be accomplished; and M. Maiorescu has decided to stay at Lucerne instead of returning to Roumania. This decision is generally regarded as a sign that the ex-Premier dissents from the policy proposed by M. Marghiloman, and the fact is greeted with satisfaction by the Liberals, who argue that half at least of the "Conservators" are with them as far as foreign policy is concerned.

More Attempted Smuggling.

Yet another case of attempted smuggling of munitions has come to light. This time it is a Turkish courier from the Turkish Embassy at Berlin who is the would-be smuggler. He was found to have boxes of caps among his baggage. They have been confiscated.

Journalistic Amenities.

Another exchange of compliments between newspapers has taken place—between the *Universul* and the *Adeverul*. The ultra-national proprietor of the latter and of the *Dimineatza* accused the *Universul*, hitherto an independent and impartial journal, of having sold its soul to the Germans. Without denying this charge, the *Universul* retaliated by accusing M. Mille, the proprietor

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of the two other papers, and a member of Parliament, of having actually done a good haul in exporting cattle, eggs and lard to a certain army contractor in Budapest, while at the same time he was demanding instant action against Austria-Hungary and Germany, and inveighing fiercely, morning and evening, against those countries. In return the proprietor of "The Truth" and "The Morning" has demonstrated how the *Universul* has been in treaty to let, if not to sell, itself to the Teutonic propagandists, and has thus forced it, at the eleventh hour, to back out of the deal. The whole affair is not a pretty one.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Balkans.

September 29.

LORD ST. DAVIDS asked whether the Government could make any statement regarding the present position in the Balkans. He said they must all feel regret that during the fourteen months of the war the Governments of the Allied Powers had not succeeded in recementing that union of the Balkan States which might have done so much to bring this war to a conclusion. The Balkan negotiations should have been not in writing but by word of mouth, not by junior representatives, but by a man of high Cabinet position. There were people in the Balkans who thought they could attack Serbia without attacking Great Britain or Russia. He would suggest that Russia should be asked to send a force to Serbia, however small, and let it be known that these men were on the Serbian frontier, and that if anybody attacked Serbia it would be the uniform of Russia, who liberated Bulgaria, that would have to be fired upon first of all.

THE MARQUESS OF CREWE said he had no desire, even if he had the authority, to add anything to what had been said the previous day by Sir E. Grey. It was a sad and familiar fact that the relations between some of the Balkan States had been completely poisoned by the events of 1913. There was always something tempting in the desire to send persons of first-class eminence to deal personally with a difficult and complicated situation, although that was not always successful, as Germany had found in two recent instances. If it had been possible—which it distinctly was not—for the different Foreign Ministers of the Allied Powers to meet and discuss these questions, he did not for a moment say that they would have succeeded in arriving at a solution of the intensely difficult Balkan problem, but he agreed that there would have been a better chance of doing so than was possible by the ordinary methods of telegraph and post. It would have been equally impossible to find other representatives of the Allied Powers who could have undertaken such a mission. While, therefore, as a matter of principle, he was far from disputing the advantages which might have followed from the course suggested by the noble Lord, it was not a possible course to pursue in the circumstances which actually existed. As to the noble Lord's suggestion with regard to Russian troops acting in conjunction with Serbian, and a force from Cyprus in conjunction with Greece, both would be considered. We, of course, expected that the Balkan States would take the course they conceived to be soundest in their own interests. It would be impossible to expect them to take any other course. In their view, what those interests were was bound to be affected by the logic of events, and he would once more lay emphasis on the indisputable facts stated by the Foreign Secretary as to the different results to be expected from the policy of the Allied Powers and the policy of the Central Powers, assuming that either was in a position to carry its policy into effect after the war. He sincerely hoped that the grave words of the Foreign Secretary would have been taken to heart, as he believed they would be, by all the parties concerned. The statesmen who controlled the destinies of the Balkan States were competent politicians, with great knowledge of affairs, and fully alive to all the facts of the political situation, and he declined to believe that, after the statement of the Foreign Secretary, so clear in pointing to the inevitable results, without any use of menace or any desire to do anything except call attention to the facts as they were, those facts could be ignored by any of those States upon whose action so much depended, even more for themselves than for ourselves.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Roumania and the War.

September 22.

Mr. KING complained that the Home Secretary, in his defence of the Press Bureau, had not answered the charge that the Government were deliberately keeping from the nation the real truth, which it ought to know, about many things, and were maintaining a totally wrong set of ideas in the minds of the people. For example, in January last reference was made in *The Times* to the participation of Roumania in the war and to a British loan to Roumania, and a map was published under the heading "Roumania's Theatre of War." There must have been some ground for those references or the Press Bureau would not have passed them. Now, eight months later, the nation was entitled to know how it stood with relation to Roumania and the Balkan States. How could the people understand the policy of this country if they knew nothing of fundamental facts like that?

Munitions for Turkey.

September 23.

Mr. G. TERRELL asked the Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether Germany and Austria were supplying Turkey with munitions of war, and through which of the neutral countries such supplies were being carried.

Sir E. GREY: I think it would be better for me to ask to be excused from answering this question. If I thought that by answering the question I could make it more difficult for Germany and Austria to supply munitions to Turkey I would gladly do so, but I am afraid the effect would not be that.

Catholic Chaplains in Egypt.

Sir THOS. ESMONDE asked what arrangements had been made for the attendance of Catholic chaplains in the military hospitals in Egypt.

Mr. TENNANT (Under-Secretary for War): There are now over 60 whole-time Roman Catholic chaplains in or on their way to the Eastern Mediterranean, but I cannot say how they are distributed between the base in Egypt and the fighting force in Gallipoli. So far as I am aware, the number of these chaplains is sufficient to meet requirements. In any case, the Army Council have sent, or are in process of sending, the full numbers which have been asked for by the local military authorities, who alone know the requirements of the situation.

British Prisoners in Turkey.

September 28.

Mr. MURRAY MACDONALD asked whether anything was being done to obtain from Turkey a list of British prisoners captured in the Dardanelles; and if so, with what result.

Sir E. GREY: Every effort has been made, through the United States Ambassador, to obtain lists of British prisoners of war captured in the Dardanelles, and the Ottoman Government have been warned that, until they fulfil their obligations in this respect, no further lists of Turkish prisoners in the custody of the British Forces will be furnished to them nor will specific inquiries concerning missing Turkish officers be answered. So far we have only received from the Turkish Government the names of twenty officers and men of the crew of the submarine E 15, the names of thirty-two officers and men of the submarine AE 2, and the names of two officers and fourteen men of the military forces. In addition to the above, we have received the names of about one hundred and twenty officers and men through the kind offices of the United States Ambassador at Constantinople. It must, however, not be concluded that the Secretary of State for War has not received further information from other sources as to officers and men reported missing from the British Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

Bulgaria and Great Britain.

Sir E. GREY, replying to a question put by Sir P. Magnus, said: My official information from the Bulgarian Government is that they have taken up a position of armed neutrality to defend their rights and independence, and that they have no aggressive intentions whatever against Bulgaria's neighbours. It would, perhaps, be well that I should explain shortly our view of the Balkan situation. Not only is there no hostility in this country to Bulgaria, but there is traditionally a warm feeling of sympathy for the Bulgarian people. As long, therefore, as Bulgaria does not side with the enemies of Great Britain and her Allies there can be no question of British influence or forces being used in a sense hostile to Bulgarian interests; and, as long as the Bulgarian attitude is unaggressive, there should be no disturbance of friendly relations. If, on the other hand, the Bulgarian mobilization were to result in Bulgaria assuming an aggressive attitude on the side of our enemies, we are prepared to give to our friends in the Balkans all the support in our power in the manner that would be most welcome to them, in concert with our Allies, without reserve and without qualification. We are, of course, in consultation with our Allies on the situation, and I believe that the view that I express is theirs also. Our policy has been to secure agreement between the Balkan States, which would assure to each of them not only independence, but a brilliant future, based as a general principle on the territorial and political union of kindred nationalities. To secure this agreement we have recognised that the legitimate aspirations of all Balkan States must find satisfaction. The policy of Germany, on the other hand, has been to create for her own purposes disunion and war between the Balkan States. She first made use of Austria-Hungary to precipitate a European war, with the result that that Empire is now completely subordinated to Germany and dependent upon her. Turkey, whose interests would have been preserved by remaining neutral, was gratuitously forced by Germany into this war, and, having been used, is now being subordinated and made dependent upon Germany, in order to realise the German aspiration of German influence from Berlin to Baghdad. In the same way it would naturally be Germany's policy to use any Balkan State she could influence to further this plan, with the inevitable result that that State would eventually be subordinated to her; and, though territorial gains might be promised, it would lose real independence. This is directly contrary to the policy of the Allies, which is to further the national aspirations of the Balkan States without sacrificing the independence of any of them.

Dardanelles Casualties.

September 29.

CAPTAIN AMERY asked whether the total figure of 87,630 British casualties at the Dardanelles for the period up to August 21 included the casualties of the Australian, New Zealand, and Indian forces which took part in the operations.

Mr. TENNANT, in a written reply, stated: The figure given included the casualties of the Australian, New Zealand, and Indian forces.

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THE OCCUPATION OF RUAD.

(From a Correspondent.)

Alexandria, September 20.

The manner of the recent landing at Ruad Island and of dealing with the Armenian refugee problem may be regarded as a masterly stroke of diplomacy on the part of the French Government.

Enver, filled with the inordinate ambition of a youthful adventurer, and intoxicated by a rapidly won success, was not long in imbibing the Prussian spirit of racial pride and domination, so that on his accession to supreme power he strove, with no small measure of success, to inspire the Turkish people with that exalted racial pride which has led to the revival of the dormant spirit of Arab nationalism. The Arab soul, dulled by centuries of oppression, at last stirred itself in an effort for freedom. But, under Teuton guidance and inspiration, the Young Turks struck savagely at the root of a renascent Arab movement, and committed themselves to the wholesale hanging of the *élite* of the Syrian Arabs. Besides the twelve notables hanged at Beyrout, fifteen more are known to have been hanged at Damascus and eight at Aley. This savagery made the already wide gulf between the Turks and the Arabs quite unbridgeable, and snapped the last shreds of the once potent bond of religion. Common misfortune had already brought the various elements constituting the Syrian population more closely together, and now the afflicted Moslems, temporarily forgetting their national dreams and aspirations, yearned for salvation—and vengeance!

The Turks' policy of devastation and repression culminated in this supreme act of wholesale murder of their so-called brethren of the Faith in the latter part of August; and when the French seized this psychological moment and carried out their *coup* at Ruad Island, contrary to expectation, not only did the inhabitants, who are mostly Moslems, accord them an enthusiastic reception, but a sympathetic wave spread throughout the length and breadth of the mainland as far as Aleppo.

No sooner had the French marines set foot ashore at Ruad, and the Tricolour risen above the tiny isle, than the Mufti and the leading sheikhs, the President of the Municipality, and the higher officials of the Kaimakamat, together with the notables of the place, followed by practically all the inhabitants, hastened to welcome the liberators. Presently, at the Seraglio, the Mufti delivered to the new Governor an address characterized by the strongest expression of devotion and loyalty. It proclaimed the sincere attachment of the Syrians to France, and their grateful appreciation of all that she has done for them in the past, and stated that the reception now accorded to her fleet was but the prelude to the greater national welcome that awaited the French in Syria. The Mufti wound up his address with the significant declaration that the population of Ruad consider the day whereon the French landed in their isle as the beginning of a new era, and that this happy day, on which the Turks' misrule of three centuries ceased, should indeed mark the commencement of their true history.

A correspondent of the *Mokattam* reports that a Syrian journalist who had played an important part in the Arab reform movement, and was one of the deputation that went to Paris a couple of years ago, acted as interpreter between the Mufti and the Governor, and that he made on behalf of the latter, after a few words of thanks, the following statements, which may be regarded as having a high political significance:—The object of the landing, he said, was primarily to free the inhabitants of the island from Turkish misrule; then for France to prove to the Syrians, while on the threshold of their land, that she has not forgotten her friends and her duties towards them, even in these most critical moments of her history; finally, that she means to prove to them that their loyalty has not been in vain, that it shall have its reward, and that she wishes to make them forget the evils of the past rule by that which they have ever dreamt and yearned for, viz., the rule for which their forbears have fought for centuries and made such sacrifice as entitle them to claim it, especially now that the Allies have proclaimed before the world as the sacred aim of their grim struggle the affirmation of the right of the smaller nations to self-government, with an equitable distribution of authority among the various racial and sectarian elements where such heterogeneity exists.

These are momentous utterances, calculated to allay considerably, if not wholly to overcome, the deep-rooted prejudice that the Moslems of Syria have always entertained towards the French.

Almost simultaneously with the landing at Ruad the French Fleet has been the means of saving about 5,000 Armenians—old men, women, and children—who had fled from the interior to the coast, and were picked up, near Swedieh, by the warships. The victims arrived at Alexandria last week, and the tales of horror and cold-blooded cruelty that they tell recall the worst outbursts of savagery that characterized the Dark Ages. It seems to be the settled policy of the Turkish Government to exterminate the Armenian race; for all accounts agree that this monstrous campaign has been led by the military authorities, who used as additional instruments the irregular Kurdish hordes. Some of the Turkish civil population, be it said to their credit, are known to have given refuge in their homes to the hunted Armenians. Although other massacres have been perpetrated by the Turks in the recent past, yet this is said to have exceeded all the previous ones in systematic thoroughness; and the burden of criminality must rest in a large measure on their German masters. The French warships are expected to save more helpless Armenians. Meanwhile the Island of Ruad is already becoming a sort of nucleus of French influence. After only a fortnight's occupation the number of its inhabitants rose from 2,000 to 5,000 souls, this rapid increase being determined by the influx of refugees from the mainland. Besides distributing among them large quantities of provisions, the French have allowed the islanders to fly the French flag over their small craft, which are allowed to ply without let or hindrance wherever they wish.

A VISIT TO RUAD ISLAND.

(From a Correspondent.)

The French occupation of Ruad has drawn attention to that small and little-known island, and the following short description of a visit paid to it at Easter in 1908 may, therefore, be of interest. It is taken from a diary kept by the writer, and given just as set down at the time:—

Tartûs (Tortosa), Syria,
Easter Eve, 1908.

Our camp (consisting in our seven selves, fourteen men, and some twenty-eight animals) left Bussirah at 7 a.m. Having decided to have an Easter rest (we were on our way from Jerusalem to Urfa) we settled down at Tartûs by 11 o'clock, this being a small walled town, important during the Crusades, the Crusading church being handsome and in fair repair.

Our camp was pitched on a turf bank sloping to the sea, the shore was of firm sand interspersed with rocks, amid which men waded that evening spearing fish by the light of torches, without much luck.

Easter Day, April 19.

We read Matins in the dining tent, and those of the men who were Christians made festival, including the Greeks, although the Greek Easter comes later. After breakfast we crossed in a row boat, using sail, to the Island of Ruad (Aradus), a mile and a-half from the mainland. Just a ridge of rock, 880 yards long by 550 broad, on which layers of sand have been deposited, some 3,000 sailors and sponge fishers constituting its population. The day was fine, and we had a lovely view of the lilac-tinted Lebanon range from the Sarcenic castle crowning the highest point of the island, a castle possessing machicolated walls, really machicolated—people sometimes speak of walls being machicolated when the necessary apertures are non-existent. But on first reaching Ruad, which has extensive remains of town walls from 28 to 32 feet high, there was an amusing little scene.

The Customs official, a Turk, forbade our landing, and, yelling and threatening the boatmen with his stick, he ordered us to proceed to the Customs, an unheard-of command. Our Syrian dragoman shouted indignantly: "Do you wish to be sent to prison? Are these ladies and gentlemen goods that they should pass through the Customs? They have an *iradé*, and are under the special protection of the Sultan." Then H. sprang ashore, and shook him, crying, "Yok—Yok" (*i.e.*, "No—No."). After this he vanished and was seen no more. H. and L. regretted that they had not run him into the water, which proceeding would have pleased the crowd, as he was an official of Imperial appointment and therefore unpopular.

The *gendarmerie* is appointed by local authorities. We were told that his attitude was probably adopted with a view to *bakshish*; if so, it proved that Ruad was not frequently visited by Anglo-Saxons, as, indeed, it never is. The natives, of a gay and friendly disposition, not only examined us from doors, windows, and housetops, they leaped in numbers from roof to roof, the streets being too narrow to contain the curious throng. There was little to buy except *koumi* as an Easter gift to our men.

Returning, the water rippled gently in delicate shades of blue and green, and we spent some time rowing about in search of a spring of fresh water which rises in the sea off Tartûs. Then landed at the mouth of a little river some distance from the town, walking back along sands covered with multitudes of tiny shells to our Easter feast—a whole sheep, stuffed with rice and pine kernels, which we assisted to baste. It was finished by the men.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

I have been much amused by a little paragraph in the *Westminster Gazette*, which is headed "The Oldest Temperance Lecture." It refers to some sound advice given by some Egyptian Polonius to his son at least 3,500 years before the Christian era, and is taken from a papyrus of that date. Here is the advice:—

My son, do not linger in the wine-shop or drink too much wine. It causeth thee to utter words regarding thy neighbour which thou rememberest not. Thou fallest upon the ground, thy limbs become weak as those of a child. One cometh to trade with thee and findest thee so. Then they say, "Take away the follow, for he is drunk." . . .

May one respectfully suggest that a certain All-Highest might pass on this excellent advice to a certain Crown Prince and his officers?

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Last week I expressed some doubt regarding the reports that appear almost daily in the Press about the state of Constantinople. But, however well the Young Turks and their Teutonic taskmasters may look after themselves and their comfort, there can be very little doubt that the poorer classes in the city are experiencing a terrible time. Here is an extract from a letter written by a trustworthy witness on August 3:—"We are living from day to day, and things are growing worse every day. The speedy or delayed outcome will apparently depend on the Balkan States. Coal now costs twenty dollars a ton, and even then is not to be had. All prices of food are so high that the poor are, many of them, slowly starving." The two months that have elapsed since the letter was written can hardly have made the situation any easier for those "slowly starving" poor.

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Testimony to the honourable fighting of the Turks, as contrasted with the utter lack of honour shown by the Germans, continues to accumulate. Thus an artillery officer writes: "The Turks . . . are worth twenty times more than any Germans, both with regard to straight fighting and honour. I always had the impression that the Turk was a hideous creature suggestive of an armed brigand, with a revolver between his teeth and a knife in each hand—or *vice versa*. As a matter of fact, he is a very ordinary individual, a good fighter, and is possessed of more than the average amount of pluck and daring." The same officer reports that our men captured one Turkish sniper who had been a worry to them for days, and who, on being made prisoner at last, was found to be "a girl about 19 years of age." This looks like a return to those old days of the "Thousand Nights and a Night" stories, when the Arab girls shared the "delights" of battle with their men-folk.

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Some months ago—in THE NEAR EAST of May 21, to be precise—I referred to the subject of mirage and allied phenomena as observed in the Mesopotamian region. Apropos of this, a correspondent directs my attention to a passage that occurs in a remarkably interesting letter from Sir George Birdwood, K.C.I.E., published in *The Times* of September 21. Referring to the time when, as medical officer of the Hon. East India Company's steam frigate "Ajdaha," he took part in the Persian Expedition of 1856-57 and sailed up the Shatt-el-Arab to Mohammerah, Sir George writes as follows:—

> The whole scenery of the Euphrates in this region is of exceptional fascination. Beyond the thick border of date palms along the banks of the river extend in every direction vast saline plains, reflecting, and also refracting, all that was there on earth in the heaven above. The sun at both rising and setting would for from five to ten minutes perform the most astonishing acrobatic sort of feats, one semblance of the sun on top of another forming a glorious pillar of light on the horizon, and then tumbling down in the most alarming way, and either disappearing altogether or, of a morning, leaving the real sun behind them, looking quite unaware of what had happened. Sometimes far distant objects were brought right down to the river's banks. But the wonder of wonders was the mirage (*cf.* "mirror," "miracle") of our Fleet, steam frigates and transports—perhaps forty—in their prolonged procession over our heads, now all upright, and again, in the twinkling of an eye, upside down. The effect was as of magic of the most spiritual potency. . .

Certainly in that region one sees most beautiful effects of light and atmosphere. Mohammerah is not a lovely spot in reality, but I shall always think of it with pleasure as I first saw it, at evening, when river, palm-clad banks, mud hovels, and sky were for a few brief minutes converted into a perfect study in violets and blues by the magic of the Eastern twilight.

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So long as human nature remains what it is none of us, I suppose, will take undiluted pleasure in criticism of ourselves and our actions, though, if we are wise, we shall not be above trying to profit by it. The man who cannot stand criticism is to be pitied; the man who tells you that he "will not be criticised" is usually the very one who most merits criticism, and would most benefit by it, if his conceit would let him. And as it is with the individual, so it is with nations. "Tetchiness" is the sign of a consciousness of shortcomings, of weakness, of inefficiency. Let us, therefore, be thankful that our own Government, as a whole, does not exhibit signs of this failing; that it takes in such good part the very liberal doses of criticism that are administered to it by legions of self-appointed *hakims*. It is a good sign; though there is sometimes a danger of going too far in the direction of letting the self-appointed ones carry their criticisms too far. In Turkey, I observe, the Government is showing distinct signs of "nerves," which are doubtless the result of a conscience that is very far from clear. According to a special correspondent of the *Temps*, who writes from Dedeagatch, the Mohammedan population of Constantinople has at length "lost patience through its privations," and "the principal cause of indignation is the imprisonment and exile of a great number of patriotic Turks who are accused of criticising the Government policy." I notice also that the Sofia correspondent of *The Times* reports that the *Preporetz* has been confiscated and suspended for an indefinite time for publishing an appeal, signed by many leading Bulgarians, against the Germanophil policy of the Government. Both these items of news seem to me to support the theories propounded above. The so-called Government of Turkey evidently realises that the breakers ahead are very close indeed now, and does not like the sound of them. The news from Sofia is significant.

***

The enigmatic attitude maintained by Bulgaria during the past ten days will hardly enhance the reputation of King Ferdinand. He has always been fond of endeavouring to be all things to all men. This time it looks as if he has, for once, allowed his weakness to run away with his discretion. This reminds me of a story concerning him that was told me two days ago, and which has at least the merit of being beyond suspicion as regards its truth. Recently his Majesty received in one morning three travellers—the first a diplomatist, the second a journalist, and the third a titled globe-trotter. As luck would have it, the three individuals thus honoured met very soon afterwards, and not unnaturally compared notes. The varying manner of their reception was an index to King Ferdinand's—shall we say, versatility? The diplomatist was received with a stately courtesy worthy of a Great Monarch, and the audience was formal to a degree. The journalist found his Majesty gazing out of the window, lost—apparently—in deepest thought, and had to stand unnoticed for a full three minutes. Then the King turned and made a remark, not too profound, about the future of Europe depending on—something which, I fear, I have forgotten. Finally, the globe-trotter, when it came to his turn to enter the Royal Presence, was greeted in a spirit of good-comradeship—a "Hang-politics!-Let's-have-a-quiet-smoke-and-a-chat" style, calculated to show how glad the Weary Monarch was to escape for a brief spell from the Burdens of State. All, in its way, a pretty piece of play-acting.

***

There has been so much in the papers recently concerning the optimists and the pessimists of our country that I have begun to hate both words. And yet it is difficult to avoid their use. What term other than optimist could one, for instance, apply to Lord Bryce in the light of his views concerning American opinion on the one hand and the gentle Hun and Armenia on the other? His lordship is reported to have expressed the opinion that a strong hint from America might influence Germany to intercede for the Armenians, and save the remainder of their race from the horrible butchery which is at present overwhelming them. And this in the light of the various murders which have been committed on the high seas by the Germans themselves! That these murders are presumably no longer to be perpetrated is not due to any growth of humane feelings on the part of the murderers; the change in policy is due to the fact that the system was becoming an increasing source of embarrassment to those responsible for it. In other words, the police were too vigilant—it is no fun murdering women and children if you are to be punished for it. I am not usually considered to be a pessimist, but I cannot for the life of me believe that Germany is going to lift a finger to save the people of Armenia unless she can be convinced that it is to her own personal interests so to do. The remedy, if indeed there be one, lies, in my opinion, with the Turk himself. Let him once grasp the fact that Armenian lives count as their own to the Allies against whom he is fighting and the massacres would cease. But to expect Germany to turn a listening ear to America on the subject is, to my mind, merely adding ridicule to the horror of it all.

CORSAIR.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

A KING POET.*

For if the shaft of Destiny hath quit
The bow of Fate, whose hand shall be so skilled
To pluck the flying arrow back? Whose wit
Shall by a hair's breadth change the course of it?

Thus sang, in the halcyon days of Islamic Spain, a King of Seville, Mu'tamid by name, the greatest scion of the Beni Abbad, or Abbadids. His father before him had shaped out of the town on the Guadalquivir a kingdom stretching from the Atlantic to the confines of Murcia. Impetuous, ambitious, haughty, cruel, and unscrupulous, he had routed (or done away with) his enemies, and on his deathbed he bequeathed to his son "a Paradise on earth." The young man, barely out of his teens, revelled in his heritage; he trod paths of roses and dreamed dreams of love until, in an evil hour, he was overcome by covetous neighbours, was driven from his perfect realm, and exiled to Morocco, where he died:—

Low lie thy palaces, and desolate
The halls, Mu'tamid, of thy ancient State;
Yet at thy tomb we kiss, as it is meet,
The dust with weeping from thy quiet feet.

This, in a nutshell, is the history of the unfortunate Mu'tamid. He had had friends—many, and enemies more. His father, a stern, cold warrior, would have overcome them one by one, but the son was of a different temperament. The *joie de vivre* of the sunny south was in his veins, as it is even to this day in the almond and orange groves of Seville and Cordova. He listened to the call of beauty and poetry, forgetting that around him were Berber warriors spoiling for the luxuries of his palaces and bowers. The result was inevitable; he was overcome. Nevertheless, the period of his reign was one of the most glorious epochs of Spanish-Arabic literature, and thus, whatever fame Mu'tamid may lose as an administrator, he gains as an enlightened ruler, a patron of the arts, and a poet of more than ordinary ability. His court was the meeting-place for poets and rhymesters, for men of wit and of learning. At that time Seville was the centre of Arabic learning (Mu'tamid was an Arab, be it remembered, and not a Moor), and the anthology of its literature, as collected in the invaluable and rare Kalaid-Elikian Lil-Faith ibn Khakan, is a fine testimony to the imaginative exuberance of the period. The translator of Mu'tamid's poems (or some few of them) in the work under review does not seem to have had access to the above anthology. She seems, on the contrary to have relied on German translators from the original, and on the aid of some literal translations from the Arabic by an Afghan scholar. It is not surprising, therefore, that some of the finest passages of Mu'tamid's verses in captivity have been overlooked; nor does the small collection include his defence of Ibn Zeidoun, ex-Vizier, who had been attacked by slanderers. On the other hand, much is made of some of his love-sonnets, rendered into acceptable English, and even in the introductory notice his amorous proclivities are insisted upon. The result is an impression that Mu'tamid was a love-sick poet-king. Nothing could be further from the truth. He was primarily a monarch, patron of the arts; in second lieu a poet of no mean order; and, thirdly, a magnanimous ruler in an age of unscrupulous deeds. As a matter of fact, his reign shines forth in the history of Islam in Spain as one of its brightest pages.

Apart from this, however, the translator has given us some fair specimens of the lyric aptitudes of the Sevillian ruler, and the small book will be well received by those who have tasted of Oriental literature and, like refined *gourmets*, let the savour linger in their memory.

BOOK NOTES.

We have received a copy of the "Egyptian Gazette War Map No. 2: Gallipoli Peninsula." Produced by "Geographia, Limited," it is well printed in colours and shows the contours of the area covered very clearly. Roads ("main" and "indifferent"), tracks and forts are indicated, and the lettering is particularly good and legible. An inset map covers the area between Rodosto and Enos in one direction and between Baba Eski and Tenedos in the other. Publishers and producers are to be congratulated on a very creditable map, which should prove popular in Egypt, where it may be obtained at the *Gazette* offices at the price of P.T.5.

"From Faith to Certainty," by Chandri Mohammad Sayal, M.A., is an interesting little brochure, copies of which may be obtained from the author at 39, Upper Bedford Place, Russell Square.

"Forty Years in Constantinople," by Sir Edwin Pears, will be published by Mr. Herbert Jenkins on October 6. Sir Edwin's experience is unique. He has seen three revolutions and three Sultans deposed, and has known eleven British Ambassadors at Constantinople. He has met the principal men of all nations whose names are intimately associated with the Near East, and perhaps one of the most interesting chapters in a volume which is practically the secret history of the Near East is that where he tells how war between Great Britain and Turkey might have been prevented.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Fifty Years' Work in the Holy Land: A Record and a Summary, 1865-1915. By Col. Sir C. M. Watson. (The Palestine Exploration Fund. 3s. 6d.)

Lord Kitchener and his Work in Palestine. By Dr. Samuel Daiches. (Luzac and Co. 2s. 6d. net.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

BALKAN ETHNOGRAPHY.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—I regret that an unfortunate error has crept into my letter in your last issue.

What I intended to write was: "Professor Elliot-Smith regarded the Macedonian Slavs as more closely allied to the Bulgars than to the Serbs" (not "Slavs," as printed).—I am, etc.,

ARTHUR EVANS.

Youlbury, Berks,
September 26, 1915.

AN APPEAL.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—Famine, typhus, and dysentery prevail among the 200,000 Armenian refugees who have succeeded in reaching the shelter of the Russian frontier. Help available on the spot is totally inadequate.

Will you kindly draw attention to the fact that the Armenian Red Cross and Refugee Fund, whose president is Viscountess Bryce, exists for the purpose of affording relief to these poor people, and that contributions may be sent to me?—I am, etc.,

EMILY J. ROBINSON (Miss),
Hon. Sec. Armenian Red Cross and Refugee Fund.

PLOTS IN PERSIA.

Under date of September 27, Reuter's Petrograd correspondent reports:—

According to a message from Teheran, dated the 13th inst., Tewfik Bey, the Turkish Consul-General at Resht, in Northern Persia, was arrested by the Russians and sent to the Caucasus. The arrest was provoked by the clandestine machinations of Tewfik Bey in the region of the movements of Russian troops, and also by his attempt to organise espionage in the Caucasus. Papers which were seized at his residence revealed a rich mass of valuable material in this connection. The arrest of Tewfik Bey is at the same time a reprisal for the attacks made in August upon the Russian and British Consuls at Kermanshah.

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JOHN LANE: THE BODLEY HEAD, W

* The Poems of Mu'tamid, King of Seville, rendered into English verse by Dulcie Lawrence Smith. "Wisdom of the East" Series. (Murray. 1s.)

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1915. Oct.	1915. Sept.		1333. Julkada.	5676. Tisri.
1	18	Friday	22	23
2	19	Saturday.....	23	24
3	20	Sunday	24	25
4	21	Monday	25	26
5	22	Tuesday	26	27
6	23	Wednesday	27	28
7	24	Thursday	28	29

Next Friday (September 25, O.S.) is the birthday of the King of Montenegro, who was born at Niegosh in 1841.

The *Gazette* announces that his Imperial Majesty the Emperor of Russia has been graciously pleased to confer the Order of Saint Alexander Nevsky upon General the Right Honourable Sir Arthur Henry Paget, G.C.B., K.C.V.O., Colonel, the Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

Our Khartoum correspondent writes :—Mr. A. L. Butler, Superintendent of the Game Preservation Department, left Khartoum for Cairo and England on September 9 to take leave prior to his retirement at the end of the year. Mr. Butler joined the Sudan Government on January 1, 1901, and he has managed his department single-handed ever since. He had previous experience in New Guinea, Java, and elsewhere, and had been on a collecting expedition connected with Lord Rothschild. In the Sudan he has applied himself more especially to the study of birds, and has made a very complete collection of birds of the Sudan, and set them, and they are exhibited in the Gordon College. He has also discovered a number of new species. Some four years ago he married, and Mrs. Butler was as enthusiastic in her love of animals as himself, and has written several pleasing stories on the familiar domestic life of some animals—chiefly based on pets kept in the Zoo at Khartoum.

The appointment of Mr. Andrew Percy Bennett, C.M.G., as Commercial Attaché to the British Legation at Bucharest, which we announced in our issue of the 17th ult., appears in Tuesday's *London Gazette*.

Mr. Bennett, who was born on July 30, 1866, is an M.A. of Christ's College, Cambridge, where he graduated in Honours in Mediæval and Modern Languages in 1891. He was nominated Vice-Consul at Manila on July 10, 1893, and transferred in 1895 to Galatz, where he acted as Consul-General in each year from 1895 to 1897. Promoted to be Consul at New York, December 14, 1896, he was Acting Consul-General there in 1897 and 1898. Later he was appointed Commercial Attaché to the Embassies at Vienna and Rome, and to the Legation at Athens in 1899. His headquarters were transferred to London, April 1, 1907. He was made a C.M.G. in 1912, and was given the local rank of a First Secretary in the Diplomatic Service in 1913.

Colonel J. J. Asser, C.B., who for several years held the important post of Adjutant-General in the Egyptian Army, has recently been appointed a base commandant, with the rank of brigadier-general. He formerly belonged to the Dorsetshire Regiment. He entered the Service twenty-one years ago, is a colonel of 1911, and has the Nile (1897-98-99) and Sudan (1910) Expeditions to his credit.

Professor Zujévoikh, the President of the Serbian Academy of Science, arrived in London from Nish on Sunday evening.

Reuter's Berne correspondent reports (under date of September 24):—The former Serbian Minister in Constantinople, Dr. Nenadovitch, cousin to King Peter of Serbia, has died in Zurich as the result of an operation. Dr. Nenadovitch studied at Zurich, taught law in Belgrade, and on the accession to the throne of King Peter became Chief of the Royal Cabinet. Subsequently Dr. Nenadovitch was appointed Serbian Minister in Constantinople. During the exile of King Peter Dr. Nenadovitch lived in Geneva and other Swiss towns.

Mr. R. L. Naville, of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, has arrived in Paris.

Rev. H. B. Rivington and Rev. A. Lee-Warner have left Khartoum, and are coming to England for a period of rest and recuperation, which has been necessitated by the effects of the climate and arduous work.

M. Lacau, the new Director-General of the Egyptian Antiquities Service in succession to Sir Gaston Maspero, has arrived at Cairo, and has taken over his new duties. M. Lacau was formerly the head of the French Institute of Archæology at Cairo. During the interregnum between the departure of Sir Gaston Maspero and the arrival of M. Lacau, Mr. Daresey, the Secretary-General of the Antiquities Service, has performed the duties.

M. Al. Lahovary, Roumanian Minister in Paris, who lately went to Bucharest to be present at the funeral of his daughter—who was the victim of a revolver accident—has now returned to his post and resumed his duties.

The engagement recently announced between Dettie, only daughter of the late Mr. Edward Annan and Mrs. Lang, of Trefriw, North Wales, and Mr Stanley Morton, son of the late Mr. John Morton, Constantinople, presently serving in the 24th (Service) Battalion Royal Fusiliers, is cancelled.

The marriage of Mr. Alexander Fachiri and Miss Adila de Hunyadvár took place at the Greek Church on Wednesday afternoon.

Our Bucharest Correspondent writes (September 6):—

Baron André de Kerkhove de Denterghen, First Secretary of the Belgian Legation, has left Bucharest to take up other duties.

M. Milan Rakitch, Councillor of Legation, who is in charge of the Serbian Legation in the absence of the Serbian Minister, M. Marinkovitch, now on leave, has returned from Sinaia. During his absence at Sinaia M. Nastassojevitch, 2nd Secretary, was in charge at the Legation.

M. Antonescu, the Roumanian Minister of Justice, and Madame Antonescu have left Bucharest for Switzerland. During M. Antonescu's absence M. Radovitch, Minister of Commerce, is in charge of the Ministry of Justice.

M. Antonescu was formerly a Governor of the National Bank of Roumania, and it is perhaps owing to this fact that a rumour has got abroad that he has been charged with a financial mission. We understand, however, that there is no foundation for this rumour.

Our Sofia Correspondent reports, under date of September 11:—

Last Wednesday morning there arrived here from Italy Shems-ed-Din Pasha Nelbuye, "Sultan of Tripolitania and Benghazi," who was expelled by the Italians after Italy's declaration of war on Turkey. With his suite he put up at the Hotel Bristol; and in the afternoon, accompanied by his secretary, he visited the Turkish Minister, Fethi Bey. On Thursday night he left for Constantinople, where he will permanently reside.

M. Jean Cruppi, the former French Minister of Finance, arrived here on Wednesday on his return journey from Petrograd to Paris. He left the following day for Nish and Salonika.

The Duke of Mecklenburg, who had been here ten days as the guest of King Ferdinand, left for Constantinople on Thursday night.

News has recently been received in London from a trustworthy source in Constantinople that Mr. George C. Simmons, the well-known banker in that city, is quite well. His daughter, Miss Ethel M. Simmons, is at present devoting herself to nursing wounded Belgian soldiers at 45, Courtfield Gardens, Kensington.

Mr. George Edward Simmons and Mr. Arthur Herbert Simmons, formerly of Constantinople, are at present residing in Cyprus. Their address is Victoria Road, Nicosia, Cyprus.

Lieutenant Lord Ipswich, of the Coldstream Guards, who was for some years with the Aboukir Company at Alexandria, has had his ear pierced as the result of the bursting of a shell, and is now with his father, Lord Euston, at Whittlebury Lodge, where he has been joined by Lady Ipswich and their infant son.

Lieutenant R. B. Angus, R.E., late of the Egyptian Public Works Department and 17, Victoria Street, S.W., was killed at the Dardanelles on September 22.

Sub-Lieutenant B. W. Kenny, R.N.D., formerly of the Manchester staff of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, has been invalided from the Dardanelles, and is now at the Red Cross Hospital at Gizeh.

The Egyptian papers report that Mr. A. W. C. Roll, of the Alexandria branch of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, who has been fighting at the front in Flanders for some months past, has been slightly wounded. His many friends in Alexandria will be glad to learn that he is progressing favourably.

Another member of the staff of the Alexandria branch of the I.O.B., Sergeant P. Berjeaut, who is serving with the French Army at Gallipoli, has been specially mentioned in despatches, and will receive the Croix de Guerre with two stars. He has been wounded.

Mr. Cecil Morville Pope, son of Kaimakam Pope Bey, Inspector of Prisons, Upper Egypt, has received a commission in the Durham Light Infantry.

Mr. A. P. Mack, who was formerly well known in Egypt, where he was interested in the development of mining, is reported by the Egyptian Press to have been taken prisoner in Flanders. He is a captain in the Suffolk Regiment.

In the course of his monthly statement to the C.M.S. Committee at their last meeting the honorary secretary (the Rev. Cyril Bardsley) read the following telegram received from Dr. Carr: "Community ordered evacuate Ispahan go Ahwaz wire money direct Yezd and Kerman."

By arrangement with the British Red Cross Society the British Farmers' Red Cross Fund is providing £20,000 for the extension and maintenance of a convalescent home, containing 1,000 beds, at the Summer Palace of Montazah, lent by the Sultan of Egypt. Subscriptions should be sent to the secretary, Room 5, Tower Bridge Flour Mills, Bermondsey, S.E.

In a telegram, dated September 28, the Paris correspondent of *The Times* reports that General Marchand has been seriously wounded during the operations in Champagne. He was hit by a shell splinter, which struck his spinal column. The doctors, however, are not without hope of saving his life. The President of the Republic has conferred on him the Grand Star of the Legion of Honour.

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ROLL OF HONOUR.

British Subjects from Turkey in H.M.'s Forces.

The Editor of THE NEAR EAST *would be obliged if relatives of former British residents in the Near East who have joined H.M.'s forces would communicate additional names or other particulars for insertion in our Roll of Honour. Biographical details concerning those who have fallen in their country's service would also be appreciated.*

ASHE, Lance-Corp. R., R.E.
ATKINSON, Bombardier G. M., 266th Battery, 85th Brigade, R.F.A., Colchester.
ATKINSON, Gunner T., "A" Co., Royal Field Artillery.
BAKER, Captain A. Warden, 7th Royal Scots Fusiliers.
BARRON, 2nd Lieut. J. B., Worcester Regiment, France.
BATH, Nurse, Sister, Army Hospital, Malta.
BINNS, 2nd Lieut. Harold H., Intelligence, M.E.F., c/o G.P.O.
BINNS, Lieut. C. E., R.M. (Interpreter to Mediterranean Forces).
BOLTON, Alfred, Naval Brigade.
BOND, Private H. C., 7th (Reserve) City of London Regt.
BOND, Gladwyn J. T., Inns of Court O.T.C.
BOND, Trooper S. (1779), Royal Horse Guards.
BOND, Corporal R., Royal Field Artillery, Durlston House, Park Road, Swanage.
BORRELL, Rifleman Alfred, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
BOWMAN, Private Henry J., R.A.M.C., Duke of York's Barracks, Chelsea.
BROOKS, Corporal G., Royal Field Artillery, Swanage.
BURN, E. R., 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
BURNS, Rifleman Edward, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade. (*Accidentally Killed.*)
CASTELL, Rifleman Henry, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
CAUCHI, Act. Corporal Henry (6113), 19th Service Battalion, C. Company, Royal Fusiliers, Epsom, Surrey.
CLIFTON, Capt. H., Interpreter, 11th Batt. Durham Light Infantry, 54th Division, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.
COLES, Dr. D. A., R.A.M.C. (formerly of the English Hospital, Haifa).
COLLEY, Trooper Isaac E., Royal Horse Guards.
CORBETT, Lieut. H. C., M.D., R.A.M.C.
CRAWFORD, Private James, 7th (Reserve) City of London Regiment.
CUMBERBATCH, Lieut. A. Noël, 9th East Yorkshire Regiment, Fulford Barracks, York.
CUMBERBATCH, 2nd Lieut. H. D., 9th Batt. the Buffs.
CUMBERBATCH, Lieut. and Adjutant R. C., 7th Batt. Rifle Brigade.
CUMING, Bombardier A. C., 262nd Battery, R.F.A., 84th Brigade, Colchester.
DAVIDSON, Bombardier C. T., 266th Battery, 85th Brigade, R.F.A., Colchester.
ELLIOTT, Eric C., 2nd Lieut., Essex Regiment, 11th Battalion.
ELLIOTT, Flight Sub-Lieut. Clifford W., R.N.A.S.
EPPSTEIN, Lieut. W. R., Durham Light Infantry.
FAULKNER, Lieut. M., Admiralty House, Malta.
FROMANT, Private F., Grenadier Guards.
GALLIA, Rifleman M., 7th (S) Batt. Rifle Brigade.
GOODACRE, Miss C., Red Cross, Shoreham.
GOUT, Lieut. Charles L., 4th (R) King's Own Yorkshire L.I., Drill Hall, Bank Street, Wakefield.
GOUT, Rifleman Evelyn, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
GOUT, Rifleman Richard, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
HADKINSON, Rifleman Vivian H., "A" Co., 7th Batt. Rifle Brigade, Queen's E1 Ward, Bed 40, Graylingwell War Hospital, Chichester. (*Wounded.*)
HIGGS, Private J., 6th Dragoon Guards.
HOLMES, 2nd Lieut. Gerald H., 2/5th Batt. Leicestershire Regiment.
HOLTON, Corporal Alfred, Royal Naval Division, Divisional Engineers.
HOLTON, Trooper John, B. Squadron, Essex Yeomanry.
HOYLAND, 2nd Lieut., H.A.D. (Interpreter to the Mediterranean Forces).
IRELAND, Private D. J. (3346), 15th County of London Regiment.
JACKSON, Rifleman Edward, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
KERR, Miss E., Q.A.I.M.N.S.R., H.M. Hospital Ship Brighton, British Expeditionary Force, France.
KEYSER, Lieut. A. G., 8th Batt. King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry.
KEYSER, 2nd Lieut. R. N., 10th Batt. East Lancashire Regiment.
KEYSER, 2nd Lieut. Henry, 2/10th Batt. Middlesex Regiment.
KEYSER, 2nd Lieut. J. C., 2/9th Batt. (D.C.O.) Middlesex Regiment.
LA FONTAINE, Rifleman Fred., 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
LA FONTAINE, 2nd Lieut. Hugh, 2/7th City of London Regiment.
LA FONTAINE, Sub-Lieut. J. S., R.N.V.R., Hawke Battalion. (*Wounded.*)
LANDER, 2nd Lieut. Arthur.
LE BAILLY, Lieutenant R. F., R.N.V.R., Recruiting Officer for Royal Naval Air Service, Brook Green Road, Hammersmith.
LORIMER, Private D., Army Service Corps, Aldershot.
MACKENZIE, 1st Lieut. W., Egyptian Labour Corps.
MACKINNON, Private Eric, 9th Royal Scots Highlanders.
MACKINNON, Dr. F., R.A.M.C.
MACKINNON, Dr. J. M., Captain E.A.M.S., British East Africa.
MACKINNON, Patrick, Sapper, Divisional Engineers, 1st Canadian Contingent.
MACRAY, E. D., Dardanelles Expeditionary Force.
MICHEU, Bombardier C. G., Royal Field Artillery.
MOORE, Miss K. M., Royal Red Cross, Serbia.
MORRISON, J., 2/4th Seaforth Highlanders.
MORTON, Private Stanley, 2nd Sportsman's Battalion.
MOSS, 2nd Lieut., Public Schools Battalion.
MUMFORD, P. F., Army Service Corps, R.E., Baldock.
MUNRO, 2nd Lieut. J. G., 4th Scottish Rifles, Fort Matilda, Greenock.
NOWILL, 2nd Lieut. Sidney J. P., 2/7th City of London Regiment.
PARKER, Trooper G., Royal Horse Guards.
PATERSON, Dr. A., R.A.M.C.
PATERSON, Lieut. Alexander, R.A.M.C., 3rd Batt. Black Watch, Tain, N.B.
PEACOCK, Sapper Frank, R.E.
PENGELLEY, Sapper Walter, R.E.
POYNTER, Lieut. Hugh E., No. 2 Base Supply Depot, Portishead, Somerset.
RAMSAY, Corporal F. R. F., 14th Service Batt. Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.
REES, Trooper R. (1709), Squadron D (in Egypt), Herts Yeomanry, c.o. G.P.O., Southampton.
ROBINSON, Lance-Corporal J. E., Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment (formerly of the C.M.S. College, Jerusalem).
RICE, Rifleman Cecil, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade. (*Died from Wounds.*)
ROUTH, 2nd Lieut. C., 3rd/8th (D.C.O.) Middlesex Regiment.
SACKVILLE-WEST, 2nd Lieut. Hon. B., R.N.V.R.
SAMSON, Seaman George McKenzie, V.C., R.N.R. (*Seriously Wounded.*)
SEAGER, Lieut. John Owen, B. Co., Public Schools Batt., 16th Middlesex Regiment, Woldingham.
SHAW, 2nd Lieut. T., R.E.
SIMMONS, Gunner H. C., 123rd Heavy Battery, R.G.A. (*Died from Wounds.*)
STOCK, Lieut. H. W., Royal Marines. (Serving abroad.)
SUMMERS, Lieut. H. C., R.N.V.R., H.M.S. "Europa."
SUNDERLAND, Interpreter (at the front).
THOMPSON, Lieut. Harold H., R.N.V.R.
THOMPSON, John, Interpreter, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, Alexandria.
THOMPSON, Commander W. A., R.N.V.R., H.M.S. "Egmont."
THWAITES, Dr. H., R.A.M.C., France.
TORRANCE, Dr. D., R.A.M.C.
TRENTER, Trooper T., Household Cavalry.
VAN LENNEP, Private E., 2nd Sportsman's Battalion.
VAN MILLINGEN, 2nd Lieut. Charles A. M., 14th Rifle Brigade.
VAN MILLINGEN, Private R. G. C., 3rd Batt. London Scottish.
VEDOVA, Rifleman Eghbert, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
VEDOVA, Rifleman Lionel, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade. (*Killed in Action.*)
VERE, Lieut.-Commander Harry, R.N.
WARREN, Act.-Corporal R. M., 7th (S) Batt. Rifle Brigade. (*Killed in Action.*)
WEALE, 2nd Lieut. W. W. C., 11th Batt. Devonshire Regiment. (*Wounded.*)
WELLS, Nurse, Sister, Army Hospital, Malta.
WHEATLEY Miss, Sister, Q.A.I.M.N.S.R. No. 21, Ambulance Train, British Expeditionary Force.
WHEELER, Captain P. F. C. d'Erf, 1st Dorset Regiment.
WHITTALL, Captain G., 1st Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry.
WHITTALL, 2nd Lieut. Arthur, 7th (Res.) City of London Regiment.
WHITTALL, Lieut. Hugh, Royal Marines. (Serving abroad.)
WHITTALL, Private Kenneth, 10th Batt. Royal Fusiliers, Colchester.
WHITTALL, Private Roland, 10th Batt. Royal Fusiliers. (*Died from Wounds.*)
WHITTALL, Rifleman Walter, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade. (*Wounded.*)
WOODS, Harold, Interpreter, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, Alexandria.
WRATISLAW, Captain J. C., 8th Leicestershire Regiment, 110 Brigade, 37th Division, B.E.F., France.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, etc.

The Egyptian Army Orders issued on September 5 contained the following farewell order:—

"Upon the reversion to the British Army of El Lewa H. A. Bray Pasha, Medical Corps, the Sirdar wishes to record his appreciation of the excellent services rendered by this officer whilst employed with the Egyptian Army. Lewa Bray Pasha served in the Nyam Nyam Expedition, 1905, and has recently held the following important appointments, in all of which he performed valuable services:—Principal Medical Officer, Egyptian Army; Director-General Sudan Medical Department; President Sleeping Sickness Commission. The Sirdar, on behalf of all ranks, wishes him every success in his future career."

The *Egyptian Gazette* announces (September 13):—

Athanasius Bey Kassab, Director of General Accounts in the Ministry of Finance, will shortly be appointed Sub-Director-General of that department in place of the late Mr. Etherington-Smith.

Mr. Patterson will receive official appointment as Director-General on the 1st prox., when Adib Pasha will formally retire on pension.

Mr. C. Barton, Director of Accounts in the State Domains Administration, will be transferred to the General Accounts Department as Director.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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

DEATHS.

FAIRLEY.—On September 22, at Tabriz, Persia, Richard Routh Fairley, aged 11 months, infant son of William Cunningham Fairley.

WESLEY.—On September 23, suddenly, at 4, Ashurst Road, Seaford, Sussex, F. Gertrude Wesley, beloved wife of Stephen Nowill, of Constantinople.

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CAPTAIN ARTHUR CHARLES DAVIES, 6th BATTALION ROYAL WELSH FUSILIERS, Reported WOUNDED and MISSING on August 10 at the DARDANELLES.—Any INFORMATION will be gratefully received by his Wife, Mrs. Arthur Davies, Treffos, Menai Bridge, Anglesey.

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THE NEAR EAST.

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

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1915.

FOUND WANTING.

The crisis in Bulgaria, there is some reason to believe, is passing. How near the country was a week ago to national suicide may never be accurately known; but it is certain that its fate was hanging by the slenderest thread. Three years ago, when a number of points at issue between the Balkan States called for the most tactful handling, King Ferdinand of Bulgaria gave the order for the Bulgarian army to fall upon its former allies. That step led immediately to the defeat and humiliation of Bulgaria. By an adroitness which has stood him in good stead throughout his reign King Ferdinand was able to divest himself of his responsibility for Bulgaria's fatal move, and to leave his politicians to partition the blame amongst themselves. Once again Bulgaria has found herself at the parting of the ways. On the one hand the path points in the distance to liberty and justice, the establishment on a firm basis of the independence of small nations; on the other hand there is directly in the foreground the exhibition of Germany's physical strength, over which floats, for a weak mind, the spectre of German terrorism. Some natures are a sealed book to the German Government. In the wildest flights of its imagination it had probably never contemplated the prospect of a King, supported by the unanimous voice of his subjects, daring to sacrifice everything rather than prove false to his principles. Yet King Albert of Belgium threw back into the teeth of the bully of Europe his threats and base suggestions, and staked all on the justice of his cause. In the case of King Ferdinand of Bulgaria, it is to be feared, Germany has been more sure of her ground. History will make allowances for the difficulties of his position, his Germanic antecedents, the sense of injustice under which Bulgaria labours as she glares angrily at her neighbours. But the country's choice was in his hands. He alone could see clearly the issues at stake in the world-war, and yet with full knowledge of all the facts he could, under German influence, pin his faith in the victory of German arms. In other words, so little did the vision of faith inspire him, so little did he believe in the ultimate triumph of right and justice, that he could imagine a state of affairs which would allow Germany to dictate her will to Europe and would leave Belgium in the hands of her spoliators and oppressors. No country outside Turkey has so far openly subscribed to this belief. For some, and no doubt for many individuals, the path of liberty and justice has seemed perplexingly obscured, and they have been content to withhold judgment on a problem of extreme intricacy. But King Ferdinand was prepared to make public profession of his lack of faith and to commit his adopted country once more to a policy of adventure.

"Where there is no vision the people perish." There would have been no vision on the part of her rulers, if Bulgaria had stood committed to the support of the German cause. When the Royal Decree for the mobilization of the Bulgarian army was signed on September 19, the desire to see Bulgaria throwing in her lot with the Central Powers must have prompted in a considerable measure King Ferdinand's action. The intransigeant attitude which Bulgaria has adopted towards the Quadruple Entente, the cynical prosecution of negotiations with both belligerent parties, and her compromising action in concluding an agreement with Turkey during these negotiations, show how little sympathy King Ferdinand and his advisers had for the cause for which the Entente Powers are fighting. Fortunately, however, for Bulgaria, circumstances are likely to prove too strong for the Government. The sentiment of the country has been shown to be unmistakably opposed to co-operation with Germany and Austria-Hungary. It would be possible to exploit the national antipathy, due to recent events, felt towards the Greeks and Serbs, and even if the army were to offend so far against discipline as to indicate a reluctance to fight against Russia and Great Britain, Bulgaria could play her part as Germany's willing tool by confining her attention to her immediate neighbours. A more potent factor still in the situation is to be found in the events in the main theatres of the war. The great German drive in the East has not only encountered some significant checks, but here and there the Russians are developing an offensive movement which proves conclusively that the German claim to have put them virtually out of action for six months or more has not been substantiated. While this impression is gaining strength, the Allied Powers in the West have demonstrated that Germany is by no means invincible along this front. We have no intention of falling into the mistake made by Bulgaria's rulers of judging the course of events by unfinished successes in this or that theatre of the war. The Russians are still yielding ground, and in the West the Allies have only given an earnest of what their united efforts may yet be able to achieve. But enough has happened in both theatres to give the Bulgarian Government pause, and for the moment the outside world which was thrown into some consternation, not unmingled with genuine sympathy for Bulgaria, by the mobilisation order, is viewing with amusement the explanations offered for a costly, unnecessary and dangerous step.

The rapidity with which Greece replied to Bulgaria's provocation by mobilising her own army may also have come as an unwelcome surprise to King Ferdinand and the Radislavoff Cabinet. It is impossible to tell with what fantastic information German agents in Sofia may have beguiled the present rulers of Bulgaria's destiny. They may have counted on Greece's domestic preoccupations and on Roumania's indifference, to enable them to manœuvre into an advantageous position for the desired *coup*. But even when they arrived at this stage in their train of reasoning, it is difficult to imagine that they hope to be allowed to attack Serbia without rousing either Greece or Roumania to action. Indeed, the utter hopelessness of Bulgaria's position, unless she could reckon on Greek and Roumanian neutrality, is so apparent that the impartial observer is left wondering whether behind the mobilisation there can have been any thought of making common cause with the Germanic Powers. If there were not, if the explanations subsequently advanced were really the determining factors in King Ferdinand's mind, the criticisms passed upon Bulgaria's action would still do no one an injustice. The fact that only in Germany was the mobilisation of the Bulgarian army received with any satisfaction is a sure sign that the step could not benefit anyone else. If Bulgaria did not intend to render a service to Germany, the mobilisation was entirely a work of supererogation. It could not hope to influence the course of negotiations, because its effect is immediately neutralised by the action of Greece and Roumania, and it could not have been carried out in agreement with the Entente Powers. We are left, therefore, to the conclusion that King Ferdinand and his advisers dallied with the idea of a *coup*, and resolved upon the necessary preliminary. This time the opportunity denied them in 1913 has been given. They have had time to realise their mistake, and there is still hope that Bulgaria will not be launched on a fatal policy of adventure. If this should prove to be the case, good fortune and the sound common sense of the people will have triumphed over foolishness in high places. Whatever happens to Bulgaria, even if she is still to be sacrificed for Germany's ends, the admiration felt for the splendid qualities of her people will remain unabated. We may go further, and say that the strong ties which bind Russia, and in lesser degree Great Britain, to the Bulgarians will not have been severed. If war has to be between them and the Quadruple Entente, it will be waged by us to liberate a people of high character and great potentialities from the vicious influence of unenlightened government.

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SERBIA'S SACRIFICE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Nish, September 4.

The joyous comments one heard from every Serbian when part of the Russian forces crossed the Carpathians, the bright expectation that very soon the Serbian Army would advance on Buda-pest to join the invading Russians, have, through the continuous retreat of the Russian forces, been giving place to murmurs of despair. The fall of Warsaw, the further rapid advance of the German armies, have caused consternation in the hearts of Serbians. The fear of Russia making a separate peace and of Serbia becoming a prey to a renewed invasion, of combined German and Austrian forces, raised a dark cloud, which portended renewed distress and probable disaster to the already suffering nation.

The official Russian statement that war would be continued to the utmost, and that Russia would make no separate peace, has alleviated the depression. But it needed the Serbian Prime Minister's energetic declaration, that the bare idea of Serbia concluding a separate peace would constitute a crime, in order to impress on the people of this country that the present adversity is likely to be but a severe ordeal, from which the Powers of the Quadruple Entente and their Allies will eventually emerge victorious.

It was needful that the spirits of the Serbian people should be fortified; for they are now called upon to make sacrifices to which all of them are bitterly opposed. There has been for a long time a feeling of ill-will, varied by short intervals of friendship, between the Serbian and Bulgarian peoples. But, just as in the case of England and Germany, there was before the war in each country a party which strenuously endeavoured to promote peace between the two countries; so both in Serbia and Bulgaria there were strong political parties which for several years did all in their power to draw the two countries together. University students and professors sent delegates on an interchange of friendly visits to Sofia and Belgrade; the commercial communities did the same; Serbian parliamentary and political bodies, led by the present Prime Minister, made strenuous efforts to arrive at a friendly and economic *entente* with Bulgaria. These efforts progressed favourably, and finally terminated in an offensive and defensive alliance and a joint war against Turkey for the liberation of the Christian population.

Throughout the whole duration of the Serbian and Bulgarian efforts towards a *rapprochement*, Austria was working in opposition to those efforts, her aim being to bring Serbia to subjection to Austrian policy or to reduce the country to complete insignificance.

Serbia fought her political and economic battles with Austria bravely; she shook off Austria's economic yoke; weak and single-handed, she accepted the Customs war against her puissant neighbour; and in so doing served the cause of Balkan independence well. Austria's object was to suffocate Serbia, to facilitate her own advance to the Ægean Sea, to which Serbia barred the way. After the war against Turkey, when the unhappy conflict with Bulgaria was also at an end, Austria once more found play for her hostility to Serbia. When the Serbian Army penetrated into and occupied northern Albania it was compelled to retire under pressure of Austrian threats.

As regards an alliance of the Balkan States, Serbia was always well aware of its importance. She knew that such an alliance constituted the best guarantee for the independence of these States. And Austria also knew this, and always exerted her influence accordingly. The very contracts made between Serbia and Bulgaria prior to their joint war against Turkey show how eagerly and at what sacrifices Serbia desired an alliance of the Balkan States for the promotion of the interests of these States; and one which would likewise serve as a barrier against the encroachments of Austria.

The course of events during the war against Turkey did not run as was anticipated by both Serbia and Bulgaria. The latter country had not been able to fulfil its war engagements towards Serbia, and its victories extended to the unexpected occupation of a large part of Thrace, whereas Serbia, through the machinations of Austria, was prevented from reaping the benefits of her hard-won victories over the Albanians; and in these circumstances Serbia considered that the agreements she had entered into with Bulgaria were no longer just, and that arbitration was called for. But the conduct of Bulgaria, urged on by Austria at Bregalnitza, in suddenly and unexpectedly attacking the friendly Serbian forces, put an end to the question of arbitration. From that moment the feelings between the peoples of the two countries became very embittered, and reconciliation appeared impossible, each considering itself the injured party.

The Bulgarians having used might to settle the points at issue between them, the Serbian people and Government and Serbian military circles considered that, as victors, they were justified in retaining the Macedonian territories they had gained at the price of the great sacrifices imposed on them through the aggressive conduct of Bulgaria.

Even now, smarting under the effects of this dreadful European war, the Serbian Government is alive to the necessity of an amicable understanding between the Balkan States in order to enable the well-disposed neutral States to enter into action against the common foe; and the collective and simultaneous action of the Quadruple Entente Powers at Nish, Sofia, Athens, and Bucharest cannot be said to have failed so far as this country is concerned. Serbia's reply to the Note of the Entente Powers demanding sacrifices from this country has met with a generous reception, favourable to the end in view for the general good of the Entente and all its Allies.

It is true that in laying the matter before Parliament in its secret sittings the Serbian Government has had to deal firmly and make clear the imperative necessities of the case. The whole negotiations, however, have been kept secret, and the details of the Serbian reply to the Powers of the Quadruple Entente are unknown to the public. It suffices to say that, according to the best-informed circles, Serbia has given a favourable reply, proving her entire confidence in the Entente Powers, who have now the means at their disposal of pursuing a friendly and energetic course with the neutral Balkan States, so as to arrive at a clear and decided understanding.

In well-informed quarters it is feared, however, that negotiations with Bulgaria will not terminate so well as might be desired, some people going so far as to suggest the possibility of Bulgaria having already made secret treaties with the enemy, King Ferdinand having had authority and power to do so if he should have deemed it fit.

The political situation is critical, and there may be complications difficult to surmount.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Sir Edward Grey's Statement.

In a leading article upon the statement made by Sir Edward Grey in the House of Commons upon the position in the Balkans, the *Daily Telegraph* (September 29) expresses satisfaction that such an utterance should have been made, as the announcements of the past week "are very disturbing and confusing and cry aloud for some sort of interpretation." The article continues:—

We now know where we stand, and it is to be hoped that Bulgaria thoroughly understands also what the position involves. . . . We desire to promote agreement, and to suggest common aims, so that in due course a real Confederation of Balkan peoples may be realised. The German ambition is to sow discord, in order that the selfish desires of Teutonism may be fulfilled. . . . She has tied Austria to her chariot-wheels. She has practically enslaved Turkey, so that the Sublime Porte can scarcely call its soul its own. In similar fashion, and with equal ruthlessness, she would subordinate any Balkan State which was foolish enough to be seduced by her wiles.

Balkan Mobilizations.

In a leading article on the mobilizations of the Bulgarian and Greek armies, the *Times* (September 25) considers that the latter country undoubtedly judged the situation correctly when she replied to the mobilization of the Bulgarian forces by a similar movement on her own part. We quote from various passages in the article:—

It was impossible for Greece to lie under the menace to her ally Serbia, to her own security, and to the whole future of the Balkan people which the sudden move of King Ferdinand creates, without taking this precaution for the vindication of her interests and for the discharge of her obligations. The tortuous policy of the Court of Sofia has long caused the deepest suspicion amongst the Allies, but they were ready and anxious to guarantee a fair settlement of the claims of Bulgaria, upon condition that she did her part in the cause of European freedom.

The writer describes the various events which immediately preceded Bulgaria's action, and continues:—

We still hope that King Ferdinand may pause before he stakes the future of his dynasty by forcing Bulgaria to draw the sword in a cause which we believe that his people know and feel to be opposed to their deepest and most abiding interests.

A great part of the concluding portions of the article is devoted to the real objects for which "Berlin and Vienna woo Bulgaria as an accomplice," and shows that they are merely part of the "world policy" of the German Government, which aims at "German domination from the North Sea to the Persian Gulf and as far as the frontiers of India." After summing up the various causes which should bind the Slavs together, and referring to the debt which Bulgaria owes both to Russia and to England, the article proceeds:—

The English abhor ingratitude with the contempt of a generous race. They would resent a betrayal of Balkan interests and of European interests by any State, but they would resent it with special bitterness were it perpetrated, or sanctioned, by a people who owe Russia and themselves so great a debt as does Bulgaria. And let it not be urged that ingratitude may always be committed with impunity in politics. The fate of Austria herself is an instance to the contrary. We trust that King Ferdinand and Bulgaria will take the lesson to heart, and will remember, before they are irrevocably committed, that the Allies will give their most strenuous support to any of their Balkan friends whom Bulgaria may attack, and will never stay their hands until Germans, Austrians, and Turks, with all who may aid them and abet them, are utterly overthrown.

The *Manchester Guardian* (September 27), in a leading article on Bulgaria, says:—

While, therefore, it is to be hoped that Bulgaria will, as the semi-official statements suggest, guard her frontiers jealously against Austro-German pressure or encroachment, it is to be presumed also that the Entente Powers have long ago thought out their military plans in case Bulgaria should be tempted to attack Serbia. . . . The Entente Powers, no doubt, have reckoned on all possible developments and will know how to act.

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The *Manchester Courier* (September 25) also deals with the subject in an article from which we quote:—

Whatever may be the final outcome of the Balkan negotiations, it is obvious that the Allies are prepared for all emergencies. Nor should it be overlooked that the Allies have resources which as yet have been almost untouched. The mastery of the world's seas is ours; both France and England have vast numbers of fighters to draw on; Russia is still mobilizing; and Japan is waiting and willing to join in. Temporary advantage might accrue to Germany from a suicidal policy on the part of Bulgaria, but the final victory for the Allies is as certain as ever.

An Independent Judgment.

In an article dealing with the results of twelve months of war, Mr. Frank H. Simonds, editor of the New York *Evening Sun*, gives in the American *Review of Reviews*, and quoted by our paper of that name, the unbiased opinion of a neutral on the position of the various belligerents. The following paragraph shows the American opinion regarding German aims in the Balkans:—

Peace now would mean that 25,000,000 Austrian Slavs would be bent to German purpose; that this vast empire would in its own time descend to the Ægean, crush the remnant of independent southern Slavs, and throw aside the weak Hellenic barrier.

A German on the Balkans.

According to the *Daily News*, Herr Theodor Wolff, writing in a recent number of the *Berliner Tageblatt*, discusses the Balkan situation in an article from which we take the following extract, and which was evidently written with an eye to Serbian friendship:—

Those whose senses are not blinded by prejudice cannot deny that the Serbian nation has fought bravely, and has given proof of passionate patriotism and tenacious vitality. It used to be represented, in light-minded irony, as an opera-bouffe nation; at its own cost, and, unfortunately, Europe's, it has shown in a very convincing manner that it is ripe for a tragedy. . . . There are but few people who suffer from the desire to see Serbia wiped out from the book of nations. We only need in the Balkans, now and afterwards, an unimpeded connection with the friendly Turkish Empire and a pacific consolidation all round, which can best be secured by the annexation of Macedonia to Bulgaria. Apart from this, most of us know that forcible strangulation and suppression has never yet brought anybody any profit. We wish every nation plenty of breathing air and opportunities for development.

At the same time the Serbian people, and Nicholas Pashitch, who has been directing the storm-tossed boat ever since September, 1912—and has gone through a good deal—must themselves understand the signs of fate. Possibly their soul is still, like the soul of Iphigenia, seeking the land of the Greeks.

Perhaps the wise and discreet Venizelos, leaving aside his honest and pronounced sympathy for the Entente Powers, for which we must not blame him, will consider whether he could not better serve his friendly neighbouring nations by some other policy than that which seeks a solution of all questions by the sword. The advice of such an experienced statesman might well prove more wholesome than the often incalculable deed.

The Persian Gulf Campaign.

A recent number of *The Times* heads its leading article with the query, "Why is the Persian Gulf Campaign Ignored?" In dealing with the subject as a whole, the writer says:—

The expedition has done bold and gallant deeds, and has waged true amphibious warfare in conjunction with units of the Royal Navy and Royal Indian Marine. It has fought several battles in which, while suffering serious loss, it has generally inflicted far heavier losses upon the enemy. It has carried the British flag into one of the few corners of the earth where our victorious banners have never before been seen. It has captured the important city of Basra, one of the greatest of Turkish seaports. It has established itself, after two partially successful attempts, at the confluence of the Rivers Tigris and Euphrates. It has advanced so far up the Tigris that months ago a civil post office was actually established at Amara, a long stride along the road to Baghdad. It has penetrated over a hundred miles along the swamps and shallow lakes of the Lower Euphrates, and after a month of almost incredible toil it drove a fres Turkish concentration headlong, and established a new base.

The main purpose of the article is to lodge a complaint against the reticence of the Government in its distribution of news regarding the campaign.

French Claims on Syria.

To the *Contemporary Review* (September) Mr. T. F. Farman contributes an article on the above subject. The writer shows that the German menace to French interests is by no means a matter of recent growth, and considers that before the outbreak of the present war Germany had come to regard both Syria and Mesopotamia as virtually hers. He quotes Count Cressaty, who in the year 1913 said in his book on Syria that the main object of the construction of the Baghdad Railway by the Germans was to "cover those regions with

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a sort of preventive mortgage." In pursuing the subject of this railway the writer says:—

That the Turko-German enterprise should be pushed forward with greater activity than ever during the war created surprise, but it seems it was considered, and no doubt rightly, that the completion of that link between the lines already created on each side to the foot of the Taurus mountains would be of great utility for military operations against the Suez Canal and Egypt.

He shows that German efforts have been consistently directed towards the weakening of French influence in the Levant, and that the Germans have been careful to accord their active support to any Turkish movements which would lead to this result, especially in Syria.

Yes, in spite of the Turks, who, when they declared war on the Allies, abolished the capitulations on which the protective rights of France are based, and in spite of the absurd boast of the Sultan, who, in his speech from the throne on that occasion, declared he would never consent to their re-establishment, France must be regarded as in possession of that protectorate. At the conclusion of peace the Allies will most surely stipulate the complete re-establishment of the capitulations, with all the privileges they entail for the Christian Powers, in those portions of Turkey which may be left under the Sultan's rule.

Proceeding, the writer includes a brief statement of the manner in which the French secured their privileges in Syria, and details the more important events which have transpired in their regard. Mr. Farman shows that the theatrical manifestation of the Kaiser Wilhelm in Palestine and Syria in 1898 was less successful than the Royal schemer had anticipated, owing probably to the fact that Syria is, "so to say, saturated with French ideas." He shows, however, that although the French survived the schemes undertaken by their German rival for their overthrow, the French Government itself placed the interests of its country in jeopardy through thoughtless legislation:—

By the dispersion of the religious congregations in France, a blow was struck, perhaps unintentionally, which might have had baneful results. Later on, to palliate the evil effects of the measure, anti-clericalism was declared to be "not an article of exportation," and the French Ambassador at Constantinople was authorised to continue to extend his patronage to the Catholic missions in the Ottoman Empire. Indeed, though the successive French Ambassadors accredited to the Porte since that moment have been almost without exception freethinkers, they have all regularly attended Mass celebrated by the Catholic clergy belonging to religious Orders expelled from France. But the dispersion of the religious congregations in France resulted necessarily in the migration of the seminaries for training the missionaries. Removed to foreign lands, the majority of the new recruits of those institutions were no longer French, but Belgians, Germans, and Italians. The work of French propaganda in the East was thereby seriously compromised. French politicians of all shades of opinion recognised and regretted it.

After a dissertation on the different religions of the Levant, with their political significances, Mr. Farman says:—

It does not appear likely that either Great Britain or Russia will oppose the realisation of the ambition of the French to establish their protectorate over Syria, which would constitute something like a buffer State between the two greatest empires of the world—Russia, which will almost certainly annex Armenia, and Great Britain as master in Mesopotamia as well as in Egypt. As for the idea of giving Syria an autonomous government, it would inevitably prove disastrous.

Turkish Communication.

Colonel F. N. Maude, in an article contributed to the *Sheffield Independent* on the "*Raison d'être* of the Dardanelles," compares the operations at the Dardanelles with those of the Crimea in 1854, and of the Japanese against Port Arthur. The following quotation opens up a new point concerning our strategy which will probably not have presented itself to the lay observer:—

We wore out Russia in the Crimea really because, by the accident of the situation and our own inadequate land army, we were unable to cut off the communications of Sebastopol with the mainland. In the present case it seems to me that we have intentionally left some communications with Turkey still open to the enemy for the same reason, never quite interrupting them, but making them so difficult both by sea and land that only a proportion of those who set out to reinforce the garrison ever succeed in reaching it. The people of Constantinople are never allowed to forget how their army is gradually being bled to death.

Press Censorship in Egypt.

Last week we referred briefly to "The Moslem Press and the War," an excellent article contributed to the *Moslem World* (October) by Stephen van R. Trowbridge and Selim Effendi Abd-ul-Ahad. The main purpose of the article is "to give a poll of the Cairo Press, as the most reliable interpretation of what is going on in the minds of Moslems," and this is satisfactorily achieved. The writers approve—as all thinking people must do—of the Press censorship in Egypt, though they recognize its disadvantages. We read:—

The declaration of martial law in Egypt was accompanied by the institution of a rigid system of censorship. Probably this arbitrary law has been even more necessary in Egypt than in England or Germany. The publication of startling rumours or seditious articles would have thrown the whole country into disorder and strife. As it is, a firm, even government has been maintained, and there has been absolutely no rioting or restless behaviour. The law of the Press, with its chief ally the censorship, has kept the mind of the Egyptians under control through all these critical months.

Having regard to what some Egyptian minds are capable of, the advantages of the censorship are undoubted. But the Oriental is subtle, and the censor appears sometimes to be caught napping. The following quotation serves to show that certain "Mark Antonian" journalists might receive more careful attention:—

Had it not been for the censorship in Egypt, the fanaticism of some would have known no limits. Even a Moslem paper like *Al-Ahali*, founded by the ex-Prime Minister of Egypt, often appears with blank columns, owing to the censor having struck out certain paragraphs or articles. In many instances the genuine spirit of *Al-Ahali* is unmasked by references which probably escape the censor's notice. An example of this is the way in which the *Al-Ahali* deals with the hostilities against the Dardanelles. For one who reads between the lines, it is not difficult to detect a spirit of sarcasm at the Allies' action, though outwardly the passages seem to be quite harmless. It would be most difficult, if not altogether impossible, to give an exact rendering of any of those passages. They are not unlike Mark Antony's oration on the death of Cæsar. Although on the one hand *Al-Ahali* publishes Reuter's and the official *communiqués* with regard to the bombardment of the Dardanelles, yet, on the other hand, the comments are encouraging to those who sympathise with the Turks.

On the other hand, it is but fair to give credit where credit is due, and to recognize that many Egyptians are as anxious to "play the game" as others are not. The paragraph just quoted is followed by this:—

El-Muayyad is more careful. For some time past its policy has been a thorn in the side of Turkey. In many instances its support of the British cause has, in the sight of many an orthodox Azhari, been carried too far. Indeed, a schism in the opinions of the proprietors of the paper with regard to this policy led to the dismissal of Hafiz Bey Awad from the chair of chief editor. Hafiz Bey seemed to be more British than the British themselves! His open attacks on Turkey, because of her getting entangled in the European conflict, were becoming insupportable both to the proprietors and to readers.

The Dardanelles.

Writing on the present position of the belligerents in the *Sunday Chronicle* (September 26), Mr. A. H. Pollen arrives at the conclusion that final victory in the great world war is assured to the Allies, even although hostilities should continue and fortunes fluctuate for a very considerable time to come. He regards the situation in the Balkans as disconcerting, but is convinced that even should Bulgaria throw in her lot with the Central Empires, the effect of the blow would be strictly measurable, and would in no way affect the ultimate result of the war:—

If the Dardanelles expedition were to fail totally and had to be written off as a military disaster without precedent, the final issue of the whole war would not be affected. There is not the slightest reason for supposing that it will or can possibly fail. It has been very near complete success, and will, I should imagine without doubt, finally achieve it, but its failure or success can only affect the final issue by retarding it or accelerating it. The character of the issue is decided by the array of forces on either side, always of course assuming that the unity of national sentiment, to make every sacrifice necessary for victory, remains as strongly marked in Russia, Italy, France, and England as it is in Germany and Austria.

Articles to Note.

"Kavala," in the *Daily Telegraph* (September 24).

"The Conqueror of the Turks: John Sobieski, 1629-1696." By Roger Martin, in *Kharki* (September).

"The Man of the Hour: King Ferdinand of Bulgaria" and "The Bulgaria Puzzle." By S. Coudurier de Chassaigne, in the *Sunday Times* (September 26).

"Boundary and Contraband," in the *World's Work* (September).

"Men of the Moment: Enver Pasha," in the *Review of Reviews* (September).

"Bulgaria's Intentions." By Count Cheddo Miyatovitch, in the *Manchester Dispatch* (September 27).

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DIRECTORY

showing the present addresses of English residents in Turkey, who have left the country in consequence of the war, or have been prevented from returning there. Readers from Turkey whose names are not given below will oblige by forwarding to the Managing Editor their present addresses for inclusion (free of charge) in the Directory, which is intended to be of assistance in bringing friends together. Changes in addresses should be notified as early as possible. The "Near East" accepts no responsibility for the correctness of the addresses given.

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BINNS, Miss Ada, 37, Lynedoch Street, Glasgow.
BINNS, Mr. and Mrs. Douglas, 8, Incognitogaten, Christiania, Norway.
BINNS, Miss Hilda, Sunny West, The Promenade, Cheshire.
BINNS, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence G., 12, Ramshill Road, Scarborough.
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BOND, A. W., 16, Wilton Mansions, Kelvinside N., Glasgow.
BOND, Miss E. G., 16, Wilton Mansions, Kelvinside N., Glasgow.
BOND, Miss H. V., 4, Oxford Terrace, Kinston Road, Wimbledon, S.W.
BOND, Miss I. A., 16, Wilton Mansions, Kelvinside N., Glasgow.
BOND, Mrs. R., 4, Oxford Terrace, Kingston Road, Wimbledon, S.W.
BOND, Mrs. S. J., and daughter, 4, Oxford Terrace, Kingston Road, Wimbledon, S.W.
BOND, Stephen J., 16, Wilton Mansions, Kelvinside N., Glasgow.
BOND, Mr. and Mrs. Valentine, and family, 11, Neville Street, Riverside, Cardiff.
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BROOKS, Mrs. W. W., and daughter, Hotel Metropole, Athens
BROWN, Canon J. Carnegie, 16, Lincoln's Inn Fields.
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CAMPBELL, R. J., and family, Old Phaleron, Greece.
CAMPBELL, W. Gordon, c/o the Standard Oil Co. of New York, Piræus, Greece.
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KEY, W. H. M., M.D., c/o Messrs. Coutts and Co., London, W.C.
KEYSER, Mrs., Kefissia, Greece.
KEYSER, The Misses, Slion Palace Hotel, Athens.
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LA FONTAINE, Sub.-Lieut. J. S., "Hawke" Battalion R.N.D., Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, c/o General Post Office.
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MACKRAY, E. D., Daira of H.H. Princess Emina, Berdein, Egypt.
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MUMFORD, Pat, Army Service Corps, Richmond Park, S.W.
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NIAS, Arhur, Conservative Club, St. James' Street, S.W.
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O'NEIL, Miss, Hotel Grande, Bretagne, Athens.
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PATTERSON, Miss E. Mabel, Crag Head Hospital, Manor Road, Bournemouth.
PATTERSON, Mr. and Mrs. H., Hotel d'Angleterre, Athens.
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PEARS, Miss Lorna E., 21, York Street, Portman Square, W.
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RAWE, Reuben, Old Phaleron, Greece.
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RUSSELL, Mrs. J. MacDowall, c/o Mrs. J. Bruce, Bogs of Blevrie, by Forres, N.B.
RYAN, Andrew, Foreign Office, S.W.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

The resolution imposing additional Customs duties on dried fruits was agreed to by the House of Commons on Wednesday, after an amendment had been adopted for the exclusion of currants from the incidence of the additional impost. Mr. Montagu explained that the attention of the Government had been called [THE NEAR EAST was the only Press organ in the United Kingdom to call attention to this matter] to the fact that in 1890 a convention was signed with the Greek Government under which we undertook not to increase the existing duty on currants without a year's notice. The convention had not been repudiated, and as the agreed notice had not been given, the Government felt bound to withdraw this part of the resolution. The loss which the Treasury would suffer was £60,000.

***

My reference last week to the new duty on dried fruit, wherein—on information given me—I included dates, has brought me many letters pointing out that no such duty on dates exists, and consequently it cannot be increased. One such letter is reproduced elsewhere. Incidentally I may add that I am more than pleased that dates are not to be taxed, more particularly as regards "British dates" from Irak. It might be worth our while in future to give them some sort of preference on the home market, but I am afraid this would be too much to ask from statesmen who have an honest horror of anything clad in the raiments of Preferential Tariff.

***

The one item of the proposed new taxation which has met with the most serious opposition is that involving the temporary abolition of the halfpenny postcard. The question must be regarded from two points of view, from that of the Exchequer and from the public standpoint. If the halfpenny postcard, instead of having been a source of revenue to the State, had been run at a loss, it matters not if it is abolished. But if it was a source of revenue—and I believe it was—then it is a great pity that it should be interfered with, because the chances are that it will cease to be as remunerative as it used to be. From the public point of view the suggested alteration has nothing to show in its favour, but when we examine it in connection with trade interests we find that it is directly damaging. Firms like Messrs. Raphael Tuck and Sons, who have built up the illustrated postcard industry in this country and have done their utmost to keep this market from being absolutely swamped by German dumpers, will be hit so hard that they will have to reduce their output, which means a grave trade dislocation. And all for what? For a possible and very hypothetical increase in postal revenues. Is the game worth the candle? I hardly think so, and when the proposed increased rates are extended to circulars the damage done to trade will be more considerable than the Chancellor seems to have anticipated. I hope, however, that in view of the great opposition to the proposal from all quarters, the Government will drop it and seek increased revenues from another source more plentiful and less damaging.

The internecine war between the directors of the Baku Russian Petroleum Company, which came to a climax on Tuesday at the meeting of shareholders, is to be regretted. There was, as is usual in such circumstances, a lot of bickering, but Mr. Herbert Allen, the late chairman, held his ground ably, and practically carried his point. His suggestion for the election of a committee was adopted, and however much we may be opposed to the creation of such examining bodies, we welcome it in the hope that it will result in clearing the atmosphere and in reinstating the chairman. Thus will the future of the company be brighter.

***

The reference made elsewhere to the new factory being erected in Cairo by Messrs. J. Compton and Sons, of cotton fame, will be read with great interest here. It connotes a worthy effort on our part to capture Austria's clothing trade in our new Protectorate. I understand, however, that it is not intended to open in Egypt a spinning and weaving factory, as might be imagined from the context of the article which appeared in the *Egyptian Gazette*. The successful working of any such factory in Egypt would be doubtful, primarily owing to the great expense of fuel. What is intended principally is a cutting and fitting establishment on modern lines, and, given any form of protection against Austrian "dumping," it should, after the war is over, be a prosperous business.

***

I wish to call the attention of the proper agricultural authorities to the concluding paragraph of the article reproduced elsewhere by Rev. Dr. Glazebrook, American Consul at Jerusalem, on "Devastation by Locusts in Palestine." In it mention is made of a "species of fly, probably the bee fly of the family of Bombylidæ," which seems to attack the eggs of the locust. A specimen of this fly has been sent to the Department of Agriculture in Washington. Experiments with the live insect should prove highly interesting, and perhaps useful.

***

According to the Rev. Glazebrook's description of the devastation of Palestine by locusts this year, the damage done is incalculable and complete. Misery and famine will stare the inhabitants in the face, through the vineyards and olive groves, from which come the peasants' staple articles of food, having been destroyed. The Jaffa orange groves seem to have been miraculously preserved. What the effect of the dearth in Palestine will be on the fighting resources of the Turks remains to be seen. Apart from this, however, I sympathise deeply with the poor peasants of Palestine.

***

At the half-yearly meeting of the Ottoman Railway on Tuesday Lord Rathmore, the chairman, said that the line remained in possession of the Turkish Government and there was no means of obtaining any reliable information from Smyrna. They naturally supposed that the Turks, in their own interests, would not wilfully damage the railway, on which the future prosperity of the country depended. After the war the company would make a claim of considerable dimensions against the Turkish Government for loss of traffic.

***

According to a Central News message from Paris, reports have reached that city from Bucharest to the effect that "M. Radoslavoff has informed the Roumanian Government that owing to the difficulties which have been placed in the way of the transit of merchandise from Germany destined for Bulgaria, it is intended by way of reprisal to confiscate 30 per cent. of the value of goods passing through Bulgaria for Roumania." Though the above may sound as though, behind it, there lurked an *arrière pensée*, I prefer to discard any such suspicion, believing that the message has merely relation to purely economic questions.

***

Our Bucharest Correspondent refers on another page somewhat optimistically to a proposed tramline from Campina to Sinaia. He makes two statements which will not be readily accepted by those who know the locality. The first is that the line would be of easy construction. Now this is hardly accurate, because Campina is almost in the plains, whereas Sinaia—one of the prettiest resorts I have ever seen—is in the Carpathians, and is only to be reached along the narrow bed of the Prahova River, along and across which—in a score of places—passes the railway line. The second suggestion is that the proposed tramline would pay. This is hardly likely, considering that Campina, by no means a beautiful spot, is by way of being a small town, and that Sinai hôteliers depend almost entirely on the wealthy Bucharest holiday-makers for their living. A simpler scheme would be to electrify the line from Bucharest, through Campina, to Sinaia, and then run a more frequent, comfortable and rapid service between the two (to the best of my belief the last train passing through Sinaia is not timed later than 9 p.m.), and to reduce the fares. This would be a much more sensible way of "pushing" the beautiful mountain resort.

***

"Mr. Henry Ford, the motor-car manufacturer, has threatened to withdraw the deposits of his firm from any bank participating in the Anglo-French Loan." Who is Mr. Henry Ford? He is the head of the great Ford motor-car firm, which, thanks to the past supine folly of British statesmen in upholding archaic Cobdenism, has been able to swamp this market with his cars. His gratitude is eloquent. In the Near East he has established his merchandise also, even in countries which to-day are fighting (or are about to fight) on the side of the Entente Powers for their liberties. These people rely to a great extent on the success of the Anglo-French Loan in order to keep up the fight against the Huns, and now Mr. Henry Ford, presumably a millionaire, arrives to place obstacles in their path, and to tender his help to their, and our, enemy. Surely this act of generous support of the tyrants of the Balkans will not be forgotten by his Roumanian, Greek, Serb, Montenegrin, Italian, and French clients! Nor should we, probably his best customers, forget his true sympathy with our cause.

COMMENTATOR.

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Roumanian Oil Market.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, September 6.

After a long period of stagnation and falling in prices of raw petroleum, a slight rise and a more firm demand is to be noted.

The price of raw petroleum at Bushtenari has increased by 25 to 30 centimes per 100 kgs., that is to say, from 3.40 fr. to 3.65 fr. and 3.50 fr. per 100 kgs., with a fairly good demand on the part of the middle-sized and smaller refineries. This is apart from the Bushtenari type of oil, raw petroleum of the Moreni-Tzuicani, Tzintea, etc., classes, which contain 1 per cent. less benzine and more residues. These types of raw petroleum demand the same price as Bushtenari oils were getting a little time ago.

Output.

The general production is stationary at from 410 wagons to 420 wagons per day. A certain number of wells at Moreni-Tzuicani, Moreni-Bana (Ograda), and Baicoi have ceased their eruptions, and no new springs have been come on lately. The results of well No. 20 of the "Columbia," in the bed of the river Cricov at Bana Ograda are watched with much interest; indications point to a satisfactory result, and to a consequent increase of the oil-producing territory; difficulties of transport of materials, etc., naturally hinder work in this, a fresh district. In spite of this, boring goes on in a satisfactory manner. In a day or two attempts will be made to collect oil.

The "spouters" of the Roumanian Consolidated in the same district, Nos. 30 and 49, give together about 180 tons per day. The "Aquila" well, No. 101, in the same district which gave a production of 35,000 tons, and then was choked, has been cleaned, and it is hoped this fruitful well will soon again commence its production.

At Baicoi there is nothing new to report.

Working Material.

The want of working materials is felt more from day to day, and the prices asked for what is available become fantastic. As regards tubes, those in abandoned wells are being extracted, and though, naturally, their quality leaves much to be desired, they are fetching high prices. Wire cables are hardly to be found in the country.

Exportation is going on in an almost normal condition (naturally by land only), but during the first few days a reduction in the number of tank wagons going over the frontier is to be noticed, probably due to the general crowding of the lines and sidings owing to the Hungarian prohibition on grain exports. In the same manner a large falling off is noticeable in the number of "returned empties" arriving from Austria and Germany, probably because the lines are interrupted by the movement of troops.

The prices of "lampant" for exportation are increased somewhat above the low mark to which they had fallen on account of minimum prices being fixed for Germany by the authorities. The best prices are paid for oil for the districts occupied by the Austro-German troops, such as Poland, and even for Belgium. Large companies have made important contracts at maximum prices.

Tank wagons are much in demand, and high prices are being paid. The best prices are obtained for oil in tank wagons, so the price for oil in drums has fallen off considerably.

Benzine Exports.

It might be noted that practically no benzine has been exported except some relatively small quantities to Bulgaria. The entire export is in lampaut and lubricating oils, the only two qualities permitted for export. The rumours of smuggling of benzine to Germany and Austria are quite fantastic; indeed, were any of the companies to lower themselves to such a business, the strict control exercised by the authorities, both at the refineries and the frontier, would make this quite impossible, and all attempts would prove abortive.

The total production of petroleum on the Roumanian oilfields during the first half of the present year amounted to 906,472 tons, as against 878,526 tons obtained during the corresponding period of 1914, thus showing an increase of 27,946 tons, or 3 per cent. This, says the *Roumanian Review*, notwithstanding the great difficulties the Roumanian petroleum industry has had to fight against from the very beginning of the war, it has not only maintained but even exceeded the previous production. These difficulties consist of a considerable reduction of the number of hands, shortage of boring materials, the cessation of exports, and the accumulation of crude oil and products. There is, therefore, every reason to hope that after the cessation of the war the Roumanian petroleum industry will at once be capable of great development and progress.

The following table shows the production during the recorded period on the various districts:—

	Six months. 1915.		Six months. 1914.
Prahova.....	795,813	..	752,012
Dambovitza.....	52,330	..	20,554
Buzeu.....	43,830	..	81,883
Bacau.....	14,499	..	24,067
General total....	906,472	..	878,516

It will be noted that while the districts Prahova and Dambovitza register increases, the two other districts—Buzeu and Bacau—on the contrary, show decreases. This is explained by the fact that the districts Prahova and Dambovitza are near the centres of the refining industry, to which they are connected by an extensive net of pipelines, which naturally facilitate the transport of crude oil, as well as of refined products. The production of the two latter districts, however, must for the most part be transported in tank waggons to the centre of the refining industry, and therefore these districts have been the first to suffer. Especially in the Buzeu district, the various firms have been obliged to restrict their production to a great extent. As regards the various fields, the Moreni field continues to be at the head with 416,633 tons, as against 445,680 tons obtained during the corresponding period last year, thus showing a decrease of 39,017 tons, which is due to a voluntary reduction in the production. The participation of the Moreni field in the total production is expressed in the figure of 46 per cent.

The next in importance is Bustenari, with 145,683 tons, or 16 per cent. in the total production. It is to be noticed that the oil-field of Bustenari continues to produce greatly reduced quantities, which fact is due on one side to the natural exhaustion of the old sources and on the other side to the fact that very little new boring work was undertaken here. The third place is occupied by Baicoi, with a production of 108,520 tons, as against 11,696 tons produced during the corresponding period last year; that is to say, showing a production ten times as large, this being due to the discovery of the Fierbatori field. The participation of this field in the total production is 12 per cent., as against 1.35 per cent. last year. Then follows the field of Campina, with 64,735 tons, as against 94,699 tons last year, and a participation of 7.12 per cent., as against 10.91 per cent. last year. Tzintea shows a production of 54,295 tons, as against 36,940 tons, showing an increase of 17,355 tons and a participation of 6 per cent.

WITHDRAWAL OF GREEK TONNAGE.

A distinct stiffening of freight rates this week has synchronized with the recall of Greek steamers to their home ports (says the *Times*) in consequence of the mobilization from all parts of the world. Grain freights from North America, especially, have been firmer, for a considerable share of the grain shipments from North America to the Mediterranean has been carried in Greek vessels. The British trade which will be directly affected most will be the coal export trade, for it has been common for Greek steamers, after discharging their cargoes from North and South America to Continental ports, to proceed to this country and load coal in the Tyne or at South Wales. The total number of Greek steamers as recorded in Lloyd's Register Book is 433 of 892,991 tons gross—mostly of the tramp cargo steamer type.

DIRECTORY—*continued from page 618.*

Sackville-West, Hon. B. G., 13, St. George's Road, Eccleston Square, S.W.
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Summers, Misses L. and M., Old Phaleron, Greece.
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Swan, Mrs. Charles, 43, Lythoe Road, Finchley Road, N.W.
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Thompson, Mrs. Harold, Glenmore, Avenue Road, Falmouth.
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Thompson, Miss Gladys, 124, King Henry's Road, South Hampstead, N.W.
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Tubini, Mrs. T., 84, Worple Road, Wimbledon.
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Whittall, W. H. J., 1, Princes Square, Bayswater, W.
Whittall, Lady, Moda Cottage, Esher.
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Locust Plague in Palestine.

The following descriptive account of this year's locust plague in Palestine will be read sympathetically by all Britons, in spite of the fact that the Ottoman Government, against the wishes of the people, plunged the country into a war against its best friends. The writer of the article is the Rev. O. A. Glazebrook, the United States Consul at Jerusalem. The despatch is dated July 17:—

The recent devastation by locusts in Palestine will have disastrous effect on the people of the country, whose sustenance is thus so largely destroyed. I have had to depend upon outside sources for some of the information, but the actual invasion, the result of the devastation, and the work of protection I have seen with my own eyes. It is not an overdrawn metaphor to describe this inroad as an invasion. Truly, the onward march of the serried ranks of the devastating insects was "more terrible than an army with banners." As far as the eye could reach, the fields were covered by the locusts, and even the street in front of the American Consulate had the appearance, in the movement of the green and black mass, of a flowing river.

Such locust invasions are not unusual phenomena in Palestine. The last general and destructive visitation of the locusts occurred in 1865. Since then they have reappeared at different times in smaller numbers and limited areas, the last of these being some eleven years ago, but undoubtedly the disaster caused by the present visitation is not only greater and more general, but more profoundly felt than any in the recollection of the present generation.

Advance Swarms.

On February 28, 1915, the first swarms of adult locusts were seen in the bordering "Judean Wilderness," but it was not until the early part of March that they flew over and past Jerusalem. These adults did little damage, but, being of the largest and most devouring species of all migratory locusts (*Schistocerca peregrina*), the same kind alluded to in that most graphic of all descriptions of such ravages—the prophecy of Joel—apprehensions were grave that the result would be most disastrous. These apprehensions have been fully realised.

As soon as the news of the locust invasion reached his Excellency, Djemal Pasha, Ottoman Minister of the Navy and commander of the Fourth Army, he vigorously grappled with the situation. He appointed a "Central Commission to fight the locusts" under the presidency of his Excellency, Midhat Bey, Governor of Jerusalem. The field which the commission was to cover was the Sandjak of Jerusalem and the Vilayets of Beirut and Damascus, and this commission was officially attached to the headquarters of the Fourth Army at Jerusalem. Dr. Aaron Aaransohn, who is well known to the Department of Agriculture at Washington, was appointed High Commissioner for the above-mentioned Provinces. This appointment promised well, as the doctor is one of the most scientific men in Syria and director of the Jewish Agricultural Experiment Station of Palestine.

Combative Measures.

Under the direction of this commission an order was issued requiring every male residing in the cities from the ages of fifteen to sixty years to collect twenty kilos (forty-four pounds) of locusts or to pay an exemption fee of one Turkish pound ($4.40). This rule was rigorously enforced—stores being closed if the owners could not show a receipt for eggs or cash—that about 800 persons paid the tax, while the others either gathered the required amount or purchased them from peasants who brought them in secretly for sale. In the village half of the inhabitants were compelled to go out each alternate day to dig for locust eggs.

Towards the end of May the larvæ, already about an inch long, made their first appearance near Jerusalem on the plain of Raphaim and aroused the people to the necessity for immediate organized resistance. The method of procedure was to form lines of men, women, and children along the roads separating the private gardens from the open fields beyond, flagging the locusts. Tin-lined boxes were sunk in the earth in the direction in which the locusts were advancing. The flaggers would drive them together in a dense column toward the trap, where guards at each end would keep them from escaping. Sometimes the drives were so large that the ground in front of the boxes would become clogged, when the locusts would have to be shovelled into the boxes to make room for those pressing from behind. To protect the trees from the young crawling locusts pieces of tin or zinc, in the shape of inverted funnels, were tightly placed around the trunks of the trees.

Ineffective Results.

In spite of all this fighting of the larvæ instances are very rare where the results were satisfactory. Few crops or orchards escaped devastation. This was especially true on the Plain of Sharon, where the Jewish and German colonies, with their beautiful orange gardens, vineyards, and orchards, suffered most severely. The only exception was the orange gardens in Jaffa proper, which, doubtless, owed their immunity to the sea breezes. In the lowlands there was a complete destruction of the summer crops such as garden vegetables, melons, apricots, and grapes, for all of which the plain between Jerusalem and Jaffa is renowned and upon whose supply the Jerusalem markets depend. The result is that there are few vegetables or fruits to be had in the markets, and such as appear command an almost prohibitive price.

In the mountain district, notably about Jerusalem and Hebron, the heaviest loss from the onslaught of the locusts has been in connection with the olive groves and vineyards. Olive oil is a staple of food among the peasants and poorer classes, taking the place of meat. The grape, too, is a similar staple among all classes. The loss of this crop will be most keenly felt. This year, especially on account of the almost entire absence of sugar, now selling, when obtainable, at a fabulous price, the grape crop was counted upon as a substitute from which "dibs," a kind of molasses, and divers kinds of jams are made without the use of sugar.

Strange to relate, storks, which were always looked upon as the most effective enemy of the locusts, this year seemed to have been proportionately too few to have had a perceptive effect upon them. The common house sparrow and domestic fowls have doubtless devoured quantities of them, but here again the invading host was so tremendous that this natural help was not noticeable. During the digging for the locust eggs it was noticed that a species of fly, probably the bee fly of the family of Bombylidæ, had infested many of the egg sacks and destroyed the contents.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES

The Rumanian Ministry of Finances (says our Bucharest correspondent) has given orders to the Chiefs of Customs carefully to control any bran being exported, as it is known that many despatching bran have mixed with it a certain quantity of flour, which is sifted on arriving abroad. The reason for this subterfuge is that the tax on bran is 200fr. per waggon, whilst that on flour is 600 fr. per waggon.

With a view to provision for the sanitation and general upkeep of the Busreh Municipality, a house tax has been imposed on all buildings within the limits of the Municipality.

Several Kalamata (Greece) firms have recently decided to form an association, in order to co-operate for the improvement of the quality and packing of local exports, to find new markets therefor, and to further the interests of the trade generally. Twenty-two exporters have signed the constitution and by-laws of this association, but as yet they have elected neither president nor directors.

Mr. John A. Scott, of Messrs. Richmond Scott and Co., of Alexandria, has been appointed receiver and manager of the property of the Société Fruitière et Forestière d'Egypte.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Cyprus, September 10.

The fresh invasion of locusts from Syria is a serious misfortune. Considerable havoc has been caused in most of the districts, trees being in places stripped of their leaves and summer produce generally attacked. The locusts are for the most part not of the species which have so long bred in the island (viz., the *Stavronotus Cruciatus*). They are of a red colour in parts. The swarms have spread over larger portions of the hill country as well as the plains. The vine area has therefore not escaped, and consternation has been caused wherever the dense flights have appeared. In the Limassol district some of the principal villages in which red wine is made in large quantities, and is the main industry of the people, have been selected by the pest. At Kiláni, Vouni, and some neighbouring groups much damage has been done. The outlook is alarming, as repetitions of this late summer invasion must be feared in coming years, especially as in Syria the combative measures taken have been, of course, quite inadequate. The Greek papers urge the Government to dispense with all half measures and to spare no efforts to destroy the foe at whatever cost, as there is fortunately a considerable balance to the credit of the Locust Fund.

Carob Thieving.

To add to the losses arising from short crops in many parts, there has been a recrudescence of an evil which had been greatly diminished in late years, and which, it was hoped, was being gradually stamped out. Extensive raids have been made by thieves on the trees. To prevent this trouble, which used to exist on a very large scale, various preventive measures have been adopted. One was the passing of a law under which dates are fixed before which it is unlawful to gather the beans. One date, generally about August 20, is fixed for lower villages, another, about a week later, for the higher. Villagers found in possession before these dates are dealt with. The prevailing poverty no doubt accounts largely for the increase of thefts this year. The worst part of it is that the trees suffer seriously, as the thieves, being hurried in their proceedings, beat the branches bearing the pods with violence, and so injure the shoots which often bear the nascent buds together with the ripe fruit. This evil can only be stamped out by a gradual elevation of the moral tone in the rural districts. The field watchmen cannot cope to any sufficient extent with robbery carried out by night. There is a tendency to blame the long-suffering Cyprus police, which excellent force does all it can in the matter.

The *Busra Times* announces that, with effect from September 15, no European liquors or spirits may be imported into Amara for sale unless they have passed through the Busreh Customs House, and unless a declaration has been made at the time of payment of duty at Busreh that the liquors or spirits are intended for Amara, and a certificate has been obtained from the Busreh Customs House to that effect. Such certificates shall be valid for import into Amara up to a maximum period of fourteen days from the date of their grant. European liquors or spirits arriving at Amara without such Customs certificates will be confiscated by the Amara Customs Department.

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Near East Markets.

SUDAN DATES.

(From a Correspondent.)

The intelligence published in these columns last week, to the effect that the date crop in the Halfa Province promised exceptional advantages, bears rather more importance than the bare recital of the fact would at first suggest.

The Province of Halfa, it may be pointed out, is one of the poorest of the fourteen political departments of the Sudan. The soil is generally of so unproductive a character that it fails adequately to support even the comparatively small population of the district, with the result that many of the more sturdy among the inhabitants are often compelled to emigrate to other parts of the country, while those who remain are frequently in need of the practical assistance of the Government in matters of food supply, especially in times of low Nile. The fact that the next date harvest appears to be particularly promising may, therefore, mean very much to the people of Halfa themselves and be of no small moment to the Central Government.

In years past a considerable date trade was built up between Dongola and other parts of the country, and between Halfa and Egypt. Samples from both provinces were also submitted to the British Chamber of Commerce at Aden, which is an important centre of the date traffic from the Persian Gulf districts. The experiment proved, on the whole, encouraging. There seems to be but little reason why the Sudan dry date, although of a different quality from the soft date of the Persian Gulf, should not compete with the latter. For years past date-tree planting has been carried on extensively in the Dongola district, the Government having actively encouraged this enterprise among the natives by reducing the railway transportation rates. Date-tree planting is also prospering in the Berber Province.

In the Halfa Province the Gorgoda date is grown in preference to the Barakawi, notwithstanding that the latter is a superior fruit and obtains higher prices. This may be accounted for by the earlier bearing of the Gorgoda variety, and the fact that enterprising purchasers of so-called Barakawi shoots from Sukkot (the chief source of supply) often discover that they have been deceived. The shoots of the latter-named variety are also very costly, the price averaging from 2 to 4 p.t. each at Wadi Halfa, while the freight is heavy owing to the Railway Department having classified the shoots as "young trees." It is difficult to understand why Dongola should have been favoured in one respect while Halfa has been seriously handicapped in another. To the uninitiated this policy seems to be somewhat perverse.

Date-growing contains such wide possibilities, if sufficiently extensive and if conducted upon a careful and systematic basis, that some day it may attract the serious attention of foreign and even British capitalists. In this regard it may be recalled that when Captain Jackson, for many years the popular and successful Senior Inspector of the Province of Dongola, retired voluntarily some time ago, he elected to remain in the country, and purchased an extensive area of ground in close proximity to the scene of his former official activity. Here he set up as a date-grower, and his example may eventually be followed by other Britons in search of a profitable and pleasant occupation in a British-governed country.

In conclusion, it may be mentioned that out of a total export from the Sudan of dates to the value of £E29,372 in 1914 Egypt took to the value of £E29,331, or practically the whole export trade.

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SUDAN NOTES.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.
KHARTOUM, September 10.

Khartoum has been visited by one or two very severe rainstorms recently, and the intervening weather has been correspondingly humid. Last year the rain was all over by the last week of September; this year the river is still rising and the rains look like continuing.

Rains have occurred all over the northern Gezira, thus ensuring a good harvest, unless locusts intervene.

Locusts have destroyed everything in Berber and Dongola, and as fast as the wind blew one swarm into the desert another swarm blew in. The province is in a precarious condition. In Berber, on the other hand, the fall of rain after the locusts had gone enables the cultivators to get a rain crop, where otherwise they might have starved.

ROUMANIAN GRAIN DEAL.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)
BUCHAREST, September 6.

In agreement with the convention concluded between Germany and Roumania, by which the former agreed to export to Roumania 5,000 tons of Silesian coal in exchange for a like quantity of maize and oats, the German Legation has informed the Ministry of Finance that the first instalment of the former has arrived at Brassov and will pass the frontier in a day or two. It is announced that the 500 wagons transporting the coal will serve on the return journey to convey Bulgarian goods destined for Germany.

DRIED FRUIT DUTIES.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—It was stated last week that the new duty of 10s. 6d. per cwt. on dried fruit included dates.

This statement I am glad to correct, as dates remain duty free. The new Order says:—"Existing duties on dried fruit to be increased 50 per cent." Some writers, not conversant with the trade, thought that dates, being dried fruit, would have to pay, forgetting that dates come in duty free, and, therefore, cannot come under the heading of dried fruit *already paying* Custom duties.

Currants should now pay 10s. 6d. per cwt., but about twenty years ago, when Greece was in very low water, the British Exchequer came to its rescue by reducing the duty from 7s. per cwt. to 2s. I am not aware, however, that we have been rewarded by Greece in any way for giving it this preference.

I have, however, always been of the opinion that all the above dried fruit should come in duty free, as they constitute a most useful diet for our people, which cannot be replaced by any other home product. The most sensible way would be to tax those imports which compete with our home productions. But so far "the fear of approaching anything like the protection of our industries and agriculture" has obsessed our statesmen to such an extent that they have helped to ruin many of our industries, and have made us dependent on Germany, for instance, for many things which we are quite able to produce ourselves.—Yours, etc.,

ALEXANDER SEFI.

September 25, 1915.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of information from H.M. Minister at Sofia to the effect that the exportation from Bulgaria of planks cut into small sections for packing has been prohibited.

PRODUCE REPORT

LONDON, September 30.

Currants.

No other arrivals since those reported last week, but there are five steamers on the way, some of them near at hand. A number of steamers were being loaded in Greece, but owing to the mobilising order they were commandeered by the Government and had to discharge their cargo, which will be brought later on by other steamers. The market is very strong, partly owing to the deficiency of other kinds of dried fruit. Pyrgos bags 30s. to 31s., Amalias 37s. to 38s., Patras 38s. to 40s., Gulf 40s. to 42s., and Vostizza 42s. to 50s. With regard to the extra duty of 1s. on currants, as per new Budget, it has been found that owing to the existing convention between England and Greece no such increase of duty can be imposed; therefore, the duty for currants remains unaltered, viz., 2s. per cwt.

Sultanas.

There is no prospect of any arrival of new fruit at present. Old fruit is quoted 72s. to 80s.

Seeds.

Linseed.—The market is firm and in some instances 3d. dearer, but there is not much doing despite the strong market at higher prices for linseed oil. London-Calcutta near at hand offers at 54s. 9d., Sept.-Oct. 55s. 6d., Oct.-Nov. 56s. Cottonseed is very firm and offers are difficult to find. Hull is reported to have paid £10 18s. 6d. for Egyptian on the spot. London-Egyptian Sept. £10 10s. and Oct. £10. Bombay Sept.-Oct. to Hull was done at £8 15s. 9d. Rapeseed ruled firm, but is quiet; Guzerat Sept.-Oct. is quoted 61s., and brown Cawnpore, pure basis, 53s. 6d.

Oils.

Linseed oil is very firm, with a good demand at 5s. to 15s. advance. Spot pipes £26 10s., barrels and month £27 10s., Oct.-Dec. £27 15s., Jan.-April £28. Rape oil is fully steady. Ordinary brown naked spot £34 to £35. English refined barrels £36 to £38. Cotton oil is firm. Crude spot in pipes £27 10s., refined pale pipes £30, and barrels sweet £35 to £36 as to make.

Oilcakes.

Cotton Cakes.—Egyptian on spot is not available, thus English makes command extreme values, £8 2s. 6d. to £8 5s., although some business was done on early new shipment at £7 15s. ex ship, while Nov.-April shipments are offered at £7 10s.

Linseed Cakes.—There has been only a speculative demand for winter delivery, but although values appear weak, are not quotably lower. Best London is unchanged, viz., £11 10s. to £11 15s. East India seed, pures, £11 5s. ex steamer for early shipment.

Locust Beans.

No alteration. Continue scarce and as dear at £8 per ton for whole, and £8 10s. for kibbled.

For the purpose of "pilaff," 80—100 tons of rice are consumed yearly in the Aleppo Consular district (says the U.S. Consul), 30 tons of which are raised in Aleppo Province or imported from the Province of Diarbekir, while the balance is imported from Egypt and Rangoon. The amount of rice imported depends largely upon the local price of wheat. When wheat sells at moderate prices, 35 to 40 tons of Egyptian and 15 to 30 tons of Rangoon rice are imported. When wheat is dear 40 to 45 tons of rice are brought in from Egypt and 30 to 35 tons from Rangoon annually.

NEW EGYPTIAN INDUSTRY.

Messrs. J. Compton and Sons, of Tower Hill, London, are opening a cloth factory in Cairo.

The following particulars concerning the above venture are from the *Egyptian Gazette* of the 14th ult.:—

Early this year Messrs. J. Compton and Sons determined to make a thorough inquiry into the prospects of capturing the clothing business in Egypt from Austrian hands, and Mr. W. J. Compton proceeded to Cairo last March to investigate the conditions. He interviewed many of the leading officials, and took careful stock of the advantage of starting a big factory in Cairo for the manufacture of clothing on a huge scale so as to defy all competition. The officials of the Government welcomed the scheme, and it was decided to select a site at Cairo for the factory. The cigarette factory of Engelhard and Co., a German firm who had suspended business, was chosen. It is on the Shubra Road, and covers about three thousand square metres. Alexandria was visited, and it was decided to have a branch office there, but all the manufacturing work will be done at Cairo.

The factory at Cairo will start work about October 15, with at first about three hundred hands. This modest number, of course, will later be largely increased. Moreover, the firm is making at its factories in England uniforms for a number of States in the near East, and this branch of the business will probably be removed to Egypt, which will become the firm's distributing and manufacturing centre for the Balkans and the Eastern Mediterranean generally. Besides the site of three thousand metres at the factory, there is ample space for extension of the premises as the business grows larger. All the machinery has arrived from England and is now being put up. Teachers, who will instruct the natives in the art of handling the machines and other work, are expected shortly. It is hoped to employ native girls in the trade, and it is expected that natives will be turned into capable factory hands in a couple of months.

OFFICIAL PURCHASES OF COTTON.

The *Times* Cairo correspondent announces that the British Government has decided, in the interests of the Egyptian cultivators, to become a buyer of Egyptian cotton whenever the state of the market indicates the necessity of such intervention for the maintenance of prices at a remunerative level. This decision (adds the correspondent) will give widespread satisfaction, and will allay much anxiety, for it should obviate any approach to a repetition of the serious situation of last autumn, when cultivators disposed of a large part of the crop at ruinously low prices to dealers, who subsequently made all the profit.

MOROCCAN TRADE.

H.M. Chargé d'Affaires at Tangier reports, under date September 5, that sealed tenders will be received, within a period of forty days from the date (not stated) of the publication of the specifications in the official Bulletin of the Spanish Zone, at the Secretary's Office, Public Works Department, Tetuan, for the construction of a lighthouse at Tres Forcas. A preliminary deposit of 5,400 pesetas (about £216) is required to qualify any tender. The specifications and other particulars may be consulted by resident agents of British firms at the Secretary's office, as above.

With reference to a previous notice respecting the importation through the ports of the French zone in Morocco of certain classes of agricultural apparatus on payment only of the special tax of 2½ per cent. *ad valorem* prescribed by Article 65 of the Act of Algeciras, the Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of a copy of an Order of the General Commander-in-Chief in the French zone in Morocco, dated August 22, which reduces the duty on the same articles imported into Eastern Morocco (over the land frontier) from 5 to 2½ per cent. *ad valorem*.

The *Journal Officiel* for September 2 contains tariff valuations (No. 7) for petroleum on importation into Egypt, which are to remain in force until the end of the month.

DATES.

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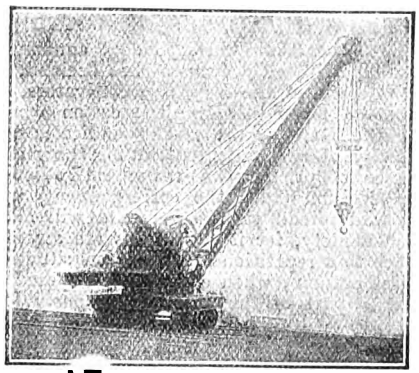
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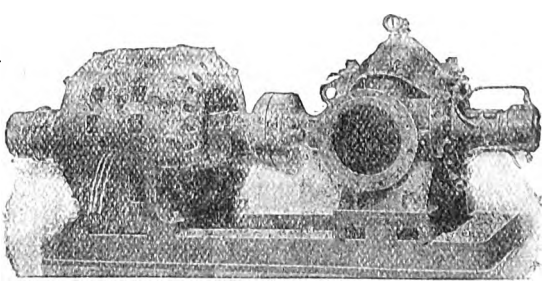

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Engineering Notes.

Agricultural Implements Wanted.

In spite of the war preparations and the recent call "to arms" in the Near East, there is and will be a great demand for agricultural implements this year. The scarcity of manual labour is already felt, and promises to be more pronounced. Officials as well as private individuals know that agriculture must be maintained, and every effort is being made to get a supply of modern implements for the approaching cultivating season. Ploughs, harrows, corn and seed drills, manure distributors, sowing machines, potato planters and diggers, etc., are mostly wanted. Hitherto Austria-Hungary and Germany supplied most of these implements, but now only America is making offers, and as the American designs are not quite suitable for the Oriental way of cultivation, there is an ample opening for British makers to secure large orders this year. For the benefit of agriculturists and others in the Near East we will describe in these columns the latest improved designs of agricultural implements of British construction, which, from personal experience, we consider suitable for the various wants of the native farmer and agriculturist.

Manure Distributors.

The use of artificial manure is increasing every year in the East, and apart from considerable quantities that are imported, there are large factories in the Near East that produce some excellent qualities for local use and the supply of the neighbouring countries and South Russia. Most of the distributors used are of Hungarian origin, but those who use machines of British construction find the latter far superior, stronger, simpler, and easier to manage than the Hungarian, although their price is slightly higher. A machine for the Near Eastern countries must be made to suit the requirements of a fruit farm owner as well as a root grower; that is to say, to be of general use in an estate. It must be fitted with a metal hopper, by preference, as wooden hoppers do not last long in hot climates. An English pattern that seems to have given satisfaction is one built upon the disc delivery principle, and the rate of distribution can be altered without changing any cog wheels. It is simple in construction and perfectly easy to operate.

Potato Diggers.

There was a time when potatoes for consumption in the Near East were supplied by Italy and Austria, but now the cultivation of the tuber is almost general in all districts. It is not well known, however, to growers that there are machines or implements for the raising of the crop, and others cannot believe that such work can be done by a machine without damaging the tubers. But now that manual labour will be very scarce, potato farmers will be obliged to have mechanical diggers or raisers, and the pattern used in England and Ireland will be found very suitable. It digs clean, and owing to its slow motion, the potatoes are not bruised or damaged in the slightest degree, and are left in a narrow row. The share is of hardened steel, and can be adjusted to the correct working depth by a lever at the side of the driver; its draught is sufficiently easy to enable it to be worked by two horses.

Sinaia Tram Line.

Our Bucharest correspondent writes:—A local journal, in speaking of means of attracting more trippers to Sinaia and the Prahova valley, advocates a tramline from Campina to Predeal. Although it would be of use only during six months of the year, the paper says, it would be a paying concern and would be easy to construct. There are no communications for visitors except about three trains per day. As a matter of fact, the service could be run practically all the year at less frequent intervals in the non-season months. Having a ready and cheap means of communication would attract many people out of season, especially during holiday times at Christmas, Easter, etc. The idea is well worth the attention of British tram-building lines, as the concession would be a valuable one.

Small Submarines.

It has been reported from America that Mr. Henry Ford, the well-known motor-car millionaire, has designed a small submarine that can be operated by two men and an electric motor. Its estimated cost is £1,000, and its radius fifty miles. However, in spite of Mr. Ford's fame as an engineering genius, the report has been taken by some as a "tall tale." Yet the invention of such a submarine craft is quite possible, and its use for coast defence may be invaluable. The idea is by no means new, for at the time when Nordenfeldt of Sweden brought out his first submarine, a Greek, named Gryparis, designed and constructed a small craft not unlike the modern submarines in shape, minus the periscope, tower, and other deck fittings, which could be submerged and operated under water by the inventor and his son. But submarine boats were not believed in at the time, and the poor inventor had not the means to complete his invention and prove the utility of the boat as a naval weapon. In the meantime, the Greek Government bought the Nordenfeldt submarine, which, although larger and scientifically designed, proved just as disappointing, and after lying for some years in a corner of the port at Piræus, both Gryparis' and Nordenfeldt's submarines were disposed of as scrap-iron! Let us hope that Mr. Ford's invention will prove a complete success, for the cheapness of the craft will enable all nations to provide themselves with great numbers of such "mosquito" craft for their coast defence.

Anti-Zeppelin Fleet.

However, even if the Ford invention is to be believed implicitly, the same fate can hardly await the story of the hurried completion in the United States and Canada of a fleet of 10,000 armoured aeroplanes, equipped with machine guns, searchlights, and a newly perfected bomb-dropping device for use by the British Government in protecting London and the English coast from further attacks by Zeppelins. Fully equipped, the great war planes are expected to fly at a height of 12,000 feet for four hours. With their revolving searchlights and a signalling system it will be possible, the newspapers declare, to circumvent any attack by German dirigibles on any vital spot along the English coast and to make it impossible for a Zeppelin to reach London. As a further protection against Zeppelin outrages, the *New York Times* announces the completion of hundreds of tiny air scouts, measuring only thirty feet across the wings, that will be used by the British military authorities for Zeppelin chasing. The Press Bureau had no sufficient reason to stop the publication of this report, but left the responsibility for its accuracy with the publisher. In the meantime one can imagine what the London sky will look like with 10,000 aeroplanes and hundreds of tiny air scouts with revolving searchlights, etc., flying about! Why, there will be no room left for any Zeppelin to come in; and it is well known that these heroes of the night detest meeting aeroplanes, even if it is only a couple of them.

GREEK RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, September 17.

On Mr. Venizelos' return to power, work in connection with the line being built to connect with the European railways was actively pushed forward, and it is hoped that the line will be open in the beginning of April, 1916. The Minister of Communications, Mr. Diamantidis, who has just made a tour of inspection of the line, reports that nearly all the work along the line is finished, and if the orders for the material for the bridges had not been delayed by the former Government, the line would have been ready at the end of this year. The line extends, for the greater part, along the coast, passing by Platamona, Caterine, and Libanovo, and terminates at Platy. Here it rejoins the Monastir-Salonika line. The total length, as far as Salonika, is 508 kilometres, of which 36½ kilometres lie between Platy and Salonika. However, so that it will not be necessary for trains for western Europe to go as far as Salonika to join the Salonika-Uskub-Belgrade line, a branch line has been constructed, 3.6 kilometres in length, which will link up the junction line with the Monastir line, from the bridge of the Vardar to Topsin. That is to say, that the international express arriving at Platy will run on to the Monastir-Salonika line, and after having gone a short distance to the Vardar bridge, will turn to the right on the said branch line, by which it will join, at Topsin, the Salonika-Uskub-Belgrade line.

The total cost of the junction line is reckoned at thirteen million francs.

It is estimated that the journey from Athens to Salonika will take fourteen hours at first and eleven hours afterwards. Thirty-six hours is given for the journey from Salonika to Vienna, so that it will be possible to go from Athens to Paris in seventy hours. There will be two trains a day to start with, one in the morning and one in the evening, and it is hoped later on to add a third, leaving at midday.

The railway companies of the other Balkan States have been invited to send delegates to Athens shortly to draw up a common tariff, and an international agency will be established at Athens for the sale of tickets. Prices will be on the base of twelve centimes a kilometre for first-class, eight centimes for second, and six centimes for third.

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Trade Notes.

EGYPT'S TRADE IN JULY.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, September 20.

The Egyptian Customs statistics for July show a continuation of the diminution in trade that has set in since the outbreak of the war, but under Imports the decrease is appreciably less than the monthly average during the preceding half-year.

During July imports amounted to £E1,561,294, and exports to £E1,018,359, as against £E2,387,751 and £E1,381,701 respectively in the same month in 1914. It is to be noted, however, that whereas in the latter month the imports exceeded the exports by about £E1,000,000, this July the excess was merely £E550,000, so that the balance of trade still continues in favour of the country.

Under Imports the more important decreases were cereals £E248,119, livestock £E55,015, construction wood and wooden furniture £E147,254—in view of the recent increase in the duty on these articles, it is perhaps interesting to note that the imports thereof have fallen off by £E722,985 since the beginning of the year—cotton tissues £E34,101, and worked iron and steel, etc., £E190,724.

On the other hand, petroleum imports increased by £E13,415, coal by £E25,098—though the quantity fell off by 61,346 tons—sacks by £E25,528, and chemical manures by £E8,880.

The main decreases under exports were cotton £E465,774, cotton-seed £E8,762, rice £E13,426, refined petroleum £E58,278, and benzine £E34,380, and cigarettes £E10,016. Livestock increased by £E6,621, eggs by £E5,065, cereals by £E146,817—thus accounting for the decrease in imports in this category—sugar £E17,172, and gold and silver bar £E29,681.

During the month under review British imports showed an improvement on those during July, 1914, as also did those from the United States, which supplied all the petroleum (£E40,047); Chili, whence practically all the chemical manures (£E68,448) came; Greece and Italy. It is interesting to note that Great Britain and India supplied all the sacks (£E48,937) and practically all the flour (£E32,991), and that of the coal imported (£E191,714), £E33,930 came from America, and the balance from Great Britain.

The British Empire substantially increased its purchases from Egypt; America and Japan showed an improvement—mainly cotton—as also did Italy, which took nearly 70 per cent. of the wheat exported; Switzerland, on the other hand, has dropped from £E50,254 to £E757, which certainly shows that for the time being at any rate, that country has stopped acting as the transit-house for Germany in so far as Egyptian cotton is concerned.

Next to the marked increase in the export of cereals, perhaps the most pleasing feature of the statistics is the expansion of the sugar industry. England, France, India, Italian Somaliland, Morocco, and even our newly acquired possession—Bassorah—have all purchased Egyptian sugar, the exports of which—allowing for the raw sugar imported to enable the factories to work at their fullest capacity—has increased by 17,500 tons, or £E372,600, since January 1, 1915.

The table of the exchange of trade between Egypt and the Sudan shows that the latter sold to the former goods to the value of £E57,922, and purchased from it for the amount of £E76,135 during July. The principal imports into Egypt were livestock £E9,274, cereals £E20,582, gum £E3,413, cotton £E12,107, and the main exports to the Sudan refined sugar £E23,001, and cotton tissues £E20,394.

Since the war broke out there has been a great dearth in Egypt of certain well-known pharmaceutical products, and their prices have risen enormously. For instance, the price of Epsom salts has risen from £E4 to nearly £E40 per ton, and even so it is difficult to obtain. Benzo-naphtol is now unobtainable. Many other necessary products are also either unobtainable or out of the reach of modest purses. It was at first thought that America would be able to supply all that was needed in this country, but it was soon found that although America was ready and willing to do so, there was such a shortage of ships, and freights were so high, that it took six or seven months to import products that formerly arrived within a month of ordering. Hence the shortage and the rise in prices. A certain quantity of pharmaceutical products was seized on board German ships in Alexandria, but these were immediately sent to India by the purchasers when the cargoes were sold.

CYPRUS TRADE.

The *Cyprus Gazette* of September 10 gives the following particulars concerning Cyprus imports and exports during the quarter ended June 30, 1915, as compared with those for the corresponding period in previous year.

During the period mentioned (1915) Cyprus imported to the value of £124,373, as against £166,164 in 1914. Principal articles of import were:—

Article.	Quarter ended June 30, 1914.		1915.
Live animals, articles of food, and drinks and narcotics:—	£		£
Beans and peas	1,506	..	1,097
Butter, including butterine, etc.	3,689	..	2,473
Coffee, raw	3,179	..	7,885
Wheat	5	..	1,297
Flour	2,568	..	3,977
Olive-oil	128	..	2,789
Provisions, tinned, dried, etc.	3,542	..	2,245
Rice	2,745	..	4,947
Sugar	5,944	..	10,685
Tobacco in leaf	6,537	..	9,864
Tumbeki or Persian tobacco	341	..	1,211
Coal	2,878	..	469
Iron	2,402	..	1,125
Petroleum	10,012	..	1,197
Iron and steel manufactures	2,927	..	1,521
Machinery, parts, fittings, etc.	6,131	..	1,299
Cotton yarn and thread	5,711	..	5,090
Cotton piece goods	18,965	..	13,929
Haberdashery and millinery	4,137	..	1,981
Sacks	3,634	..	1,286
Woollen manufactures	3,239	..	3,251
Leather manufactures	3,632	..	2,627
Leather, sole	5,010	..	2,440
Matches	505	..	1,195
Medicines and medical appliances	2,246	..	1,114
Soap	5,012	..	2,728
Specie	9,756	..	5,866

Exports for the same period amounted to £123,598 (1915), as against £142,961 (1914). Principal articles of export were:—

	£		£
Mules	6,467	..	669
Oxen	4,088	..	6,830
Barley	3,127	..	1,633
Oats	3,387	..	1,599
Lemons and oranges	4,988	..	4,096
Raisins	2,057	..	4,475
Spirit	1,656	..	2,725
Cheese	5,637	..	1,854
Potatoes	2,291	..	5,072
Beans and peas	1,375	..	1,434
Carobs	27,563	..	40,548
Cotton	11,815	..	11,350
Cotton seed	59	..	1,835
Wool	8,442	..	7,973
Hides and skins	5,265	..	1,179
Asbestos	983	..	2,766
Terra umbra	1,515	..	2,757
Cordage and twine	260	..	1,160
Cotton manufactures	892	..	5,756
Specie	20,256	..	1,773

The Sudan Government Railways, Alexandria Agency, 6, Old Bourse Street, invite tenders for the supply of pitch-pine and Swedish pine. Persons wishing to tender can obtain full particulars and conditions of the contract by application to the above office. Date, October 8.

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EGYPTIAN STATE ACCOUNTS DURING JULY.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, September 20.

The latest official Journal contains the figures of the State Accounts for the period ending July 31. The revenue amounts to £E4,923,346 and the expenditure to £E5,344,224. Twelve months ago the figures were £E5,358,741 and £E6,380,075 respectively, so that there is a falling off of £E435,395 in revenue and a reduction of £E1,035,851 in expenditure during the first four months of the financial year. As a consequence the excess of expenditure over revenue at the end of the period has been reduced from £E1,021,334 to £E420,878.

Land taxes during the month showed an increase of £E14,794, making a total increase of £E336,216, or 25 per cent. in the four months; Domains Receipts improved by £E70,741, Rent of Land by £E5,150, and Extraordinary Receipts by £E26,953. On the other hand, Customs Receipts further declined by £E48,652, Port Dues by £E22,054, Railways by £E48,678, Legal Dues by £E15,562, and Post Office by £E5,961.

The decrease in most of the departments was expected, but that in the Postal receipts, which on the four months amounts to £E20,392, or 20 per cent., is most unfortunate, and it would be interesting to know whether, as alleged in so many reliable circles, the recent increase in postage rates has had anything to do with this marked falling off.

PERSIAN FINANCES.

Mr. M. P. Price, writing from Tabriz on August 8 to the *Economist* on the economic situation in Persia, said that, while anything but satisfactory, it is better than one would expect under the circumstances.

"The Persian exchange is apt to depend on the Russian rouble, and the normal exchange before the war was 27 krans to five roubles. Since the war the fall of the Russian rouble on the European exchanges has had its influence also in Persia, and the Russian five-rouble note can now be bought for only 23 krans. On the other hand, a rise has taken place in the value of the pound sterling, which in August, 1914, was worth 67 krans and in August, 1915, 63 krans. Thus while the exchange with Russia is favourable, the exchange with England is unfavourable. Undoubtedly one of the reasons for the fall in the pound sterling is the difficulty of obtaining under present circhances a trade balance. Persia still continues to import, though, of course, on a much more restricted scale than before, but for months past she has almost ceased to do any export trade at all, and the trade balance for the year will probably go against her with a corresponding fall in the value of the Persian silver kran against the Russian rouble.

Prices of Necessaries.

"Meanwhile the prices of necessaries have risen enormously. Tea, which still comes in by the Gulf, has risen since the war from 4 to 18 krans per lb. Naphtha and sugar, the export of which is prohibited via Julfa, is finding its way in small quantities through Astara and Resht. Before the war naphtha was 2 krans and sugar 5 krans per batman, and at the present time 4½ and 20 krans per batman respectively. On the other hand, the export trade, which alone can keep the price of necessaries down and the value of the kran up, has largely ceased. Carpets are no longer exported to Europe, and the great staple export of Persia, viz., dried fruit, has not yet commenced. Difficulties of transport to Russia are anticipated. The Russian railways will not accept goods beyond Rostof-on-the-Don, and the markets of Central Russia can only be reached via Astrakhan and the Volga. The cost of transport to Russia by this route is 2 roubles 30 kopecks per pood. In addition to this, the native Persian banks, who generally give credit to the Armenian merchants serving this trade, have considerably curtailed their operations this year owing to the uncertainty of the situation The outlook for the export trade, therefore, is not bright.

Deficit.

"Meanwhile, the deficit in the annual Budget for Azerbaijan this year amounts to 200,000 tomans. This is largely accounted for by the impossibility of collecting the Malliat, or land tax, in those parts of the province which have been devastated by the war. On the other hand, there does not appear to be any retrenchment in the current outgoings. The possibilities of British cotton goods reaching the North Persian markets is now, owing to the closing of the Trebizond-Erzerum overland route, confined to the Russian parcel post service through the Caucasus, and in the present state of the traffic on the Russian railways there is great difficulty in obtaining delivery owing to war traffic. Moreover, British export trade to North Persia after the war will entirely depend on whatever arrangement is made in the political reconstruction of Armenia, and also on the goodwill of the Russian Govern-

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ment in continuing the parcel post service. Nevertheless, the difficulties under which Persia is labouring are small compared with those of Europe, and in this respect, at least, the Persians may consider themselves fortunate in having maintained their political independence and some measure of their foreign trade throughout these troublous times."

COMPANY NOTES.

Baku Russian Petroleum.

A largely attended meeting of the shareholders of the Baku Russian Petroleum Co. (1909) was held on Tuesday, at which the differences that have arisen between Mr. Herbert Allen and the majority of the directors were discussed at great length. Eventually a resolution, agreed to by both sides, was passed to the effect that further consideration of the report and accounts should be deferred to the 27th prox., that in the meantime the same should be referred back to the board for reconsideration, and that a committee of four shareholders should be appointed to confer with the board thereon, the members of the committee to be selected by Mr. John Crisp and Mr. Herbert Gibson, the solicitors respectively of the company and of Mr. Allen.

Ottoman Railway from Smyrna to Aidin.

Lord Rathmore presided at the annual meeting of the Ottoman Railway (Smyrna to Aidin) held on Tuesday. He said the Ottoman Government still remained in possession of the railway and its revenues, and the board had no means of obtaining any official or reliable information, but it was natural to suppose that, in their own interests, the Turkish Government and people would not wilfully damage their property, the preservation of which was of such great importance to the future prosperity of the country. The accounts did not include any traffic receipts on revenue account, but the net revenue account was charged with debenture interest, with the result that there was a debit balance to be carried forward of £28,528. Until the conclusion of the war there would be no means of formulating the claim which the company would have to make against the Ottoman Government for loss of traffic and the disturbance of their possession of the line. Their general manager, Mr. Barfield, and some of their most important officials had succeeded, after the railway had been seized by the Turkish Government, in reaching England in safety. They were still here, and the directors were retaining them in the company's service on half pay, as it would be of great importance that when they come again into possession of the line they should have the nucleus of an efficient staff ready to resume the working of the railway. Having alluded to the unanimous support of the scheme approving the deferring of all payments of debenture interest, according to the terms therein set forth, the report was adopted.

COMPANY RESULTS, &c.

Agricultural Bank of Egypt.—Coupon No. 22 of the 3½ per cent. bonds, due October 1, will be paid on that date by the National Bank of Egypt, 6 and 7, King William Street, E.C.

Egyptian Delta Light Railways.—Receipts for the ten days ended September 10 amount to £E4,201, as against £E3,923 for the corresponding period of 1914.

Khedivial Mail Steamship.—The directors announce a dividend of 5½ per cent., less income-tax, on the preference shares for the year to June 30, payable September 30 (coupons 33 and 34).

The *Cyprus Gazette* for August 27 contains an Order of the High Commissioner, issued under the "Diseases of Plants Prevention Law, 1893," notifying that the importation of cotton seed from Egypt into Cyprus shall be permitted only if it be accompanied by a certificate signed by an authorised officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Egypt, testifying that the seed proposed to be imported has been properly fumigated before shipment.

GREEK DEBT.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders issues the following information compiled from figures published by the International Financial Commission at Athens with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek Debt from January 1 to July 31, 1915 (New Style: January 14 to August 13, 1915) :—

—		Monopolies, Tobacco, Stamps, Stamped Paper, Naxos Emery.	Piræus Customs.
		Drachmæ.	Drachmæ.
Gross Receipts, July, 1915		2,815,126	1,848,000
Do. do. do 1914		2,948,092	2,243,532
Estimated Receipts for 7 months (Law of Control)		16,858,333	6,241,666
Actual Receipts, 7 months, 1915		21,227,502	14,348,887
Do. do. do., 19.4		22,279,819	17,355,173
Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 7 months	1915	+ 4,369,168	+ 8,107,220
	1914	+ 5,421,485	+11,113.507

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

AGRICULTURAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Situation au 31 Août, 1915.

Prêts Existants:

	1914. £E.		1915. £E.
Prêts à court terme	47,067	..	8,027
Catégorie "B"	6,129,058	..	5,434,070
Total	6,176,125	..	5,442,097
Echéances:			
Dues	106,712	..	77,276
A échoir	1,101,157	..	928,097
Total	1,207,869	..	1,005,373

Perceptions:

	1914. £E.		1915. £E.
Arriérés au 31 janvier	704,977	..	1,394,546
Restant	547,080	..	1,215,965
Perçu	157,897	..	178,581
Echéances:			
Perçu	30,729	..	37,894
Total perçu sur annuités échues	188,626	..	216,475

NATIONAL BANK OF ROUMANIA.

BALANCE-SHEET, AUGUST 14/27, 1915.

Assets.

Metallic reserve	Gold (specie)	168,383,386	
	On deposit..	25,220,000	
	Gold (bars) .	205,000	
	Foreign bills payable in gold.....	75,814,310	269,622,696
Silver and other coins			439,502
Roumanian and foreign bills			205,249,937
Advances against Government securities		25,332,900	
On current account	48,920,800		
Unused balance ..	26,159,013	22,761,787	48,094,687
Loan of 15 millions to the State			11,273,958
Loan to Government on 3 per cent. Treasury Bonds (1914-15)			233,985,747
Bank's capital invested in Government stock			10,699,576
Reserve invested in Government stock			16,411,177
Reserve, depreciation of buildings, furniture and printing machinery			3,956,681
Premises			6,738,025
Furniture and printing machinery			1,111,153
General expenses			739,672
Government and other securities deposited			138,894,041
Three per Cent. Gold Treasury Bonds as security for loan to State			300,000,000
Securities held against advances or temporarily lodged			29,539,353
Current accounts			20,440,537
Security accounts			22,366,309
Sundry accounts			35,619,064
Total Lei			1,485,182,115

Liabilities.

Capital		12,000,000
Reserve		39,780,616
Reserve, depreciation of buildings, furniture and printing machinery		5,907,700
Notes in circulation		688,806,370
Profit and loss account		4,902,667
Interest and various earnings		1,940,080
Current accounts and drafts at sight		61,365,533
Securities, etc., held on account of customers		598,433,394
Sundry accounts		72,045,755
Total Lei		1,485,182,115

Bank Rate, 6 per cent.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE	Mean Price. July 27.	Min. Price. Mar. 20.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	—	89½xd
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907..	82	—	—
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909..	80	—	66
City of Alexandria 5%, 1909	99	—	90½
City of Constantinople 4% Bnds	96	—	—
Egypt, Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan	93½	87⅛	87⅛
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	85	85
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	88	78	78
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82½	73½	78⅛
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	80½	75	75½
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	52	55
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	52	54
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	45	45
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	40	42
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	52	53
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	—	50
Do. 4 % Rails. Loan, 1902	77	—	64½
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	94	—	90
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	—	73
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	91	—	80
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £60p.	92	—	85
Servian 4 % Unified Bonds	67	—	—xd
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855..	103	97	—
Do. 4 %, 1891	94½	—	83
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	—	73½
Do. 4 % Loan, 1902	82½	—	—
Do. 4 % Unified	79	—	54
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	65½	—	49
Do. 4 %, 1909	69	—	47½
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)..	4½	—	2¾
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	—	6⅝
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.	80	—	73
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red...	83	—	75
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	—	9⅜
Bank of Abyssinia	½	—	—
Bank of Athens	£2	—	1½
Bank of Roumania	8½	—	—
Eastern Bank	5	—	82/6
Imperial Bank of Persia	7¾	—	6
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	—	—
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅞	—	3½
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	—	4¾
National Bank of Egypt	13⅜	—	10½
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½% C.P.	8	—	nom.
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8½	—	5½xd
Do. do. 5 % Debs., Red.	98	—	95
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I.	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88½	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17¾	—	13
Do do. 6% Cum. Pref.	22	—	13½
Do. do. 4 % 1st Deb. ..	87	—	57
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb...	101	—	69
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	90	—	—
Do. do. 3 % Bonds..	61	—	—
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares) ..	1⅛	—	⅞
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	—	95
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt....	¼	—	—
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	—	2
Do. Do. Def.	¼	—	—
Béhéra Co.	⅜	—	7
Do. Pref.	4¾	—	3½
Daira Sanieh	2/2	—	2/6
Do. Def.	⅜	—	20/-
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	9/-	—	7/6
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tst.	98	—	90
Do and Foreign Trust	5/-	—	2/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	—	1
" " Founders	¼	—	—
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—	—
Do. 5 % Debs. Red.	—	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	9⅜	—	7½
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	—	87½xd
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	—	⅜
Sidi Salem Co.	⅛	—	⅛
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	—	⅛
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	—	-/9
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	—	10½
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt..	97	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	—	—
Egyptian Hotels	1½	—	—
Do. 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—	—
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅛	—	1⅛
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	99½	—	95
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	1⅛	—	14/3
Do. 5 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	96	—	95
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅝	—	9/-
Do. do. Prefs.	3⅜	—	2½xd
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt. ..	90	—	85
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (fr. 500)	£179½	—	£—
Upper Egypt Hotels	2¼	—	—

OIL.	Price on July 30.	Sept. 22.
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	⅜	4/6
Anglo-Persian	22/1½	⅛
European Oilfields	4/9	3/6
Roumanian	20/-	13/-

PARIS BOURSE.

	Jan. 4.	Sep. 22.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane ..	—	—
Canal de Suez	4050	—
Credit Foncier Egyptien	639	560
Turkish Unified 4%	61.50	—
Egyptian Unified 4%	87.75	88.75
Serbian, 1895	—	61.70

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 231.—Vol. IX. FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1915.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

A week that has witnessed the presentation of an ultimatum to Bulgaria by Russia, the landing of an Anglo-French force at Salonika, and the resignation of M. Venizelos' Cabinet may well be termed eventful, even amid the shock of a world-war. The situation created by these incidents, however, remains obscure, for there are too many indeterminate factors in it to enable an opinion to be hazarded on the probable course of events in the near future.

The hopes entertained that Bulgaria would be diverted from a policy of adventure by the rapidity with which Greece replied to the Bulgarian mobilization have not been realised. Information reached the Governments of the Entente Powers that German and Austrian officers had been arriving for several days in Bulgaria with a view to playing an active part in directing the Bulgarian Army. Similar action had been taken by Germany in the case of Turkey last year, and it was obvious that preparations were on foot in Bulgaria to carry out an unprovoked attack on Serbia and Greece. Accordingly, on October 4 the Russian Government presented an ultimatum to Bulgaria demanding that the German and Austrian officers in the country should be sent away, and that the Bulgarian Government should openly break with the enemies of the Slav cause and of Russia within twenty-four hours.

The reply given by Bulgaria to this Note has not been regarded as satisfactory by the Russian Government, and the representatives of the Powers of the Quadruple Entente have been recalled from Sofia. No overt act of hostility has yet taken place, but every indication points to the supposition that King Ferdinand and his advisers intend to persevere in their course. Their decision will not have been hurriedly taken. In Bulgaria itself the Government's policy has been viewed for some time past with the utmost misgiving. As the Sobranje has been adjourned indefinitely, the leaders of the Opposition adopted the exceptional course of demanding an audience of King Ferdinand in order to lay their views before him. The interview was remarkable for the outspokenness of the statements made by the deputation, and, if report be true, by the King in reply. King Ferdinand was reminded that he was imperilling both his dynasty and his own head. He showed, however, no indication of abandoning the policy which had met with such vigorous condemnation from the Opposition leaders, and four days later the mobilization decree was published.

In view of the opposition to the Government's policy, the absence of enthusiasm which characterized the mobilization, and of the Greek reply, the action of King Ferdinand and his advisers becomes susceptible of only one explanation. They must have committed themselves so completely to Germany that there was no room left for logical argument. When King Ferdinand's character is borne in mind, it is not difficult to appreciate the effect which German methods of persuasion will have had upon him. His fears and his ambitions will have been worked upon in turn. Even if he had not been able to satisfy himself that the Central Powers must be the victors in this war, a threat from the Austro-Hungarian Government that his extensive estates in Hungary were liable to confiscation would have sufficed to make him subordinate the interests of Bulgaria to his own ends. To what extent visions of a Bulgarian Empire, with himself as Tsar, may have helped King Ferdinand to throw in his lot with Germany we need not stop to inquire. Only very material arguments would have sufficed to rescue him from German toils. But the diplomacy of the Quadruple Entente neither understood the workings of King Ferdinand's mind, nor was it prepared in dealing with him to adopt the methods which alone would appeal to him.

It remains to be seen whether the Bulgarian army and the Bulgarian nation as a whole will follow King Ferdinand and his German guard to the bitter end. There are indications that all is not going as smoothly as the King might wish. If it be true that the Bulgarian public is still in ignorance of the real course of events, it may be possible at first to represent Serbia as the aggressor, and to stir up enthusiasm in the army for a campaign of revenge. Sooner or later, however, the appearance of Russia among Bulgaria's enemies will cause the facts to be known. In the meantime the Entente Powers should act as far as is compatible with military prudence on the defensive, avoiding, if pos-

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sible, any measures calculated to cut the ground from under the feet of the Bulgarian Opposition, which must be working hard to thwart the suicidal policy to which King Ferdinand and the Radoslavoff Cabinet seem to be committed.

As far as the military situation in the Balkans was concerned, there was good reason to suppose that the effect of Bulgaria's intervention in the war would be neutralized by Roumania and Greece. The mobilization of the Greek Army showed that the Greek Government and King Constantine were united in a resolve to withstand Bulgarian aggression, and there was reason to hope that, as soon as Greece was involved in war, Roumania would also abandon her neutrality on the side of the Quadruple Entente. A hitch, however, has occurred in the realization of this programme. M. Venizelos has felt compelled to hand in the resignation of his Cabinet to King Constantine, and for the moment the part to be played by Greece in the future course of events is obscure.

In face of the menace to Serbia and Greece created by the mobilization of the Bulgarian army, the Entente Powers had no other course open to them than to promise support to both these States. To secure the maximum benefit of such support it was necessary that the Bulgarian attack should be as far as possible forestalled, that the Allied forces should be in a position to defend Serbian and Greek territory before the completion of Bulgaria's mobilization enabled her to strike. With this object in view it was arranged between the Allied Governments and the Greek Government that an Anglo-French expeditionary force should be landed without delay at Salonika, and sent to the districts threatened by the Bulgarians. As Greece had not formally declared herself on the side of the Quadruple Entente, M. Venizelos appears to have considered that the case would be met by a formal protest on Greece's part, and to have agreed to lose no time in securing the support of the Greek Chamber for his forward policy. The landing at Salonika was begun, and M. Venizelos made his statement to the Chamber.

We must infer that the Greek Premier had overlooked the advantage which the technical breach of Greece's neutrality had given to his political opponents. The session of the Chamber was a stormy one, and M. Venizelos, in spite of the fact that the mobilization order had been received with almost unanimous approval, was only able to secure support for his line of action by 142 votes to 102. Whether King Constantine, who has been consistently opposed to war in co-operation with the Quadruple Entente, regarded that majority as insufficient to justify Greece's entry into the European war against the Central Powers is not yet established. He summoned the Premier, and informed him that he would not be allowed to follow out his policy to the end. M. Venizelos at once resigned, and with him his whole Cabinet. Their resignations were accepted, and M. Zaimis becomes Premier, with a Ministry composed of the chief Opposition leaders.

One explanation given of King Constantine's action is that the German Minister protested against certain parts of M. Venizelos' speech to the Chamber as being of a character insulting to Germany. In conveying this protest to the Premier King Constantine intimated that he had incurred the Royal displeasure in going beyond the terms of the explanations which it had been agreed were to be given to the Chamber. M. Venizelos thereupon offered the resignation of the Cabinet, which was at once accepted. According to this version, the fall of M. Venizelos would be reduced to a personal matter between himself and the King, without any special bearing on Greek policy in general. The nomination as Premier of M. Zaimis, who is known not to be unfriendly to the Quadruple Entente, might, therefore, enable the understanding arrived at between the latter and M. Venizelos to be carried out in its entirety. Against this theory, however, must be set the probabilities of the situation, and certain statements attributed to M. Venizelos. The latter would seem to make no secret of the wide divergency between his own views and King Constantine's. Talking to deputies and friends after his resignation he is stated to have said that real agreement between himself and the King had never existed since his resumption of the Premiership. In the face of Bulgaria's equivocal attitude, they were able to agree on the subject of Greece's mobilization, but the agreement would not go beyond that point.

It is difficult to believe that King Constantine would have forced M. Venizelos to resign at this crisis in Balkan history on account of any minor disagreement. We are led to infer, therefore, that he still retains his objection to Greece's co-operation on any terms with the Quadruple Entente. If with this attitude he combines a reluctance to stand by the terms of the alliance between Greece and Serbia, the situation in Greece is critical. King Constantine could only persist in the maintenance of Greek neutrality, if he were confident that Greece was exposed to no risk of attack from Bulgaria. To have this assurance it would be necessary for Greece and Bulgaria to subordinate conjointly their national policies to German instructions. How the Greek nation would accept such a state of affairs remains to be seen. We may be certain, however, that the Entente Powers could not overlook such a breach of faith on Greece's part towards their common ally Serbia. The terms of the Greco-Serbian Alliance provided for military co-operation in certain events. The despatch of an Anglo-French Expeditionary Force to Serbia may safeguard Serbian integrity, but it does not relieve Greece of her obligations. The equivocal attitude adopted by King Constantine is prejudicial to the interests of the Entente Powers, and it is incumbent upon the latter to take steps that will force the Greek nation to declare itself on one side or the other.

Recent references in Parliament have served to focus attention on the Middle East. In regard to the unhappy plight of the Armenians, nothing more can be done at present than to take note of the ruthless policy of extermination adopted by the Turks, at the prompting of their German advisers, and to register a vow that the full reckoning shall be paid by both in due time. The situation in Persia, on the other hand, calls for immediate attention, and in this connection we welcome the well-informed speech delivered by Colonel Yate in the House of Commons, which will be found on another page. Not the least interesting part of that speech is the reference to possible substitutes for the Swedish gendarmerie. If it be the case that the Swedish officers have resigned their positions, and that the gendarmerie is actually, or in process of being, disbanded, the need for raising a force to take its place is urgent. It has long been recognized in competent quarters that British officers of the Indian Army will sooner or later have to be employed, if law and order are to be maintained in Persia.

We would again call attention to the needs of the British Refugees from Turkey Fund. Readers of THE NEAR EAST are aware of the good work that this fund has been able to accomplish in Athens, in London, and in Constantinople. Our pages have borne testimony to the support already given to the fund, but we fear that subscriptions have not been as persistent as the demands which the Committee has had to meet. A considerable monthly outlay has to be provided for at all three centres, more particularly in Athens. The fact that so many of the recipients are abroad adds to the Committee's difficulties, for it is unthinkable that these British subjects should be left in need by the failure of the means which have helped them to tide over the time since they were compelled to leave Constantinople or have lost their ordinary means of livelihood in that city. A fresh appeal for funds has been sent to the Committee by the British Minister in Athens, and it is hoped that former subscribers will again come forward to the assistance of the fund and will see that many others follow their good example.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, September 27.

The Attempted Assassinations.

So far no date has been fixed for the trial by military court of the nine men implicated in the attempt on the life of H.H. the Sultan. It was understood that the inquiry had been concluded; but I gather that further information requiring investigation has reached the authorities in regard to the bomb outrage, for what one might call a subsidiary inquiry has now been opened in Alexandria. The important points that have to be established are the connection that existed between the bomb outrage and the attempt on Fathi Pasha, and who else in the country is implicated in the conspiracy. That there was some connection between the two acts would appear certain from the fact that Saleh Abdel Latif gave as his chief motive for attacking the Minister of Wakfs that the latter had materially assisted in bringing to book some of the men now accused in the bomb outrage. Shams ed-Din, the man who rented the house from which the bomb was thrown by Helbawi, and who was the latter's chief accomplice, is shown to have concerted with the other accused for the perpetration of the act; but there is every reason to believe that, although all those about to be indicted were directly concerned in the conception and execution of the outrage, they did not act on their own initiative, but were inspired from Geneva and Stamboul, through intermediaries whom the authorities are now endeavouring to trace.

There is evidence to prove that Mohammed Khalil's attempt on the Sultan last April was not the individual or spontaneous act that it was considered to be at the time. It is highly probable that it will be found that the same brains that directed the two attempts on the Sovereign's life were responsible not only for the stabbing of Fathi Pasha, but also for all the revolutionary acts that have taken place in Egypt during the past six years. The legal advisers to the military authorities have already dealt with the evidence in the case of Saleh Abdel Latif, and his trial will take place to-day. That of Helbawi and his companions will be delayed somewhat, as, more vital questions being involved in the bomb outrage, the Parquet will naturally wait until it has completed its chain of evidence to show how the conspiracy originated before handing the dossier over to the General.

The Ghafir Tax.

Many people cry out against the imposition of martial law when a country is not actually in a state of war, but there is no disputing the point that in a country like Egypt martial law is an invaluable aid to the civil administration. Of this we have just had a proof. The public peace is maintained in the cities and the provinces by the police force, which is about 9,000 strong, and which is supplemented by 32,000 *ghafirs* (night and day watchmen). The police force is paid for entirely out of the general budget, but the cost of the *ghafirs*, since their disposition is in a great measure dependent on the nature of the population and of the property ownership in each district, was intended to be met by the levying of a tax on each householder or landowner. The consent of the Powers had, of course, to be obtained for the imposition of this tax on foreigners, but it has never been given by all, and so the payment of the tax could not be made obligatory. Under normal conditions a certain section of the native and of the foreign population does pay the tax, but the bulk of the cost of the *ghafir* force has hitherto had to be borne by the State. Since the outbreak of the war, it appears, the situation has financially become aggravated, and the refusals to pay the amounts due have increased wholesale, thereby jeopardising the existence of a most necessary factor in the maintenance of public security. Since the *ghafir* force renders what, for comparison's sake, may be called a personal service to the inhabitants, there was ample justification for the levying of this direct tax; but the international obstacles from which the country has so suffered in the past intervened, and the administrative authorities were confronted with a serious problem just at a time when the general budget could ill-afford such expenditure. A simple solution has, however, been found. General Maxwell has issued a proclamation calling upon all liable to *ghafir* tax to pay it as soon as the civil authorities make the demand, and warning the public that any refusal to pay will render them liable to prosecution for disobedience of a military order, without prejudice to whatever action may be permissible under the civil law of the land. This is the first occasion on which the military authorities have had to intervene on behalf of their civil colleagues. In the circumstances, this intervention is most welcome, and it should serve as a lesson to all those who still incline to think that they can to-day resort to the same subterfuges for getting out of their municipal and other obligations, and set up the same obstacles to the execution of the civil administration, as they did a year ago.

Effect of the War on Food Prices.

From time to time since the war started letters have appeared in the local Press complaining of the high price of the necessaries of life, and to judge by these complaints one would imagine that the population was suffering from an abnormal rise in the cost of living. A very interesting memorandum on the subject has just been published in their Monthly Return for August by the Ministries of Finance and Agriculture. In this note a comparison is made between the prices of articles of first necessity in Egypt and those in Great Britain, Germany, Austria, Italy, and Norway after a year of war. In almost every case the prices abroad have risen considerably, whilst those in Egypt have generally fallen; indeed, cereals have dropped very appreciably. Imported articles which cannot be produced in the country have, of course, risen very much, either owing to higher freights or the closing down of sources of supply. All things considered, the complaints referred to are wholly unfounded, and have undoubtedly been spread about by interested parties. One cordially agrees with the conclusion of the memorandum "that, though Egypt has undoubtedly suffered through the war, owing to loss on her staple product and to the rise—in some cases the very high rise—of imported goods, there are compensations." But whilst the writers give as an illustration of those compensations that "the necessaries of life produced in the country have on the whole fallen in price," one would like to have seen emphasis laid on the fact that the rise in the price of imported goods and of the few local articles that have risen has been and is still being more than compensated by the enormous sums of money that are being spent in the country by the British Government. At least two-thirds of the value of the imports since war started is represented by the amount in question, and Egypt should consider herself exceptionally favoured by the gods in that, instead of having the cost of the necessaries of life rising against her and having to pay out vast sums for unremunerative purposes, as is happening in practically every other country in the world, excepting, perhaps, America, her cost of living should have barely altered—I refer to the masses, of course—and she should be the recipient of more money than she has ever before received from outside.

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SUDAN SLAVERY REPRESSION.

(From a Correspondent.)

With the return of Captain H. E. Dumbell a few days ago to the Sudan to resume his duties as an inspector in the Repression of Slave Trade (Horrieh) Department, this branch of the Administration will regain the services of one-half of its personnel. Of the four inspectors who compose it, three (including Captain Dumbell) have been absent of late upon medical grounds, while the fourth, Mr. F. Atterbury, has been temporarily in Egypt. Upon at least one occasion, namely October, 1913, the whole of the four inspectors were on leave at the same time. The Department last year suffered two notable losses—first, in the death, after a severe operation at a London nursing home, of Captain the Hon. Maurice Patrick MacNaghten, who had seen eleven years' service with the Administration; and, secondly, in the retirement from the post of director of Major H. V. Ravenscroft, after twenty years service in the Egyptian Army and ten as director of the Slave Trade Repression Department.

This Department of the Sudan Government is still considered important, although, thanks to the vigilance and untiring energy with which the Government has carried on its work, conditions have materially altered since it was first established. So bad were things formerly that the most drastic steps were taken to bring about an improvement, calling, in one instance at least, for the public hanging of a notorious slave dealer, Ibrahim Wad Mahmoud, after whose removal the province of Kassala, where he had carried on his nefarious trade, was rendered almost free from the scourge.

Much of the amelioration in the condition of things some ten years ago was brought about by the active patrolling of the Suakin district, where a strong body of men was employed moving along the coast north of the port mentioned, and eventually joining hands with another patrol sent out from Derawi, on the Nile. The plan proved thoroughly effective, it served to impress the Arabs with the Government's power, and proved a troublesome thorn in the side of the slave-runners on the Red Sea coast. At this period, and, indeed, for long after, Arabs used to steal and buy slaves from Nubas, who sold—and would, to-day, sell, if they could—those of their own people who were wholly unprotected (such as orphans), and sometimes those who had been captured in fights with the tribes of other hills.

Of late months there have been rather more cases of slavery reported to the authorities, doubtless due to the recent scarcity of grain; but the undiminished vigilance of the Government renders anything like a return to the bad old conditions absolutely impossible. From time to time cases of kidnapping come to light; especially in the neighbourhood of Suakin. Instances of abduction of the most approved romantic type are also still occasionally discovered, and promptly punished. Latterly there have been established a number of additional military and police posts charged with the supervision of this kind of illegal practice, including those at Halaib, Mohamed Ghul, Darur, Geziret Abdulla, Hambakta, Sebaat, Akik, and Karora. Constant patrols are also maintained between Halaib and Mohamed Ghul, Darur and Mohamed Ghul, Port Sudan and Suakin, and between Suakin and Tokar. A new post of eleven non-commissioned officers and men, under a superintendent, has been formed at Wadob, in the Gemelab country.

As always, the Sudan Government is meeting with little but obstruction and annoyance from the Abyssinian authorities in its efforts. The disturbed state of the Abyssinian border and increased control of the chiefs living on the Sudan side of the frontier have somewhat diminished the traffic in slaves; but it is always possible to find men who are willing to go to Abyssinia to fetch both slaves and rifles. The authorities, however, are fully alive to what is going on at this side, as well as among the Fellata and other pilgrims, who are much inclined to do a little quiet dealing in slaves when they think that the eye of authority is turned the other way.

Sometimes it is necessary to teach these gentry a sharp lesson, such as that administered to the Nubas, who actually attacked a detachment of thirty-five non-commissioned officers and men who had been sent to Jebel Kasha at the beginning of July of last year to form a post which is still maintained there. As a rule, however, it is not found necessary to keep detachments of this character for more than a few months at a time at any given place. Their temporary presence seems to have a good moral effect. The small detachment of twenty-six non-commissioned officers and men, for instance, who were sent, mounted on mules, to the Sebat Valley (in the Upper Nile Province) late in November of 1913, returned to El Obeid at the end of the month of May following; while the post of eleven men, mounted on camels, sent to Nahud at the beginning of last year, were brought back to headquarters in the following July. In both of these cases the results attained were considered to be perfectly satisfactory.

NEWS FROM TURKEY.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Athens, September 22.

Young Turks' Dissension.

The rumours of dissension among the Young Turks are probably not incorrect, but while it may be true that the Sheik-ul-Islam was desirous of resigning, he is still in office. The dissension is hardly likely to lead to any change of policy as long as Enver and Talaat are alive.

Rahmi Bey, the Vali of Smyrna, has been on a visit to Constantinople, and was returning to Smyrna last Wednesday. It is said that he is opposed to the policy of the Cabinet, especially with regard to the persecution of the Armenians, whom he and Perteb Pasha, the Military Commander of Smyrna, have agreed to protect.

Persecution of Armenians.

The reports that arrive of the treatment of the Armenians in Asia Minor are most distressing. It is estimated that there are 600,000 of them homeless and wandering about, and along the Anatolian railway line groups of them are to be seen destitute and starving. The Turks, it would appear, are making a deliberate attempt to exterminate the whole race, and thereby to provide homes and plunder for Mussulman refugees who have left the Gallipoli Peninsula and places in Thrace. In Constantinople many arrests among the lower classes of the Armenians continue to take place, and these unfortunates are exiled to share the fate of their co-religionists in the interior.

Enver has been to Smyrna and Adallia on inspection, and on his return to Constantinople was received with much pomp, officers being in full uniform.

It is reported that the fortifications of Adrianople have been demolished. If correct, this would indicate, of course, that there is a very definite understanding between Bulgaria and Turkey.

Transport Difficulties.

Preparations are being made to construct a railway line from the main line at Ouzoun Keupru to the Bulair lines at Gallipoli, as not only is vehicular transport insufficient, but the roads will be almost impassable in the winter. The transport of munitions from Constantinople to the Dardanelles has been largely carried on by means of lighters, but in the winter the weather will seriously interfere with the navigation of these small craft, and there are only about a dozen transports now left in Constantinople.

A supply of benzine and petroleum has arrived in Constantinople by train.

An explosion recently occurred at the powder factory at Karagatch, on the Golden Horn, when thirteen were killed and twenty-five wounded, including some Germans, and an aeroplane fell into the sea off Macrikeuy, and two aviators, said to be Germans, were drowned.

Druse Recruits.

A large number of Druse recruits, in their national costume, have arrived in Constantinople; but they appear to be such an unruly lot, not obeying their officers, that they have been sent to the Black Sea coast.

Measures Against Enemy Subjects.

A somewhat disconcerting announcement has appeared in the papers to the effect that a commission has been formed to take steps to indemnify those who have experienced loss from the bombardment of property by the enemy, "contrary to the rules of warfare," out of the proceeds of the properties belonging to enemy subjects residing in Turkey. Advices from Constantinople state that no decision has been taken in the matter, but if the measure is carried out, the private properties of British subjects will apparently be seized.

The Temettu (income-tax) inspectors are also becoming troublesome. They are visiting offices to see whether the salaries actually paid to the staffs are in agreement with the official declarations given by merchants. In most cases the curiosity of the inspector is not satisfied, and he threatens terrible things.

The Prize Court has declared as prizes of war the sailing boats belonging to Messrs. Nowill, Hoyland, and Tucker.

All the pilots and divers in Constantinople have lately been arrested. Amongst them are two Englishmen, George Crawford and J. Ashover.

The £1 Turkish notes are now in circulation.

Any newsagent or bookstall in the United Kingdom can supply copies of "THE NEAR EAST," which are on sale early on Friday morning. Should any difficulty be experienced in obtaining the paper, the Manager would be glad to receive a post card giving particulars, and he will take steps to rectify the matter.

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ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, September 25.

The Balkan Crisis.

Events have passed so rapidly in the Balkans these past few days that one still feels somewhat dazed. When I said in my last letter that it would be enough for Bulgaria to mobilize to make Greece do likewise, I little thought that they would both have done so only eight days later.

As soon as the first news of the military movements in Bulgaria had been telegraphed here by the Greek Minister at Sofia, M. Venizelos announced to the Bulgarian Minister that Greece would have to take similar measures. But barely eight hours afterwards an urgent telegram from the Greek Military Attaché at Sofia, which arrived here on Thursday morning, announced the promulgation of the decree of mobilization of the whole Bulgarian Army.

Greek Mobilization.

This astonishing news immediately spread all over the city, together with news of the Government's decision to mobilize the whole Greek Army. Everyone thought that the King would refuse to sign the decree, and that a Ministerial crisis was inevitable. However, the Sovereign gave his signature to the decree of mobilization submitted to him by M. Venizelos without the slightest objection. A little later, towards evening, the decree calling to the colours twenty classes of reservists, in addition to the four classes already under arms, was posted up at various points. The call was very well received, and the men started their preparations with admirable enthusiasm. This is due to the confidence the people have in M. Venizelos, as a prudent statesman who knows his business, and in the King as a strategist who has known and will always know how to handle his armies safely.

The following day the Government started to commandeer merchant vessels for the transport of troops, as well as horses, carriages, carts, and everything that might be of use to the army.

In order to meet the first expenses of mobilization, which will amount to nearly one and a-half millions of drachmai a day, the Government has concluded a provisional loan of fifteen millions with the National Bank of Greece. But, as this sum will only suffice for a fortnight, M. Venizelos has been guaranteed the means necessary.

A meeting of the Chamber has been called for Wednesday, the 29th inst., to discuss the situation and to authorise the Government, according to the terms of the Constitution, to proclaim a state of siege, which will apply to Macedonia, and most probably to Athens and Piræus also. As for the fleet, there does not seem to be any reason for mobilizing it, at any rate for the present.

King Constantine and M. Venizelos.

Although the King, realising to the full the danger of Bulgaria's mobilization, did not hesitate to sign the decree of mobilization, he and M. Venizelos were not in accord as to the actual line of action of the mobilized army, nor as to the course of action to be pursued by Greece should the expected developments in the Balkans take place. In submitting the decree of mobilization to his Majesty, M. Venizelos did not fail to inform him of the decision come to by the Cabinet that the mobilization was a purely defensive measure, but "defensive" in the sense that Greece meant also to defend the interests of her ally Serbia should Bulgaria attempt to occupy Serbian Macedonia. In that event Greece could no longer maintain her neutrality, but must take her part in the great European conflict. M. Venizelos also told the King that if the latter did not share his point of view, he had decided to resign, and suggested to his Majesty that, in that case, it would be better if his successor undertook the direction of the mobilization. But as the measure was an urgent one, admitting of no delay, and in order to avoid a Ministerial crisis, the King confined himself to approving and signing the mobilization order, reservations being made regarding the other questions appertaining to it. Thus the situation remains uncertain.

The following day certain journals that are known to get information from high circles, and to be inspired by them, announced that a Ministerial crisis threatened, and urged that, as Bulgaria would only occupy territory that had been voluntarily ceded to her by Serbia, Greece was under no obligation to intervene in favour of the latter. They added that disagreement would not fail to show itself the following day, since M. Venizelos was endeavouring to make Bulgaria's aggression on Serbia a pretext for abandoning neutrality in favour of the Entente Powers. The *Nea Himéra* said that, as the two Central Powers will soon be the arbitrators of the Balkan situation, and as, in consequence, it behoves Greece to be on good terms with them, M. Venizelos is not the man to deal with the situation, and that he should be replaced by someone else—meaning M. Gounaris—who, after having obtained the necessary guarantees from the two Central Powers, would proceed to partially disband the mobilized troops, retaining only those who were strictly necessary to guard the frontiers.

Being aware of the origin of these articles (which we have indicated), M. Venizelos, as soon as he was acquainted with them, demanded another audience of the King, in order to have his position *vis-à-vis* his Sovereign made quite clear. The interview took place this morning, and lasted an hour, during which explanations of all the questions were given, and entire agreement was established between the King and M. Venizelos. It seems certain that the King ended by sharing his Premier's views as to Greece's interest in preventing the aggrandizement of Bulgaria at the expense of Serbia, Greece's only ally, and in fulfilling the obligations of her treaty of alliance. Now, if Germany wishes Greece not to attack Bulgaria, she has only to prevent the latter from attacking Serbia.

Greece's Decision.

The King seems, besides, to be beginning to realise the wisdom of the policy pursued by M. Venizelos, who is quite convinced that Greece has nothing to hope from Germany, and that she should join hands with the Entente Powers, whose enmity she should very much fear to incur. Also, if one may judge by the communication made to the Press by M. Venizelos after the audience, the King appears to have been persuaded to follow his Premier's policy. In short, it is said that they are in accord as to the measures already taken and those which are to be taken to deal with the situation.

Moreover, M. Venizelos has made known to the Press that the Powers of the Quadruple Entente have promised to send to Greece reinforcements of at least 150,000 French and British troops should she decide to defend Serbia against Bulgaria, and to furnish her with pecuniary assistance to enable her to meet not only the expenses of the army, but also her other needs.

In view of all this, and the acceptance of these offers with the approbation of the Sovereign, it may be said that Greece has joined the side of the Quadruple Entente, and may be considered as having already abandoned her neutrality in their favour. It now remains to be seen how events will shape. It seems certain that Bulgaria, after Greece's mobilization—which she did not in the least expect—will not dare to attack Serbia. Indeed, M. Radoslavoff was at pains to assure the Greek Minister yesterday that Bulgaria has no intention of attacking either Greece or Serbia.

THE EVZONOI.

The flower of the Greek Army, now being mobilized, is the Evzonoi, or Royal Guard, says the *Pall Mall Gazette*, which is made up of men specially selected by the Military Council for fine appearance and marksmanship. When in full dress, with snow-white kilt, zouave jacket with hanging sleeves, embroidered shirt, red Albanian shoes with turn up toes, finished off with woollen tufts and jaunty cap and tassel, nothing could beat the Evzonoi for picturesque effect; and the Kaiser, when visiting Athens some years ago, was so struck with their appearance that he advised the King to turn all his troops into Evzonoi.

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ROUMANIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, September 19.

The Frontier Re-opened.

The uneasiness prevalent a week ago has subsided. The alarm caused by the closing of the Austro-Hungarian frontier is already almost forgotten, save by the unfortunates who happened to be detained on the wrong side of the border; for the order was rescinded a day or two ago. Nevertheless, the incident was an unpleasant one for those Roumanian subjects who were kept for a while at Brassov. They were put through a most searching examination by the authorities; in some cases women were stripped to the skin in an alleged "search for documents," and even the soles of children's boots were examined.

What the real object of closing the frontier may have been it is impossible to say. If it were a species of bluff, intended to frighten Roumania into allowing munitions for Turkey to pass through her territory, it failed woefully to achieve its object; for Roumania's reply to the act was to hurry troops up to the frontier in considerable numbers, and to take every precaution against an attack. It is reported that requests to permit the passage of munitions actually followed the closing of the frontier, but were refused. Another report is that all the rumours spread—by Teuton agents—as to the massing of German and Austrian troops on the Transylvanian frontier are merely a blind, intended to distract attention from serious movements having as their objective Bessarabia.

German Proposals.

The fact that some such movement is in progress has stirred the partisans of MM. Marghiloman and Carp up to renewed activity. There are now rumours of a possible change of Government, and of M. Bratiano resigning in favour of one or the other if German pressure becomes irresistible. It is openly stated that Germany has made proposals to the Conservative party, and has promised the cession of Bessarabia in return for benevolent neutrality—which is to say, permission for munitions to pass through to Turkey. It should be borne in mind that there are a number of influential Old Conservatives who studied in Germany, and believe it to be still the same Germany that they knew three or four decades ago. These men cannot judge impartially, nor see that, come what may, the Entente Powers must eventually win. Should they, by great misfortune, come into power and remain in power any length of time, they may, through their ill-judged policy, see this country left empty-handed at the end of the war. This contingency is somewhat remote, however, for their following is a small one. There is a rumour that a fusion of the Marghiloman faction with the present Government is possible. In such case, it is understood, the Filipescu group and the "Takists," or Democratic Conservatives, would hold aloof, as their policy is a Western one, not Eastern.

The Jews in Roumania.

Unfortunately, there is a strong anti-Russian feeling amongst quite the lowest classes. This is due to the constant work of the Jew, who is a more intelligent and more fluent talker than his Roumanian neighbour, and who, hailing from Russia, or being descended from immigrants from that country, tells endless tales of oppression and injustice. He forgets, or is ignorant of, the fact that the Jew in Germany is to-day in a far worse plight than his Russian cousin. The poor Jew in Roumania has no means of judging, and by his gossip among his neighbours he has certainly done much harm. He forgets, too, the freedom enjoyed by his people in Great Britain, France, and Italy. It would be a good thing if means were taken to teach him—and through him his Roumanian neighbours—the injustice and incorrectness of his views.

M. Marghiloman's Party.

M. Marghiloman has announced for to-day the inauguration of the new club for his party, and no doubt some important decisions will be arrived at on this occasion. M. Maiorescu has so far not signified any intention to return to Roumania yet; but it is supposed that he is a "sleeping partner" in the new concern, and his following will doubtless be present at the gathering.

New Military Club.

The premises of the Military Club, which are rapidly approaching completion, although the building will not be ready for occupation before next year, will be by far the most imposing edifice in Bucharest. The basement will contain a large restaurant, cinema hall, and billiard-room; the ground floor and part of the first floor will be occupied by the club itself, a large theatre, a room for the war game, and a restaurant for officers. The rest of the building will be let. The terrace before the club will have a fine garden. This, it is said, has already been bespoken by "Capsa's," which will desert its historic site in the Calla Victoriei.

Roumanian Prisoners in France.

A correspondent of the *Epoca*, while visiting prisoners of war in France, found amongst them forty-one Roumanians from the districts of Bukovina, Transylvania, Marmuresh, and the Banat. They were delighted to hear their native language again, so far from their homes, and deeply moved when the journalist promised to interest himself on their behalf. They begged for books and papers in Roumanian, in order that they might learn how the fortunes of war were going, and questioned the visitor very closely as to the attitude of this country.

Population Statistics.

According to statistics published by the Ministry of Domains, the population of Roumania at the end of 1914 numbered 7,771,341 persons. During the year there were 327,345 births and 182,349 deaths. The highest percentages of births were recorded in the two districts of Durastor and Caliacra, comprising the territory taken over from Bulgaria, principally peopled by Bulgars and Turks.

BRITAIN AND THE SOUTHERN SLAVS.

Speaking at the University of Leeds on Tuesday, M. Mestrovitch, the famous Serbian sculptor, delivered a stirring message of the Serbs to this country.

"It would," he said, "be a great joy for my people if it could be known in Austria-Hungary as in free Serbia that Britain is ready also to be a friend and protector of our spiritual development. There is no greater honour for Serbia and the Southern Slavs than to see that the great civilized peoples of Europe accept them as brothers in human ideals. Our people have been divided from the rest of the world for many centuries before there was any possibility of developing their personality. They have been in a humiliating slavery to the Turks and to the dynasty of Austria-Hungary; so they lived in a grave physical struggle for human freedom and for their very life.

"May the result of the present struggle be, through the victory of the Allies and a just Congress of Peace, that no vital part of Serbo-Croats and Slovenes, or of any other people, should remain in any subjection. My people wish to see such a justice and freedom in all the world, and hope that they themselves will be redeemed from warfare and the blood-heroism. Serbia will not despair even in this most grave and fateful moment of the Southern Slav history, because she knows that the noble and freedom-loving peoples of Russia, England, and France are her protectors."

MONTENEGRIN REJOICINGS OVER VICTORY.

Sir J. Roper Parkington, Consul-General of Montenegro, has received the following official telegram from Cettinje:—"The announcement of the brilliant victories of the Allied armies, both on the French and Russian frontiers, occasioned indescribable joy throughout Montenegro. The good news was communicated to the army by a special order of the day, and in Cettinje the enthusiasm culminated in a great demonstration before the English, Russian, French, Belgian, Serbian, Italian, and Greek Legations."

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SERBIA, BULGARIA AND THE POWERS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Nish, September 15.

The Bulgarian Press criticises and censures the Serbian reply to the Note of the Quadruple Entente, apparently regarding it in the light of a negotiation between Serbia and Bulgaria. But the question in its present stage is one between Serbia and the Quadruple Entente, and it is for the latter to decide whether they are content or not with Serbia's reply, and whether they consider it expedient to proceed in their negotiations with Bulgaria, for to all appearances Bulgaria stands in a dubious position.

We will examine later the reports concerning Bulgaria, but first let us consider the hostile criticisms of the Bulgarian Press, which appear daily.

In Serbia's defence, the semi-official organ *Samouprava* declares that Serbia, in its reply to the Quadruple Entente's Note, made concessions that went to an extreme limit; but adds significantly that all Balkan States should be of accord on the points of common interests, and should be animated by a good disposition to ensure their successful realisation. "The Balkan States," says the *Samouprava*, "should possess the moral strength to accept all necessary sacrifices which Balkan interests, and we may even say which European interests, demand; but on reading the daily papers and the declarations of certain statesmen one sees clearly that there are States whose sole aim is to satisfy their territorial ambitions by creating in the Balkans a preponderant position for themselves."

The *Samouprava* continues:—

When any Balkan State obstinately puts forward demands and pretensions making of them a *sine quâ non* condition, and when that State refuses to permit an examination of its pretensions, and likewise insists on obtaining guarantees which betray a distrust of the Great Powers, it becomes apparent that by these proceedings a Balkan alliance loses its chances of success.

The paper winds up with these words:—

The *démarches* of the Quadruple Powers will have greatly aided to clear up the political situation in the Balkans. The result of this new *démarche* will be to have ascertained all that may be expected from each of the peoples of the Balkans, and if there is no success in forming an alliance, the State which has been the cause of failure should be made to bear all the political consequences of the situation which it has created.

But to return to Bulgaria's position. What makes it dubious? First, the sympathies of her King and her present political leaders for Austria and Germany lend an air of probability to the suspicion entertained in this country of an existing secret contract with the Germanic group. But supposing there is no such undertaking, and treating these Bulgarian sympathies as a *quantité négligeable*, we still remain confronted by the fact that M. Radoslavoff, the Bulgarian Prime Minister, a short time ago informed a delegation of the Agrarian party that a treaty with the Porte was a settled matter, and would be signed in a few days, which would give over to Bulgaria that indispensable land which they had been anxious to obtain possession of—namely, the territory through which the railway runs from Adrianople to the port of Dedeagatch. And to-day the news is current in Serbia that not only has the treaty or contract been signed, but that the ceded territory is already occupied by the Bulgarians.

This report, which is here fully believed, has strongly affected Serbian public opinion. First, this transaction is greatly regretted, as it is maintained that by it Bulgaria is pledged not to undertake any military action against Turkey, and consequently that for Bulgaria to aid the Quadruple Powers by undertaking to march against Constantinople would be an impossibility. Further, it is asserted that Bulgaria has thereby given proof that she believes more in the final victory of the Central Powers than in that of the Quadruple Powers, and therefore openly declares her sympathies for the Central Powers, for whom it may be expected she will display a still more friendly neutrality than hitherto. The popular belief in Serbia is, therefore, that any further diplomatic action on the part of the Quadruple Entente for an alliance of the Balkan States to include Bulgaria would be a hopeless and consequently useless task. Bulgaria, they say, has shown her colours, and from a doubtful friend has become a suspected enemy, from whom everything antagonistic is to be feared.

Turning from the Serbian view, let us take an independent survey of the situation. Germany, seeing that the attack on the Dardanelles progresses and that Turkey is at its last gasp, may have put pressure on the Turks to consent to the amputation of the territory through which the Dedeagatch railway passes, and possibly intended to alarm the Quadruple Powers and their Allies with the news of an accomplished Turco-Bulgarian treaty of peace. There are some grounds for this supposition, as it is known that this news, which spread like wild-fire, first emanated from Berlin official circles. But, however ambiguous the conduct of Bulgaria may be, is it likely that she would so ally herself to one in dying agonies as deliberately to bind herself in a way that would prevent her obtaining anything but a small strip of land which under any circumstances she would be likely to acquire sooner or later?

We do not know the text of the treaty between Bulgaria and Turkey, but we may ask if its terms are likely to be such as would absolutely debar Bulgaria from a friendly understanding with the Quadruple Entente. This is doubtful, but it may well be that Bulgaria has overestimated her power and importance, and that she may consider she can advantageously sell her neutrality to both friend and foe.

Supposing that the Dedeagatch treaty does not clash with Bulgaria's full liberty of action, then if Bulgaria is clearly made to understand that her neutrality is of *no* importance and is not desired by the Quadruple Powers, she will have to make up her mind to accept the offers of the Powers of the Quadruple Entente, or to get nothing at all in the event of the almost certain final victory of the Entente.

Every day brings a decrease of the forces of the Germanic group, and every day an increase of the power of her adversaries, and Bulgaria's only hope would be to seize her opportunity before it is too late, or she may find that the Balkan alliance will be formed without her.

Roumania used to be the stout defender of the Bucharest Treaty. But to-day Roumania is prepared, in the common interests, to consent to the revision of the Treaty and to make every necessary sacrifice, which would be also in the interests of Bulgaria if the latter were disposed to become an honest and faithful ally, agreeing to the suggestions of the Quadruple Powers, who assuredly would only insist on such conditions as are fair and honest for all parties concerned.

The fall of Constantinople, which may shortly be expected, will put an end to Balkanic negotiations and divergencies. It will then be too late for any delinquent Balkan State to do aught but regret not having seized an earlier opportunity to come to terms.

BAHAISM IN TEHERAN.

Mr. Lotfullah S. Hakim has received from his brother, Dr. Arastoo, a very interesting account of the progress of the emancipation of the Bahai women in Teheran. Some months ago a tablet dealing with the emancipation of women, forwarded to Teheran, was printed and spread among the Bahais. As a result of this tablet, four months ago the leading Bahai families began holding private gatherings, at which all members of the family are present—the women unveiled. "I hope it will not be long," says Dr. Arastoo, "until amongst the Bahais in Teheran the equality of men and women is firmly established. The spirituality of the meetings and the service of the ladies are beyond my power of explanation. We are also engaged in writing to the other cities (of Persia) wherever the Bahais are, that they should also begin striving for the emancipation of the women."

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BULGARIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Sofia, September 18.

The Opposition and the King.

Yesterday morning the leaders of the Opposition, M. Malinoff, M. Gueshoff, Dr. Daneff, M. Naitcho Tzanoff (Radical), and M. Alexander Stambolisky (Agrarian) were received collectively in audience by King Ferdinand, the Crown Prince Boris and M. Dobrovitch, chief of his Majesty's private Cabinet, being also present. The political leaders mentioned, representing all the groups or parties of the Opposition except the Socialists, expounded the views of their parties upon the foreign policy of Bulgaria.

The first speaker was the leader of the Democratic party, M. Alexander Malinoff, who reviewed the present political situation, and expressed himself as opposed to any agreement that would engage Bulgaria to act against the Entente Powers. He emphasized the view of his party that only through an understanding with the Powers of the Quadruple Entente could Bulgaria secure her national union and avoid *pogroms*. The least that could be done would be to preserve neutrality a certain time longer.

Next spoke M. Stamboulisky, representing the Agrarian group. He pointed out the grave responsibility that the Crown would incur if it permitted the beginning of any fresh adventures, and urged the King not to allow the Government to embark upon any such course. The Government, he declared, ought to maintain its neutrality, and no serious step ought to be taken without the summoning of the Chamber and the formation of a broad Coalition Cabinet, representative of all political parties and views in the country.

M. Tzanoff, the leader of the Radicals, read out an appeal to his Majesty to frustrate the attempts to compromise the future existence of Bulgaria.

M. Gueshoff, the former Prime Minister, pointed out that the situation in the theatres of war does not indicate at all that Germany and Austria-Hungary have won the victory. And he supported the view that the only way to secure a calm existence for Bulgaria and the attainment of the triumph of her national aspirations lies in an understanding with the Entente Powers.

Dr. Daneff, who spoke last, developed at some length the programme for the formation of a broad Coalition Cabinet and the results of an understanding with the Powers of the Quadruple Entente.

King Ferdinand's Views.

After conversing with the leader of the Agrarians, the King said: "We have a definite view, which fully corresponds with the recognised interests of Bulgaria, which it will follow to the end." His Majesty shook hands with the Radical leader, saying to him, "I sincerely thank you for the good counsel that you have offered me, and I am glad to have made your acquaintance." At the end of the audience—which lasted from eleven o'clock to about a quarter-past one—his Majesty said, "I take note of what you have said to me, and I will try to report as far as possible in detail your declarations, and the warning of M. Stamboulisky, to M. Radoslavoff, my Prime Minister."

Yesterday evening, at five o'clock, the leaders of the Opposition met at M. Gueshoff's house and drew up the following statement regarding their meeting:

The audience accorded by the King to the representatives of the Democratic, Agrarian, National, and Progressive Liberal groups took place to-day, September 4/17, in the presence of the Crown Prince and M. Dobrovitch. It lasted from 11 a.m. to 1.20 p.m.

In the course of the audience each of the representatives, basing himself on the standpoint of his party, submitted the policy of the present Government to criticism, and insisted upon the summoning of the Narodno Sobranje and the formation of a broad Coalition Cabinet, in order to avoid a policy of adventure contrary to the sentiments and interests of the nation and fatal to the country.

The King took note of the declarations of the leaders of the Opposition, and said that the Prime Minister should be informed regarding them.

The comments of the Press upon the audience are very meagre, owing to the strict censorship that has been exercised over all printed matter since last Monday.

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

At the moment of writing I have not the faintest idea how the muddle in the Balkans is going to work itself out—and I very much doubt if anybody else has any really clear ideas on the subject. But it certainly looks as if two crowned heads must be in some danger, and I imagine that ex-Sultan Abdul Hamid, Mohammed Ali Shah, and other monarchs who have retired from business with more or less good grace, must be inclined to congratulate themselves on the fact that they are as they are. Do they, I wonder, get the news daily? And if so, do they indulge in a mild "flutter" on certain chances, which it would be indelicate to refer to more plainly? If so, they must find it hard work to keep in touch with the "latest betting."

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A Greek friend tells me that when the leaders of the Bulgarian Opposition groups had their straight talk with King Ferdinand, one of them, M. Stamboulisky, the Agrarian leader, so far "forgot himself" as to say bluntly: "If Bulgaria is forced into war there will be a revolution, and you will lose your head." Whether the story be true or not I cannot, of course, say; though I am inclined to believe it. It goes on to tell that King Ferdinand, greatly annoyed by this blunt speech, turned on the speaker and snapped out: "Never mind *my* head! Look after your own!" And now, I see, the *Corriere della Sera* reports that "M. Malinoff, the Bulgarian Opposition leader, has left (Sofia) for Rustchuk on urgent business," and that M. Stamboulisky "is not to be found." That looks ominous. I hope M. Malinoff, who is an able man, reached the frontier safely. As to M. Stamboulisky, if the report that he was "watched" after the famous audience be true, I fear there can be very little hope for him.

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The story I told last week about King Ferdinand of Bulgaria reminds me of another, told me some time ago by a friend, regarding an experience of his with that theatrical monarch. My friend was representing an important journal at the time, and during a visit he paid to Sofia he was more than once received in audience by King (then Prince) Ferdinand, who, for reasons of his own, was always extremely affable to him. On one occasion, anxious to be even more gracious than usual, the Prince remarked: "Of course, my dear X—, I regard *you* not as a journalist, but as an historian of contemporary events." If he lives long enough to read these lines, the Great One may be interested to know the comment of the "historian" upon this gracious opinion. It consisted of two words: "Pompous ass!"

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The influence of the Syrian Protestant College, Beyrout, is far-reaching and, it is safe to add, invariably good. The college often has unpromising material to work upon, and even its devoted staff cannot convert every sow's ear into a silken purse; but it does wonders in many cases, and when it has good stuff to work on in the first instance, it turns out men of real character and grit. A case in point seems to be that of Emir Arslan, the Ottoman Consul at Buenos Ayres. Ordered by his Government to hand over his duties to the German Consul, he preferred to resign, and to remove his seals and papers rather than entrust them to the Hun. Doubtless he knew more about the opinion entertained of the Germans in Buenos Ayres than his Government did. But his action called for courage, and it seems to me that he does credit to the S.P.C.

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I see that the Bishop of London has issued an appeal for gifts on behalf of our soldiers at Gallipoli. In these times the charitable are being assailed on all sides, and it must sometimes be hard to decide where to place one's money with the greatest advantage to all concerned. In this case there should be no doubt at all. The hardships of our men in Gallipoli are very much greater than many of us seem to realise. It is an essential to victory that every possible means should be undertaken to make their lot as cheerful as possible when they are sick or wounded, or during the brief periods of respite from the firing line. Moreover, we may be quite sure that all monies sent in answer to an appeal signed by the Bishop of London will be spent to the very fullest advantage of those for whom they are connected. Of all the dignitaries of the Church of England there is not one who is better entitled to speak on behalf of our soldiers than A. F. London. His sympathy is not of the pulpit only. He has been to the Front, and has risked the fire of the trenches, and every utterance that he has made since the beginning of the war has been couched in terms that show how deep is his understanding, not only of our country's need, but of the need of her individual soldiers. And he has been singularly reticent in calling upon the public for money. Now that he has done so I trust that the response will be as generous as the cause is worthy.

Corsair.

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NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Armenian Massacres. October 6.

The Earl of CROMER asked whether the Government had received any reliable information confirmatory of the statements made in the Press to the effect that renewed massacres of Armenians had taken place on a large scale, whether the statements that German Consular officials had been privy to these massacres rested on any substantial evidence, and whether any further communications had recently been addressed to the Porte in connection with this subject. The report that there had been 800,000 victims, he said, seemed incredible. It was also most incredible that any Government of a civilised country should allow its agents to be parties to organising and encouraging such massacres. Count Reventlow, he noticed, had stated that the German Empire were of opinion that this was a matter which concerned Turkey alone. He did not suppose that there would be any trustworthy evidence to prove the complicity of the German Government or their agents in these massacres. But when we considered the commanding influence of the German Government at Constantinople anyone who knew the East would be of opinion that the German Government cannot be acquitted of a vast moral responsibility unless it can be shown that, knowing of these practices, they took most vigorous and energetic steps to stop these proceedings. It was very desirable to lose no opportunity to let the people of this country know for what we are fighting. We are fighting for a great many things, and one of the objects which we desire to attain is that Armenia shall no longer be constituted a sort of Turkish shambles. We had to remember that we have seventy million Mohammedan fellow subjects, who naturally have a certain amount of sympathy with their co-religionists, and would be unwilling to believe ill of them unless they had positive proof. He believed that all the educated Mohammedans of India would look with as great horror as we do ourselves upon the proceedings of the Turkish Government. Only they ought to have information laid before them on which to form an opinion, and when they had that information he did not doubt that they would see that it would be almost tantamount to an insult to the Mohammedan religion and to the feelings of all right-thinking Moslems if they in any way identified the cause of Islam with the cause of the existing Government at Constantinople. It would also be very desirable to enlighten Egyptian opinion.

We had heard in the last few days that a very important Near Eastern community, under the auspices of a Prince of foreign extraction and strong pro-German proclivities, was about to commit not only a grave political error, but also one of the blackest acts of political ingratitude that the history of the world has ever known. He did not suppose that anything said there would reach the Bulgarian public, because the Press there was controlled by the Germans, but they ought to do all in their power to show Bulgaria what measure was being meted out to another Christian community by those with whom they were about to enter into an almost unnatural alliance.

He had never been a Turcophobe. He admired and recognized the manly, virile qualities of the Turkish nation, and he thought that at this juncture many of them were to be pitied. The Turks, if left to themselves, would wish to live at peace with the rest of the world, and especially with England. Unfortunately they had fallen into the hands of a narrow clique, who had undermined the real independence of the Ottoman Empire. But, whatever could be said in defence of the Turkish nation, not one word could be said in defence of the Turkish Government. It appeared that the present Turkish Government, equally with their predecessors, had made government by massacre part of their political system. If that were so, if we could not do anything else, we could denounce their conduct to the whole of the civilized world, and warn all other races that by showing sympathy with Turkey they will, in the eyes of posterity, have acquired a stain that can never be removed.

The MARQUIS OF CREWE said he entirely agreed with the noble earl that it was advantageous not only here, but in every part of the world, that so far as they were in possession of officially confirmed facts they should be known to the world at large. A communication had been received from the British Consul at Batoum largely founded on statements which had been published in the newspapers at Tiflis, where there was every opportunity of ascertaining what were the actual facts, and they were of the most deplorable character. The Consul described the appalling horrors which had taken place in the district of Samsoun, where the population were absolutely exterminated, except for a few who were able to escape. The whole country was completely ravaged, and a certain number of the inhabitants succeeded in escaping to the mountains. There was a great influx of Armenians and Chaldean refugees into the Caucasian provinces. The Governor of one of the provinces stated that 160,000 refugees had passed through his district, and he gave the most terrible description of their condition, ravaged by disease, many of them starving, and dying at the rate of at least 100 a day. Nothing could be said in too high praise of the efforts that had been made locally to cope with this hideous condition of things. A committee, helped by a great number of voluntary workers from Tiflis and other towns, hastened to the district, and had done everything possible to relieve the misery of these unfortunate people. Very large supplies of comforts, medicines, and foodstuffs were needed if the condition of the refugees was to be materially relieved. Then in two other Caucasian districts there were about 9,000 refugees who were in no better case, and it was stated in one report that unless relief were forthcoming half of them would probably die. There was also a miserable account of refugees in other places. These were deplorable facts, and he most heartily concurred with what fell from the noble earl when he stated that dreadful excesses such as these were not less revolting to our Moslem subjects in India and to enlightened Mussulman opinion everywhere than they were to ourselves. They were, of course, in no way authorised by the precepts of Islam, and they would not be condoned by the judgment of Mussulmans. He was also in agreement with the noble earl when he added that these stories might well go to the heart of any European people or section of people who were disposed to ally their fortunes with Turkey at the present moment.

In conclusion, he had no official confirmation of the statements which had been made that the German Consular representatives in Asia had not merely looked on, but had positively encouraged these horrors. Having regard to the statements that had been made by Americans, who were in a position to form an opinion, he was bound to say, knowing what he did of what had happened elsewhere, that there could not be said to be any antecedent improbability in the assertion. As regarded the third question, the Government had not thought that any advantage would follow an attempt to make either direct or indirect communications to the Turkish Government on the subject. They were in possession of the views of his Majesty's Government and to reiterate them would serve no useful purpose.

Viscount BRYCE remarked that he was sorry to state that information which reached him from many quarters went to show that the figure of 800,000 people destroyed since May last was unfortunately quite a probable number. It was a premeditated and systematic policy of massacre. It was a policy which had been entertained for a considerable time by the gang who were in possession of the Government of Turkey. They only hesitated to put it into practice until they thought a favourable moment had arrived in May. In the massacre at Trebizond—the facts of which were vouched for by the Italian Consul—the whole Armenian population, which numbered from eight to ten thousand, was destroyed in one afternoon under orders from Constantinople. He was afraid it must be said that practically nearly the whole of the Armenian nation had been wiped out, and few crimes so hideous and on so large a scale had been recorded in history. There was no ground for the suggestion that there had been any rising on the part of the Armenians. The Armenian volunteers who had fought with the Russians came from Transcaucasia. There was no excuse on any political grounds for the conduct of the Turkish Government. It was simply an attempt to carry out the maxim once enunciated by Sultan Abdul Hamid, namely, the way to get rid of the Armenian question was to get rid of the Armenians. It was being carried out with more bloodthirsty completeness by the people now in command of the Turkish Government than it ever was in Abdul Hamid's time. He had not been able to obtain any authentic information with regard to the part played by German officials in promoting or encouraging these massacres, but the only chance of saving the unfortunate remnants of this ancient Christian nation was to be found in an expression of the public opinion of the world, and especially of neutral nations.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Royal Edward Survivors in Egypt. Sept. 30.

Sir DANIEL GODDARD asked the Financial Secretary to the War Office whether he was aware that the Colonial allowance was not being paid to the troops of the Expeditionary Force to the Dardanelles who were landed in Egypt after the loss of the Royal Edward, and who had resided there for six weeks; and whether, in view of the fact that this allowance was announced officially as being issued to all whose stay there exceeded fourteen days, he would explain why the allowance was withheld.

Mr. FORSTER: It appears that other allowances, not less favourable to the troops, were at first given in lieu. Instructions have already been issued that the Colonial allowance should be paid in future.

Hospital Ships for Gallipoli Wounded.

Sir HENRY CRAIK asked the Under-Secretary for War whether the arrangements for dealing with the sick and wounded at Gallipoli were entirely under the charge of the authorities of the Royal Army Medical Corps, and whether they had an adequate supply of properly equipped hospital ships for the purpose.

Mr. TENNANT: The medical arrangements on land are entirely in the hands of the R.A.M.C. The transport of the sick and wounded, of course, involves the co-operation of the naval authorities, who have the control over the working of the ships, which is exercised through a naval hospital transport officer. There are fifty ships regularly engaged on this service, which, it is hoped, will prove an adequate number, but as an emergency measure other transports can be utilised in addition.

Sir C. KINLOCH-COOKE: Was there an adequate supply of properly equipped hospital ships for the landing of troops at Suvla Bay?

Mr. TENNANT: I must ask for notice of that question.

First Attack on the Dardanelles.

Mr. OUTHWAITE asked the Foreign Secretary whether, in view of the statement made recently by the British Ambassador at Petrograd to the effect that the first attack on the Dardanelles was in part due to a request made by the Russian Government that this operation should be undertaken for the purpose of drawing Turkish forces from the Caucasus, he could make any statement on the subject.

Lord ROBERT CECIL: I have no doubt it is the case that the operations against the Dardanelles have diverted Turkish troops from the Russian and Egyptian frontiers. But to make a fuller statement as to the strategic objects of military and naval operations which are still in progress does not seem to me expedient, nor could I make it independently of the military and naval authorities.

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THE STATE OF PERSIA.

Owing to pressure on our space, we were unable to publish last week the speech upon the state of Persia delivered by Colonel Yate in the House of Commons on September 28. The subject is of great importance, and we have pleasure in giving now the full report of the speech and of Lord Robert Cecil's reply:—

Colonel YATE: I wish to raise for a few minutes to-day the question of the warfare which is now being waged against us and our Allies in Persia by the Germans in that country, and to ask what steps are being taken to put a stop to it. Persia, as we all know, is supposed to be a neutral country, yet we find that the whole of Persia is occupied and terrorised by armed bands under German officers, who apparently are doing their best to raise the whole country against us. The Persian Government is powerless. The Shah himself is helpless. The Mejliss do nothing but talk and try to make as much money as they can for themselves, and the local Governors in the various provinces have neither sufficient money nor the men to raise a finger against any of these German armed bands, who apparently do what they like and go where they like. We have all read in the papers of the anarchy in Ispahan and the flight of the Russian and French residents there. We were all glad to see in the papers on Sunday morning last that all these men, women, and children had arrived safely at Teheran. Not only at Ispahan, though, but at Shiraz, Yezd, and Kirman and other places also, there are many British subjects employed in the Consular service, the telegraphs, the Imperial Bank of Persia, merchants and missionaries. News as to the safely of these people is most anxiously awaited all through the country. The Indo-European telegraph line from Bushire to Ispahan has long been cut, and now it is reported that the Central Persian line has been cut as well; consequently a stop has been put to all communications between Europe and Asia.

All this is the result of open intrigues carried on by Germany and Germans amongst the various tribes since the commencement of the war, and the large sums of money spent by them in inducing these tribes to do as much damage as they can to British interests throughout Southern Persia, even to the extent of inciting them to murder British officials and those employed by the other companies I have named. The state of things at Bushire is even worse. Bushire is under the protection of Indian troops, supported by vessels of the Royal Navy lying in the roadstead. The local tribesmen, owing to the successful efforts of the late Acting German Consul there, named Wassmuss, are in active hostility. It is said that Wassmuss, on the declaration of war, made his way into these districts viâ Baghdad, and at once commenced an anti-British propaganda among the tribesmen. He had almost unlimited funds at his disposal, and by this means he easily induced them to adopt a hostile attitude. In July they ambushed and killed Major Oliphant and Captain Ranking, and night after night they attacked and sniped Bushire. They were continually attacking the residences of British subjects and merchants. Attacks were made on the houses of employees of the Imperial Bank of Persia, and valuable property was taken off. All houses have had to be vacated, and the women and children sent away. The latest reports say that there are almost nightly attacks on European property, and the troops, with such a long line to defend, cannot prevent small bands of raiders getting through. The papers about a fortnight ago reported that an attack in force had been driven off, but these attacks may be repeated again and again, and this shows how serious the situation is in that part of Persia. Unless these tribesmen are punished severely, their villages razed and their chiefs taken as hostages, things will go from bad to worse.

Had the matter been taken in hand earlier, things would not have been so bad. If we had organised a strong force of Persian levies under British officers during the last few years, instead of trusting solely to the Swedish gendarmerie, which is failing us so entirely now the crisis has come, we might ahve had the situation much better in hand. We have had an excellent illustration of what can be done by local levies under British officers in the repulse the other day of the Persian raiders into Mekran, on the Baluchistan border, by the Mekran Levy Corps. I do not mind saying that this levy was originally raised by myself when I was Chief Commissioner of Baluchistan. It is composed of Baluchis and the Brahuis, of much the same stock as the Persian raiders on the other side of the border, who tried to invade them. That corps could be increased to any extent. Regular troops are not the best material for punishing nomad tribesmen like those who have been bribed by the Germans to attack us in Persia, neither are Regular troops required even to hunt down the bands under Germans themselves now traversing Persia from one end to the other. None of these bands have any artillery or any real organisation or discipline. If I might venture to make a suggestion, it would be that this Mekran Levy Corps should be used as the nucleus for the raising of a combined Indian and Persian Levy Corps under the command of British officers of the Indian Army, with good knowledge of Persian, to hunt down these various bands.

Nothing can be expected of the Persian Government. Nothing can be done by them. They are hopeless and helpless. All that is required is a backing of Regular troops, and that we already have in the Indian regiments at Bushire. The present dual control by which Persia remains under the charge of the Foreign Office, while the Persian Gulf and the military control is under the charge of the Government of India, must tend, in my opinion, to delay and confusion. I would suggest, if I may be bold enough to make a suggestion, that the entire charge of the whole of Southern Persia, both military and political, should be given to the Government of India, who alone are able to deal promptly with affairs on the spot. Until that is done, I honestly say that I do not see how our interests in Southern Persia can be properly safeguarded. The oil wells and pipe line are being threatened by attacks from tribesmen under German officers on the western side; the telegraph lines are cut and the lives of all British subjects are threatened in the centre, and further raids on Baluchistan are also threatened on the East. I urge on the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs that something must be done, and what I hope to see done is that some endeavour will be made to get a strong and good Persian Governor, if there is such a man in Persia, for Ispahan and Fars, and to give him the services of a good combined Persian and Indian Levy Corps, such as I have suggested, to put down these German raiders and to place the whole of Southern Persia under the charge of the Government of India. I would suggest that the Secretary for Foreign Affairs should consult with the Secretary of State for India on this subject, and see if some prompt and energetic action can be taken.

The UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Lord Robert Cecil): I am sure my hon. and gallant friend will recognise the great difficulty of discussing this or any other subject affecting the Foreign Office at a time like this, and I am bound to speak with the utmost reserve upon it. At the same time I can assure him that the matter has been already the subject of very anxious consideration and consultation between the India Office and the Foreign Office. There is no lack at all of common action between those two offices, and the difficulties, such as they are—I am not going to underrate them at all—arise not from the many Departmental difficulties here, but from the essential and inevitable difficulties of the situation in Persia. It is perfectly true—I regret very much that it should be so—that at Bushire there was a lawless attack, I have very little doubt instigated by German and Austrian intrigues and by German money, which resulted in the very deplorable and regrettable death of two gallant British officers. Since that time Bushire has been occupied by British troops, and is still in the occupation of British troops. I do not know that there was anything more, as far as Bushire is concerned itself, which could have been done than was done immediately after the outrage took place. My hon. and gallant friend says some hard things about the Persian Government, but it is only right to say that the Persian Government have expressed their regret for that outrage, and we think at any rate that there is reason to hope that the steps which they have taken will result in the prevention of any repetition of the outrages which have occurred. I quite agree that the Persian Government is in a very difficult position. No one doubts that, but I do not think there is any reason to doubt that their wish is to carry out the duties of a Government in preserving law and order. Then, at Ispahan, which is within our portion of Persia, there was also an attack—pure murder, of course — upon the British Consul-General. Fortunately, he was only wounded, but I regret to say his Indian orderly was killed; and there are undoubtedly Germans and Austrians who have engaged the services of paid bandits whose whole object is to create disorder and to threaten the lives of th British and Russian civilians who are in charge of purely pe .ul interests in a neutral country. That is part of the Ger n methods of making war. Then it is true, under these circumstances, the British Colony have withdrawn from Ispahan, and so have the Russians, and gone to Teheran. There, too, strong remonstrances have been made to the Persian Government, and we have reason to hope, after what has occurred there, that there is at any rate a very earnest desire on the part of the present Persian Government to prevent the repetition of these outrages. I regret to say that at Shiraz also a similar outrage has taken place. There the British Vice-Consul was seriously wounded, and has since died. There has been a change made in the Governor-General at Fars, and we hope the new Governor-General will be able to preserve order more successfully in his Province than the old one. I do not know that there is very much more that I can usefully say. My hon. and gallant friend has made a certain suggestion, namely, that we should organize an irregular force and put it under the command, I do not know whether of a native or a British officer. I think he will see the enormous difficulty of even entertaining any proposal of that kind during the progress of a gigantic war. There are, unfortunately, enormous difficulties in any Imperial war in which the whole energies and monetary resources of the country are being taxed to their utmost. But we have done our best with the present Persian Government, and I think there is some ground for hoping that things will improve. I do not want to go into detail, but we are taking measures to improve the financial position of Persia, and our Minister, who has most ably conducted the whole of the negotiations and done most admirably, is now conducting negotiations with the Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs on that basis, and is prepared to make very considerable concessions of that kind with the consent of His Majesty's Government, provided, of course, that an impartial administration may be thereby secured. I am afraid I cannot say more at present. I can only express the hope that these very regrettable occurrences will not take place again, and we may be very certain that that kind of warfare, and that means of carrying on warfare, is not really ultimately likely to be of service to the German cause, and even in Persia proceedings of that kind are likely to cover the Germans not with glory, but with contempt.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

GEOGRAPHY AND BALKAN PROBLEMS.*

So much has been written and debated on the eternal riddle of Balkan races and politics, and so much of it has been wasteful, that it needs a bold man indeed to come forward at this late hour of the day and present to the public a book wherein it is intended "to summarise those geographical facts which made the Balkan Peninsula the potential storm centre of Europe." Professor Newbigin is, happily, such a man, and his contribution to the great polemic, however much it is to be regretted that it was not published earlier in the year is, nevertheless, welcome, because it throws new light on some of the dark spots in the Balkans. The attitude taken up by Bulgaria within the past few weeks has, of course, intrinsically altered the political situation, and, therefore, any discussion of Balkan problems to-day can only be of academic interest and barren of results. But the author "is not without some hope that unless the day of peace dawns, the volume will not entirely lose significance"; for, he adds, naively, "We cannot believe that the new Britain which will arise after the war can ever re-acquire her former insular indifference to the politics and geography of the Near East." We trust that the professor is right; but even if we did lapse again into our proverbial indifference as to what goes on around us, the book itself will not lose thereby in intrinsic value.

What is more, it possesses an immediate significance unrelated—by some impish decree of fate—to the main object proposed by the author. It was his intention to give us a useful survey of geographical conditions and accidents in the Balkan Peninsula and to trace therefrom the natural aspirations of the various States concerned. The conclusions arrived at are true to facts, but, unfortunately, the rapid development of the political situation within the past few days renders such considerations momentarily superfluous. To take a case in point. The acquisition recently by Bulgaria of that section of the Maritza flowing through Turkish territory is merely a milestone in Bulgaria's natural *Drang nach Suèden* in the wake of her rivers, the Maritza, Mesta, and Struma. This is a fact which none who knows the Balkans will deny. Similarly, Serbia's lines of advance towards the west (along the Drin, etc.) and towards the south (up the Morava and down the Vardar) can be explained by the geographical peculiarities of that landlocked kingdom; and the same process applies to Montenegro's attempts to seize Scutari, to the coastal expansion of Greece along the Ægean, to the fatal anti-climax of the Albanian comedy. These are all matters of the past, however regrettable most of them, but unfortunately beyond redemption. With the Balkans once again in the melting pot, no man can say what to-morrow has in store for them or for us, nor what will emerge from the great cauldron of strife. But whatever it is, we might do well to remember some of the causes of trouble in the past, and shape the future States (or State) so as to avoid a repetition of the sublime series of errors which culminated in the Treaty of Bucharest. A detailed perusal of the book under review will then be of advantage to the statesman. For the Peninsula as a whole is geographically of extraordinary interest, and "the very complexity of structure which gives it its geographical interest has made its history troubled in the extreme." As the geographical facts must continue to exercise their effect, "we cannot hope that the future will be smooth and untroubled, but there is at least more prospect of finding a solution of the numerous problems if we recognise that they have a root in physical features." These features, as stated, have been carefully examined by Professor Newbigin.

The immediate value of "Geographical Aspects of Balkan Problems" lies, however, not so much in academic considerations as in those of a more pressing and topical interest. To the best of our knowledge, no book has been published which gives so graphic and concise a picture of the topography of the Balkan Peninsula, and, at a moment when our three Expeditionary Forces in France, the Dardanelles and Irak are likely to be increased to four by a supplementary Serbian Force with its eyes turned to the north and east, the information contained in Professor Newbigin's volume will be welcome not only to the practical strategist, but also to the man in the street and to the writer whose duty it is to analyse campaigns—and predict them with varying accuracy. They will find in the book under review an able guide to the probable lines of advance on our part, and the probable lines of retreat on the part of our enemies. The peculiar characteristics of Balkan topography—the coastal ranges, with their gaps, the erratic "elbow" twists of the rivers, the narrow *couloirs* and low watersheds, etc.—are factors which will have to be taken into consideration in the campaign which, apparently, will shortly commence, and they will, moreover, directly influence the movements and counter-movements of troops.

Perhaps, in view of the landing of Allied troops in Salonika, the chapter dealing with Trade Routes will be the most interesting of any in Professor Newbigin's volume. A map illustrates the old Roman roads across the Peninsula, and, strange to say, their general trend was from west to east—that is to say, they proceeded from the Adriatic to Constantinople: from Durazzo, through Ochrida to Monastir, Salonika, Kavalla, and Constantinople; from Alessio to Nish, Sofia, Constantinople, and from Metkovitch to Sarajevo, Nish, Sofia, and Constantinople. The penetration, therefore, of troops for the relief of Serbia would, in Roman days, have proceeded across Albania to Monastir in the south, or to Prizrend in the north; to-day it has proceeded viâ Salonika, but, possibly, in view of King Constantine's open friendship for his imperial brother-in-law, the Kaiser, we shall have to revert again to the old western roads of penetration. Why not, with Italy holding the northern flank?

* Geographical Aspects of Balkan Problems in their Relation to the Great European War. By Marion I. Newbigin, D.Sc. (London: Constable. 7s. 6d.).

BOOK NOTES.

Messrs. G. Bell and Sons have just published "The Architecture of Ancient Egypt," by Edward Bell. The price of the book is 6s. net.

A lot of useful information regarding the Jewish agricultural colonies in Palestine is given in "Palestine and the Powers," which is written by Mr. F. G. Jaunaway, and published (at 3s. 6d. net) by C. C. Walker. Those who are interested in the question of the Jews' return to Palestine will find the subject treated at some length and with much enthusiasm in this work.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Forty Years in Constantinople: The Recollections of Sir Edwin Pears, 1873-1915. With 16 illustrations. (Herbert Jenkins. 16s. net.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

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

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

THE FUTURE OF CYPRUS.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—The moment for winding up this discussion seems to have arrived. Permit me to point out that what the Island needs is a plain statement of the British Government's intentions. Two roads lie open. On the one hand, the Colonial Office can officially announce through the High Commissioner that until the conclusion of peace no decision will be come to as to the future of the Island, and that the Allied Powers will be asked, as a matter of common interest, to decide the question.

On the other hand, the British Government can state in unmistakable terms that the annexation is to endure. It matters not which course is pursued. The result will be the same. In common fairness to all loyal Cypriotes an end should be put to the present state of suspense. Ordinary human nature hates indecision, but respects firmness. In South Africa indecision cost us many millions. Is a policy of drift true statesmanship?—I am, etc.,

GEORGE N. HOUSTOUN.

Kyrenia, Cyprus, September 25, 1915.

AN IMPORTANT NEW BOOK ABOUT EGYPT.

By BARON DE KUSEL (Bey),

Sometime English Controller-General of Egyptian Customs.

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With an Epilogue dealing with the present time, 1914.

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JOHN LANE: THE BODLEY HEAD, W

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Julian (Old Style).	Gregorian (New Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1915. Oct. 8	1915. Sept. 25	Friday	1333. Julkada. 29	5676. Tisri. 30 Heshvan.
9	26	Saturday.....	30 Julhijja.	1
10	27	Sunday	1	2
11	28	Monday	2	3
12	29	Tuesday	3	4
13	30	Wednesday	4	5
14	Oct. 1	Thursday	5	6

To-day is the birthday of King Nicholas of Montenegro.

Monday is the birthday of H.R.H. Prince Peter of Montenegro, third son and ninth child of King Nicholas, who was born at Cettinje in 1889. His Royal Highness, who is Grand Voyvode of Zaklum, is a lieutenant of artillery in both the Russian and the Serbian armies.

Tuesday is the birthday of H.R.H. Princess Elizabeth of Roumania, who was born at Castle Pelesh, September 29, 1904 (O.S.).

Tuesday also is the birthday of H.R.H. Princess Natalie, wife of Prince Mirko of Montenegro, who was born at Trieste in 1882, and married to the Prince in July, 1902.

In a letter dated September 19, our Bucharest Correspondent writes:—After spending a few days at Constantza, the members of the Royal Family have now gone for a week's excursion on the Danube. As already reported, they are this year making acquaintance with parts of the country hitherto unknown to them, and showing themselves to their subjects in as many quarters as possible.

Prince Carol of Roumania reaches his twenty-third year on the 16th inst., and he will then (our Bucharest Correspondent reports) be promoted to the rank of major in his regiment, the 2nd Rifle Battalion ("Queen Elizabeth's").

Prince Cantacuzene of Roumania left London for Perth last week.

M. Georges Cretzeanu, the Roumanian Minister at Madrid, arrived in London last Friday, and visited the Roumanian Minister.

In connection with the above paragraph, it may be noted that our Bucharest Correspondent reports that M. Cretzeanu left the Roumanian capital for Madrid on September 18.

In the same letter our Correspondent reported that M. Michel Pacleanu, Roumanian Minister at Berne, was expected at Bucharest on leave.

Prince Bibesco, Secretary to the Roumanian Legation, who left for Paris last week, returned to London on Sunday night.

Mrs. Morgenthau, wife of the American Ambassador in Constantinople, has arrived in London on her way to the States.

According to a native Egyptian paper, Mr. W. P. G. Graham, formerly Director-General of the Public Health Department, is returning to Egypt during the coming winter to take charge of the Red Cross Society's work in Cairo.

CAPTAIN ARTHUR CHARLES DAVIES, 6th BATTALION ROYAL WELSH FUSILIERS, Reported WOUNDED and MISSING on August 10 at the DARDANELLES.—Any INFORMATION will be gratefully received by his Wife, Mrs. Arthur Davies, Treffos, Menai Bridge, Anglesey.

We regret to hear that Mrs. Van Millingen, widow of Professor A. Van Millingen, is confined to a nursing home in London with indisposition.

Prince Kamel Fadel arrived at Alexandria on September 16 by the Messageries Maritimes steamer "Karnak," on his return from France.

The present address of the Bishop in Persia is 12, Homefield Road, Wimbledon, S.W.

Lewa Herbert Pasha, O.C. Cairo District, who had been detailed for temporary service with the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, returned to Cairo a fortnight ago and resumed his duties after over four months' absence.

The death is reported from Roumania of General C. Candiano, who greatly distinguished himself in the war of 1877. He died at his country seat at Finta.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Van Millingen of Alexandria are at present on a visit to London, and return to Egypt on the 19th inst.

Our Cyprus Correspondent writes (September 17):—

Mr. T. Millard, of the Treasury, and Mr. A. I. Cunningham, Assistant Postmaster, leave Cyprus this mail for England to undertake military duties.

We regret to learn that Mr. Maurice Constantinidi, son of Mr. C. Constantinidi, for many years manager of the Imperial Ottoman Bank in Cyprus, has been killed at the Dardanelles.

On Sunday, the 12th inst., the newly built Anglican Church at Limassol was for the first time used for public service. The Rev. Canon F. Newham officiated both morning and evening. This little church has been erected to meet the needs of the English community at Limassol, who have hitherto had the use of a rented building. Archdeacon Beresford Potter has been mainly instrumental in providing this very suitable and pleasing little church for the benefit of the present and future English community, who are greatly indebted to him for his strenuous efforts on their behalf.

Another Cyprus correspondent writes:—

Several officials who applied for permission to offer their services for the war failed to obtain it, including Mr. Russell, King's Advocate, and Mr. Thorn, President of the District Court of Larnaca. Government is only granting leave to those who can be spared without inconvenience or detriment to the service.

During the absence of Mr. Cunningham, the duties of private secretary to the High Commissioner will be performed by Mr. G. Jeffrey, Curator of Public Monuments in Cyprus.

Mr. Fred Ongley, Registrar-General, who has been in England on leave, owing to eye trouble, was unable to return, as intended, in August. It was found advisable that he should undergo an operation for appendicitis, which, as his many friends were glad to hear, was carried out quite successfully.

Four members of the Red Cross personnel who have been serving in Montenegro have been honoured by the Montenegrin Government. Dr. Tebbs has been awarded the Order of Danilo and a gold medal; Sister Trelilcock has been presented with a gold medal; and Orderly Lines and Orderly Rosenblatt have each received a silver medal.

Colonel Arthur de Salis Hadow, commanding 10th Battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment, who was killed in action in France on September 26, was born in July, 1858, and was the seventh son of the late Mr. P. D. Hadow, of The Priory, Sudbury, Middlesex. Educated at Harrow School, he joined the 6th Battalion of the Royal Lancashire Militia in 1877, and in 1878 was gazetted to the Princess of Wales's Own (Yorkshire Regiment), in which he served for thirty-two years. He was with his battalion in the Nile Frontier Force in 1885-1886. Most of his service was abroad, fifteen years of it being spent in India. He retired in 1910, but on the outbreak of the war he offered his services, and was appointed to the command of the 10th (Service) Battalion Yorkshire Regiment. Colonel Hadow proceeded to France with his battalion early in September, and was killed in action while leading a charge on September 26. He leaves a widow and three children.

News was received in London on Tuesday that Lieut.-Colonel Lord Ninian Crichton-Stuart, M.P., commanding the 6th Welsh Regiment, had been killed in action. He was the second son of the third Marquess of Bute, and brother of the present Marquess.

Lieutenant-Colonel Walter Thomas Gaisford, commanding 7th Battalion Seaforth Highlanders, was, we regret to learn, killed in action in France on September 25. He joined the Seaforths in May, 1891, and was promoted lieutenant in January, 1894, captain in October, 1899, and major in May, 1908. He was appointed to the command of the 7th Battalion on August 19 last year. From April, 1900, to July, 1903, the late officer was aide-de-camp to the major-general commanding in Egypt, and from April, 1905, to September, 1908, acted as adjutant of Volunteers and Territorials. He was present at the battles of the Atbara and Khartoum in the Nile Expedition of 1898. He was the son of the late Mr. Thomas Gaisford, of Offington, Worthing, and of the late Lady Alice Gaisford, and was forty-four years old.

Lieut.-Colonel Angus Falconar Douglas-Hamilton, commanding 6th Cameron Highlanders, who is reported killed in France between September 25 and 27, was the youngest son of Major-General Octavius Douglas-Hamilton. He was born in 1864, and joined the Cameron Highlanders in 1884. He served with the regiment during the latter part of the Nile Expedition in 1885 (medal and clasp) and in the Sudan with the Frontier Field Force in 1885-6, being present at Kosheh during its investment and at the engagement at Giniss. He was adjutant of the 6th Gordon Highlanders from 1894-99 and rejoined his regiment, the 2nd Cameron Highlanders, in 1899, and served with them in Gibraltar, Malta, South Africa, North China, and India till he retired in 1911. On the outbreak of the war he was appointed transport officer on the Embarkation Staff at Southampton, and in October last was appointed lieutenant-colonel of the 6th Cameron Highlanders. He married, on August 1, 1894, Anna, younger daughter of the late Captain A. W. Mackenzie, of Ord, Rossshire, and had one daughter.

Major Arthur David Nicholson, 1st Battalion Cameron Highlanders, who died on September 26 at Crefeld, Germany, from the results of an accident, was in the Nile Expedition of 1898, and was severely wounded at the battle of Khartoum. He was mentioned in despatches, and received the Egyptian medal with clasp and the Nile medal. For services in the South African War (1900-2) he was awarded the Queen's medal with three clasps and the King's medal with two clasps. He was the son of Major-General Stuart Nicholson, was forty-two years of age, and had been in the Army since 1893.

Second Lieutenant Cyril Cochrane, 1st Battalion Gordon Highlanders, who was killed in action in Flanders on September 25-26, was born in September, 1890, and was educated in France, Switzerland, and at Sandhurst. He received his commission in the Gordon Highlanders in September, 1911, and served with his regiment in India and in Egypt. When the present war broke out he was on sick leave after an operation, and he was unable to rejoin his regiment until last February. Mr. Cochrane was the only child of Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Cochrane, of Chichester.

We regret to learn that Major Myles Ponsonby, second son of the Earl of Bessborough, who is the chairman of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, has been killed in action in France. A memorial service will be held at St. James's, Piccadilly, on Saturday, at 11.30 a.m.

Second Lieutenant F. A. Booth, 2nd Battalion East Kents ("The Buffs"), is reported

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killed in action, in France, in the fighting of September 27-29. He was formerly on the staff of the Imperial Ottoman Bank.

Mr. Richard Fitzmaurice, another former member of the I.O.B. staff, who was serving as a private in the London Scottish, is also reported killed in action in the fighting of September 25.

Mr. R. L. Naville, of Beyrout, arrived in London on Saturday.

M. Hadjeff, a member of the Bulgarian Sobranje, and a prominent supporter of Dr. Daneff, arrived in Bucharest a fortnight ago.

Captain A. Warden Baker, 7th Royal Scots Fusiliers, late of Constantinople, who was wounded on September 26, is now in England and is progressing favourably.

Captain Matila Costiesco-Ghyka, of the Roumanian Legation, who has been visiting various provincial towns, has returned to London.

A letter received by Mr. Mark Judge from Captain the Hon. Aubrey Herbert, M.P., and written from Alexandria, during a week's sick leave (after four months at the Dardanelles), states: "I've had a very nice week's sick leave, and am going back well." This will be good news to Captain Herbert's many friends in this country.

Writing home to Cardiff from a hospital at Alexandria, Private W. Davies, of the Welsh Regiment, describes a brave deed done at the Dardanelles. He says they advanced at 4.30 in the morning to attack a hill. Major R. P. Yates led his men gallantly, himself fighting with rifle and bayonet. "There were many brave deeds that day," Davies says, "and particularly would I mention that of Private A. Comley. We used to chaff Comley, who is only 5 ft. 4 in. high, asking him what he would do when he would meet a six-foot Turk, but we never laugh at him now, for he proved a real hero. Major Yates fell wounded. Comley, who was also wounded, saw him fall, and getting up started to run fifty yards to the major's side. We shouted to him to stop, for the Turks' fire was very heavy. Comley, however, got to the major's side, bandaged him, and then began rolling him back, crawling behind him, and so brought him to safety."

The Lord Mayor has consented to preside at a meeting to be held at the Mansion House on Friday, the 15th inst., for the purpose of raising a national fund to be called the Armenian Refugee (Lord Mayor's) Fund for the relief of Armenians who have escaped from Turkey to avoid the present persecution. Two hundred and fifty thousand Armenians are said to have taken refuge in the Russian Caucasus, besides very large numbers in Bulgaria and some in Egypt. Viscount Bryce is taking a very active interest in the matter, and will be one of the speakers.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, etc.

Mr. H. L. FitzPatrick, director of the Tanzim Department of Cairo, has been granted three and a-half months' leave as from September 20. He has been attached to the Medical Section of the British Expeditionary Force in Gallipoli.

Mr. Bardsley has been appointed Inspector, Khartoum North, to replace Mr. Munro, who has been transferred to Omdurman.

El Kaimakam T. G. Anderson Bey, Assistant Adjutant-General, has been struck off the strength of the Egyptian Army.

The *Egyptian Gazette* of September 16 reported that Colonel Garner, formerly Assistant Director of the Egyptian Public Health Department, was expected from the Dardanelles about the end of September, when he would take up his old post again.

M. A. Vichy, First Secretary of the Roumanian Legation at Rome, has been transferred to Vienna.

Mr. J. Haines, Under-Secretary of State, Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture, is spending six weeks' leave in this country.

FORTHCOMING LECTURES.

The war has had its natural effect upon the scholastic world in drawing attention to subjects connected with itself. Thus the Balkan States will receive more notice in the coming session of London University than would have been the case in a year of peace.

At King's College there will be a course of ten lectures by Dr. R. W. Seton Watson on the Balkan Peoples. The first will be delivered on Thursday, October 21 next. They will be free to the public, and the time, 6.30 p.m., is one convenient to those who are occupied throughout the day. Application for tickets should be made to the Education Officer, L.C.C. Education Offices, Victoria Embankment, W.C.

Dr. Seton Watson will also deliver a short course of four lectures at the London School of Economics, his subject being "Austria-Hungary and the Southern Slavs." The first of these will be delivered on Monday, October 25, at five o'clock. Other courses of lectures on Mondays at five o'clock will follow at this institution, dealing with Poland, Bohemia, and Alsace-Lorraine, with Mesopotamia and with the Balkan States.

There will be two lectures on Mesopotamia, which is defined as the region between the Persian Gulf and Armenia, the first on January 24. The lecturer will be Mr. D. G. Hogarth.

There will be six lectures on the Balkan States delivered by the Director of the School, the Hon. W. P. Reeves, Ph.D. These will commence on February 7.

All the above are free to the public; other interesting courses of lectures at the same institution, but for admission to which a fee will be charged, are as follows:—

Mr. Mackinder will deliver a course of ten lectures on the "Geography of the War Area" at 11 a.m. on Saturdays, commencing on October 16.

Professor Sargent will deliver a course of lectures on the "Geography of the Railways, Canals and Seaports in the War Area," at 6.15 p.m. on Tuesdays, beginning on January 18.

Professor Seligman will deliver a course of ten lectures on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 2 p.m., beginning on February 8 next. His subject is the "Anglo-Egyptian Sudan and Uganda."

At University College on Monday next at 3 p.m. Professor L. W. Lyde will deliver an address on "Racial Frontiers in Central and South-Eastern Europe."

Sir Edwin Pears will lecture on "Turkey" at 8, Hereford Gardens, W., next Monday, at 3.30 p.m. This is the first of the third series of lectures on belligerent countries arranged by the Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association. Tickets, 1s. each, may be obtained from 48, Dover Street, W.

The first meeting of the new session of the Royal Geographical Society will be held on Monday, November 15, when the president, Mr. Douglas Freshfield, will give an address on "The Southern Frontiers of Austria."

Professor A. F. Pollard will deliver a course of ten lectures, commencing October 14, on the "Progress of the War." The time is 5.30 p.m.

On Thursday, October 28, also at 5.30 p.m., Professor F. M. Simpson will lecture on "St. Sophia, Constantinople, and the Mosques of Constantinople and Brusa."

These are all free to the public by ticket, which can be obtained from the Secretary of University College. Other interesting courses of lectures now being delivered at University College are on Egyptology by Professor W. M. Flinders Petrie, on "Assyro-Babylonian Legends and History," by Dr. T. G. Pinches, and on "The War and the British Realms," by Professor A. F. Pollard.

In addition to the above, Professor Gardner will lecture on Wednesday, 13th, at 5.30 p.m., on "Greece and the War." The lecture will be free to the public, and no ticket will be required.

Finally we may mention that on Tuesday next at 8.30 p.m., at the Royal Victoria Hall, Waterloo Road, Dr. Seton Watson will lecture on "Serbia and her Aspirations."

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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

BIRTHS.

CRAWFORD.—On September 28, at 12, Parkway Meols, Cheshire, the wife of Robert Crawford, of Liverpool and Constantinople, of a son.

CONSTANDURDS.—On the 3rd inst., at "Belhaven," Sutton, to Mr. and Mrs. Ath. Constanduros—a son.

MARRIAGE.

DIXON—PEAKE.—On October 3, at Port Said, Lieut.-Commander Alan Dixon, R.N., second son of the late Staff Captain Jesse Dixon, R.N., and Mrs. Dixon, of 11, Woodgrange Avenue, Ealing, to Muriel Vera Peake, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Peake, of Port Tewfik, Egypt.

DEATH.

NOWILL.—On September 23, suddenly, at 4, Ashurst Road, Seaford, Sussex, F. Gertrude Wesley, beloved wife of Stephen Nowill, of Constantinople.

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1915.

THE BALKAN TANGLE.

Events have moved with dramatic suddenness in the Near East during the past week. When the mobilization of the Bulgarian army was followed immediately by a similar step in Greece, the Bulgarian Government hastened to send assurances to Nish and Athens that it entertained no aggressive designs upon either of its neighbours on the west and south. It became known, however, that a large number of German officers were entering Bulgaria, and were being drafted to various commands in the Bulgarian army. In order to forestall a repetition of what had happened in the case of Turkey, when German officers brought about a Turkish attack on Russia, the Russian Government on Monday last presented an ultimatum to Bulgaria requiring her to break at once with the German Powers and to send all German and Austrian officers out of the country. In the event of the Bulgarian Government failing to comply with this request, the Russian representative would be withdrawn from Sofia. The Bulgarian reply confines itself virtually to a categoric denial of the statement that German and Austrian officers are serving with the Bulgarian army, and the Russian Government has carried out its threat. In the meantime, as the movements of the Bulgarian forces indicated that King Ferdinand and his advisers were already too far committed to Germany to draw back, the Entente Powers took steps to make good their promises of support to Serbia and Greece. In agreement, we must suppose, with the Hellenic Government, it was arranged that an Anglo-French expeditionary force should land at Salonika for the protection of the territories (both Serbian and Greek) threatened by Bulgaria. So long as Greece failed to make a formal declaration that she had thrown in her lot with the Quadruple Entente, the movement was open to misrepresentation, as it involved a technical violation of Greek neutrality. Military exigencies, however, required that no time should be lost in forestalling the Bulgarian attack, and, in the opinion of M. Venizelos, the requirements of the case could be met by a formal protest on the part of the Greek Government, while he proceeded at the earliest possible moment to obtain the acquiescence of the Greek Chamber in his policy. The event has proved that in adopting this course M. Venizelos and the Entente Powers have once more played into the hands of the former's political opponents. After a stormy session the Chamber only gave its assent to the Premier by a majority of forty votes. The discussion proved that the Opposition was prepared to take the fullest possible advantage of the technical flaw in M. Venizelos's line of action. Worse was to follow. Deceived by King Constantine's ready consent for the mobilization of the Greek army, M. Venizelos appears to have taken it for granted that he would allow the protection of Greek interests to be carried out to its logical conclusion. But either the course of the debate in the Chamber or a further twist of the German thumbscrew in the privacy of the Royal Palace has prompted the King to refuse to allow his Premier to pursue the policy for which he had obtained the Chamber's consent. M. Venizelos adopted the only course open to him: he handed in the resignation of his Cabinet.

The issue in Greece, as in Bulgaria, now rests with the people. King Constantine will have no difficulty in finding politicians to support his action; but it is obvious that, if the premiership passes out of the hands of M. Venizelos, the Governments of the Entente Powers cannot accept his successor as the spokesman of Greece. King Constantine has elected to act as his own Prime Minister, and it is with him that the Powers will now have to arrive at an understanding. The situation is not without its complications, as the landing of the Anglo-French Expeditionary Force has already been effected and a portion of the troops has passed over the Greek railway system towards Serbia. For the moment there is no indication as to the probable course of events in Bulgaria and Greece. If Germany exercises a strong hand in both countries through their respective rulers, Bulgaria may confine her attentions at first to Serbia, while Greece shelters herself behind the quibble advanced in the Chamber that her treaty of alliance has become invalid in consequence of Serbia's agreement to cede to Bulgaria part of the conquered territories, the maintenance of which had formed the basis of the treaty. What may happen after that it is unnecessary here to speculate. We do not subscribe to the belief that the co-operation with the Quadruple Entente of all or some of the three as yet non-belligerent States in the Balkans is essential to the successful termination of the war. That it would shorten the war is certain. But in dealing with the Near East we may levy toll on some of its fatalism and reflect that the hitches which now hamper the normal development of events are due to unhealthy growths in the body politic which have to be recognised and removed before the Balkans can settle down to a long period of peace and satisfactory progress.

By those who have believed that the sound common sense of the Balkan peoples will ultimately assert itself to bring about good feeling between all the States the present *dénouement* will be watched with keen interest, quite apart from its bearing on the military operations of the Quadruple Entente. The antagonism that may exist between the national interests and those of a foreign dynasty has now been brought to a head in two countries, and both Bulgaria and Greece must decide how the problem is to be solved. It appears in its most acute form in Bulgaria. If the Bulgarian people allows itself to be drawn into the war, it accepts responsibility for the whole course of the diplomatic action associated with King Ferdinand's name. The Bulgarians had no quarrel with the Powers of the Quadruple Entente. It can also be shown that from a military point of view they are on the eve of committing themselves to an enterprise of a somewhat risky nature. To this may be added the precariousness of the political future which they would be storing up for themselves if, on their own reckoning, as a result of the German victories on which they are counting, they had to settle down without a friend in Europe to the position of an insignificant factor in a great Teutonic empire stretching from Berlin and Antwerp to the Persian Gulf. The worst fate that could befall Bulgaria would be that the present expectations of her Sovereign should be realised, that Germany should be able to use her as a stepping-stone to an Asiatic empire. She will be spared that fate, we believe, because it would be the negation of all that the civilised world has been striving after during the past centuries. But if the nation responds to King Ferdinand's summons to take up arms for Germany against the Slav peoples, they make his crime their own without the excuse which may be urged on his behalf. He has never made Bulgaria's interests his own, but has remained a Sovereign apart, in the midst of an alien people, covertly despising and despised. When the parting of the ways comes, he throws in his lot unhesitatingly with the people of his birth, refusing to listen to the appeal made on behalf of the country of his adoption. That the Bulgarian nation should follow him in this cynical adventure ought to be unthinkable. It would be if Bulgarian politicians had remained true to their country.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

Subscribers to "THE NEAR EAST" who have left the Ottoman Dominions since the war will oblige by notifying the Manager of their new address as early as possible, so that the supply of the paper should not be unduly interrupted.

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THE ARMENIAN MASSACRES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, September 26.

In addition to playing an important part in the defence of the Empire, Egypt seems destined in this war to offer sanctuary to all the peoples of the Levant who are fleeing from the oppression of the Turks. During the early days of the war the warships of the neutral Powers, in particular those of the United States, brought to Alexandria thousands of Syrian and Jewish refugees from Syria and Palestine; and, as has been reported in The Near East, a complete organisation has been established, under the able direction of Mr. W. Hornblower, by the Egyptian Government, for providing for the subjects of other Powers pending their repatriation, and for those who, having lost their all and having no claim on other governments, must be kept alive and assisted to find a means of securing a livelihood.

To-day provision has had to be made for the Armenians, who are the latest to arouse the ire of the Turks, and whom the French cruisers have rescued from their fury. About 4,300 refugees are now in Port Said. Of these 915 are men, 1,408 women, 702 boys, 539 girls, and the rest infants, some of whom were born when the Turkish atrocities were at their worst. All the refugees, who are a most respectable, well-educated set of people, come from Suedia, the port of Antioch, on the northern bank of the Orontes river, in the vilayet of Aleppo. And a fine story of heroic resistance they have to relate!

It appears that at the end of July they received orders from the authorities to sell up their possessions and prepare to be deported within a week. They had already heard what had happened to their compatriots in other parts of Asia Minor, and since it was evident that they would meet with the same fate if they obeyed orders, the inhabitants of Suedia decided to die fighting. All but 300 accordingly took to the Gebel Musa, the mountain behind Suedia, taking with them all the cattle and provisions they could lay their hands on.

Of the 4,300 odd who took to the hills, only 600 were fighting men, and of these but 150 were armed with rifles. The rest had only muzzle-loading, sporting guns. But they put up a magnificent fight. They divided their organisation into two parts—military, with four leaders to arrange for their defence; and civil, with a commission of eight to deal with their internal administration. The hills were guarded by detachments of from 10 to 40 men, who were relieved every twenty-four hours, whilst on the coast—the refugees held all the hills around the town down to the sea—were posted ten men, whose duty it was to watch for any friendly ship, and notify to it their critical situation.

During the seven weeks they were in the hills they repulsed four determined attacks; though, as a matter of fact, isolated fighting continued throughout. Only a small force of regulars was sent against them on the first occasion, and it was easily repulsed. A larger force was then sent, but after a fight of eleven hours, it was driven off. Troops were next requisitioned from Aleppo, and with them came a horde of scallywags, including a well-known Pan-Islamic agitator, Sheikh Maaruf (who had gathered the horde together and came with them to egg them on to attack). The most desperate fight of all took place after this. It lasted continuously for 26 hours, and so severely were the regulars handled in this affair—in which, by the way, the Armenians captured a welcome supply of guns and ammunition—that they left the refugees alone for nearly three weeks. By the time the next attack was made the Armenians had established communication with the French cruisers, which had been blockading the Syrian coast and were attracted by the waving on the shore, by the above-mentioned watching party, of a huge white flag having a red cross painted on it.

The cruisers lost no time in starting to rescue the Armenians. It took one and a-half days to get them all on board, and the embarkation took place under cover of shell fire directed at the Turks. The French vessels turned up in the nick of time, for the situation of the Armenians in the hills was becoming desperate; they were running short of food and ammunition, and the time was approaching when the weather would have forced them down from the hills. During the whole of the fighting the Armenians lost 21 killed and 16 wounded—the latter are now in hospital at Port Said—and they estimate the losses of the Turks at over 800 killed and wounded. One cannot help admiring the determination of these unfortunate folk to die fighting rather than accept deportation, which spelt death and mutilation in the end, and the marvellous resistance that they put up against such odds. At the same time, it does not say much for the quality of the troops now in Syria and Asia Minor that, with numbers and supplies in their favour, they should have been held at bay and worsted by such a handful of men.

That the Suedia Armenians were correct in their expectation of the fate that awaited them and theirs, if they had obeyed the authorities and allowed themselves to be peacefully deported, is proved by the authentic reports that have reached here of the treatment of their co-religionists in practically every part of Asia Minor. A fiat of extermination seems to have gone forth from Stamboul, and the extent of the massacres far exceeds any that were perpetrated under Abdul Hamid, whom the Young Turks are so fond of holding up as the murderer of defenceless women and children, and as the originator of all that was abominable and uncivilized in Turkey; whilst the manner of the execution of the fiat far excels in ingenuity, brutality and callousness anything that has occurred in Belgium or the North of France.

The Turks, as everyone knows, have always hated the Armenians, but have been hitherto kept in hand by the Powers, though occasionally, as was the case at Adana, they have given vent to their hatred. Since war started they have undoubtedly been waiting for an opportunity to make away with the objects of their hatred. But up to the beginning of May they left them, comparatively speaking, unmolested, only endeavouring to get as many men of military age as possible to pay the military exemption fee and to impress a good number of those who could not find the money into the labour battalions, where they have been used for making roads, digging trenches, etc.

The present outbreak seems to have been caused by the defeat of Enver by the Russians. The hot-headed, vainglorious Minister of War returned from the Caucasus, whither he had gone confident of victory, full of fury at his own discomfiture, and particularly enraged at the Armenians, who had been amongst the keenest fighters on the Russian side. He found ready sympathy in his colleague at the Interior, Talaat—the man who posed six years ago before the London public as the champion of liberty and civilization—who, having served his apprenticeship in such gentle matters, in the course of his expulsion of the Greeks from the Smyrna area after the last Balkan war, considered the moment propitious for putting into effect his long-nourished project for the extermination of the whole Armenian race. In issuing his orders for the execution of this dastardly design he is authoritatively reported to have said: "After this, for fifty years, there will be no Armenian Question!"

The receipt of the order by the provincial authorities had the effect of re-kindling the slumbering flame of hatred. With a zest that was worthy of a better cause, they flung themselves wholeheartedly into the fray, and atrocities and other abominations have been, and are being, perpetrated, such as Abdul Hamid, with all his reputed love for a good healthy massacre, never dreamed of. The German Consuls are everywhere active movers in this orgy of blood and lust, but the leading spirit is Talaat, ably seconded by his friend and adviser, the Jewish Baron Max von Oppenheim, who has had a varied and unsavoury career in Egypt, Turkey, and Asia Minor, in the "diplomatic" service of his Imperial master, and who has been the centre of Pan-Islamic and anti-English intrigue wherever he has tarried during the past decade.

In the case of the more important Armenians, the plea most favoured by the authorities has been to order them to proceed to some place in the interior. A conveyance is then provided, and the notables move off under escort. But they never reach their destination, for the escort invariably reports that *en route* they were attacked by brigands, and that in the scrimmage the latter killed the passengers! This was the procedure adopted in the case of Zohrab Eff., a noted member of the Turkish Parliament; Vartakez Eff., M.P. for Erzeroum, who had previously been singled out by Talaat for special display of friendship; Aghnuni Eff., one of the chief Dashnakists; Haladjian Eff., ex-Minister of Public Works; and Pasdermadjian Eff., ex-Minister of Agriculture, who were put into two carriages at Urfa for conveyance under escort to Diarbekir, and who were murdered on the way. (The death of Haladjian Eff. is unconfirmed, but there is reason to credit the report.)

But these instances of comparatively clean, straightforward killing have been the exception, and scarce a district but has been the scene of the very worst "abominations." In Erzeroum, Trebizond, and Van a terrible massacre was carried out by the Kurds. A large number of the Armenians managed to get across the Russian frontier, but they left behind them thousands of their brethren dead and mutilated, while those of their womenfolk and children who fell into Turkish hands suffered all the outrages that only a bestial mind can conceive. At Sivas, Samsoun, and Ordu similar

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treatment was meted out. At Marash and Aintab the women and children were sent off to Aleppo, and the men were either killed on the spot or taken off to the labour battalions. The German Consul at Aleppo, one Rossler, worthy colleague of Hardegg and Co., proceeded to Aintab to "superintend" operations. At Zeitoun a trick was played on the people. They were informed that only fifteen leading men would be deported—men whom the authorities said they suspected—and that if these men went the rest would be left undisturbed. The people acquiesced, but fifteen days later the authorities asked for 20 more; these went, and ten days later a further fifteen were demanded. When these had been given up there remained no leaders, and the crier was then sent round to say that all Armenians must be deported at once. They could not resist, and all were taken away to their different fates. Those who have studied Turkish history of late years are not surprised at this trick played on the Zeitoun Armenians by the authorities; for the military governor of North Syria, who is responsible for this, is Fakhry Pasha, the man who managed to persuade the Armenians of Adana to disarm, and so brought about the last massacre in that district. At Urfa, whither, at Baron von Oppenheim's instigation, all the European women and children interned at Damascus and elsewhere had been transferred, wholesale murders of Armenians were carried out before their eyes in the streets by the soldiers. There is at present in Alexandria an English child who witnessed some of these terrible sights.

In addition, Talaat seems to have drawn on history for a means of effecting his purpose with the least trouble. It may be recollected that formerly Constantinople was overrun with pariah dogs. The nuisance became so great that at last it was decided to deal drastically with it. So the poor brutes were rounded up and placed on a deserted island, where they eventually died of thirst and hunger. In like manner, thousands of Armenian women and children have been sent out into the Mesopotamian desert west of Mosul, where there is neither food nor water, or to a place between Aleppo and Baghdad, called Deir-es-Zor, where, it is true, there is water, but where no arrangements have been made to supply them with food. By this time those who have been sent out there must have died a lingering death. The "deportations," even from one centre to another, are carried out in a most inhuman and brutal manner. In the first place, the deportees are ordered to bring donkeys, mules, or horses, which the escort invariably ride themselves, leaving the owners to trudge along on foot. Secondly, only women and children are deported; the men are either killed or taken into the labour battalions. The reason is obvious. The escort forces them along, and literally over-drives them, with the result that the weaker women, those with child, and the children gradually fall out or collapse, and are left to die on the road, the task of the escort being thus lightened by the reduction in the number of its convoy. It is said that one can know exactly the route followed by one of these "deportation" parties by the dead bodies of women and children lying along it. This scheme of deportation is one of the most gruesome and ingenious methods of massacre by killing slowly that could well be conceived, and one that shows Talaat up as a greater exponent of the science of "Fürchterlichkeit" than his friends the Kultur protagonists themselves.

From all parts come the same terrible stories, of women publicly ravished or thrown into brothels, or handed over to favoured Moslems for the adornment of their harems, or deported wholesale, as narrated above; of children forcibly converted to Islam; of men hanged or crucified, or otherwise done to death, and horribly mutilated. The work of massacre is still going on. Bodies of hapless Armenians continue to come down the Tigris, into which they had been cast alive, tied together, two by two, and back to back—and it is difficult to say how many Armenians have been exterminated already. Competent authorities put the number at not far short of 200,000. Whilst it is quite impossible to verify this figure, there is no shadow of doubt whatsoever that this is easily, by reason of its nature and the scale on which it is being carried out, the largest, most barbarous, and most revolting massacre that has ever been attempted in the history of the Near East.

But whilst the massacre of these helpless people is bad enough, and demands the exaction of the sternest retribution, the danger is even greater than appears on the surface. These brutal atrocities are for the most part being carried out either with direct official sanction or under the eyes and with the cognizance of the officials; and the fear is that this encouragement will cause the Turks and Kurds to acquire a thirst for blood and then turn on the other Christians in the country. There is a rumour that orders have gone from Constantinople to stop the attacks on the Armenians; but as long as Talaat is in power such statements should not be trusted, for he is probably only doing what he did in connection with the Greek massacres in Smyrna, when, in deference to the outcry in Europe, he made a tour of the districts and announced officially that the massacres had been stopped, when all the while he was encouraging their continuation. The danger is as great for the subjects of the netural Powers as it is for those of the Entente, and unless the worst is to be risked, something will have to be done to bring pressure to bear on the clique that is responsible at Stamboul to force it to cry halt to the abominable state of affairs which the closing days of the Turkish Empire have brought into being.

AMERICA AND THE ARMENIANS.

A Reuter's message from Washington, dated October 4, states: Mr. Morgenthau, the American Ambassador in Constantinople, has been instructed to inform the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs that, unless the Armenian massacres cease, friendly relations between the United States and Turkey will be threatened. It is explained by State Department officials that a diplomatic break with Turkey is not contemplated. What is threatened is the breaking of the friendly relations between the American people and the people of Turkey.

The *Daily Chronicle* learns that an offer to transport to America the whole of the Armenians now being driven from their homes by the Turks has been made to the Porte by Mr. Morgenthau. Horrified by the terrible massacres and cruelties which accompanied the removal of the Armenians from their homes, and by his helplessness to assist them through the usual channels, the Ambassador offered to make himself personally responsible for a million dollars and to find other men in the United States to raise another four millions—a million sterling in all—the money to be spent in emigrating the remaining Armenians to America.

LIFE IN CONSTANTINOPLE.

A letter just received from Constantinople by a correspondent gives some details regarding the state of affairs in the Turkish capital which tend to confirm the reports of distress that find their way through from other quarters. The Dolma Baghtshé gasworks are closed, and the railways are using half wood and half coal. Bread is black and difficult to obtain. "Moda and San Stefano are practically two large hospitals; that is to say, every house has been taken over for the wounded." Hotels and cafés have been ordered to place lights outside their doors to light up the streets at night. The English High School for Boys has been turned into a hospital, and the Turks have taken over and occupied several British houses in Chichili.

SERBIA ON THE KINEMATOGRAPH.

Colonel Ahearne, who was in charge of the expedition sent in June last to the relief of the wounded and suffering in Serbia by the Wounded Allies' Relief Committee, gave an address last Wednesday at the West End Kinema, Coventry Street, London, in which he briefly recounted how the Balkan States gained their independence; he also gave some account of the country. The lecture was illustrated by the kinematograph views being shown of Salonika, Nish, Mladenovatz, Kragujevatz, and other places in Greece and Serbia. One of the pictures was that of the villa where Abdul Hamid was imprisoned by the Young Turks, behind a high wall specially built to intern him, with 250 soldiers to guard him.

A picture was shown of King Peter of Serbia, and the lecturer told how once, when the fortunes of the army seemed desperate, the King told his men that he absolved them from their oath to himself. From their oath to their country he could not absolve them; but if any wished to return to their homse, he promised they should not be proceeded against. Needless to say, all remained. Another picture was that of Marko Kralievitch, born at Prilip, a Serbian king and hero. Kralievitch died in 1394, but, according to a local legend, he and his horse, Sharatz, are still living in a neighbouring cave. Marko, having buried his sword in the vault, lay down to sleep; but Sharatz nibbles at the moss before him, and little by little the sword is edged out of the stone. When Sharatz shall have finished the moss and the sword shall have fallen to earth, Marko will awaken and reappear in the world.

The Turks have definite names for the Greeks who inhabit Ottoman territory and for those who are their own masters (says a writer in the *Daily Chronicle*). The latter are Yunan and their country Yunanistan—names derived from "Ionia"; while the Greeks and Turks are Rûm. By origin this is simply "Romans," and is an inheritance from the Byzantine days, when the inhabitants of Constantinople, the New Rome, were called Romaioi, while the provincials were known as Helladikoi. "Rûm" was the conquering Turks' name for the Byzantine Empire. It survives in Rumelia, while the popular Greek language of the present day is still known as Romaic. But every Greek, in Greece or in Turkey, calls himself a Hellene.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST

Ferdinand of Bulgaria.

During the past week innumerable articles upon Bulgaria, the Bulgarians, and their ruler have appeared in the Press. The Bulgarians themselves have found at least as many friends, if not as many champions, as they have enemies, or hostile critics. But upon the whole the articles upon King Ferdinand have been more candid than complimentary. The following extracts are taken from two of the best of these articles that we have read. The first two are from "King Ferdinand, a Personal Sketch," by a Hungarian correspondent of the *Morning Post* (October 5), the others from "Ferdinand of Bulgaria: 'The Balkan Nero,'" in the *Times* of October 6:—

Neither M. Radoslavoff nor any other Bulgarian politician is strong enough to direct the destinies of his country against the will of King Ferdinand. His egoism and ambition brought about the disaster of the second Balkan War, and will in all likelihood bring about another; and his sympathies and interests are so bound up with the Central Empires that every step he takes is dictated entirely by personal motives and not in accordance with the good of his country.

King Ferdinand, as I mentioned above, spends a few months every year in Hungary on his extensive estates in the northern plains, where he owns a great deal of land and has a castle and magnificent shooting. His guests relate that the King speaks Hungarian perfectly, and often enters into conversation with the peasants working on his estates. The bulk of his fortune is in Hungary, his private income there being three million kronen (£120,000) a year. In Hungary he calls himself Count Murány, an ancient Hungarian name.

Fear and cunning, to which are joined inordinate ambition, are the chief characteristics of Ferdinand of Bulgaria. To himself he seems a much-wronged and misunderstood man—*Un roi incompris*. He never tires of pouring into sympathetic ears the greatness of his services to Bulgaria, or of dilating upon the sufferings he has borne and the sacrifices he has made on her behalf. But he has his moments of cynical self-revelation.

The better part of Ferdinand of Bulgaria disappeared with the death, in 1907, of his mother, Princess Clémentine of Coburg, daughter of Louis Philippe. She had worked, intrigued, and spent vast sums for him, and had lent a certain quality of manliness to his policy. He took no step without consulting her. At every critical turn, when she was absent from Sofia, the Bulgarian Minister at Vienna would be dispatched post haste to her residence of Ebenthal. There, owing to her extreme deafness, questions had to be written on slips of paper. She would reply orally. After one protracted consultation, the slips of paper had accumulated into a goodly heap, and the Minister, as he left the presence of his Sovereign's mother, cast a wistful glance at the tell-tale record of the way he had discharged his mission. "Burn them," said the Princess, and the Minister departed reassured. Princess Clémentine always "played the game." This quality formed no part of the rich inheritance she bequeathed to her son.

"The Ambassador."

Readers of THE NEAR EAST are well aware of the debt our countrymen in Turkey, and those who have left that country since the war also, owe to the United States Ambassador. They know, too, how deeply grateful our countrymen are for the unvarying kindness he showed them and his strenuous efforts on their behalf. They will, therefore, read with particular interest the following extract from an article, "A Democrat in Constantinople," in the *Independent* (New York) of September 27:—

Henry Morgenthau has made the United States a force in the diplomacy of Constantinople. That he has been able to use the opportunities that have come to him, and to sustain his responsibilities with success, is due in large part to the man's personal power. This power in turn seems to have its roots in the Ambassador's single-minded adherence to certain ideals which we count peculiarly American, an adherence which attracts attention and arouses pride in those of us in the American colony who have seen him at work this winter.

Mr. Morgenthau is a delightful man to meet. He is absolutely genuine. At the first encounter I was sure of two things: that while Mr. Morgenthau never pretends to be what he is not, he never allows anyone to estimate him at less than he is. Picture a small man, grey haired and rather bald, with good shoulders, and a head set slightly forward on them; keen eyes, a mouth which smiles so much that the stern lines about it are not much in evidence, a decided chin with a close-cropped beard, a brisk step and a hearty manner, and you have "the Ambassador"—so he is known to high and low of many nations in Constantinople.

Perhaps our most boasted American ideal is democracy. We fall short in it often enough, but in Pera, devoted to the etiquette of Continental diplomacy, the virtue is a very rare article, and this renders Mr. Morgenthau's possession of it very conspicuous.

For Future Guidance.

The following extract taken from an interview with Sir Edwin Pears, which appeared in last Friday's *Standard*, refers to a subject which is not a new one to readers of THE NEAR EAST. Sir Edwin's words will no doubt find an echo in the hearts of many of our countrymen lately resident in Constantinople:—

"In diplomatic circles, prior to the war, we were at a grave disadvantage as compared with Germany," said Sir Edwin yesterday to a *Standard* representative, "and all through a matter that might easily have been remedied. When Sir Louis Mallet was Ambassador there he was in the unfortunate position of never having been in Turkey and of knowing no Turkish. He had three secretaries, but these were at the same disadvantage. Opposed to them was the German Ambassador, with the finest staff of secretaries and interpreters in Constantinople. We had had a first-class dragoman, Mr. G. H. Fitzmaurice, with a great knowledge of Turkey and speaking the language like a native, but my belief is that the Turkish Ambassador in England requested that when Sir Louis Mallet returned to Constantinople Mr. Fitzmaurice should not return with him. The result was that the Ambassador was left without an interpreter fit for the post. . . . Now, at the time the Ambassador was handicapped in the way I have mentioned there were three men in Constantinople in the Consular Service who were just as good as any that the Germans had. One was Sir Adam Block, who had been first dragoman at the Embassy, and was highly approved by Sir William White, Sir Philip Currie, and others. He, however, had passed out of the Consular Service as far as he could, and had become the representative of the British bondholders on the Council of Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt—in other words, he had become a Turkish instead of a British servant. Another was Mr. Robert Graves, and the third a Mr. Lamb. Mr. Lamb had been first dragoman, but chose to become Consular-General at Salonika. One of these three men should have been called immediately to act as dragoman to Sir Louis Mallet."

But that, of course, would have been "irregular"!

Bulgaria.

The following extracts from the British Press regarding Bulgaria's choice, which have appeared under various dates during the past week, afford interesting indications of the general English attitude towards that country. The *Morning Post* (October 2) regrets that Britain may be forced to draw her sword against a second of her friends, Bulgaria, in addition to Turkey, and adds of Bulgaria:—

She must make her choice according to her lights, but this much is certain—England must win, because her Fleet holds Germany by the throat, and can force her, in time, to disgorge all she has swallowed. She is willing to meet Bulgaria half-way, but if the sword is drawn now against us, her old friends, it is and must be *Finis Bulgariæ*.

The *Westminster Gazette* (October 4) refers to the miscalculations of the Central Empires:—

Certainly it was not supposed that Greece would mobilize when Bulgaria did, and still less that there would be a new and formidable offensive by the Western Allies. In existing circumstances, any formidable new enterprise by the Central Powers in this region must be a dangerous addition to their commitments, and this particular enterprise will have moral and political results that in the long run must much more than neutralize any immediate military advantage.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* (October 4) has a word to add in reference to Roumania:—

If the troops of the Entente Powers are ready to take the field simultaneously with those of Greece, there will soon be other things for King Ferdinand to think about than the mutilation of his neighbours. Other wavering scales in the Balkans may be decided in their final inclination by prompt and decisive measures. Germany and Austria are still trying to persuade Roumania to connivance at the passage of munitions into Turkey. The counsels of Bucharest are intricate and sometimes obscure, but they might be rapidly disentangled by a display of resolute action on the part of ourselves and our Allies.

Mr. Lovat Fraser, in the concluding sentences of an article upon "Why Bulgaria is Taking the Wrong Turning," which he contributes to the *Daily Mail* (October 4), writes:—

Should Bulgaria range herself on the side of the Germanic Powers, I think Tsar Ferdinand will have decreed his own political extinction and the Bulgarian nation will have shattered its own bright future. Serbia has an army of brave veterans. The gallant Greek army has in recent years shown its prowess and has greatly increased its strength. Roumania is still undeclared. The Roumanian army is the biggest in the Balkans, and I personally believe the Roumanian troops to be more than a match for the Bulgarians. No one who has examined the Grivitza Redoubts at Plevna and studied on the spot the story of Roumania's deeds of arms can doubt that the war has further surprises in store should Roumania unsheathe her sword.

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Mesopotamia.

In commenting upon the recent victory in Mesopotamia, the *Manchester Courier* (September 30) says:—

From a trade point of view it is eminently desirable that Baghdad should be under the control of the British. At all times a great commercial centre, it will derive new importance from the Euphrates Railway, the concession for which was obtained by Germany from the Sultan Abdul Hamid. Water carriage will probably always be cheaper from this country, but in any case it is desirable that the administration of such an important distributing centre for Persia and Mesopotamia should be out of Ottoman hands! In more directions than one Enver Bey has injured his countrymen.

The *Times*, in a leading article on the same subject, is eulogistic regarding the scope and effect of Sir John Nixon's success, and, after referring to the hardships which our soldiers have necessarily been forced to endure in the course of their advance, continues:—

Their operations have exercised a considerable influence on the movements of the Turks in other regions, and this influence will doubtless become more pronounced after this latest success. Now that the temperature is becoming less intolerable, that the inundations are subsiding and the soil is hardening, their progress promises to be continued at a more rapid rate.

The *Daily Chronicle* (September 30) compares the campaign with that of the Nile, which it considers the campaign resembles more nearly than any other in the present war.

It is, however, a harder task, not only because the enemy have considerable forces of Turkish regulars with artillery, but because, instead of having one river-valley to deal with, he has two, the Tigris and the Euphrates, and also the troublesome Persian country on his right flank. Our success in this quarter has a distinct effect in weakening Turkey, who has lost large forces there, and is also losing large sources of revenue. It stands entirely to the credit of the Indian Army, whose high organization and capacity for Asiatic warfare it has shown in a most favourable light.

A View on the Bosphorus.

From "Two Bosphorus Castles," the second of three excellent "Turkish Sketches" contributed to the October *Blackwood* by W. J. C., we take the following passage, descriptive of the prospect from Roumeli Hissar:—

No other Bosphorus views equal those to be had here. You must be 300 ft. above the water, and yet it is so immediately below that you think a stone might be tossed into it. Vessels are seen as if looked down upon from a bridge. You look down also on the red roofs of the village within the castle and of the greater village without, and upon the massive waterside tower on which tradition says that Mahomet II. stood and watched his guns being fired. Gazing southward, the Bosphorus and its recurring headlands and bays are open to Stamboul and the Sea of Marmora, and northward as far as Beicos. The wooded hills enclosing the valley of the Sweet Waters, and Canlija and Candilli heights both dotted with houses, seem to rise the greater for your own lofty position, and to be close at hand beyond a blue river flowing in its gorge. Only inland, behind you, is the scene out of harmony. There, at the foot of the tower, begin the buildings of an American college—Robert College, of fame throughout Turkey and the Balkan States—whose buildings are great, and raw, and modern, and have no grace of created surroundings, although in a noble position.

Constantinople Transformed.

Under the above heading Mr. A. Robert Mountsier, literary editor of *Judge* (New York), contributes an interesting article to the *Daily News* (October 2). After being afforded the fullest possible opportunities for study of the internal conditions of Turkey during the last two months, he has come to the conclusion that the country is fighting without heart. He says that "Business is bad, food is dearer, and bread is scarce." On one occasion a food riot occurred at a time when every shop was hung with flags in honour of a great victory over the British.

"We want bread, not flags," shouted one woman, and the crowd took up the cry. Then a riot broke out, and the flags on the bakery and on the neighbouring buildings were torn down. When help came to the lone policeman about a dozen women were arrested and thrown into gaol. If they were fortunate enough to receive bread and water while there, bread riots might have become exceedingly popular in Constantinople.

The poorer classes of people, hearing of victory after victory, argue simply, but effectively, "If our soldiers are victorious, why don't our husbands, our sons come back to us? Why are there so many wounded? Why don't we have all the bread we want?"

According to this neutral observer, the Young Turk leaders are busily occupied in lining their pockets against all eventualities.

The disappearance of public moneys is so well known that rarely is a Turk to be seen putting anything into the "For the National Defence" cans, which are shoved under one's nose in the street, on tramcars, in restaurants, in public gardens, everywhere but in the home. Nor is the Turkish public any longer contributing freely to the funds of the Red Crescent.

He concludes his article in the following ominous words:—

So long as they are successful, the Turks will endure the Germans and take all the credit for this success to themselves; but when the dark days come—well, I should not like to be a German in Constantinople, and least of all a Young Turk official.

A correspondent of the *Petit Parisien*, who at great personal risk succeeded in entering Constantinople, has much the same tale to tell. He found the Germans dominant and swaggering everywhere, and comments upon the fact that there was never a hostile cry or a discordant note among a large crowd when a string of British prisoners were marched by under guard. A few people, men and women, offered them cigarettes, that was all. This writer concludes his observations in the paragraph quoted below:—

The situation is distinctly bad. Munitions are beginning to fail. This war is unpopular with the Turks, and the Germans, who pretend that they are the friends of Turkey and treat them like savages, are also unpopular.

It is a pitiful picture of the depths to which the formerly proud and independent Turk has been reduced by Enver and his crew, with the brutal fist of the German officer. It is almost incredible to those who know the Turk that they should have submitted so long, and the statement that the day the Allies enter will be a day of rejoicing need astonish nobody. May it not be far distant!

Articles to Note.

"Bulgaria's Debt to Russia," by E. B. Osborn, in the *Morning Post* (October 1).

"The Tsar of Bulgaria: A Romance of Royalty" and "Balkan Armies," in the *Daily Chronicle* (October 2).

"Bulgaria's Problem" (interview with Sir E. Pears), in the *Westminster Gazette* (October 2).

"The Charmer: A Study of the Tsar of the Bulgarians," by Edward Legge, in the *Pall Mall Gazette* (October 5).

"Greece and the War," in the *Manchester Guardian* (October 6).

"Turkish Sketches," by W. J. C., and "A Dardanelles Exploit," by One Who Took Part in It," in *Blackwood's Magazine* (October).

"The Destiny of Egypt," by H. T. Montague Bell, in *United Empire* (October).

"Stamboul Before the War," in the *Evening Standard* (September 30).

"In and Out of Constantinople," by Mrs. Alan Bethbridge, in the *Outlook* (October 2).

"Constantinople to Berlin," by A. Robert Mountsier, in the *Daily News* (October 4).

"The Islanders," in the *Globe* (October 2).

THE ALBANIAN COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Albanian Committee was held on September 14, at 7, Pall Mall. The notice convening the meeting said:—"At this time it is felt that the following declarations of the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary call for all the reinforcement that can be given to them. Mr. Asquith, speaking at the Guildhall on September 4, 1914, said:—'We have not drawn the sword without due consideration, nor will we sheathe it again until the rights of the small nationalities are established on unassailable bases.' Sir Edward Grey, speaking at Bechstein Hall on March 23 last, said:—'We wish the nations of Europe to be free to live their independent lives, working out their own forms of government for themselves and their own development, whether they be great States or small States, in full liberty. That is our ideal.' It is felt that the Albanian Committee might now with some effect appeal to the Government to continue to stand by the Albanian Nationality, and so consummate all that this country has done for it."

The Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary were informed of the meeting and its purpose, and invited to send any message they might desire the meeting to consider. Mr. Asquith, in reply, said he had no new message to send, and Sir Edward Grey's reply was that he had nothing to add to the statement quoted in the notice convening the meeting.

The committee unanimously passed a resolution that in view of the statements made by the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary, that the great object of the war was the protection of the smaller nations, this meeting of the Albanian Committee of London ventures to impress upon Ministers of the Crown our obligations towards the Albanians now struggling for the integrity of their land, for liberty and life, and urges upon Ministers the duty of securing freedom for the most ancient nationality in the Balkan Peninsula. It was agreed to forward copies of the resolution to all His Majesty's Ministers.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

One day this week I had a long conversation with a business man from Alexandria who is at the present moment in London. Whatever his opinion of the political situation may be, he is at least frankly optimistic as regards Egypt's economic situation. There was, he admits, a decided decrease in the tourist traffic last year, but the presence in the country of so many of our soldiers has more than recompensed for the loss of sightseers. The natives of Cairo, Alexandria, and Port Said, who in previous years eked out a questionable existence, have been overwhelmed with "Tommy's" spending powers, and are now in clover. The country people, peasants and landowners, are likewise doing well, selling food produce at good, and cotton at excellent, prices. Hotels in Alexandria are doing remarkably well, and so they are at Port Said, and in the central districts of Cairo, European stores and shops—especially the few British stores—are likewise doing extremely well, or, to use my informant's expression, are coining money. From the above account it would really seem that Egypt, economically speaking, is not to be pitied: exports are increasing from month to month, and, as always happens in such cases, the country's purchasing powers abroad, or her imports, increase likewise. Therefore, the frank optimism which characterises the articles from our Cairo Correspondent on Egyptian trade and finances, published elsewhere in the current issue of THE NEAR EAST, is fully justified. Let us hope that nothing will occur to alter the present favourable economic situation.

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I have received an announcement to the effect that the Eastern Bank, Limited, of 4, Crosby Square, E.C., have opened a branch at Busreh, Persian Gulf, and have been appointed bankers to the Government of India at that port. I congratulate the bank on its initiative. Before the war broke out it opened an office in Baghdad, and, in spite of the troubles which have harassed the Ottoman Empire during the past few years, was doing remarkably well. There has always been a fair trade between India and the head of the Gulf, and it is likely to grow considerably as soon as the present political situation has cleared up. I, therefore, do not doubt that the Eastern Bank will make a success of its new venture.

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In the current issue of *Kelly's Monthly Trade Review*, an appeal is made for the creation in London of a Roumanian Chamber of Commerce. The idea is an excellent one, but I doubt if the time is opportune for its formation. With the Balkans again in the melting-pot, or just about to be thrown in, no steps of a commercial nature tending to increase our foreign trade are likely to be taken. I hope, however, that, when the war is over, the scheme will be revived, because, as the writer points out, "Owing to the stand taken by Roumania, it is clear that she will have to introduce drastic changes in her old commercial relations. New outlets and new sources of supply will have to be found. The trading instinct is naturally well-developed, and so we need not wonder that the business folk of Bucharest, Braila, Galatz, etc., are already taking steps to prevent a commercial deadlock." We can help her (concludes the article), and to this end the foundation of a strong Anglo-Roumanian Chamber of Commerce in London should be set about "without delay." The last phrase is, as I have pointed out, of questionable wisdom, and unfortunately inopportune.

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We publish on another page some particulars concerning Greek shipping. The development within recent years of the mercantile marine of Greece has been in every way remarkable, and the present war has, up to the present, proved a veritable gold mine to the Greek shipper. With freights extraordinarily high, and very little competition, he has been able to make huge profits and at the same time to acquire new and important markets. The turn events have taken in the Near East will temporarily affect the number of Greek vessels available for transport, principally owing to the fact that the Greek Government has requisitioned as many as it could lay hands on. As one-eighth of the Welsh coal shipped here is carried in Greek vessels, a considerable gap will be caused in the supply of bottoms available for the carriage of coal outwards from this country. This will mean higher rates, already abnormally high. As stated, for the time being, Greek shipping will be affected by the requisitioning order, but, unless King Constantine rushes into the Kaiser's arms, the dislocation will by no means be permanent. Should "Tino," however, do the incredible thing, it will be a sorry day for Greek shipping.

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In connection with the rapid development of the Greek mercantile fleet, the following extracts from an article which appeared last week in the *Morning Post* are of interest. After asserting that the lay mind can realise but little of the extent to which the Greek mercantile navy has increased within recent years, the writer observes that since the war began, "Greek shipowners have participated to the fullest extent in the large profits which have been made; they have enjoyed the full freedom of the seas, and in most markets they have shared equally with British shipowners the prosperity which has resulted to the whole shipping community but without any of its accompanying disabilities." The writer then adds: "The strong point of the Greek shipowner is his ability to buy and sell vessels at a profit. While engaged in running tramp steamers with the fullest benefit to himself, his dealings in steamships bring him in considerable sums. Most of these profits, although made in this country, and by virtue of the safety conferred upon Greek steamers by the British Navy, are untaxed, as they are, of course, securely banked in Greece. In addition, the Greek shipping community has consistently purchased neutral and British tonnage, mostly of the best type, for some years past, and even at the present greatly enhanced price of shipping a Greek purchaser can nearly always be found for a good neutral vessel. The result has been that the Greek steamer is found in nearly every trade in the world."

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Our Bucharest correspondent, writing on the 19th of last month, stated that on the previous Wednesday gold to the value of fifteen million francs arrived at that capital from Germany in transit for Constantinople. It arrived in a first-class carriage, runs the story, and weighed four tons, being packed in ninety-seven cases, part specie and part ingot. The object of this considerable sum in gold is said to be to enable the Ottoman Treasury to issue Treasury bonds. It will be remembered that some time ago there was a question of the issue of such bonds to the value of £T6,000,000, to be guaranteed by the surplus of certain tithes held for the Ottoman Government by the Public Debt Administration. This scheme fell through, and Djavid Bey obtained in Berlin and Vienna a loan of £T6,000,000 in gold, which was deposited, so it is said, in the Reichsbank, and accredited to the Ottoman Debt Administration. To the best of my belief, banknotes to the value of £T6,000,000 were subsequently issued, guaranteed by the Ottoman Debt Administration. The 15,000,000 francs mentioned by our correspondent can hardly have reference to the above issue of notes, and we must, therefore assume either that a further bond issue is contemplated by the Ottoman Treasury or that a certain amount of gold has been acquired by Turkey against banknotes in Germany for the purpose of salaries—ministerial salaries rather than those owing to smaller officials. On the other hand, it is just possible that the gold is not intended to reach Constantinople, but that its real destination, as soon as it has crossed the Danube, is Sofia, rather than Stamboul.

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I wish to call the attention of my readers to the North-West Tannery Company, of Cawnpore. This company occupies a unique position among Indian industrial firms on account of the great variety of leather, and articles made of leather, which they manufacture. In addition to tanning and currying leather of almost every kind in enormous quantities, the firm in question also manufactures all kinds of articles of which leather is the principal component part. Their saddlery, harness, and equipment are famed throughout India and the Far East for their durability, style, and moderate price, and no finer travelling requisites can be found in any other part of the globe. As India is a happy hunting ground for the sportsman, the North-West Tannery take full advantage of this fact and make a speciality of tanning and dressing crocodile, buck, nilgai, sambhar, snake, or python skins and adapting them for trunks, bags, cases, etc., which serve both as useful and ornamental trophies. They also do a most extensive taxidermy business. Their boot and shoe department turns out about 1,000 pairs of boots and shoes per day.

COMMENTATOR.

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The Future of Cyprus.

Mr. J. R. Van Millingen contributes an article on "Cyprus: Its Present and Future," in the current issue of the *Contemporary Review*, from which the following extracts are reproduced. After going carefully into the history of our Convention with Turkey, whereby we occupied the island and paid the Ottoman Government a yearly tribute (appropriated for the service of the 1855 Ottoman Loan), the writer refers to the improvements introduced by us in the island, principally social reforms, and then says:—

Want of Funds.

But we placed no initial capital at the disposal of Cyprus, and the development of its resources was, in consequence, greatly retarded. The fact that we only held it on conditional trust, and not as a permanency, precluded the possibility of its contracting any loan for such development, and the same reason held back private speculators and capitalists who otherwise might have embarked on enterprises beneficial to it. Further, the tribute hung like a harpy over the unfortunate island, snatching away the surplus of revenue it urgently needed for the afforestation of the mountains which had been stripped of their trees, for the construction of roads, waterworks, harbours, the development of agriculture, and numberless other requirements. Grants, it is true, were made from time to time by Great Britain, but the average was only £31,500 a year—and what could be done with such a pittance? Nevertheless, our Cyprus officials did their best, and although it took them the best part of thirty-six years, they can record the construction of over 760 miles of main roads, besides 1,000 miles of secondary roads and 2,000 bridges and culverts, where formerly there were practically none. The old Venetian port of Famagusta has also been made available for steamers of heavy draught, and a railway connects it with the Bay of Morphu on the other extremity of the island. As a proof of the steady prosperity of Cyprus we may mention that the population, which in 1878 was 180,000, has increased to over 280,000, and the imports and exports, which were £177,651 and £157,328 respectively, stood in 1911 at £635,427 and £702,803.

An Agricultural Country.

Cyprus is pre-eminently an agricultural country, but the inadequate funds in the hands of the authorities have not allowed any very marked developments in that line. Agricultural schools have been established, but the great desideratum of the island is water, and the rainfall is scanty and undependable. The scarcity of rain is doubtless due to the ruthless deforestation of the country, once renowned for its splendid forests, by its Venetian, Turkish, and other occupants. Want of funds has prevented anything being done for its afforestation except the fencing of certain districts to prevent the destruction of saplings by goats. Another remedy for the scarcity of water is the construction of dams for storing the waste which in winter rushes into the sea. A modest attempt in this direction was made in 1897, but for various reasons was practically a failure. Here again afforestation is necessary to retard evaporation.

Mr. Van Millingen proceeds to analyze the entry of Turkey into the war against us, and believes that the opportunity now presents itself for settling the Tribute question:—

Settlement of the Tribute.

The Tribute, as already stated, has been applied by us, in part, to meet the service of the Ottoman 1858 loan, which was guaranteed by Great Britain and France, and payment of which was suspended by the Porte in 1875. The original amount was £5,000,000, with interest at 4 per cent. and a sinking fund of 1 per cent. The security given was the Customs revenues of Smyrna and Syria. At the time of the Ottoman default the outstanding amount was £3,815,000. All the bonds have since been drawn, but have remained unpaid; the interest, however, of £152,608 a year has been regularly met by our Exchequer—£70,000 being derived from the Egyptian Tribute to Turkey, and the balance of £82,608 from that of Cyprus. Why France, who co-operated with us in guaranteeing the loan, was not called upon to meet her share of the engagement need not here be explained. Both Governments will now doubtless see that in the final settlement with Turkey the capital of this loan shall form part of our claim on the Porte, and that thus Cyprus is delivered from the yoke which has pressed so heavily upon it.

The Baghdad Railway.

Cyprus stands as a sentinel across the Gulf of Alexandretta, and it was doubtless this geographical feature, as well as its proximity to Egypt, which influenced Lord Beaconsfield to contract with Turkey for its occupancy by us. Some of us may think that Crete, with the best natural harbours of the Mediterranean, would have been more valuable than Cyprus, which has no corresponding natural harbours, and which now stands considerably out of the direct course of navigation. But with the near prospect that the Mediterranean terminus of the Baghdad-Busreh Railway will lie in the Gulf of Alexandretta, the future will vindicate the wisdom of Lord Beaconsfield's selection. Alexandretta to Busreh will not only be our alternate, but our shortest, way to India, and our duty is to guard it. It will be remembered that in the original survey made by Telford for a Euphrates railway, and submitted to our Parliament, long before any German scheme was contemplated, Alexandretta was indicated as the most advantageous terminus. It is the natural port of Mesopotamia, and in proposals for a railway concession which the writer laid before the Sublime Porte some thirty-five years ago, emphasis was laid on the advantages of this starting point and the crossing of the Euphrates near Aleppo. The concession was refused by the Military Council, influenced doubtless by Germany, "for strategic reasons." When either line is open Cyprus will no longer be outside the trade line of shipping, but within it.

In the subsequent German-made plans, Beyrout was chosen as the Baghdad port on the Mediterranean, and then again Alexandretta was reverted to.

Both Beyrout and Alexandretta are equidistant from Cyprus, and are dominated by it. When either line is open, Cyprus will no longer be outside the trade line of shipping, but within it. Further, with the future of Syria and Palestine in the melting pot, and the possibility of a *coup de main* on the Suez Canal, our interests call upon us to consolidate our position in the island, which, under certain eventualities, might prove a very important station for the concentration of troops and the storage of supplies and ammunition.

ROUMANIAN NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, September 19.

3,000 wagons of the 4,400 wagons of Silesian coal which the Roumanian Government has ordered in Germany are destined for the Bucharest gasworks, and the remainder for those at Galatz. After the extraction of the gas, the coke will be put on sale to the public at a price to be fixed by Government.

Negotiations are in progress between the Greek and Roumanian Governments for the purchase by the former of Roumanian wheat. Up till now Greece has always purchased large quantities of American wheat. It seems unlikely, however, that Greece will be willing to pay the extraordinarily high prices obtaining at present here, and paid by Germany and Austria.

During the month of August 86,110 tons of cereals and flour passed the Roumanian frontiers for Germany and Austria-Hungary. From April to August the quantity exported was 32,718 wagons, or 327,180 tons. During the same period last year 854,760 tons were exported by rail.

The Ministry of Commerce brings to the notice of importers of goods viâ Salonika that it is very necessary that the respective bills of lading bear the words "In transit for Roumania," and that instructions in the above sense should be given to shippers abroad.

Great Britain has acceded to the demand made by the Roumanian Government for the supply of rice necessary for the country's needs, but only on the condition that the Roumanian authorities prohibit the re-exportation to Germany or Austria.

M. J. Jonesco has left for Salonika, where he is charged by the Ministry of Commerce to receive the goods, etc., ordered in Great Britain by the Roumanian Government.

TRADE OF SALONIKA

In spite of its sadly troubled career, Salonika remains the principal Ægean port of the Balkan Peninsula, says a writer in *Kelly's Monthly Trade Review*, through which practically all of Macedonia's imports pass, and most of the exports, while two-thirds of those of Albania find their way in or out by way of this busy mart. The terminus of four important railway systems, it taps by this means Albania by way of Monastir, north-western Macedonia to the confines of Novi-Bazar, Serbia, Bulgaria, and the whole of the vilayet of Adrianople right to Constantinople. Normally its imports are valued at something like £3,000,000 and its exports at £1,500,000. Since it has passed from the hands of the Turks great improvements have been made both as regards the harbour itself and the town. The former has been made more accessible and commodious, the latter more sanitary and capable of affording hospitality. A trade of close upon £5,000,000 is a considerable one for a single port, but it is small compared to what it is destined to be. Not only must the transit trade, both inward and outward, to Albania, Serbia, Bulgaria, greatly increase, but Macedonia will before long add enormously to the commerce, for the country at the back of this port could well bear immense and diversified crops, fine flocks and herds. Naturally in a country where warfare has been endemic for long years, agricultural, pastoral, and industrial development has been slow, and received many setbacks, the population has become partly nomadic, but in spite of this has increased. Given peace, the growth of population will become more marked and the produce of the country will go up by leaps and bounds. In Macedonia, as in Bulgaria, we are sure to witness rapid improvement in urban areas. All that will mean increase of trade, and the people, having more to sell, will have the wherewithal for bigger purchases.

How are the Macedonian buyers to be reached? No doubt we should send out competent commercial travellers as soon as travelling about is possible. But we must recognize local customs, remember the ancient rôle of Salonika as a mart and *entrepôt*. It is the side of trade organization that British commerce should set to work at once to develop. Salonika must be provided with commercial houses handling both exports and imports, but, above all, which hold on hand a fair stock of the goods offered for sale. Such goods must be on view, and as far as possible ready for immediate delivery. The essential point, however, is that British manufactures of various kinds should be constantly on view, ready for inspection by the merchants doing business in the port, coming to the markets and banks from outlying towns and districts, or even passing through from Serbia to Bulgaria. Salonika is a great international mart, an ever-open market or fair, and so we must keep British goods, or at all events ample samples thereof, constantly on view. That is how flourishing business can be built up, for it is a system understood by the people most concerned.

As for the goods most in demand, these include textiles, agricultural, industrial, and domestic machinery, hardware, steel and other metals (wrought and partly wrought), and chemicals. Much else is wanted, and demand for more will follow as circumstances improve.

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Greek Shipping.

In view of the possible entry of Greece into the arena of hostilities and the fact that the Greek Government has requisitioned as many of the vessels of that nationality as they can place their hands on, some statistics concerning the Greek mercantile marine will doubtless be of interest to our readers. The following particulars are taken from an article by Mr. A. Andreades and published in the *Journal des Economistes* before Italy entered the war.

"On March 5, at a lecture on Greek finances, I stated that the profits to be made by the Greek mercantile marine in 1914-15 could be estimated at 100 million francs. Several of my friends having asked for further details concerning my estimate, I shall give them here.

"I do not wish to enter into particulars concerning the development of the Greek mercantile marine. It is only necessary to remind my readers that Greece is, after Norway, the country which has the largest mercantile marine in proportion to its population, and that the Greek mercantile marine has developed in the last thirty years more rapidly than that of any other country including Norway, as shown by the following table :—

	1883. Tons.	1908. Tons.	1912. Tons.
Great Britain..	3,823,000	6,737,000	10,784,104
Germany.....	546,000	1,017,000	2,911,087
Norway	77,000	394,000	1,019,987
France.....	444,000	502,000	942,593
Italy.....	112,000	265,000	677,209
Russia.....	98,000	214,000	440,519
Greece	26,000	87,000	402,137

"Regarding the intrinsic evolution of the Greek mercantile marine (I refer only to steamships because the sailing vessel is doomed) the following table will show its rapid increase :—

Year.	Vessels.	Tons.
1875.....	28	8,240
1883.....	50	24,160
1892.....	104	61,092
1901.....	198	160,979
1907.....	285	288,573
1911.....	343	387,634
1913.....	389	433,663

"I now turn to the enormous profits being made by the Greek mercantile marine since the beginning of the war. One of the first consequences of the latter was the immobilisation of the German, Austrian, and Russian fleets, with a total of 3,000 ships of 3,600,000 tons. Further a large proportion of the British and French fleets were taken over for Governmental work, with the result that neutral ships acquired a new position of importance.

"If we analyse the steamers and sailing vessels of more than 100 tons belonging to the seven neutral States of Europe (including Italy, which at the time the article was written was a neutral State), we can establish the following table :—

	Vessels.	Tons.
Norwegian.....	2,191	2,504,722
Italian.....	1,160	1,668,296
Dutch	806	1,496,455
Swedish	1,466	1,118,086
Greece	493	860,438
Spain	649	848,823
Denmark	822	823,181

"If only the number of vessels belonging to each country were taken into consideration it would seem as though Greece, with 415 steamers and 78 sailing vessels, occupied the last place. But in reality her situation is infinitely better than appears from the above table. Not only is her tonnage more important that that of Spain and Denmark, but she possesses a still more important advantage. To-day the vessels of which commerce stands in greatest need are those of over 2,000 tons, commonly called trans-Atlantic vessels. During the past few years Greek shipbuilders have understood that it was to their interest to procure such vessels, with the result that to-day Greece has 332 of these trans-Atlantic ships, and is, from this point of view, the fourth on the list of the seven neutral countries.

"Further, if the number of trans-Atlantic steamers is compared with the total mercantile fleet of each country, Greece occupies the first place as under.

Greece	47 per cent.
Holland	33 ,,
Spain	20 ,,
Italy	27 ,,
Norway	11 ,,
Denmark	11 ,,
Sweden	9 ,,

"It is, therefore, not astonishing that Greece should have profited more than any other State from the rise in freights. But let us examine the question more closely and attempt to estimate probable gains.

"Since the beginning of the winter freights rose without precedent. Rates from England to the Mediterranean used to vary, with rare exceptions, between 5s. and 9s. per ton. To-day they are up to 20s. to 24s. per ton; those from the United States to the Mediterranean are 50s. per ton, and from South America to the Mediterranean 65s. per ton.

"Greek trans-Atlantic ships can transport 680,000 tons gross, plus 226,000, or a total of 906,000 tons. Adding to these the tonnage of other boats, which, though under 2,000 tons, can nevertheless cross the Atlantic, a grand total of about 1,000,000 tons is obtained. It is on the basis of these figures that profits have to be calculated.

"The more conservative shippers calculate that if this situation continues for another year, profits will amount to anything between 100-150 per cent. for old vessels and 50 per cent for new vessels. Even if the exceptional situation does not last longer than six months, Greek vessels navigating the ocean will produce from 50 to 60 million francs. As a matter of fact, they represent a million tons, each ton being valued at a rate of from 50 to 60 francs.

"Moreover, during this same time the vessels remaining in the Mediterranean will be advantageously employed in coastal trade, and their profits will have to be added to those mentioned above.

"Therefore, in calculating the profits of the Greek mercantile marine from November, 1914—November, 1915, the suggested figure of 100,000,000 francs will not be found to be excessive."

Later statistics show that the Greek mercantile fleet on January 1, 1915, consisted of 474 steamers of 549,983 tons, as against 450 steamers of 493,000 tons on January 1, 1914.

The *Liverpool Journal of Commerce*, referring to the question of the increase of Greek tonnage in recent years, draws up the following table :—

Jan. 1, 1900	245,094	tons gross
1905	398,383	,,
1910	527,581	,,
1915	900,000	,,

The same journal adds :—

"In the period from July 1, 1913, until the end of 1914—only eighteen months—no fewer than 85 ships, representing altogether 219,450 tons, were added to the Greek register, an increase which can be shown by no other maritime country with the exception of England, Germany, and the United States.

"Of late years the Greek shipowners have been making a serious bid for a share of the Levant trade, and when the war is over the Germans, who had the bulk of that trade in their hands, will find the Greeks established in a very strong position from which it will be extremely difficult to dislodge them."

KHEDIVIAL MAIL RATES.

According to an order published by the *Cyprus Gazette* of September 24, the High Commissioner has granted to the Khedivial Mail Steamship and Graving Dock Company, Limited, an extension of the permission to increase the maximum passenger and freight rates specified in the articles of agreement by an amount not exceeding 25 per cent., for a further period of three months commencing from October 1, 1915, and ending December 31, 1915.

Aly Bey Hafiz Ramadan has been appointed trustee for H.H. Prince Aly Fadel during his absence, and co-guardian, with H.H. Princess Fatma Fadel, of his two children, their Highnesses Prince Saïd Fadel and Prince Ibrahim Fadel.

PORT OF SALONIKA.

(From a Correspondent.)

The Greek Government has just published a law establishing a free zone in the port of Salonika. Two of the principal clauses of this law are as under :—

1. Throughout the area of the free zone, no Customs dues will be levied, nor any other import, with the exception of port dues and the tax for the preservation of merchandise in the warehouses. All merchandise, save that which can be excluded by royal decree, will be accepted in depot within the stores of the French zone, and all the operations of warehousing, packing, etc., will be without the intervention of the Customs authorities.

2. The preservation of goods in the free zone is accorded only to produce emanating from countries which enjoy the conventional tariff in Greece. A royal decree, on the proposition of the Government, would be accorded this favour in special cases, even for goods coming from a country which does not enjoy the conventional tariff.

The Greeks, in announcing this change (says a Paris contemporary), so soon after becoming the masters of Salonika, show a striking example of practical sense as compared with French policy, since they have not a single free port after thirty years' controversy in favour of an institution which must have a great and decisive influence on their maritime and economic development.

CYPRUS SHIPPING.

105 sailing vessels of 5,550 tons and thirty-one steam vessels of 30,871 tons entered in the foreign trade of the Island of Cyprus for the quarter ended June 30, 1915. The figures for the corresponding period of last year were 225 sailing vessels of 7,895 tons, and sixty-three steamers of 95,112. In the coastal trade the vessels for the same period (1915) were 594 sailing vessels of 7,730 tons, and fifty-six steamers of 55,457, as against (1914) 483 sailing vessels of 8,862 tons, and seventy-three steamers of 84,979 tons.

CONSTANTINOPLE FIRE.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Athens, September 22.

The following is a reported list of the losses sustained by the Insurance companies in the second conflagration at Constantinople :—

	Ltq.
Ottomane	32,000
Assicurazioni Generali	7,500
Commercial Union	7,000
National de Stettin	6,000
Union de Paris	5,000
Sun	4,000
Abeille	3,500
Foncière.....	3,000
Bâloise	2,500
Nord-Deutsche	2,500
Palatine.....	2,400
Alliance de Berlin.....	2,090
Lancashire	2,100
Phenix Français.....	2,000
Rossia.....	2,000
Reunione Adriatica	1,800
Yorkshire	1,650
Urbaine	1,500
London Assurance	1,400
Royal Exchange.....	1,350
Phœnix of London.....	1,300
Orel	1,300
National Union	1,200
Helvetia.....	1,200
Liverpool, London and Globe	1,100
Patriotic.....	880
North British Mercantile and Northern	870
Aachen Munich	800
London and Lancashire	440
General Accident	400
Norwich Union..	350
Hamburg-Bremen	250
Western.....	220
National Beneficial	220
Bulgaria.....	200
Nord	160
Norski Lloyd	110
Union of London	100
Royal	100
Total	102,490

The *Messaggero Egiziano* states that new Egyptian coins will be struck shortly. The emblems of the Sultan of Turkey will be replaced by those of the Sultan of Egypt, and the new money will bear the date of the accession to the throne of Sultan Hussein I.

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Patras Currant Crop.

H.M. Consul at Patras gives the following review of the local currant crop and trade:—

The currant crop of 1914 promised very well up to the end of July, and all districts reported a full yield of excellent quality, no disease whatever having appeared among the vines. It was then estimated that the crop of the district would amount to 152,500 tons net. The remainder of the 1913 crop was 12,000 tons net, making a total of 164,500 net tons. Everything seemed to promise well for the currant trade generally, but when the war broke out it was feared that the German and Austro-Hungarian trade, averaging about 30,000 tons annually, would be completely lost, a matter which would certainly cause a great decline in the price of all currants. These fears were still further accentuated by the annulment of the obligation under which the Privileged Company for the Protection of Currant Growers and Merchants was compelled to buy any currants offered to it at certain guaranteed prices, thus indicating an impression that the decline would be so great that most growers would rush to sell their goods to the company and bring about its downfall.

Besides this measure it was proposed, in order to counteract the probable loss of German and Austro-Hungarian trade, that the quantity of currants which by law must be retained in the country with a view of enhancing the value of exports should be increased from 35 to 50 per cent. As a result of this proposal the export trade was compelled to await events, making no offer until a decision was reached.

While this state of uncertainty, which paralysed all business, prevailed, very heavy rain fell in most currant districts in the Morea and Ionian Islands, causing great damage to the crop, which was mostly exposed on the drying grounds. The crops of Pyrgos, Amalias, Zante, and Cephalonia were badly damaged to the extent of about three-fifths. The Gulf, Patras, and Vostizza suffered to some extent, but most of the provincial districts escaped with very slight damage.

This rendered the situation more difficult, and scarcely any business transactions took place until the Greek Government announced that all first shipments would be assessed at 35 per cent. retention, and that, should it decide upon raising the percentage to 50 per cent., 20 days' grace would be allowed after the date of the decree imposing the percentage.

The uncertainty as regards retention being thus partly removed, business was begun, but no steamer with new currants sailed for the United Kingdom before September 3, whereas the usual sailing date is August 24 to 26. Merchants started very cautiously, only the very choicest quality commanding usual prices.

Notwithstanding the higher rates of freight, war risk, etc., the c.i.f. prices of currants have not been higher than in normal seasons, and since most other dried fruits, such as sultanas, dates, and prunes, have been much dearer than usual, the demand for currants in all markets of consumption has been exceptionally good, and prices since the beginning of the present year have advanced slightly. Shipments up to the end of March, 1915, amounted to 93,710 tons net, of which the United Kingdom took 63,855 tons net; the United States 11,280 tons net; the Netherlands 9,920 tons net; and Germany, via Italy, 6,765 tons net.

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Near East Markets.

CYPRUS LOCUSTS

(From a Correspondent.)

Cyprus, September 18.

The visitation of Syrian locusts is likely to have serious effect on some of the vineyards, especially in the Limassol district. They appear to have descended in considerable numbers, and in many cases have stripped vines of fruit and leaves. They have not been left undisturbed, however, and by means of fires, various noises, and to a small extent, it is said, by the attacks of "bee-eaters," the swarms have been dispersed and driven off. The total damage done will probably be very much less than that represented by the vine-owners concerned, but there is no doubt that individuals will have suffered—some of them considerably. These locusts seem very partial to olives, and have, in several localities, destroyed both fruit, leaves, and the bark of the branches.

September 20.

Locusts have continued their destructive work in many parts of the island, and there are gloomy forebodings as to the swarms that will probably hatch out next year. The quantities collected are relatively small.

POSITION OF DRIED FRUIT.

In connection with the new duty imposed on dried fruit, we pointed out last week that it would not affect the currant trade. The following are extracts from an article which appeared in the *Grocers' Gazette* a few days before the new Budget was introduced. It gives an able review of the dried fruit market towards the beginning of this month:—

Currants.

In view of the unprecedented economic position existing in respect of most descriptions of dried fruit, a short review of the general conditions should be helpful. Currants supply the largest bulk of consumption in this country, and are fortunately the least affected up to the present by the war. The rise in price, although considerable, is not so great as to interfere with consumption; indeed, the comparative cheapness of currants as an article of food, combined with the scarcity of other kinds of dried fruits, has resulted in a largely increased consumption for the first eight months of the year. Some diminution of the bountiful harvest which was earlier expected has, unfortunately, taken place owing to the shortage of sulphate of copper for the protection of the vines during the spring, and later to heavy rains at the period of harvest. There should, however, be some nine-tenths or so of the usual quantity available for export, and it may reasonably be hoped that the English demand, large as it must inevitably be, will be able to be reasonably satisfied. A large part of the shipments of the new crop has already been contracted for by grocers and manufacturers, but a good selection should be obtainable during the next six or seven weeks. Prices may be expected to range between a possible 4d. per lb. and a reasonably profitable 5d. or 6d.

Raisins.

As compared with the position of currants, that of raisins generally must be estimated as much less favourable. The Valencia crop has fallen on evil times. Estimates from reliable sources put the probable production as low as 6,000 tons, which is about one-third of the United Kingdom's consumption of normal years. Unfortunately, the position in Turkey does not promise any relief from the crop of Elemes, which would be a most useful substitute for Valencias. On the other hand, the Cretan crop, which in previous years has been mostly sent to Germany, is apparently available for our markets. These raisins are excellent in size, colour, and preparation. The 6d. raisin, however, of whatever kind, will hardly be possible this year with a reasonable profit to the grocer. Sultanas are, perhaps, in the most unfortunate position. Last year's Smyrna crop was ultimately available, although late; but existing United Kingdom stocks are now reduced to very small dimensions. As to the growing crop, almost nothing can be said at present, owing to the difficulty of communication. It would, however, be reasonable to suppose that cultivation will have been much neglected, and production correspondingly reduced. Even if some sort of a crop should have resulted, the prospect of effecting shipments from Turkey would seem to be exceedingly remote. It is to be feared that the Greek crop will be a small one, and this growth will assuredly meet with a generous reception—a large proportion of it has already been contracted for. As regards other growths, a certain quantity of Afghan fruit will reach us by way of the Indian Ocean, but this will only arrive in November. Persian sultanas depend almost as much as Smyrnas on the development of the war with Turkey, since they are almost entirely shipped via the Dardanelles. Prices of all kinds of sultanas will doubtless rule high—the Government demand alone is considerable and regular—and the public of the war time will be called upon to pay 10d. to 1s. per lb.

Dates.

Dates will occupy an important position this year in the list of dried fruit. The growing districts having fortunately passed lately under British rule, it is to be expected that the quality will be even better than previously, although there has for many years been nothing to complain of in that respect. At present the prices are very reasonable, and, unless a sharp rise should take place, need hardly go much above the normal. Figs are likely to present a difficulty. Even if shipments from Turkey should eventually be possible, there will probably be no wood and no packers available during the time whilst the figs are in a condition to be manipulated. Layers and Loucoums may therefore be ruled out of calculation for the coming season. Even if it should become possible later to ship naturals from Turkey, still the early demand will have to be satisfied from the supplies of Spanish, Portuguese, and Italian fruit.

PRODUCE REPORT

London, October 7.

Currants.

The s.s. Micra Asia, s.s. Panariellos, and s.s. Sheldrake arrived with about 4,000 tons altogether. The fruit is being landed, but most of it has already been disposed of. Prices are firm, with tendency to a further advance.

Sultanas.

The prices of the remaining stocks, which are now very small, continue to advance. Smyrna common to fine sold at 75s. to 90s., and Afghan 75s. to 80s.

Figs.

Greek figs continue in good demand, some parcels of recent arrivals having been sold quickly and at full prices.

Dates.

The demand is moderate, with little spot business doing. Persians are quoted 16s. to 22s.

Seeds.

Linseed.—A further rise in Argentine freights has compelled sellers to ask a further 1s. advance, and 53s. 6d. is the lowest that will now buy La Plata Oct.-Nov. and Nov.-Dec., while London-Calcutta spot is quoted 55s., afloat 55s. 6d., Sept.-Oct. sold at 56s., and Oct.-Nov. 56s. Cotton seed is firm and held for higher prices in sympathy with the rise in cotton oil. London-Egyptian loading £10 10s., and Oct. £10 8s. 9d. per ton. Rapeseed is well maintained, Toria Sept.-Oct. quoted 53s. 6d., Guzerat ditto 62s., and brown Cawnpore pure basis ditto 53s. 6d.

Oils.

Linseed oil is firm with a good demand at full prices, with 5s. advance for distant positions. Spot pipes £25 15s., barrels £27 10s., Oct.-Dec. £27 17s. 6d., Jan.-April £28 10s., and May-Aug. £29. Cotton oil is fully maintained; crude spot in pipes £28 10s., refined pale pipes £31 10s., and barrels, sweet, £36 to £37, as to makes. Rapeseed oil is very firm, ordinary brown naked spot £35 to £36, English refined barrels £37 10s. to £39.

Oilcakes.

Cotton Cakes.—Owing to the absence of supplies from Egypt prices of English have again advanced, £8 12s. 6d. being asked for best brands, and £8 2s. 6d. to £8 5s. for Bombays. Linseed Cakes.—The demand is very poor for all descriptions, but owing to the home mills working on short time, and consequently producing smaller quantities, prices are well maintained. Best London made £11 10s. to £11 15s., East India seed, pures, £11 5s. ex ship.

Locust Beans.

Landed parcels bring £8 for whole, and £8 10s. for kibbled, while from a cargo of Cypros now due £7 5s., free on to barge, has been accepted.

COTTON MARKET.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Liverpool.

October 7.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson telegraph:—Egyptian Spot.—The market has been quiet throughout the week, and only a moderate business is reported. The undertone, however, has been good, and after various fluctuations quotations on balance show an advance of 25 points. The sales, which include 200 bales of Sudan cotton, are estimated at 2,500 bales, against 3,700 bales last week.

Manchester.

Violent fluctuations in the raw material have been against a large turnover. Yarn and cloth for the Near East have been far from satisfactory, and business has been difficult to arrange.

THE GREEK CRISIS.

The *Financial Times*, under the heading of "Views of the Greek Community in London," publishes the following account of the impression produced by the unexpected resignation of M. Venizelos:—

"After being in office for less than four months, M. Venizelos, the most powerful Prime Minister seen at Athens for many years, and one of the foremost statesmen in Europe, has tendered his resignation in view of the fact that King Constantine is not prepared to carry out the terms of the Græco-Serbian Treaty. This news, which arrived in London on Wednesday, was received everywhere with deep regret and some apprehension as portending another German plot in the Balkans. The Greek community in the metropolis are, however, disposed to believe that the enormous personal influence wielded by the late Prime Minister throughout his native country will lead to some sort of compromise with the Crown, and the next development in the wholly unexpected crisis which has arisen at Athens is, therefore, awaited with anxiety. Among those members of the Anglo-Greek community with whom it was possible to get into touch on Wednesday the suggestion that the Greek Army might after all operate against the Allies was scouted, the view generally held being that the King of the Hellenes is determined, if possible, to maintain strict armed neutrality. It is very doubtful, however, whether under any circumstances this rôle can be maintained, for, in the first place, it is important that no impediment should be set in the way of the Allies' expedition to certain strategic points calculated to protect Serbia's lines of communication, and it is in this connection more than any other that the next development at Athens is so anxiously awaited. It is extremely improbable that the British Foreign Office was taken by surprise by the fall of M. Venizelos' Cabinet, and there is a deep-rooted impression among business men of Greek nationality in this country that counter measures have been arranged for in London and Paris which will prevent the isolation of the Serbs, whose position at the moment is undoubtedly full of peril. It was stated by a high authority a few days ago that a good many surprises might be expected before long in the Balkans, and it may be fairly assumed that while Wednesday's bolt from the blue was not favourable to the Allies, there are probably other developments impending of a more hopeful character."

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German Petroleum Interests.

The current issue of the *Petroleum World* contains an article on the history and ramifications of Germany's great oil concern, the Deutsche-Erdoel-Aktiengesellschaft, whose capital is 30,750,000 marks. The following particulars show to what an extent it is interested in the Roumanian oilfields.

1. It is interested to the extent of £469,000 in 7 per cent. preference shares of the Premier Oil and Pipe Line Company.

2. It owns (1) 9,223,250 lei (about 75 per cent of the total capital) shares of the Roumanian company "Concordia"; (2) 2,240,000 lei (about 60 per cent. of the total capital) of the "Vega" Petroleum Refining Company: (3) 2,505,000 lei (rather more than 50 per cent. of the total capital) shares of the "Crédit Pétrolifer" (Roumanian Pipeline and Transport Company in Bucharest); and (4) 252,000 lei (out of 500,000 lei) shares in the Erste Rumänische Bohrgesellschaft (First Roumanian Drilling Company), Ploesti.

Concerning the Crédit Pétrolifer and the Concordia, mentioned above, the following particulars are given:—

Crédit Pétrolifer.—Capital, originally 3,000,000 lei (£120,000), divided into three series of 1,000,000 lei each, each series comprising 2,000 shares of a nominal value of 500 lei each. By resolution of the general meeting held in June, 1906, the capital was increased by 2,000,000 lei (£80,000), and by resolution of the general meeting held in September, 1907, by a further 1,000,000 lei (£40,000); according to the latest information available, however, the latter resolution was not carried into effect. Object.—The financing and assisting of Roumanian oil undertakings, the acquisition and exploitation of concessions, the installation of petroleum storage and means of transport, participation in oil undertakings at home and abroad. The company is engaged in the trade and transport of oil and oil products of all kinds; it owns mechanical workshops in Campina, pipelines of a total length of 160 miles, and tanks, water-pumping stations and electricity works in Braila and Constantza. A pipe line was also being laid from the Copaceni field to Scaiosi.

Concordia.—Founded July, 1907, by the fusion of the "Bustenari" A.G. für Petroleumindustrie with the Telega Oil Company. The property brought in by the Bustenari Company was valued at 14,230,000 lei, and that by the Telega Oil Company at 8,500,000 lei. The shareholders of the Bustenari Company received for each 1,000 lei of their shares 1,423 lei shares in the Concordia, whilst the Société Pétrolifére Italo-Roumaine, as owners of the Telega Oil Company, received the full equivalent for the shares of the latter, *i.e.*, 8,500,000 lei shares in the Concordia. A further 2,700,000 lei Concordia shares were taken up by the Allgemeine Petroleum Industrie A.G. and the Société Pétrolifére Italo-Roumaine at 200 per cent. cash, the former taking 650,000 lei, and the latter 1,620,000 lei. Objects.—(1) The production of crude oil, ozokerite and similar products from the oil-bearing lands owned or to be acquired by the company; (2) the refining and marketing of the products obtained; (3) participation in undertakings of any kind connected therewith; (4) the erection, leasing or purchase of refineries, tanks, pipe lines, and any similar installations. Property.—Oil fields in Roumania, consisting of extensive areas in the developed districts of Bustenari, Telega, Bordeni, Poenarania, Chiciura and Moreni. In addition the company have at their disposal upwards of 48,750 acres of land in various promising oil districts (Campina, Visinesti - Bezdead, Matitza, Catina, Ceptura, etc.), in which development work is in progress. In the year 1912 all the properties, wells and plant of the Moreni Baicoi Company, Ltd., situated in Moreni, were acquired. In 1913 an agreement was made with the Colombia Société Roumano-Française de Pétrole, Bucharest, on the basis of which the Concordia received 20 per cent. of the production of two plots with five wells. At the time this agreement was made the Concordia's share in the output amounted to 100 to 120 tons of oil per day.

The production of the Telega Oil Company was:—

	Tons.
1904-05	46,065
1905-06	53,392

that of the Bustenari:

1905-06	103,872
1906-07	134,300

and that of the Concordia:

1907-08	176,179
1908 (9 months)	126,468
1909	113,238
1910	99,265
1911	83,231
1912	134,088

CYPRUS COPPER.

Good work appears to have been done by the American Copper Mining Syndicate at the Skronriotissa Mine, says our Cyprus Correspondent. Results have been sufficiently promising to encourage further outlay, and from reports in the local Press, as well as from other sources, it would seem that the patient labour and cautious direction which have for some time been evident are likely to find fruition. Two American engineers have lately arrived to strengthen the hands of the local manager, and were it not for the war we should no doubt see more marked progress in the development of the concern, which is, naturally, of considerable interest to the island. We understand that it is intended to construct a small harbour or quay at the port of Karavostassi, distant about five miles from the mine.

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Engineering Notes.

Motor Boats in Egypt.

So far there has not been a very large number of boats placed in service in Egypt and the Sudan (says *Motor Boat*). It should be remembered that the waterways of Egypt, other than the Nile, are not extensive, but as far back as 1902 the Sudan Government placed orders for several open motor launches, which were used for postal service on the Blue Nile, running from Old Dongola to Kordefan. So far as the Lower Nile is concerned, but few boats—and those chiefly privately owned—have been put into service. Some years ago, however, Messrs. Thomas Cook and Sons, Ltd., of Egypt, put several boats into commission; but they eventually sold them, as they were not found to be satisfactory for the country in which they were run. This was no doubt due to the fact that the question of design for the Tropics must be different from that suitable for colder countries, and, further, at that time the internal-combustion engine had not reached the high standard of efficiency which it has at present. However, in other parts of Egypt the motor boat has proved itself very efficacious, and this is most noteworthy at Port Said, where practically the whole of the official boats—and there is a great number of them—are now being propelled by internal-combustion engines. The native seems to have thoroughly mastered the art of looking after these small vessels, and the trim way in which they are kept and the smart manner in which they are brought alongside and generally handled cannot fail to impress the observer.

The Egyptian Mechanic.

The native of Egypt—that is, the fellaheen class—is very apt with regard to machinery, and may be said to be far in advance of his Indian brother. He is not such a capable mechanic, perhaps, but as a running man he is quite good, as he does not interfere with things on the engine unless they really require adjustment. However, with the larger vessels which are run it is not usual to put Egyptian engineers in charge for this purpose. The Greek makes a good all-round driver, and his employment on the larger type of motor boat, if it were put in use, would in all probability prove itself to be a sound commercial proposition. At Alexandria, most of the Customs, port authorities and medical commission launches are now propelled by motors, and the same thing again occurs at Port Tewfik, popularly known as Suez.

Future of the Motor Boat.

As the whole of the coal used in Egypt is imported and the price is fairly high (we cannot state exact figures at the moment, but eighteen months ago 42s. a ton was being charged at Port Said for coal), and oil is found but a comparatively few miles away, it necessarily follows that the employment of oil fuel of that class should prove itself a much more satisfactory undertaking. Unfortunately, there is no register obtainable at the moment which will give the actual number of boats employed in Egypt and the Sudan, but taking the total the number must be, roughly speaking, between 300 and 400, this including, of course, the whole of the coasting ports as well as those vessels which are used in connection with the inspection of lighthouses.

Irrigation in the Sudan.

Al-Mokattam, Cairo, states that Mr. Buckley, one of the Inspectors of Irrigation in the Public Works Ministry, has left Egypt on leave for Italy, where he will stay forty-five days before returning to Egypt. About the beginning of December he will proceed to the Sudan with a party of engineers, in order to study the irrigation projects which are to be carried out gradually in the Sudan, especially those on the Abyssinian frontier. The mission will take four or five months to complete its work. It is believed that afterwards Mr. Buckley will be appointed permanently in the Sudan.

The Cyprus Motor Company.

Our Cyprus correspondent writes:—The Motor Company has reduced the fares for the journey to and from Nicosia to Larnaca to 3s. Further changes are contemplated, including a reduction of the fare for the Nicosia-Limassol journey, and the establishment of an office in a more central place in the capital. The service is still the subject of some grumbling. It is pointed out, for example, that for Limassol, which is the second town as regards population and importance, it brings little benefit. Under the arrangements of the former service one could go to Larnaca and return the same day, after spending several hours there. At present the journey to Larnaca or to the capital involves long delays at the former place. The post office service is similarly relatively unsatisfactory. Many will accordingly probably prefer a carriage drive, which moreover does not involve the risk of a breakdown on the road. It would seem that there is room for some improvement.

Cultivators and Sowing Machines.

Although the employment of modern agricultural machinery and implements is gradually increasing in the Near East in estates belonging, as a rule, to wealthy and progressive owners, the same cannot be said of the owners of smaller estates or holdings. The average smallholders, who are generally well to do people, still adhere to the poetical precepts of agriculture, and in many important agricultural centres the construction of agricultural implements and the *modus operandi* are still the same as those described in the "Works and Days" of Hesiod, who lived probably about B.C. 850. His advice to the farmer "to provide farming implements suited to his hand" has been followed to this day by an adherence to the patterns which Hesiod himself recommended. Most likely this is due to the fact that no other practical advice or guidance has been given to the farmer, and that he never had an opportunity to hear, or see, that modern agricultural implements are "suited to his hand," and can be handled with less labour and much better results. Hesiod also advised the farmer to have a slave to go behind the plough to break the clods and *trouble the birds* by covering up the seeds; and this advice is still being followed, because, probably, the existence of a machine that can do such work in one operation much better and incomparably quicker is not known. Yet the price of such a machine is within the means of the average Eastern farmer—a fact which enterprising manufacturers should not forget. We refer to the combined cultivating and sowing machine, which is made in various designs. For the average kind of ground in the Near East a pattern simple in construction, strong, and durable must be chosen. One of the types that has proved successful in those regions is a combined machine by which, while the ground is being thoroughly cultivated, the seeds are covered as fast as they are sown. It leaves no seeds for the birds to pick up or the wind to blow away. Each section of the cultivator is independent of the other and will drop into a depression and thoroughly cover the seed deposited therein. The sowing attachment is fitted with a fluted force feed, which gives a positive feed, and sows alike up hill and down, when the hopper is filled or when it is almost empty. The feeds can be adjusted for different quantities of seed, and for different kinds of grain, by sliding them in and out of the feed cups.

A New Potato Planting Machine.

This is a simple and efficient hand-machine which will carry a certain quantity of potatoes and can readily be pushed along by one man, and plant the potatoes along a furrow at the required regular intervals, the potatoes being subsequently covered with soil. If desired, the machine can be arranged to be drawn by a horse and to cover the potatoes with soil as they are planted. In using the machine, it is placed in position at the head of the furrow with the planting wheel in the furrow in which the potatoes are to be planted, and the seed-potatoes are placed in the feeding-wheel of the tray. As the machine is pushed along the ground by the operator the planting-wheel is caused to revolve, and as it revolves the seed-potatoes are fed into the pockets of the wheel through the opening of the tray, and as each pocket containing a potato reaches the ground the potato falls therefrom into the furrow, being subsequently covered with soil by a mechanical device.

A New Mower.

A new mower which has recently been brought out is a light, but strong, machine mounted on high wheels, its special construction enabling the knife to start cutting when the machine is put in motion, thereby preventing "blocking" when cutting meadow grass. For lifting the finger-bar a foot-lever is provided, whilst a hand-lever may be employed to lift the bar and turn it up into a vertical position, to clear away any obstacle, such as ant heaps, trees, or bushes; and at the same time this throws the machine out of gear. The gearing is very strong and totally enclosed, rendering it impossible for spanners, stones, or loose bolts to drop into it while running and thus cause damage. When required, attachments for converting the mower into a back-delivery reaper can be easily fitted.

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Egypt's Trade.

A Marked Improvement.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, September 23.

The Customs statistics for August published this week are, perhaps, the most satisfactory that we have had since the outbreak of war. Starting with August, 1914, imports have month by month consistently shown a falling-off compared with the preceding year, whilst exports have to all intents and purposes followed suit; only in February and April was any improvement evident, and then but a very small one, £E220,632 and £E111,776 respectively.

The August return indicates, however, a very different state of affairs. The imports increased during the month by £E324,712 and the exports by £E966,699, the figures being respectively £E1,814,673 and £E1,279,809, against £E1,489,961 and £E313,110 for August, 1914. Of course, that month was the one in which war broke out, and the country began to bear the brunt of the consequent dislocation of the world's trade; but even by comparison with August 1913, the improvement in the situation is most satisfactory.

Imports.

The chief increases in imports during the month under review were frozen meat by £E46,042—80 per cent. of which came from Australia—raw sugar by £E100,743—practically all from Java—petroleum by £E26,112—of the total of £E57,707, the United States sent £E57,495—stationery by £E16,803, coal by £E196,615—the quantity increased by 32,100 tons—cotton tissues by £E120,282, sacks by £E57,348, and tobacco by £E28,784. On the other hand livestock decreased by £E28,801, rice by £E31,473, cereals by £E36,874, construction wood by £E97,016, and worked iron and steel by £E66,715.

Great Britain's share of imports during the month jumped from £E437,997 to £828,026, whilst India increased by £E63,159 to £E146,976—mostly sacks, cereals, rice, indigo, and textiles. The United States trebled their sales to £E119,191, due chiefly to petroleum and coal, Brazil again provided practically all the coffee, France improved by £E30,303, Greece by £E62,544, and Italy by £E45,258.

Exports.

Under exports it is eminently satisfactory to note that the increase is directly due to agricultural products. Thus, cereals improved by £E285,110 during the month from practically nil, sugar by £E45,413, and cotton by £E566,692 (214,492 cantars more), whilst skins increased by £E18,185, eggs by £E3,024, wool by £E12,423, cigarettes by £E8,326, and gold and silver bar by £E50,693. The sole important decrease during the month was cottonseed £E39,702.

The countries that most notably increased their purchases from Egypt were Great Britain from £E167,699 to £E515,513, the United States from £E41,677 to £E230,929, Spain from £E8,961 to £E64,679, France from £E17,243 to £E145,291, Italy from £E4,586 to £E219,232, Persia from £E1 to £E10,800, and Russia from £E19 to £E11,369. It is interesting to note that the whole of the exports to the United States, Spain, and Russia was cotton, and that of France and Italy's purchases one-third was that commodity, and the balance was wheat and lentils. The appearance of Persia in the export statistics is due to the fact that that country has started to purchase Egyptian sugar, a large quantity of which still goes to France and Morocco. Nearly half the increased purchases of Great Britain was cotton, the balance being made up of gold and silver bar, and cereals.

Sudan Trade.

During last month there was a turnover of £E137,157 in trade between the Sudan and Egypt, the former selling to and purchasing from the latter goods to the value of £E48,984 and £E88,173, respectively. Imports from the Sudan into Egypt included livestock £E2,649, skins £E2,217, cereals £E12,296, gum £E2,302, and cotton £E19,117, whilst the traffic in the opposite direction included leather goods £E3,884, refined sugar £19,593, coffee £E9,046, and cotton tissues £E22,629.

In conclusion the following table may not be without interest, since it indicates the manner in which the war has affected the trade of Egypt. (It will be noted that I close my figures on July 31, as that enables a comparison for a complete year of war to be made):—

	Year ending, 31/7/14. £E.	Year ending, 31/7/15. £E.	Decrease. £E.
Imports	29,095,691	14,998,465	14,097,226
Exports	33,452,058	21,665,022	11,786,136
Balance for or against exports	+4,356,367	+6,667,457	+2,311,090

From this we see that a year of war has caused imports to fall off by £E1,491,226, or nearly 50 per cent., and that exports have diminished by £E11,786,136, or a little over 33 1-3 per cent. On the other hand it is satisfactory to find, that although the general trade turnover has decreased by over 40 per cent., the balance of exports over imports has risen from £E4,356,367 to £E6,667,457 during the period of the war. In this connection it may be mentioned that at the end of 1913, the balance in favour of exports was only £E3,786,870, and that at the end of August this year it was £E4,148.939. Whilst the decrease in cotton exports and the shipping difficulties during the early part of the war year undoubtedly have had a lot to do with the diminution in imports, there is little doubt that national retrenchment of expenditure and the improvement in the agricultural position of the country—cereal and textile imports have decreased by £E1,507,808 and £E1,216,722, respectively, since January 1, whilst cereal and sugar exports have increased by £E699,562 and £E418,060—have brought about this welcome change in the balance of trade. Since we are now entering upon the period when exports nominally become heaviest owing to the moving of the cotton-crop, there is every reason to expect a further improvement during the coming months, not only in general trade conditions, but also in the economic situation of the country as a whole.

TRADE NOTES.

The Sécrétaire Général des Domaines de l'Etat (Service Technique), Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 5,400 kilos of yellow grease. Dated November 1.

The Army Finance Department of Cairo invites tenders for the supply of 10 tons of candles, to be delivered c.i.f. Alexandria, Port Said, or Port Sudan. November 2.

Tenders are invited by the Lunacy Division, Abbassia, Cairo, for the supply of clothing, bedding, furniture, hardware, slippers, brushes, and other household necessaries, for one year from April 1, 1916. Date November 15.

Tenders are invited by the Director of Personnel and Equipment Department, Cairo, for the supply of cloth uniforms, white drill uniforms, khaki drill uniforms, saddlery, accoutrements, wood, furniture, enamel ware, leather, boots, paints, tarbrushes, cotton shirts, blankets (woollen), miscellaneous stores, required by the Police Stores Department, Bulâq, for one year, commencing on January 1, 1916, and ending on December 31, 1916. Date December 1.

Tenders are invited by the Inspector of Irrigation, First Circle, Cairo, for work in connection with the annual winter clearances of canals and drains in First Circle of Irrigation. The approximate cost of work is £E25,000, as detailed in schedule of rates. Date October 10.

The Chef du Panquet de la Cour d'appel Trebizène, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 268 khaki-coloured suits and 129 blue coats. For further particulars apply to the Cabinet of the Procureur-General, Courts of Justice, Bah-el-Khalg, Cairo. October 9.

Egypt.

In connection with the increased import duties previously referred to in these columns, the *Board of Trade Journal* gives a table showing the new rates of duty leviable on alcoholic liquors, building wood and tobacco, as well as the rates previously in force:—

Articles.	Rates of Import Duty. Old rates.	New rates.
	Millièmes.	Millièmes.
Alcoholic liquors	8% ad. val.	10% ad. val.
Building wood	4% " "	8% " "
Tobacco:—		
In leaf—		
The produce of countries which have not concluded special arrangements with Egypt .....per kilog.	0·270	0·320
Accompanied by a certificate of origin from a country having a special arrangement with Egypt per kilog.	0·250	0·300
In leaves stripped of their stems, stalks or median ribs, also cut, pressed, or powdered tobacco, and cigarettes—		
The produce of countries which have not concluded special arrangements with Egypt per kilog.	0·320	0·420
Accompanied by a certificate of origin from a country having a special arrangement with Egypt..per kilog.	0·300	0·400
Cigars of any kind of origin	0·300	0·400

A kilog. = 2·2046 lbs. avoirdupois; 1,000 millièmes = £E. 1 = £1 0s. 6d.

Sudan.

The Sudan Government Railways, Alexandria Agency, 6, Old Bourse Street, invites tenders for the supply of pitch pine and Swedish pine. Persons wishing to tender can obtain full particulars and conditions of the contract by application to the above office. October 8.

Roumania.

The Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade is advised that in view of the difficulties at present existing in regard to exchange between the United Kingdom and Roumania, sellers of goods ordered thence would do well to require cash in London in advance. It is understood that business is already being conducted on this basis.

It may be explained that the law now in force in Roumania legalizes payment of sterling indebtedness at the par of 25.22 lei per £ (and that no agreement to pay at a different rate would hold at law there), whereas the collecting bank would have to pay a very much higher rate (say some 15 per cent. higher) for a draft on London.

Bulgaria.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of information to the effect that the exportation of the undermentioned articles from Bulgaria has been prohibited:—bran, barley, hay, straw, and rye of the old and new crops, cheese, "comestibles" of all sorts, fat, lentils, lard, peas, red pepper, potatoes, salt, spirits, tea, vinegar, wine, woollen goods, yarns, cloths and serges.

Persia.

With reference to a notice relative to parcel post imports into Persia and the apprehended closing of the parcel post routes via Julfa and Askabad, H.M. Minister at Petrograd reports that the consideration of the question of closing the above-mentioned routes to foreign postal parcels despatched in transit through Russia to Persia has been indefinitely postponed.

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Egyptian State Finances.

The Effect of a Year of War.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, September 23.

The publication of the State Accounts for the period ending July 31 affords an opportunity for making certain interesting deductions and comparisons. The war having broken out during the first days of August, 1914, the figures now published by the Egyptian Ministry of Finance enable us to see exactly what effect a year of war conditions has had on the revenues of the country.

The appended table may prove interesting, as it serves to show (1) what the loss in revenue compared with the preceding normal year has been; (2) how the actual figures compare with the Budget estimate for the current financial year; (3) which are the heads of revenue most affected. (It is to be noted that the official financial year was from April 1 to March 31, but that fact should not materially influence the remarks I have to make on the figures.)

As can be seen, the war has so far cost Egypt £E3,089,858 in actual revenue. This is in itself a serious loss, since it represents nigh on 20 per cent. of the State's income, but it must in nowise be regarded as a permanent or recurring one, for it was entirely due to the peculiar conditions that set in during the early part of the war, and that were far and away more serious than they could possibly become in the near future.

Indeed, various considerations lead one to view the situation, if not with complete satisfaction, at any rate with equanimity and hope. It would be waste of time and space for me to develop this point to-day—I have done so at great length on previous occasions—but that my contention is correct is proved by the fact that of the loss of £E3,089,858, the first eight months of the war were responsible for £E2,654,463, leaving but £E435,395 for the remainder of the year, that is to say, for the first four months of the current financial year.

The Budget was framed on the assumption that the revenue would fall off by £E3,287,587 as compared with that realised during the twelve months just preceding the outbreak of hostilities. When one takes into consideration, firstly, that the summer months, April to September, are the worst from the point of view of the financial year; secondly, that the cotton market has of late kept unusually brisk; thirdly, that prices are markedly improved; and fourthly, that the estimates are £E197,729 less than the actual amount realised during the first year of war, which included, as far as Egypt was concerned, what is generally admitted to have been the worst financial and commercial period, one is, I think, entitled to doubt whether the ensuing eight months will show such a huge falling off as the £E2,852,192 provided for in the Budget.

Let us for a moment turn to the individual revenue heads. Land and Direct Taxes were £E213,312 more than the estimate. It may be objected that there will be Sharaki land this year, and that possibly the collections at the end of the financial year will be affected by the remission of taxation that will have to be made. But it is estimated that the Sharaki will not exceed 200,000 feddans. In 1913 the Sharaki was 400,000 feddans, and the amount remitted in consequence was £E251,000. Even

Revenue Head.	Actual amounts collected. Aug.,'14–July,'15	Comparison with previous twelve months.	Revenue Budget, 1915-1916.	Comparison between year of war and Budget for 1915-16.	Receipts as on July 31, 1915.
	£E.	£E.	£E.	£E.	£E.
Direct taxes	5,590,312	+ 142,551	5,379,000	+ 211,312	1,651,744
Customs	1,153,544	−1,049,647	1,250,000	− 96,456	469,575
Tobacco dues	1,666,350	− 133,447	1,700,000	− 33,650	568,588
Port dues	228,788	− 235,955	200,000	+ 28,788	54,731
Fisheries	39,689	+ 1,665	39,000	+ 689	12,830
Stamps and assay	38,572	− 11,147	36,000	+ 2,572	13,487
Legal fees	1,117,911	− 424,430	1.107,000	+ 10,911	399,951
Divers fees	49,919	− 9,580	49,000	+ 919	19,967
Railways	2,991,319	− 908,492	2,900,000	+ 91,319	1,014,359
Telegraphs	126,822	− 2,406	128,000	− 1,178	42,032
Post Office	267,294	− 87,207	240,000	+ 27,294	90,193
Rent of land	175,786	+ 24,226	115,000	+ 60,786	103,993
Domains	269,834	− 57,893	484,000	− 214,166	135,591
Military exemption	88,280	− 54,639	100,000	− 11,720	28,760
Pension deductions	140,788	+ 768	132,000	+ 8,788	45,117
Interest on Government funds	301,270	− 44,207	300,000	+ 1,270	103,934
Divers receipts	603,358	− 29,025	545,000	+ 58,358	128,078
Sale of land and other extraordinary receipts	84,698	− 209,937	44,000	+ 40,698	35,111
Sundry heads	19,195	− 1,056	8,000	+ 11,195	5,305
Total	£E14,953.729	£E −3,089,851	£E14,756,000	£E+ 197,729	£E4,923,346

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Governor, CHR. TCHAKALOFF.

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Head Office: ATHENS.

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granted that the current year has to bear the whole brunt, it is scarcely likely that the Land Tax receipts will fall below the Budget estimate, seeing that during the first four months of the current year they were £E293,216 up (after allowing for the full increase anticipated from arrears, etc.), and the heaviest instalments fall in the December quarter.

Customs Dues.

Next come Customs and Tobacco Dues. The amount realised during the year of war is less than the estimate for 1915-16. Trade during the early part was practically at a standstill, whereas since the turn of the year it has, comparatively speaking, improved. The August returns, indeed, show that trade is fast recovering, and there should be every prospect of the Budget figures being fully attained. Railways, be it noted, realised more than the estimate, and this despite the fact that during part of the period the goods traffic dwindled for obvious reasons to vanishing point. Of course, part of this £E91,319 may represent military transport, but even granted that this item is responsible for the entire increase, the railway receipts should be well up, for good cotton prices and increased imports spell more traffic.

Domains.

Domains receipts require a word of explanation. They were during the year of war but half of the estimate for 1915-16. The reason was that that administration was unable to dispose of all its 1914 cotton. There is every reason to believe that the balance of that crop, together with the 1915 one, will now be sold at good prices, and that the Domains receipts should be well up to, if not above, the estimate. As it is, at the end of July they were £E64,369 up as compared with the same period in 1914.

In conclusion, if one takes the last column and compares it with the Budget, one will find that in almost every case the receipts at the end of July exceeded one-third of the year's estimate. Only in Port Dues, Military Exemption, Divers Receipts, Direct Taxes—the reason for the latter is that the heaviest instalments fall in the autumn—and Domains is the proportion less, and although this is, it must be admitted, no sure test, the fact that we are emerging from the dead season and that trade prospects are so much brighter inclines one to the conclusion that, as I wrote in my review published on July 16, the final results of the 1915-16 financial year will be much better than the Budget led one to anticipate.

CYPRUS FINANCIAL LAWS.

The *Cyprus Gazette* of September 24 publishes the following communiqué:—

The Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies has intimated that his Majesty will not be advised to exercise his power of disallowance with regard to the following laws enacted by the Legislative Council of Cyprus:—

No. IV. of 1915.—To appropriate an additional sum not exceeding twenty-one thousand five hundred and fifty pounds to the service of the Government of Cyprus.

No. V. of 1915.—To make further provision for the twelve months ended on the thirty-first day of March, 1915.

At the asbestos quarries at Amianthus, on Mount Troödos, a liberal increase of wages has been granted to all labourers—men, women and children. The Bishop of Kitium recently visited the place and received an ovation. Amianthus is growing into a well-to-do settlement

COMPANY RESULTS, &c.

Anglo-Egyptian. — Gemsah: Week, 245 tons (previous week, 327 tons). Hurgada: Week, 230 tons, against 226 tons.

Anglo-Roumanian.—Week ended 11th ultimo, 190 tons; 18th ultimo, 149 tons.

Egyptian Delta Light Railways.—Coupon No. 36, falling due October 1, on the 5 per cent. debentures should now be lodged at the Bank of England.

Ottoman Three-and-a-Half Per Cent. Loan of 1894.—Messrs. Dent, Palmer, and Company announce the numbers of 394 Bonds of 1894 which have been drawn for payment on October 15, when interest thereon will cease.

Roumanian Consolidated.—Week ended September 25, 2,566 tons. Cable adds:—"Moreni well—No. 53 flowing steadily, producing over 200 tons daily; No. 30 still flowing steadily; No. 45 sand came up in well, now cleaning. Baicoi—Well No. 2, testing oilsand; No. 4, completed repairs, now testing."

Suez Canal.—Receipts on the 5th inst. amounted to 220,000 fr., against 830,000 fr. same day last year.

Ural Caspian.—The directors have declared an interim dividend of 1s. per share, less income-tax, on account of 1914-15.

SUDAN GOVERNMENT LOAN.

The last issue of the *Sudan Government Gazette*, dated September 11, contains the Sudan Guaranteed Loan Ordinance 1915, which is intended to amend the schedule to the Sudan Guaranteed Loan Ordinance 1913. The following is the text of this ordinance:—

1. This ordinance may be cited as the Sudan Guaranteed Loan Ordinance 1915, and the Sudan Guaranteed Loan Ordinance 1913, and this ordinance may be cited together as the Sudan Guaranteed Loan Ordinances 1913 and 1915.

2. The Sudan Guaranteed Loan Ordinance 1913 shall have effect as if the schedule to this ordinance were substituted for the schedule of that ordinance defining the purpose for which the loan authorized to be raised under that ordinance is applicable.

THE SCHEDULE.

	£
I. Works for the purpose of irrigating the Gezira Plain	2,000,000
II. Extension of the Sudan Railway System	800,000
III. Other irrigation works and contingencies	200,000
	£3,000,000

The Roumanian oil producing companies are complaining bitterly of the condition of the main road between Campina and Bushtenari. Two years ago floods carried away a length of 600 ft., and repairs have not yet been carried out. The oil men have hired neighbouring land and themselves run a road over it; but in rainy weather this is almost impassable, and the transport of heavy supplies over it is practically impossible. About 18,000 francs is necessary to repair the public road, and the producers have offered 6,000 francs towards this. A deputation on the matter has waited upon the Minister of Public Works, says the *Petroleum World*.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE	Mean Price. July 27.	Min. Price. Mar. 20.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	—	89½xd
Do. 4½% do. Bonds, 1907	82	—	—
Do. 4½% do. Bonds, 1909	80	—	66
City of Alexandria 5%, 1909	99	—	90½
City of Constantinople 4% Bnds	96	—	—
Egypt, Gov. 3% Guar. Loan	93½	87½	87½
Egyptian 4% Unified Debt	98	85	85
Do. Pref. Rd. 5%, 1890	88	78	78
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82½	73½	78½
Do. 4½% State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	80½	75	75½
Greek 5%, 1881	57	52	55
Do. 5%, 1884	56	52	54
Do. 4% Monopoly, 1887	49	45	45
Do. 4% Rentes, 1889	45	40	40
Do. 5%, 1890	56	52	53
Do. 5% Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	—	50
Do. 4% Rails. Loan, 1902	77	—	64½
Do. 5% Nat. Ln., 1907	94	—	90
Do. 5% Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	—	73
Montenegro 5% Loan	82½	—	—
Persian 5% Loan (1911)	91	—	80
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913, 80., £60p.	92	—	85
Servian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—xd
Turkish Guar. 4% Loan, 1855	103	97	—
Do. 4%, 1891	94½	—	83
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	—	73½
Do. 4% Loan, 1902	82½	—	—
Do. 4% Unified	79	—	54
Do. 4% Loan, 1908	65½	—	49
Do. 4%, 1909	69	—	47⅞
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	—	2⅝
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	—	6⅝
Do. 3½% Bonds Red.	80	—	70
Do. 3½% Guar. Bonds Red.	83	—	73
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	—	9½
Bank of Abyssinia	½	—	—
Bank of Athens	£2	—	1½
Bank of Roumania	8½	—	—
Eastern Bank	5	—	82/6
Imperial Bank of Persia	7½	—	6
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	—	—
Ionian Bank, Limited	3½	—	3½
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	—	4½
National Bank of Egypt	13½	—	10⅝
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½% C.P.	8	—	nom.
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8½	—	5½xd
Do. do. 5% Debs., Red.	98	—	95
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½% Debs., Ser. I.	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88½	—	12
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17½	—	13½
Do do. 6% Cum. Pref.	22	—	57
Do. do. 4% 1st Deb.	87	—	69
Do. do. 5% 2nd Deb.	101	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	90	—	—
Do. do. 3% Bonds	61	—	—
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1⅛	—	95/8
Do. 5% 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	—	—
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	¼	—	2
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	—	—
Do. Do. Def.	¼	—	—
Béhéra Co.	8¼	—	⅞
Do. Pref.	4½	—	3½
Daira Sanieh	2/2	—	2/6
Do. Def.	⅞	—	20/-
Egyptian Agr. 5% 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	9/-	—	7/6
Do. Gov. 4% Irr. Tst.	98	—	90
Do and Foreign Trust	5/-	—	2/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	—	1
,, Founders	¼	—	—
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—	—
Do. 5% Debs. Red.	—	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	9⅜	—	7⅛
Do. 4½% 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	—	87½xd
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	—	¼
Sidi Salem Co.	⅞	—	⅛
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	—	⅛
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	—	-/9
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	—	10⅝
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt	97	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	—	—
Egyptian Hotels	1½	—	—
Do. 4½% 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—	—
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅛	—	1⅛
Do. do. 5% Debs. Red.	99⅜	—	95
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	⅛	—	14/3
Do. 5% 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	96	—	95
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	—	9/-
Do. do. Prefs.	3⅜	—	2⅞xd
Do. do. 4½% 1st Mt.	90	—	88
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (fr. 500)	£179½	—	£—
Upper Egypt Hotels	2½	—	—

OIL.	Price on July 30.	Oct. 6.
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	⅞	4/9
Anglo-Persian	22/1½	1⅛
European Oilfields	4/9	3/3
Roumanian	20/-	12/9

PARIS BOURSE.

	Jan. 4.	Oct. 6.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane	—	—
Canal de Suez	4050	—
Credit Foncier Egyptien	639	565
Turkish Unified 4%	61.50	—
Egyptian Unified 4%	87.75	89.75
Serbian, 1895	—	60.50

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(BANQUE AGRICOLE DE BULGARIE).

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 232.—Vol. IX. FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1915.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The march of events in the Balkans has been rapid. Germany, having made up her mind to strike, is acting with characteristic thoroughness. The invasion of Serbia by Austro-German forces was launched from a number of points simultaneously. At Belgrade and Semendria the enemy were successful, and both these towns are in his hands. The Austro-German forces, however, paid heavily for their successes. Everywhere along the wide Danube front and on the Drina their crossing was stubbornly contested, while at Orsova they are for the time being held at bay. If the early days of the invasion are an earnest of what is to follow, the task before the Germans is likely to be as difficult as Serbia's heroic army can make it. The delay in Bulgaria taking the field gave rise to the supposition that she wanted to see how her allies fared before committing herself. If she ever hoped to be able to adopt such a comfortable course, she reckoned without her host. Germany picks no chestnuts out of the fire for other people. The unexpected opposition encountered by the Austro-German forces soon set the Bulgarian army moving.

The die has now been cast by Bulgaria, and all eyes are turned to-day on Serbia. Attacked on three sides, she is threatened with national extinction unless she can hold out until help reaches her. From the record of the invaders we know that the campaign will be waged with all the ruthlessness of which they are individually and collectively capable. The Bulgarians will seek to exterminate from sheer hatred, the Germans from policy, the Austrians under instructions. Serbia holds the fate of the East, and for that reason, as the *Frankfurter Zeitung* reminds us, the blow is to be at her heart. "If we desire," it points out, "to make the new turn in the Balkans a permanent gain, our troops must make a whole job of it, and Serbia must be thrown to the ground." Before that consummation is reached a reckoning with the Serbian army has to be made, with troops that are hurrying to Serbia's support, and perhaps with others that may yet decide to strike a blow on her behalf and their own.

The hopes entertained in most quarters friendly to the Bulgarians that at the last moment the Bulgarian nation would rise up to denounce the policy to which it was being committed against its own interests have so far not been realized. Any opposition that may have manifested itself against mobilization has not sufficed to prevent the Bulgarian army from invading Serbia at a number of points. For the moment Bulgarian strategy appears to be directed towards effecting a junction with the Germanic forces invading from the north. As the main object of the invasion of Serbia is to open up through communication with Turkey, the enemy will naturally seek to establish himself in the triangular tract of territory having its angles marked by Belgrade, Orsova, and Nish. Fortunately some of the most difficult country is to be found here, which will lend itself to the development of guerilla tactics by the Serbian army.

The desire of the Bulgarians must be to forestall, if possible, the reinforcements which are being sent by the Entente Powers to the support of the Serbians. From the statement made in the French Chamber by M. Viviani, it has to be inferred that the Allies have determined to make good to Serbia all that she loses by the defection of Greece. "Our action," he said, "must be vigorous," and he declared that the British and French Governments had been guided by their military advisers in arriving at the number of men required. It would not be proper even to hazard a guess at what this number may be. We shall hope that the optimism of the French Premier did not conceal any belittling of the task before the Allies. The co-operation of the Russians is likely to be a severer blow for the Bulgarians than even the reinforcements sent through Salonika. If report be true, the uneasy conscience of the Sofia Government has already found expression in the despatch of Turkish troops for the defence of the Bulgarian seaboard. This precaution indicates that King Ferdinand and his advisers are aware that they cannot trust the bulk of the Bulgarian army to take up arms against their Russian kinsfolk. The success attending the mobilization has doubtless been achieved by keeping the nation as much as possible in the dark regarding the actual state of affairs, and encouraging the belief that the Bulgarians are in reality taking steps to defend themselves against Serbian aggression.

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The remarks attributed to King Ferdinand when the representatives of Great Britain and France took leave of him leave no room for doubt that he has been actuated by an unshakable belief in the victory of the Central Powers. He reveals himself as a frank opportunist, whose one aim is to be on the side of the victor. There is more honesty in this attitude than in that adopted by other Bulgarian apologists, who inveigh against the indeterminate and conditional nature of the offers made to Bulgaria by the Quadruple Entente. What offers, it may be asked, has Germany been able to make to Bulgaria? They are even more conditional and remote than the concessions guaranteed by the Entente Powers, which were to be voluntary on the part of the States concerned, for they depend on the defeat and practical elimination of more than half Europe. Not only so, but if it be true that Bulgaria was also promised Constantinople, Germany's offers entail an act of deliberate treachery against her Turkish allies. And if Germany is ready to betray one ally to-day, Bulgaria may be sure that her turn for betrayal will also come.

Not the least interesting part of the French Premier's statement was the passage dealing with Bulgaria's action. In the face of her mobilization, the Allied Governments at once declared that all the advantages and guarantees which they had stated themselves to be ready to offer Bulgaria had to be considered as null and void and definitely cancelled, and they resumed their liberty of action towards the other Balkan States. The understanding between the British Government and the Republic, M. Viviani continued, is complete, and cannot be better expressed than in the following terms: "From now on France and Britain, in agreement with their Allies, have come to a complete agreement to send assistance to Serbia, and to ensure for the benefit of Serbia and Greece that Germany shall respect the Bucharest Treaty, of which we are guarantors." If the Bulgarians have time to spare to a consideration of the irony of fate, they will be struck by the fact that they have thrown in their lot with Germany, who claims direct responsibility for the Bucharest Treaty, solely in order to upset the terms of that Treaty. Their action causes the Triple Entente, which was prepared to see the Treaty torn up, to determine that its provisions shall now be upheld. Bulgaria by her suicidal policy will thus have succeeded in forging more closely round her the fetters which it was the national desire to cast off for ever.

The delay in Sir Edward Grey's promised statement on the situation in the Balkans causes M. Viviani's speech to the French Chamber to be at the time when these lines go to press the sole *exposé* of the policy of the Entente Powers. We are obliged, therefore, to devote as much space as possible to a consideration of its contents. It was characterized throughout by marked optimism, which it is to be hoped the situation, as known to the Entente Governments, justifies. No less striking were the remarkably generous references made to Roumania. The efforts of the Allies in Roumania, said the French Premier, had not remained without success. "The state of semi-mobilization in which she holds her troops will allow her to repel any aggression, to defend herself against all German pressure, and to watch with the closest attention events on both the Austrian and the Bulgarian frontier. Roumania knows, moreover, that only the victory of the Quadruple Entente can ensure her independence and lead to the satisfaction of the national aspirations."

The man in the street would not be inclined to deal so kindly with Roumania's delay in striking a blow for her national ideals. Critics in Roumania itself are far more severe, and on previous occasions we have given expression to the surprise very generally felt that the Bratiano Cabinet, if it has any justification for its attitude, should not take the leaders of the Opposition into its confidence with a view to eliminating criticism, until the moment for action arrives.

It was noticeable that for Greece M. Viviani had no honeyed words to spare. For the moment King Constantine competes with King Ferdinand of Bulgaria for the more emphatic condemnation of the verdict of history. The Bulgarians might plead their traditional hostility to Serbia, the close proximity of the Germanic Powers, and the deliberate alienation of their sympathies by the diplomacy of the Entente Powers. King Constantine has no such excuses. He has acted contrary to the wishes of the people, and has betrayed their interests; he has overridden the Constitution of the country, and he has committed a deliberate breach of faith. If his attitude is supported or even tolerated in Greece, we have the measure of the national honour and of the statesmanship which the Greeks can command.

M. Zaimis, the new Premier, has met the Greek Chamber and has announced that for the present the Government will adopt a policy of armed neutrality. This statement has been amplified by Greek representatives accredited to the Allied Powers by a declaration to the effect that Greek neutrality will be characterized by complete and sincere benevolence to the Quadruple Entente. In other words, Greece will not oppose the landing of the Allies' troops at Salonika, but she will not take the field in support of Serbia. A formal request from the Serbian Government for Greek assistance in accordance with the terms of the Serbo-Greek alliance has been met with a refusal. It is understood that King Constantine and the Zaimis Cabinet adopt the view that the treaty which provided for mutual support in the event of one or other of the contracting parties being attacked by Bulgaria does not apply when Bulgaria attacks as a member of a larger confederation of States. Such an argument does not avail to disguise the breach of faith for which the King of the Hellenes has made himself personally responsible.

Nothing that can be said outside Greece is likely to carry more weight than the impassioned appeal of M. Venizelos in the Greek Chamber, after the new Premier had stated the Government's policy. He pointed out that even if Greece had no treaty with Serbia, she was bound to defend that country against Bulgarian aggression in her own interests and to preserve the equilibrium of the Balkans. If Germany should ultimately be the victor, Bulgaria is sure to be so enlarged as to render Greece's chances against her illusory. The truth of M. Venizelos's warning is confirmed by the announcement that according to the secret treaty signed between Germany and Bulgaria the latter is to receive the whole of Albania, all Serbian Macedonia south of a line from Prizrend to Tsaribrod, and Greek Macedonia, including Salonika, Drama, Serres, Kavalla, Florina, and Castoria. The accuracy of this version of the treaty has been denied in the German Press; but no other course could be adopted by the German Government, in view of the fact that it had also promised Greece as a bribe for her neutrality a part of southern Albania, as well as the Dodecanese and Cyprus. It says little for the intelligence which the Kings of Bulgaria and the Hellenes bring to bear upon their reading of international affairs that they should have been ready to place reliance in the promises made by Germany. The bribe offered to Greece becomes illusory unless Germany succeeds to the command of the seas, but it was held good enough to justify the tearing up of yet another "scrap of paper."

The proceedings in the Greek Chamber, however, showed that M. Venizelos expects that Greece will ultimately adopt the right course of action. It is difficult indeed to believe that the Hellenic nation will have to be judged for all time by the breach of faith to which it has now been committed. From the point of view of the future federation of the Balkans the present outlook appears black enough. But even if Greece should be held back until Serbia's danger has been averted, we shall hope that in due course both Greeks and Bulgarians will find means of disavowing policies which are demonstrably opposed to the interests of their respective countries.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Cairo, October 4.

Execution of Fathi Pasha's Assailant.

The trial of Saleh Abdel Latif Bedawi, the man who stabbed H.E. Ibrahim Fathi Pasha, the Minister of Wakfs, at Cairo station on September 4, took place on Monday last before a military court, and was concluded the same day. The room used was the Court of Assize, as in the case of Mohammed Khalil, the man who made the first attempt on the Sultan's life in April last, and the arrangements made were the same as those described on the occasion of that trial. Mr. A. S. Preston acted as Judge Advocate, Mr. S. E. Jeffes as Prosecutor, and Mr. C. H. Perrott as counsel for the defence. There was a good crowd of Egyptians in the well of the court and outside the building.

Saleh Abdel Latif was charged: first, with compassing and devising to bring and put to death Hussein Rushdi Pasha, Ibrahim Fathi Pasha, and Abdel Khalek Sarwat Pasha, Ministers in the Government of H.H. Sultan Hussein, Ruler over Egypt under the Protecting Power of Great Britain, and in execution of this design with stabbing the said Ibrahim Fathi Pasha, to the prejudice of good order and in contempt of the military control of Egypt, established by martial law; secondly (and alternatively), with feloniously and unlawfully wounding Ibrahim Fathi Pasha with intent to kill him, to the prejudice of good order and in contempt of the military control of Egypt, established by martial law. Accused pleaded "not guilty" to the first, and "guilty" to the second charge.

The first witness called was the Parquet *substitut*, who conducted the inquiry when the accused was first arrested, who testified to his having made before him certain statements, which the prosecution regarded as a confession, and on which the first charge was based. For the defence, Mr. Perrott objected to this confession being accepted as evidence against his client; but the Court overruled the objection. The statements made by the accused were addressed to the Minister of Justice, who was present, and were to the effect that it was a lucky chance for him that he (Saleh) had been arrested. "If it is not to-day, be sure that your turn will come to-morrow," said the prisoner, adding that he intended to kill Fathi Pasha because he was a traitor, and also Rushdi Pasha, and that he tried to escape after the attempt, not in order to save himself, but in order to go to Alexandria to kill Rushdi Pasha and Sarwat Pasha.

H.E. Ibrahim Pasha Fathi was next called. He narrated what had happened at Cairo station on September 4, and described the injuries he had suffered—the wound in his left shoulder was still open, whilst his left cheek had an ugly-looking triangular scar. Fathi Pasha said he had never seen his aggressor prior to the attempt on his life, and, far from having ever done him or his any injury, he had recently learnt that, whilst he was Mudir of Gharbia, he had done good to Saleh Abdel Latif's brother. Corroborative evidence as to the attempt was then given by other witnesses; the knife used, a two-edged one, with "Retribution to Traitors" written in Arabic on the handle, was produced and identified; and then the accused entered the box and gave evidence on his own behalf.

Saleh Abdel Latif presented a marked contrast to his predecessor in that same dock—Mohammed Khalil, the Sultan's aggressor of April last. He was a tall, keen-eyed, intelligent-looking man, certainly did not give the appearance of an *exalté*, and appeared to feel his position and to take an interest in the proceedings. His evidence, which was given in English, was in the form of a statement to the effect that when he made the statements referred to he was tired and very excited, that he ran away merely because he was afraid of Fathi Pasha's pistol, and that the words he used to Sarwat Pasha were intended to warn him and Rushdi Pasha that there were others who might want to kill them, as the people were angry with them. He explained that he had decided to kill Fathi Pasha because he had heard that that gentleman had been responsible for the arrest of many people who had been the sole support of their families. He had, however, since learnt that this information had been untrue, and he had expressed his regrets to Fathi Pasha.

Counsel for the prosecution and for the defence then addressed the Court briefly, and the Judge Advocate summed up. When asked if he had anything to say in mitigation of sentence, the accused obtained permission to speak in Arabic; but, as his statement was merely a further explanation of the motives that had prompted his action, he was stopped by the President. He then said that he hoped the punishment would be mitigated. After this the Court withdrew to consider its verdict. It pronounced an acquittal on the first charge, and, on the second, after confirmation by General Maxwell, the accused was sentenced to death. The sentence has been generally approved by all serious-minded Egyptians, and was quietly carried out yesterday morning.

The Holy Carpet.

Notwithstanding the difficulties, political and otherwise, that lie in the way of the Mecca Pilgrimage this year, the Egyptian Government has decided that the "Carpet" that is annually despatched to the Holy Shrines shall be sent; and the two ceremonies attendant on its departure took place on Thursday and Saturday on the square below the Citadel, under the presidency of H.E. Hussein Rushdi Pasha, who represented the Sultan. The "Carpet" will, however, not be taken under escort to Mecca, as in former years, but only as far as Jeddah, where it will be handed over to the representative of the Sherif of Mecca, who has undertaken to convey it to its destination. Arrangements have also been made, whereby the usual cereal contribution made by the Egyptian Government to the ulema and poor of Mecca shall also be sent, without fear of intervention by the Turkish authorities.

The Egyptian Ministry of Finance (says a Cairo telegram) has issued a circular letter to the various Ministries and Departments requesting their Budget Estimates for the financial year 1916-1917, and urging them to observe the strictest care and economy.

EARLY EGYPTIAN TOOLS.

Professor Flinders Petrie commenced on Thursday last, at University College, London, a course of lectures dealing with the history of the tools of Egypt in relation to the similar forms used in other countries. He said it was a mistake to suppose that the first metal tools were always copies of stone tools which had preceded them. In many cases it could be seen that the stone tool was an elaboration of what had previously been made in metal. In Egypt, roughly speaking, stone was superseded by copper, generally with a small admixture of some other metal, about 8000 B.C., and this period lasted until about 2000 B.C. Then commenced the bronze age, properly so called, the period when copper was alloyed with a definite proportion of tin. This lasted down to about 1000 B.C., and then began the iron age. The lecture was illustrated by the magic lantern, and interesting slides showed early Egyptian tools in comparison with those of other parts of the world.

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NEWS FROM TURKEY.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Athens, September 29.

Turks' Confidence.

The agreement between Bulgaria and Turkey and the mobilization of the Bulgarian army appear to be the topics of the day in Constantinople, but the *Hilal* is silent on the subject, and so, apparently, are other papers. A dinner was given at Tokatlian's last week to Enver, Talaat and other leading Turks and several Bulgarians.

There seems to be a still greater feeling of confidence amongst the Turks just now. They announce that General Mackensen, with an army of 300,000 men, will pass through Constantinople, and will proceed to the conquest of Egypt! It is also said that a contract has been entered into for the importation of 80,000 tons of German coal; so they are confident that communication with Germany, through Bulgaria and Serbia, is soon to be established.

This confidence makes them more arrogant and vindictive against foreigners. A decision has been taken to the effect that foreigners not possessing property in Turkey must henceforth furnish a guarantee before being able to institute legal proceedings against an Ottoman, and announcement appears to the effect that the Ministry of Commerce proposes to take steps against those insurance companies who have not complied with the new law.

Rahmi Bey, the Vali of the Aidin vilayet, has returned to Smyrna.

Black Sea Operations.

In their *communiqué* of the 19th, the Turks announce that one of their squadrons visited the Crimean coast and bombarded a lighthouse and a factory, and sunk four Russian sailing vessels.

Last week the Goeben again made a trip to the Black Sea.

The proposed railway from Ouzoun Keupru turns out to be a Decauville line from Ouzoun Keupru to the lignite mines at Kechan.

Supplies from Bulgaria.

Since the signing of the Turco-Bulgarian agreement many waggon loads of flour have arrived from Bulgaria, and these arrivals have considerably relieved the situation in Constantinople, bread now being available in sufficient quantities. All groceries are, however, very dear; and although a certain amount of petroleum has arrived, it is difficult to obtain.

Wounded in large numbers continue to arrive daily in Constantinople. There are also daily arrivals of Germans, evidently soldiers. At the same time many Germans are leaving, including sick and wounded. There appears to be a feeling amongst the Germans that sooner or later the Turks will turn on them.

German Pin-Pricks.

In the meantime the Germans are evidently inducing the Turks to be aggressive to the enemy subjects and, doubtless at the instigation of the Huns, they are exiling Englishmen to Asia Minor. According to latest advices from Constantinople, the following have been sent from Constantinople to towns in the interior: Messrs. Harold Ashover, Colley, Leete, Farley, Hoare, Gilbert and Willard. Others expect to follow at any moment. Dr. McClean was under arrest for one night, but the American Ambassador obtained his release.

Ladies and children are still allowed to leave, and Mrs. Richard Bond, Mrs. Douch and family and Mrs. Percy Wills and family have come away.

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CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Cyprus, October 4.

Cypriot Greeks and the War.

The news of the mobilization of Bulgaria followed by that of Greece has caused great excitement. Articles in the Greek papers dwell on the shameless perfidy of the "brutal and barbarous" nation which tramples under foot its most sacred obligations. Information as to the exact designs of Bulgaria are lacking; but in view of the Turco-Bulgarian pacts, and other circumstances, there is no room for doubt that the movement at Sofia is on the side of Turkey and against that of Serbia and Greece, "the faithful Allies of the Entente Powers." One duty only now devolves upon every Greek, in whatever country he may be—to be prepared to do his utmost for the defence of his Mother Country and the fulfilment of her destiny. The youth of Cyprus will be prepared, with enthusiasm, to win fresh and still more glorious, laurels on the field of battle. All who cannot take such a part must do their duty by contributing whatever may be possible towards the sinews of war. Although the island is suffering from a serious economic crisis, there can be no shrinking from this duty. It is for the Archbishop and the bishops to take the lead in an energetic movement for this purpose.

Bread Supply of Nicosia.

On several occasions lately there has been some difficulty on the part of the poor in obtaining their bread. The bakers, who receive wheat from the Government tithe stores, are bound to sell in Nicosia at 3 piastres (4d.) the oke. But they have failed to make a sufficient quantity, and there is some suspicion that bread is sent out of the town, to fetch higher prices. Government is asked to take measures for meeting this need. It is also suggested that the Municipality of Nicosia should establish bakeries of its own, and sell at the regulation price.

Motor Service.

The Motor Company has adopted several changes, which give great satisfaction. The journey between Nicosia and Limassol can now be made in the day. The only question remaining is that of a possible reduction in some of the fares.

THE AMERICAN COLLEGE, BEYROUT.

(From a Correspondent.)

Alexandria, October 3.

I gather from Americans here that the prospects of the Syrian Protestant College at Beyrout reopening very shortly are not good. Nothing is known here as to the result of Dr. Bliss's visit to Constantinople, but there is a likelihood that the college may be closed during the coming year. This is rendered all the more probable owing to the difficulties that many of the American instructors are experiencing in getting back to Beyrout at all, after spending their summer holidays in Europe. A number of them are now in this city, awaiting the result of the American Consul's efforts to secure permission for them to land in Beyrout, and, I understand, negotiations are proceeding with Constantinople by way of Athens to obtain such permission.

DISTRESS IN SYRIA.

Writing in the *Life of Faith* (September 29) "A. M. G." says that never before has Syria experienced such an acute crisis as that through which it is now passing; trade is ruined, many people are dying of starvation, "the whole country is in a state of chaos, and the Jewish communities are suffering the most horrible persecution."

"All schools are closed with the exception of the American Protestant College, which has overcome the present difficulties, and continues its valuable work. This institution has extended its help and protection to Asfuriyeh, the Lebanon Hospital for Mental Diseases, so that it has during all this first year of this terrible war been able to keep its doors open and the work going on without interruption. Jews, Moslems, Christians, all who are in need have been admitted. The committee in London have recent tidings that all is well, and that the doctor and matron are still at their posts, and very busy with the work. The Turkish Government instructed the Administrators to fly the Turkish flag; and this with the American Red Cross flag is a sign to all that the hospital is recognised, and permitted to continue. Provisions are an exorbitant price in Syria, and difficult to get at this time, but they have been obtained so far through the sympathy and kindness shown by many."

The American Ambassador in Paris has informed the French Government that, in spite of the efforts and protests of the American Consul-General at Beyrout, the Turkish authorities have broken the seals affixed by him to the French Consulate there, and have proceeded to examine the archives.

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REMINISCENCES OF TSER.

BY A PARTICIPANT.

"Yes, I was at the battle of Tser, but I did not know it!" Thus Captain X, on the anniversary of the famous Serbian victory, in which Austrian numbers were routed by Serbian mettle.

"I did not know that the place was Tser, nor that we were in a regular battle. It looked as if our division had been surrounded, and nothing remained but a fight to the death. We had rushed so madly to meet the foe, as soon as we heard that they had actually set foot on our territory, that nothing was in order with regard to uniform and equipment. In lieu of straps, my men had bits of cord and old string to tie on their rifles with, and if ever murderous rage was in my heart, I felt it then against the Government that could not give us kit-bags or ammunition. As we ran forward we took every bit of clothes-line, and every rod we could seize, for—it seems incredible now—many were unarmed until the very last moment before we got the order to charge. The cartridges were handed round while we were moving, and altogether it was the most hurried jump into a fight that was ever seen. Here we were, dressing ourselves as we ran, and facing us was the magnificent Pilsen regiment, No. 7, one of the finest of the Imperial Army—smart, shining, calm, perfectly prepared. We, the 3rd Cavalry regiment, went for it tooth and nail. In less than half-an-hour it began to stagger, and shortly after there was a stampede. While some fled, others ran towards us crying: "Sokol! Sokol!" Batches of thirty and forty, Czechs at their head, surrendered, and we were glad of their guns. One man lay on the ground—he was a German—pretending to be dead. It was very funny. Sometimes he lifted his head a little to peep round, and then lay down again, still as death. One of our fellows kicked him, and he jumped up at once and fell on his knees. He was so voluble we sent him quickly to the rear to find listeners. A fellow came up to me and announced himself with great dignity as a Social Democrat. I told him it made no difference whatever.

"That night we slept on the conquered position, and next day we started in pursuit. The road to Pernauer, on the Drina, was strewn with ambulances, books, boxes of salt, sugar, parcels of linen, saddles, dead horses, cannon, and helmets. . . . But near the Drina they made a stand. We got behind them, while the fight was proceeding on top of the mountain, and we fought for their battery and took it. Then our luck turned, and we, in our turn, were surrounded as we were trying to get their bridge of pontoons. We had to retreat, fighting for every inch of our way back. . . . .

"But the worst was at Bela Reka—this was on August 17, the third day of the fight—when our entire regiment came under cross-fire, and we became scattered, lost, snared. They shot us down like rabbits. We were in a hollow, and our mounts were exhausted. We had had nothing to eat all day but plums. Still we kept darting from one point to another, the horses as anxious as ourselves to escape the bullets. They were closing round on us from the heights when we made one desperate rush up an incline to get to the road. I had but ten men with me, and knew nothing of the rest. I found numbers of them, however, at Lipolist, where we reformed, and were feeling fine, till our own artillery began shelling us. . . . We galloped like mad to the other end of the village, raising a cloud of dust that hid us still more, and now, indeed, we felt our end had come. I had a huge animal, and wished I had made a more modest choice when I bought him. I looked at my Commander, and he only raised his eyebrows. That was all the consolation I got. I never could understand why we were not blown to bits by our best battery. Seeing some cavalry behind the Austrian lines, they rightly went for us!

"'That fool M,' said the Commander, at last, alluding to his best friend; 'he would shell his own grandfather when he has the howitzer at hand.'

"I had some good comrades among the artillerists myself, and I hoped they would not be killed until I met them. Meantime, some of our men had found their way to the battery, and suddenly its fire was diverted. We fought and marched all night till we came into touch again with our own. Then we dismounted, unhitched our swords, and lay down, contented, in the mud.

There was no more to do just then, for the trouble was over. The battle of Tser, as it was afterwards known to us, and in Europe, had been decided in our favour. For the first time the forces of Young Serbia had been measured with those of the ancient and mighty empire of Austria-Hungary, and the issue was not doubtful. . . . Not one object of the spoils we had seen did I covet, but I longed as never before or since for a glass of wine—the sour Serbian wine that makes your ears tingle. But if anybody had started to bring it me, he would have found me impossible to awaken by the time he came back. We slept fourteen hours without budging, and then we had a meal in proportion.

"This is all I know about the battle of Tser."

SERBIAN LETTER.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

NISH, September 24.

The Bulgarian Mobilization.

I was yesterday officially informed that a general mobilization of the Bulgarian Army has been ordered, and some of the Serbian papers state that at 3 a.m. yesterday bonfires were lighted at certain conspicuous parts of the country in Bulgaria as a signal for the mobilization. It is also asserted that Bulgarian troops have been sent forward towards the Serbian and Roumanian frontiers.

At the time when the Serbian Government first gave a favourable reply to the Quadruple Entente's request concerning the cession of territories in Macedonia it was generally believed here that Serbia's concessions would not ward off an offensive movement on the part of Bulgaria against Serbia. To-day there is a firm conviction prevalent that Bulgaria's mobilization is directed against this country, and that war between the two States is almost inevitable. Yesterday's *Odjek*, a semi-official organ, stated:—

The situation in Sofia becomes day by day more and more complicated. The King of Bulgaria and the leaders of the Opposition parties have lately, at a special audience, had an exchange of sharp words. In fact, the Opposition leaders adopted a menacing tone. But we do not consider the incident very tragic; we believe the King will continue quietly to carry out his own plans.

In well-informed circles it is said that, according to advices received from Sofia, M. Radoslavoff, the Bulgarian Prime Minister, when addressing members of the political party, made no secret of the attempt of the Opposition to compromise the policy of the Government, and said that the neutrality hitherto persevered in can be easily turned into an armed neutrality, but that this must not be taken as implying the danger of an outbreak of war.

Pro-Turkish Bulgarians!

Showing another side of the picture, it is reported here that on the day of the promulgation of the order for general mobilization there was a demonstration in Sofia, the participants carrying banners of Austria and Germany, and shouting: "Down with the Quadruple Entente! Down with Serbia! Turkey for ever!" In connection with this must be taken into consideration the news circulated here that the Turco-Bulgarian Treaty is an accomplished fact, and that Bulgarian troops have been already sent to occupy districts given over to Bulgaria.

Preparing for Eventualities.

The uncertainty of the situation is keenly felt by everyone, and preparations are being actively made to cope with the worst that may happen. The day before yesterday the Serbian Prime Minister, being desirous of conferring with the Powers of the Quadruple Entente, the representatives of Great Britain, France, Russia and Italy called simultaneously at the Serbian Foreign Office, and were received in a body by the Premier.

To-day a leading Serbian politician thus expressed himself: "We cannot regard with indifference the general mobilization in Bulgaria. It must mean something, and if the Quadruple Entente still have hopes of averting a new adventure on the part of Bulgaria which can only prove fatal to that country one thing is necessary—rapidity of action. Events precipitate themselves, and every hour's delay is detrimental.

Any newsagent or bookstall in the United Kingdom can supply copies of THE NEAR EAST, which are on sale early on Friday morning. Should any difficulty be experienced in obtaining the paper, the Manager would be glad to receive a post card giving particulars, and he will take steps to rectify the matter.

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THE SITUATION IN PERSIA.—II.

BY JAMSHEED.

A correspondent, who signs himself "Freydoon," has endeavoured to refute some parts of my article in THE NEAR EAST of August 13. As we appear to have the same aim and object—to avoid separating the cause of Persia from that of England, and more particularly to prevent Persia from making common cause with the Turco-Germans—it may be worth while to reply by throwing some light upon points raised in his letter, published in THE NEAR EAST of August 20.

1. "In no Persian paper have I seen an advocacy of Persia fighting on the side of the Germans or the Turks."

There could not be a more direct denial of the statement which, with a full knowledge of the facts, I put forward. Therefore it is necessary to cite our authorities, and to recommend to the study of "Freydoon": (a) the following journals, the *Khavar*, the *Muffetsh Iran*, the *Rastakheez;* (b) some pamphlets, published anonymously, entitled "Who are the barbarians?" "What is our duty?"; (c) some brochures on "The Policy of Great Britain towards Egypt" and on "British Rule in India"; (d) many poems, the literary quality of which is less in evidence than the spirit of hatred; and (e) a brochure published by the Society of Persian Patriots, and entitled, the "Patriotic Call." I will not extend the list any further. "Freydoon" will be able to acquaint himself with the violent turn of this Press and this propaganda against the Quadruple Entente, and of its exaltation of Germany, who is represented as the determined and disinterested (!) friend of the Moslem nations, with whom Persia ought therefore to ally herself, since both of them have a common enemy.

II. "No responsible person or party, with influence on public opinion, advocates or would think of advocating such measure" (as fighting on the side of the Germans or the Turks).

To put forward such a statement is to ignore the evidence of facts. The Grand Mujtahid Nurullah of Ispahan in the mosques preaches war against Great Britain and Russia, and threatens with malediction and ruin those who would dare to maintain relations with the representatives of those Powers, or should receive any money from them. Can it be denied that a Grand Mujtahid exercises considerable influence on public opinion? This influence is such that the situation at Ispahan is alarming: the Consul-General, Mr. Grahame, has been the object of an attempted assassination, an Indian soldier of his escort has been killed, and terrorists threaten officials of the British and Russian Consulates and banks, with the result that (at the time of writing) most of the subjects of the Allied Powers are preparing to leave Ispahan.

The British Vice-Consul at Shiraz has been attacked, and has succumbed to his injuries. The British and Russian Consuls at Kermanshah have been attacked by the population, led by the German Vice-Consul, Herr Schoenemann. At Bushire two British officers were killed by tribesmen, with whom were some Germans. And so long ago as last April the Russian Consul at Ispahan, M. Kaver, was assassinated.

Do not these facts suffice to prove the existence of a criminal German propaganda and the co-operation of influential fanatical patriots who work upon the unhappy people to stir them up to worse excesses?

The Democratic party constitutes, in fact, the Radical party in the Mejliss; it holds in check all the Cabinets that assume office. Rather than give way to the Democratic deputies, three of these Cabinets have preferred to resign; the last Ministerial crisis lasted two months; it centred entirely upon the attitude that the Government ought to take up with regard to neutrality.

The Democrats protest because Great Britain and Russia do not withdraw their troops from Persian territory; but they find nothing to say against the massacres and organised pillaging in Azerbaijan, carried out by the Turkish troops under the command of Khalil Bey; they are silent regarding the violation of the frontier in the neighbourhood of Kermanshah by the troops of Reouf Bey, and the exactions inflicted upon the Persian tribesmen by his orders; and similarly they are silent regarding the conduct—worthy of a brigand—of the German Vice-Consul Schoenemann, who leads armed bands and attacks the British and Russian Consuls. But, on the other hand, the Minister of the Interior, Prince Firman Firma, is violently assailed in the Mejliss for having opposed the Turkish hordes, and the Cabinet is outvoted for having supported the Minister who did his duty.

Will these examples suffice to prove to "Freydoon" that, unhappily for Persia, there are some men and some influential parties that, openly or secretly, agitate and work to range Persia on the side of Germany and Turkey; and that there is a Press that upholds this dangerous policy, and that condemns all the Allied Powers in its hatred of Russia?

III. "Deep study of the situation leaves no room for doubt that the remedy for this state of affairs would not be the dissolution of Parliament or the formation of a Cabinet such as your correspondent suggests" (i.e., a coalition Cabinet).

(a) It may be readily granted that in the present situation the dissolution of Parliament would be a violent measure, and that it might give rise to some disorder; but has the Parliament, which has been sitting more or less permanently, foreseen or prevented disorders? In this connection we may quote from the *Atlaat*, of Teheran:—

Finances are reduced to zero; the gendarmerie is disorganised owing to lack of money; the police have not been paid for months; the governors of provinces do not know what instructions to give; the chiefs of the tribes are getting out of hand; disorder is spreading from the capital to the provinces; the situation emboldens the brigands, who rob and pillage even in the environs of Teheran.

In the South, grave incidents have taken place, and no measures have been taken. The greater part of the Press and public opinion strongly condemn the parliamentary differences which have such a bad result.

The picture thus drawn by the Teheran journal is edifying. It proves that order does not reign in the country precisely owing to parliamentary disunion—and by disunion we must understand the ill-will of the Mejliss which, in such extraordinarily grave circumstances, paralyses the work of government and, under the pretext of controlling, helps to confuse the authorities.

To speak frankly, we are living in a state of sheer anarchy, because the Cabinets, however they may be formed, have no effective or moral authority, and in order to exist, can only be docile and passive agents in the hands of a tryannical and aggressive minority. In face of the facts we cannot close our eyes and stop our ears, and pretend that the parliamentary regime, as it exists to-day, can be a panacea for the evils from which we are suffering. And since we know the source of much of the evil, it is necessary, for the good of the Fatherland, to put an end to it and to prevent it doing any further mischief.

(b) The Coalition Cabinet that we recommend to cope with the situation would, according to "Freydoon," have an ephemeral existence, because it would be too heterogeneous, being formed of Liberal patriots, of notorious reactionaries, and of traitors to their country.

Not to hark back too far, to the beginnings of the Constitutional regime—which would, however, furnish us with some typical examples—let us remember that Sultan Ahmed Shah came to the throne on July 21, 1914, and that in the space of little more than a year, in the midst of an unparalleled war, he has been confronted by four Ministerial crises. The Cabinets, however, were homogeneous. But they were none the more viable for that!

As for the charge of making an indiscriminate mixture of Liberals, reactionaries and traitors, it may be pointed out that, with the exception of the great Liberal Taghizadeh, all the individuals mentioned in our list were either former Prime Ministers or Ministers of the Constitutional regime. To cite only one example, which stands out strikingly from amongst them, we may recall the fact that the Cabinet of Prince Ain ed-Dowleh, which has resigned, was formed last April in accordance with the views of the Mejliss. Now, Prince Ain ed-Dowleh was the immediate cause of the revolution of 1906, and it was he who commanded the troops dispatched by Mohammed Ali Shah, after the bombardment of the Parliament, June 21, 1908, to besiege the heroic people of Tabriz who had risen against the tyranny of their Sovereign.

Is it inconsistent to recommend the formation of a Cabinet composed of former constitutional Ministers, including Prince Ain ed-Dowleh, or rather is it not the Mejliss that is inconsistent when it asks the Shah to place in power a notorious reactionary who bitterly opposed the revolution and the Liberals of Tabriz? For when we deem the presence of Prince Ain-ed-Dowleh necessary and wish to see him collaborating with the Liberals and others, so-called reactionaries, it is because we place their enlightened patriotism above their political tenets; because we hold that, having experience of the conduct of affairs of State, they will be in a position to bring the Persian ship into port, despite the difficulties caused by those who trust in Wilhelm II., the self-styled champion of Moslem nations!

In recommending the formation of a coalition Cabinet we desire, by introducing well-known Radicals side by side with constitutional Conservatives, to give a real pledge to those who, like "Freydoon," are inclined to fear that the dissolution of the Mejliss would only be the prelude to a return to reaction; and we believe that these unyielding elements of the Persian political body, freed from the trammels of a Parliament acting in opposition to the principles which are its *raison d'être*, would form a quite homogeneous body. For, aiming at the eventual prosperity and independence of Persia, this body would, with that object in view, know how to avoid the pitfalls and traps prepared by Germany and those who, in their political blindness, have faith in that nation for which treaties are mere "scraps of paper."

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

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

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

THE FUTURE OF CYPRUS.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—Just a few lines in your interesting paper, THE NEAR EAST. Under the heading "The Future of Cyprus," Mr. Kenneth Ledward, F.R.G.S., writes from London, September 8, 1915, and his words hurt me very much, as I have lived in this island over twenty years—not all at one stretch. Mr. Ledward writes as though his knowledge were from *hearsay*. I am a constant reader of THE NEAR EAST, and did *not* agree with any of Mr. Ledward's letters.

Let me add, I am proud that our Sovereign has such loyal subjects as the Moslems of Cyprus, some of whom I have known for many years.—I am, etc.,

ENGLISHWOMAN.

Limassol, Cyprus, September 29, 1915.

TURKEY AND THE ARMENIANS.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—The following words of a Turkish poet—Zia Pasha, I believe—still hold good:—"Fidelity is simply foolishness in this country" (*Sadakat dediklery mahza jinnet dir bou milkde*). Again, we recognise some other Turks who, under the anguish of official injustice, could not help crying out and exclaiming: "Ah, when will Russia or England come to the rescue and save us from the hands of this cruel and pitiless (*zalim*) Government?"

Armenians, as subjects and Christian inhabitants of Turkey, would naturally suffer much more, but several of the Armenian leaders gave an indulgent and lenient explanation of those faults, ascribing them solely to the incapacity of the Government officials, and believing that there would finally come a righteous administration.

Unfortunately, the experience of long years showed that official Turkey was not only weak and indifferent towards the rights of Armenians, but also discontented and antipathetic. The Young Turks themselves took thousands of oaths in the name of righteousness and equality, and repeatedly promised to remedy the wrongs committed by Abdul Hamid, the so-called Red Sultan. Yet it was the same Hamidian plan which they carried out against the Armenians of Adana; and some of the corpses which were thrown into the river, floating over the waters of the Mediterranean, reached the shores of Cyprus, and were buried in our cemetery of Nicosia, I being an eye-witness.

Owing to religious fanaticism, the Ottoman Empire fell behind-hand for centuries. Turkey's present leaders confess this, they being incomparably more learned and civilized than their ancestors. They have been subjected to serious disasters and losses, but have they availed themselves of the sorrowful lessons of the past? This is the all-important question. The reply would have been in the affirmative had they followed a liberal policy towards the non-Mohammedan races, especially the Armenian people, who, since the Balkan War, have been the only Christian nation in Turkey.

What could we Armenians expect of the Germans? It is self-evident. As a matter of fact, they have of late been courting us. Take, for instance, the State visit of the commander of the ill-famed "Goeben" at the outbreak of the war to the head of the Armenian Church in Cilicia; the various bodies formed in Berlin in favour of the Armenian cause; the eulogy by the German Press of the sterling qualities of the Armenian race. But, nevertheless, the Armenians had well-founded reasons for doubting the straightforwardness of their policy. Hence our present antipathy and discontent; and, having consequently shown sympathy towards the Entente, our present discontent and antipathy against German methods should not be a matter of surprise.

A German missionary, at the commencement of the great war, declared that the Armenians would be massacred should their sympathies be with the Entente Powers. We now witness the sad realization of the cynical threats and predictions of the said missionary, and once more have the heights of Masis and Ararad been covered with the skeletons of scores of thousands of innocent Armenians, and it is again the same Christian blood that flows down the Tigris and the Euphrates. Moreover, Talaat Bey addressed the American Ambassador at Constantinople in the following words:—"I will place the Armenians in such a state as to render them unable to pronounce the words 'Independent Armenia' for fifty years to come." Be that as it may, the truth remains that the Turkish Government of to-day is obstinately and mercilessly endeavouring to exterminate our nation.

There was a time when Turkey, in the face of public opinion and the threats of the Great Powers, was rather cautious in exercising a free hand over us. The "Red Sultan" himself tried somehow or other to justify his criminal acts by throwing dust in the eyes of the Powers. Things have now changed. Turkey has drawn her sword against the very nations that would professedly have been our mediators and protectors. The Young Turks have repudiated the policy of the old Government, and have preferred to adopt the policy of Blood and Iron of their Prussian masters.

Will the Turks succeed in saving their tottering Empire by persecuting and tyrannizing over the non-Moslem races with a view to their extermination? No. Suffering humanity will certainly emerge victorious through the untold cruelties, sanguinary atrocities, and indescribable horrors that have been torturing it since time immemorial, and will break the fetters, no matter how strong and powerful they may be; and sooner or later will "Ramesis the Judge" claim a strict account of the sufferings of the innumerable defenceless victims. After all, there *is* such a thing as everlasting justice in this world, and I cannot omit the following words of the famous author Victor Hugo, "Il y a une justice immanente."—I am, etc.,

DYON MEN.

Nicosia, Cyprus, September, 1915.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Armenian Massacres. October 12.

Replying to Mr. ANEURIN WILLIAMS, who asked for information regarding the Armenian massacres in Turkey, Sir E. GREY said that all the information he could give on the subject was contained in the statement of Lord Crewe in the House of Lords last week. That statement went further than was usual in reply to a question in the House of Commons, and he did not propose to read it. There could be but one feeling of horror and indignation at the outrages.

The Balkan Situation. October 13.

Sir H. DALZIEL asked the Minister of Munitions (in the absence of the Prime Minister) whether he was aware that there was a general desire in the House that Sir E. Grey's statement (to be made the following day) on the Balkan situation should be made in a form that would allow members to offer some comments upon it.

Mr. LLOYD GEORGE: I will represent the matter to the Prime Minister.

NEW SCHOOL OF SLAVONIC.

A new movement of great importance for the future relations between Britain and the Slavonic world is to be inaugurated by the Prime Minister in person on Tuesday next (says the *Morning Post*). The University of London King's College has decided to found a School of Slavonic Studies. The Serbian Government and other donors have contributed towards the fund. Though necessarily provisional in character during war time, it will in its final form consist of a professorship of Slavonic History and Literature, three lectureships—in Russian, in Polish and Czech, and in Southern Slav languages—and a comprehensive Slavonic Library and "Seminar." It was essential for the success of the scheme to secure the services of Slav scholars of real distinction, and the events of the war have made this possible. Dr. T. G. Masaryk, Professor of Philosophy in the Czech University of Prague and one of the prominent politicians in the Austrian Parliament, has become an exile from his native Bohemia, and, having made London and Paris the centre of his political work, has accepted for one year the post of lecturer in Slavonic Literature and Sociology at King's College. Professor Masaryk, whose writings on philosophical and political subjects are well known throughout the Slav world, is equally well known for his exposure of the forgeries upon which the Austro-Hungarian Foreign Office had built up its case against Serbia during the Bosnian crisis, and which formed the basis of the famous Friedjung trial in December, 1909. He enjoys a unique reputation among the intellectuals of every Slavonic country, and his appointment is certain to be received with enthusiasm by all Slavs.

Mr. Michael Trofimov, Lecturer at Liverpool University, has been appointed Lecturer in Russian; and Mr. Serge Tueic, one of the most promising of the younger Serbo-Croat dramatists and novelists, Lecturer in Serbian. Mr. R. W. Seton Watson, author of a number of books on Austro-Hungarian and Balkan history and politics, has been made Hon. Lecturer in East European History.

Professor Masaryk's lecture will deal with "The Problem of Small Nations in the European Crisis." Mr. Asquith will take the chair at 5.15 p.m.

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THROUGH ALBANIA TO SERBIA.

(From a Correspondent.)

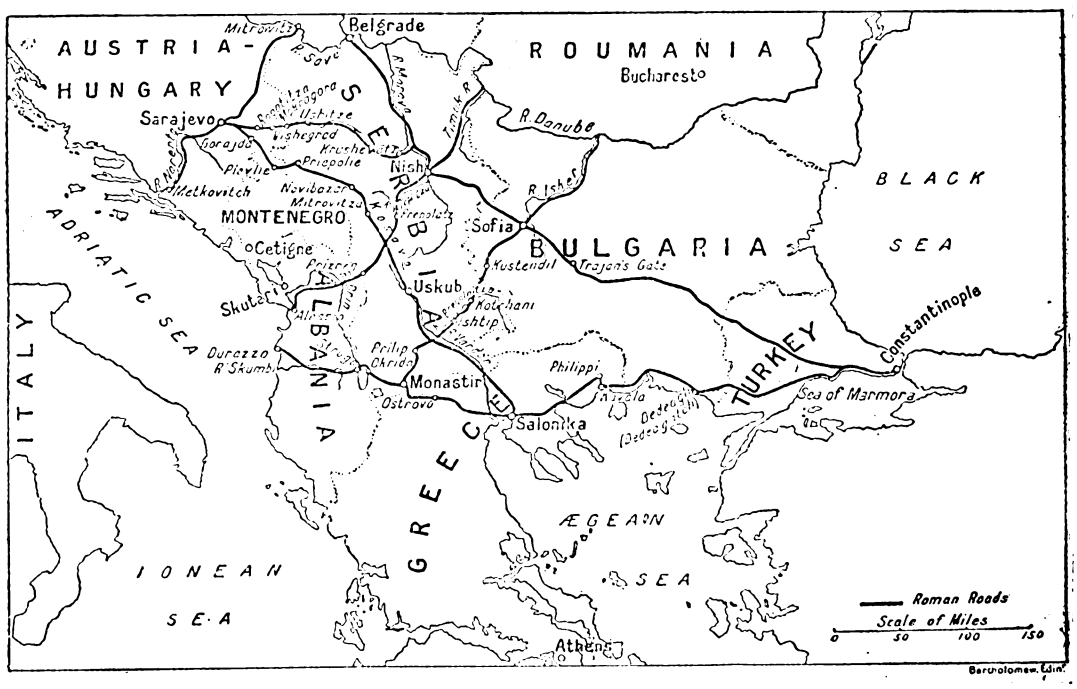
To the average man the news of the landing of an expeditionary force in Salonika is regarded as a necessary evil if Serbia is to be helped and the Germans smashed. Beyond that it conveys to him little or nothing; he leaves the carrying out of the strategic plan to our generals, and fervently hopes that they will be successful. "When ignorance is bliss"——

On the other hand, people who are acquainted with the Near East, and for whom maps convey more than is expressed by a medley of lines, are apt to probe deeper into the nature of our third Near Eastern expeditionary force. There are questions which arise to puzzle them, and doubts which assail them. Why land at Salonika, they ask, and how many men have been landed? The last question is at present unanswerable, though, of course, the number of troops landed may be known to the German General Staff. Regarding the first question, however, some pertinent remarks may safely be made.

Salonika is the nearest port to Serbia available to the Entente Powers, and is connected by rail with its Serbian hinterland. It has one great drawback, however, and that is that the line which connects it with Veles, Skoplje, and Nish lies perilously near the Bulgarian frontier—as a matter of fact, runs alongside it, sometimes at no greater distance than about three miles. The Bulgarians being on the warpath, the line is utterly unsafe from the Vardar River to the Morava. Small bodies of men can attack and destroy it under cover along every mile of its course, and an army cannot stop them. Hence the strategic value of the Salonika-Nish railway, as a means of bringing aid and supplies to Serbia, is nil. Equally insecure is the Salonika-Monastir railway, for similar reasons, whereas the position of Salonika itself, supposing the Bulgars adopt Germany's now well-known strategy of starting a campaign by means of an impetuous "drive," regardless of lives and consequences, is precarious in the extreme, unless the most ample precautionary measures have been taken. What these are must be decided by the military authorities, but when it is pointed out that the Bulgars are backed by Turkish armies (some of which have most likely already taken up their strategic positions), it will be seen that nothing short of an almost inexhaustible expeditionary force, fully equipped, will be able to cope with all eventualities.

The question now arises: in view of the doubtful advantages offered to the Allies by the port of Salonika, could no other port have been chosen in its place? Admittedly, it is too late now to alter what has already been done, but would it not be wiser, perhaps, in view of Bulgarian aggression, and the insecurity of the Salonika route, to send any further troops that may be needed for the Balkan campaign by an alternative route, if such be available? As it happens, there are other ports which can be made use of by the Allies, if necessary. Transport from them to the interior offers certain difficulties, but with a little energy they can be overcome; moreover, reinforcements marching from the ports in question to the relief of the Serbs could be rendered practically immune to flank attacks, and could strengthen the Serbian rear without having their numbers counted by a host of Salonika spies. The ports are two in number. They are Durazzo and Alessio, both in Albania, and both on the Adriatic, within shelter of the Italian fleet. Roughly speaking, they are about fifty miles from the Serbian frontier, as against the thirty miles which separate Salonika from Gevgheli. Strange to say, neither of them are new as regards their relation to the Serbian hinterland, because both were, in the glorious days of the Roman Empire, the great military ports for Roman penetration into and across the Balkan Peninsula. This will easily be seen by the highly interesting map published on this page, and which is reproduced by the kind permission of the publishers and authors of "Geographical Aspects of Balkan Problems," by Marion L. Newbigin, D.Sc. (Constable)—a valuable contribution to the literature on the Balkans which was reviewed in these columns last week.

In reality, there were in those days three roads of penetration into the Balkans, one of which—the most northern, through Bosnia-Herzegovina and then along the Western Morava river, is to-day impracticable, because passing



THE OLD ROMAN ROADS OF PENETRATION.

through enemy country. Of the remaining two, the most important was the southernmost, the celebrated Via Egnatia, which linked up Rome with Armenia through Constantinople. Starting at Durazzo, it entered the Shkumbi Valley, and, passing through modern Elbassan, reached Struga, on Lake Ochrida, which is to-day in Serbian territory. The other, alternative, road "started from the present Alessio, at the mouth of the Drin, followed the Drin for a certain distance, left it to cross the plateau, where the river takes a northward bend, and runs through a canyon, reached Prizren, entered the Kosovo basin, crossed the Prepolatz saddle to obtain the Toplitza Valley, reached Nish, and then crossed to the Timok Valley, which was followed to the Danube." (Newbigin.) "This road," says the same author, "is of great interest in connection with Serbia's scheme for a connection with the Adriatic, for it follows very closely the line of one of the Danube-Adriatic railway schemes." To what an extent this is true, and how closely modern routes of communication, either existing or proposed, coincide with the old Roman *viæ*, is clearly demonstrated by the map on the following page, reproduced from an article which appeared on "Serbian Railway Constructions" in The Near East of May 22, 1914.

The present neglected state of Durazzo and Alessio offers considerable landing difficulties, but they can be overcome; the old Roman military roads have degenerated into awkward lanes or more awkward bridle-paths, but they also can be improved; as for the Albanians, any opposition which they might offer to the transport of troops can be removed, if advisable. Given the negative value of

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Salonika as being too near the enemy's lines, the Durazzo, or Alessio, route should be carefully considered, in connection with which statement the following observations may be made:—

In the first place, Albania must be regarded as the true rear of the Serbian position, and, as such, must be strongly held by the Entente Powers. The Serbian position is in the form of a "7," the only line of retreat against a successful Austro-German and Turco-Bulgarian drive being in the direction of the Adriatic (it is already reported that the Serbian capital is to be removed from Nish to Monastir). The German objective in the Balkans is, admittedly, to reach Constantinople and to keep the path thus carved out of Serbia free from flank aggressions. This latter can only be obtained by pushing the Serbs as far west of the Morava Valley as possible, and by cutting off Southern Serbia from Greece by means of a wedge driven from the Vardar to the Adriatic. It stands to reason, therefore, that the Albanian rear is of vital importance to Serbia, a circumstance which, in the opinion of many people acquainted with the Near East, has been sorely

Railways in Serbia, Existing and Projected.

overlooked hitherto. It is not too late to redeem our oversight and to help Serbia through Albania. When all is said and done, the fate of Salonika depends exclusively on Greek action, and its fate can no longer affect Serbia to any great extent, considering that her only line of retreat—should she be driven thus far, which God forbid—is towards the hills and into the valleys of Albania.

The second observation concerns Italy. "What is Italy doing?" asked M. Pichon, pertinently, on Wednesday. By the time these remarks are published the answer may be forthcoming. In the meantime, there are many who point out that she cannot be using her whole army in her particular theatre of operations, and that she must have many men available for service elsewhere in the common cause. Here, then, is her chance: she can send a powerful army across the Straits of Otranto, through Albania, to the help of Serbia. After all, Italy has more interest than any of the Entente Powers in keeping the enemy from the Adriatic, and this can only be done by throwing an expedition of, roughly, a quarter of a million men into the Balkan Peninsula, preferably along the old Roman military roads of penetration. Two objects will thereby be achieved: Serbia will have been effectively helped in her hour of need, and the Teutons will find that their road to Constantinople is a myth which, at the first available opportunity, will be destroyed by fresh and superior forces.

In an article on "The West and the Balkans," the Military Correspondent of *The Times* asked yesterday if we are going to recommence at Salonika the adventure of the Dardanelles. He says:—

"There are two aspects of this affair, the one in which Roumania, aided by Russia and Greece, aided by the Allies, come to Serbia's aid, and the other in which Greece or Roumania, or both, take no part. In the first case, there is very good reason why we should land at Salonika every man that we can spare, but with this highly important proviso, that we should not weaken our strength in the principal theatre. We should find in the armies of Roumania and Greece a counterpoise at least to those of Mackensen and Ferdinand, and the forces of the Mediterranean Powers should be equal to neutralise the forces of Turkey. In this event, and in this event only, is the operation promising, and our loyalty to our Serbian Ally prompts us to undertake it.

"If neither Greece nor Roumania intervenes, the chances of success are so slight that the adventure is not promising. We might long ago have recognized the importance of the Eastern Mediterranean, and have massed strategic reserves drawn from the Armies of the Allies whose territories border on the Middle Sea, but with our usual improvidence we have not done so. . . . Meanwhile, the heroic little State of Serbia is encompassed by enemies who are acting rapidly while we are still in the stage of talking and diplomatizing. Such foes are unevenly matched, and though the French Premier announces joint efforts by the Allies, they will not help Serbia unless the promised help arrives, and arrives in time. We owe a debt of which we are fully conscious to our Serbian Ally, and everything that we can do which has even an outside chance of success ought to be done and at once, but we owe also a debt to our own troops, and must not launch them upon enterprises when a cool calculation of time, distance, and numbers shows us that we are attempting the impossible."

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

There is reason to hope for an early improvement in regard to the delivery of letters and parcels sent to members of our forces at the Dardanelles, inasmuch as the Secretary of the War Office has announced that measures are being taken to that end. It is certainly time that some steps were taken; complaints have been very numerous, and though a few of them may have been unreasonable, very many of them were justified up to the hilt. I heard only two days ago of the wife of one distinguished officer who had received no word from her husband since August 23, although she knows that he has written to her every other day. As to the pilfering from parcels that has been going on, it is surely remarkable that no means can be devised to put a stop to it. Sir Ian Hamilton, I notice, in thanking a committee of Elswick and Scotswood workmen for sending comforts to the troops, wrote: "Pray Heaven, the parcels will escape thieves and scoundrels, who waylaid some of the gifts, and will arrive in good condition." It is to be hoped the thieves and scoundrels referred to may have read Sir Ian's words—and taken them to heart. Their conduct is too despicable for words, and worthy only of the Huns.

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Anyone who has read my previous notes on the Turks will bear testimony to my sincerity when, in the words of Lord Cromer, I say: "I have never been and I am not a Turcophobe." But there is a limit to all things, and as I write with details of the Armenian massacres fresh in my mind I find my sympathy for the whole nation tainted against my better judgment. When I analyse the subject I know that responsibility for this hideous slaughter lies with the pestilential vampires who have sold their country, body and soul, to one of the most evil powers that the world has known; but there are times when the mind refuses to wait upon analysis. And at the present moment the shadow of Armenia looms heavily across the world, robbing the true Turk of the well-deserved light which properly should shine upon his gallantry. There is evidence enough that the rank and file of the Moslem people have striven to protect the Armenians from the fiendish wrath of Enver and his lust-besotted followers at Constantinople; but their efforts have been fruitless. The massacres go on. When Germany passed through Belgium, leaving behind her the most loathesome record in history, she signed the death warrant of the Armenian people. The massacres have been publicly discussed by public men in Germany, and have been, tacitly at least, approved. Let us not forget this. Our sailors and soldiers are not fighting merely for the safety of England to-day. They are fighting that their children and their children's children may be spared the horrors of unspeakable servitude to a nation which recognises no laws of God or man. Napoleon was sent to banishment, because, guiltless though he was of rape and murder, he threatened the peace of Europe. What punishment can fit the crimes committed by Germany in Europe, and by Turkey in Armenia at the present time? The torture chambers of the Tower are mercifully closed for good and all, but the hangman's rope remains. And if, at the conclusion of this war, we fail to hang by the neck each individual proved to have been responsible for directing the crimes to which I have referred, then we shall fail most dismally in our duty to humanity.

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What corner of Europe, I wonder, will be left untouched by war before the peace bells ring? Assuredly not many. At the present moment I am much disturbed by the attitude of Greece, not because of any material advantages which she could place at the disposal of the Allies by her intervention, but because I feel that she is casting worthiness on one side, and is taking more heed of the smug comfort of the moment than of the glory of her ancient traditions or the value of her national bond. What has become of the martial spirit of the Hellenes, when there can be found quibblers within her borders to question the sacredness of a bonded treaty, rather than take up arms in its support? Is it because their merchants grow fat and listless, as they draw blood money from the belligerents, that the neutral nations—not all, but some—will swallow any insult rather than risk battle? Candidly, I do not like to think of the future of Greece in face of her growing languor. If there is one thing certain about this war I should imagine it to be the certainty of Greek participation before the end, but what national honour is the country to gain if she is to be forced into the fight like a cornered hyena that must either turn or die? I recollect a Greek patriot whom I met in Alexandria. He used to visit me on Sunday mornings and spout poetry—very indifferent stuff it was, too—on the wrongs of the Grecian people. Now, although the poetry, as poetry, was bad, the man was all aflame with enthusiasm of the right kind, and as I watched him I used to speculate upon the chances of a future bringing relief to his heart. His mind held only one picture, the picture of his country triumphant, and that was the heart and soul of him. Somehow, I came to regard this enthusiasm as a latent characteristic of the Greek community, and in subsequent visits to Athens it seemed impossible that the spirit of Greece could ever die, so loudly speak the memories of the splendid hills around. But during the first crisis I watched Greece with disappointment, now I watch her with dismay. Is the old spirit, then, really dead? Time alone will show whether former impressions or later doubts are correct.

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When the dramatist of a future generation shall pore over the history books of our own times in search of material for his art, I wager that his eye will lighten when it falls upon details of the interview between King Ferdinand and his former Ministers prior to the entrance of Bulgaria into the great world war. Cut and dried, he will find a drama there, with even the ending, it may be, set forth in a manner of which we, of the present hour, dream nothing. I sometimes try to find relief from the awful reality of this war in turning over its events in my mind and imagining which the schoolboy of a future generation will curse. Excluding the great battles, I think that hitherto the description of how our Ambassador at Berlin delivered his ultimatum to a furious and bewildered Hun is the one which most appealed to me. But the meeting at the Palace of Sofia runs it close indeed. I liked Stamboulisky the best. It is not often given to a subject, even in these democratic days, to tell his King to his face that his head is in danger. I like to picture the scene from its beginning as each Minister in his turn added strength to the opinions of the others, until the climax came with Stamboulisky's words. I imagine the King furious with a fury that can surely only come to kings outraged, and his reply makes perfect the drama of the incident—"Do not mind my head, it is already old; rather mind your own." Brave words, these, indeed, on either side: plain phrases that went direct to the heart of things. For a moment, at least, etiquette ceased to be; nothing but the hardiest things could live in such an atmosphere. I fancy that ere this war is done the head of King Ferdinand, or that of the outspoken Commoner who bearded him, will fall. Which? That it is impossible to say. But on the side of the Commoner there is a proverb which has come to us through the ages, and would seem to fit this case, "Vox populi, vox Dei."

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The Bulgarians, it seems to me, are even now more to be pitied than blamed, and I believe my feeling is shared by the majority of Englishmen. For the plain fact is that they have been, and are being, fooled and misled by a campaign of lies, conducted on a scale hitherto unprecedented even in the Balkans. And when they awake to the truth they will, I am sure, bitterly, and rightly, resent their treatment by the man who, above all others, ought to have told them the truth and spared them the presence of the highly placed liars who have deceived them. It is often said that a people gets the government it deserves; whether it gets the rulers it deserves is another matter. The Bulgarians certainly have not. A brave, simple-minded people, anxious chiefly to go their own way in peace, they have been cursed with a cowardly, selfish Sovereign, to whom intrigue is the breath of life, and who has used them as pawns in his own game, with never a thought for *their* interests. What the better-informed Bulgars think of him and his schemes has been shown clearly enough during the past ten days or so. His most capable diplomatists have marked their dissatisfaction with his policy in unmistakable fashion; several of his best generals have done likewise; and Bulgarians resident outside of Bulgaria—and therefore in a position to learn the truth—have almost unanimously condemned the "policy of adventure" and the base ingratitude to old friends that has characterized it. Thousands of them have, in fact, declared their readiness to fight against it. How such a notorious coward as Ferdinand can ever have made up his mind to take the fatal plunge I shall never be able to understand. Whatever befalls him, however, no decent person will ever pity him. But for his dupes, the people whom he has so cruelly sacrificed to his own ambition, we must all feel a certain amount of pity just now. We draw a strongly marked distinction between Ferdinand *of* Bulgaria and the Bulgarians.

CORSAIR.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE BEGINNING OF A CAREER.

In reproducing in book form the text of a lecture which he delivered before the Jews' College Union Society in the early part of the year, Dr. Samuel Daiches has given to the public a valuable link in the life-history of the Secretary of State for War. As he points out in the beginning of his work, Lord Kitchener is generally recognised as one of the chief men in the world at the present day, and it is to the early development of his mind in the days when, as a lieutenant in the Royal Engineers, Kitchener was first given responsibility, that Dr. Daiches devotes his attention in the little work just published.

In many ways the information which this book contains will come as a surprise to people who have only read of the War Secretary in the newspapers, and who regard him only as a stern and unbending soldier possessed of an indomitable will and more than ordinary powers of organisation, to the exclusion of all lighter traits of character. Dr. Daiches' record treats with the earlier history of Lord Kitchener, it is true, but it is equally true that it was during these early years that the soldier was acquiring the knowledge and assimilating and strengthening those powers of insight and observation which, combined with will power, proved to be so important a factor to his success in later days. It is a popular belief that Lord Kitchener sprang into sudden fame at a very early age, and after but a meagre preparation for the great things that he was subsequently to accomplish. This, true to a certain extent, is not wholly so. Although his early work included no great campaigns, he had proved himself to be a master of detail many years before, at the age of forty-nine years, he conquered the Sudan.

There is an earlier period in Kitchener's life, of which the public has not thought sufficiently, the importance of which for the future development of Lord Kitchener cannot be overestimated. That period provided Kitchener with work in which he could and did develop and show his great capacities—work which strengthened his powers of vision and which opened for him new sources of quiet and strong inspiration. That was the period of his work in Palestine.

The period dealt with is between the years 1874 and 1878. It was in the former year that Kitchener was selected to fill a vacancy caused by the death of the second in command of the survey party operating in Palestine. Writing of the time immediately following the young officer's appointment, Dr. Daiches says that it soon became felt that the new recruit was the most energetic of the party. He seems to have spent the greater part of his leisure in learning Arabic and Turkish—an accomplishment which stood him in good stead in later days. It is not generally known that a book was published at about this time, under the title of "Lieutenant Kitchener's Guinea Book of Biblical Photographs." Both the photographs and the letterpress which accompany them were the work of Kitchener himself.

The fighting qualities of the famous soldier were first called upon in a hand-to-hand skirmish with a party of inhabitants from Safed, in which Lieutenant Condor, the chief of the survey party, was severely wounded in the head. The attack was conducted under the leadership of one Ali Agha Alan, to whom Kitchener refers in a later report, when he alludes to the Sheikh's repentance in a paragraph which certainly suggests humour, a quality which Kitchener is not usually supposed to possess.

To-day I had the Governor, the British Consul, and our old enemy, Ali Agha Alan, the cause of the row; the latter expressed deep sorrow for what he had done, as well he may, as I hear he and the Mogrebbins are all but ruined.

Indeed, a great many of the reports quoted by Dr. Daiches are worth reading on account of the indication of character which they give, quite apart from their archæological and general interest. "The Druses are giving a good deal of trouble, cutting people's throats on the road to Damascus," he writes in one. There is no waste of words here.

The versatility of his mind is made very apparent in these reports. Every possible side of interest finds a place in them. When the actual survey work of the party is dealt with, the writer turns his attention to other subjects bearing upon his presence in the country. As a result of this thoroughness, we were put in possession of a reliable record of the country and its people. The following paragraph, which is taken from his third report, shows Kitchener to have been not only a keen observer as a young man, but also gifted with the power of recording his impressions on paper. It refers to the scenery at the Sea of Galilee:—

The scenery of the lake is hardly what would be expected of a basin 685 ft. below sea-level. The hills on the eastern side have an almost perfectly level outline, scarcely broken by any valley of importance, and decidedly monotonous in appearance; still the bright sunshine throws a rosy haze over the country, and the contrast with the bright blue water is very beautiful. The best views of the lake are from a distance on the many heights from which it is visible, as thus seen in the evening it is particularly lovely. Deep blue shadows seem to increase the size of the hills, and there is always a rosy flush in the sky and over snow-clad Hermon.

Judging from a paragraph referring to the village of Tubas, methods of conscription do not appear to have greatly altered in the East if we recollect the manner in which Enver Pasha is reported to have found recruits at the beginning of the present war.

Tubas is a large village of about 1,500 inhabitants, situated in a most fertile country. By paying £100 in gold to the Pasha of Nablus the people have escaped the conscription up to now, but I expect their term is nearly out, and unless they pay another heavy bribe they will soon be called upon to make up for the time they have been spared.

Dr. Daiches concludes his observation with a note of satisfaction that the man whom of all others he reveres at the present day should have started his career of success in Palestine:—

He saw in Palestine the continuity of Jewish life—from Joshua down to the rabbis he saw at Jerusalem and Tiberias. He saw that many of the greatest men of the Jewish people, in the first centuries after the destruction of the second Temple, in the Middle Ages, and in later times, had their last resting-place in the land they always claimed as theirs. Kitchener saw that a change was coming over Palestine. Did Kitchener think of it that after Armageddon the Jews (or a portion of them) might return to their ancient land? Who knows? We will not ask. We are gratified to know that the greatness of Kitchener showed itself first in his work in Palestine, and that it grew during his sojourn in that land.

Taken as a whole, Dr. Daiches' book, although it might have been considerably improved by a closer attention to literary as opposed to oratorical needs, is one which we can recommend to our readers. Its object of contributing "to a larger understanding of the character and capacity of one of the most prominent personalities of our times" is, at least, fully attained.

* "Lord Kitchener and his Work in Palestine." By Dr. Samuel Daiches. (London: Luzac and Co. 2s. 6d. net.)

JUGOSLAV CULTURE.*

M. M. Marjanovic, one of the most eminent Croatian publicists and essayists, has written a little pamphlet about the Jugoslav culture. The Jugoslavs, or Southern Slavs—*i.e.*, the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, who are one and the same people designated by three different names—are very little known by English people, although they well repay study. Their culture is perhaps the most ignored. W. R. Morfill once wrote (in "The Literature of the Serbians and Croats," *Westminster Review*, April, 1878, p. 304): "We hear people so often tell us, with consummate effrontery, that this branch of the Slavonic family is absolutely without culture." We are far from considering that this is due to "consummate effrontery"; it is due only to the lack of knowledge; but we agree with Morfill that the popular belief regarding Jugoslav culture was as he has stated. To-day, in spite of all Morfill's books and articles on Southern Slav literature and language, and despite all the studies of Sir Arthur Evans on Southern Slav architecture and art, circumstances have not improved, and the general view on the literary and artistic manifestations of the Jugoslav people remains almost the same as it was in the time when Morfill wrote the above lines. It was therefore a good idea of M. Marjanovic's to publish his essay on Jugoslav culture. The English reader may find in this little pamphlet of only 16 pages a small but a good guide to Jugoslav literature, sciences and art.

* "Jugoslav Culture." By Milan Marjanovic.

BOOK NOTES.

Mr. Heinemann has just published "A Woman in the Sahara," by Miss Helen C. Gordon. The author and a friend spent some time in various towns on the northern border of the Sahara; and the book describes their experiences and the life and customs of the natives, especially of the members of the harem.

Messrs. Longmans, Green and Co. issued last month "The Migrations of Early Culture," by Professor Grafton Elliot Smith, M.A. The volume, which is one of the Manchester University Press series, is described as "a study of the significance of the geographical distribution of the practice of mummification as evidence of the migrations of peoples and the spread of certain customs and beliefs." The price is 3s. 6d. net.

Messrs. Chatto and Windus have just published "A History of Babylon from the Foundation of the Monarchy to the Persian Conquest," by Dr. Leonard W. King, of the British Museum. The author is our leading Assyriologist, and his name is a sufficient guarantee that the book may be regarded as authoritative, based on the latest available data, and, at the same time, readable. The volume contains maps, plans, and illustrations, and its price is 18s. net.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Hellenism in England: A Short History of the Greek People in this Country, from the Earliest to the Present Day. By Theodore E. Dowling, D.D., and Edwin W. Fletcher, F.S.A. Scot.; with an Introduction by H.E. the Greek Minister, M. Gennadias. (Faith Press. 2s. 6d. net.)

Quarterly Statement of the Palestine Exploration Fund. (Offices of the P.E.F. 2s. net.)

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Julian (Old Style).	Gregorian (New Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1915.	1915.		1333.	5676.
Oct.	Oct.		Julhijja.	Heshvan.
15	2	Friday	6	7
16	3	Saturday.....	7	8
17	4	**Sunday**	8	9
18	5	Monday	9	10
19	6	Tuesday	10	11
20	7	Wednesday	11	12
21	8	Thursday	12	13

To-morrow is the birthday of H.R.H. Prince Carol of Roumania, who was born at Sinaia in 1893.

The *London Gazette* announces that the King has been pleased to give directions for the following appointment to the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George: To be an Honorary Member of the Second Class, or Knights Commanders of the said Most Distinguished Order: His Excellency Ibrahim Fathi Pasha, Minister of Wakfs in Egypt.

The honour referred to in the above paragraph is the second British Order bestowed on his Excellency, the first one being the Distinguished Service Order conferred on him during the Sudan campaign. Sir Ibrahim Fathy Pasha resumed his duties at the Wakfs Ministry three weeks ago, having practically recovered from the effects of the recent attempt upon his life.

The Aga Khan has returned to London from Paris and is staying at the Ritz Hotel.

We regret to learn that Sir Gerard Lowther, formerly British Ambassador in Constantinople, is lying seriously ill at Sandwich Bay.

Lady Whittall has left Esher for Athens.

His Honour Judge Cator and Mrs. Cator have returned to Alexandria from England, and are staying at the Carlton Hotel.

Judge Sandars has left London on his return to Alexandria.

Viscount and Viscountess Midleton have arrived in England from Egypt with the Hon. George Brodrick, who has been invalided from the Dardanelles after typhoid fever.

The Egyptian papers to hand by the last mail announce that Sir Reginald Wingate and his staff "will in all probability return to Khartoum before the Bairam for the winter. Lady Wingate, too, is expected back in Khartoum at a not far distant date."

At the time of going to press we are uncertain whether M. Hadji Misheff, the Bulgarian Minister, and his staff, have actually left London. It was understood, however, that they were to leave on Thursday, and on Wednesday they were actively preparing for departure and in saying good-bye to friends. The departure of the Minister and of M. Mincoff, his popular secretary, will be much regretted, quite apart from the circumstances by which it has been brought about.

CAPTAIN ARTHUR CHARLES DAVIES, 6th BATTALION ROYAL WELSH FUSILIERS, Reported WOUNDED and MISSING on August 10 at the DARDANELLES.—Any INFORMATION will be gratefully received by his Wife, Mrs. Arthur Davies, Treffos, Menai Bridge, Anglesey.

TO OFFICERS leaving for War Zone Special Terms. ANY LANGUAGE under the sun TAUGHT, TRANSLATED, TYPEWRITTEN and DUPLICATED on machines in shortest periods.—Apply or write, The British Egyptian Syndicate, 90, Bishopsgate, E.C. Wire, "ABDELMALEK, London." 'Phone, 2947 London Wall.

A Cyprus correspondent writes:—The High Commissioner and the officials now at Troödos will, according to present arrangements, return to Nicosia in the last week of October.

The *Sudan Times* announces that El Lewa E. E. Bernard Pasha, C.M.G., the Financial Secretary, is expected back from Europe about the middle of this month. He was granted six weeks' leave on medical grounds, with permission to travel in Italy and France.

The Rt. Rev. Lord Bishop in Jerusalem and Mrs. McInnes are leaving London, on their return to Egypt, by the P. and O. steamer "Morea," on the 30th inst.

It is officially announced that H.H. the Sultan of Egypt has been pleased to bestow the Grand Cordon of the Order of Mohammed Ali upon Prince Kamel Fadel, Prince Ali Haidar Shinassi, and Prince Yussuf Kamal; and the grade of Bey of the 2nd Class upon Mohammed Kamal Bey and Mohammed Riad Affifi Bey, both of H.H.'s private Wakfs.

H.E. the Serbian Minister visited the French Embassy on Sunday afternoon.

The engagement is announced of Geoffrey Fitzherbert de Teissier, Captain, Scots Guards, eldest son of Baron and Baroness de Teissier, of 16, Eccleston Square, and Katharine Henriette, eldest daughter of the late Theodore Seligman, of New York, and Lady Waldstein, and stepdaughter of Sir Charles Waldstein, of Newton Hall, Newton, Cambridge.

On October 8, at the British Consulate, Alexandria, and afterwards at the English Church, the marriage took place of Mr. Claud Archibald Aubrey Douglas-Hamilton, Egyptian Civil Service, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Douglas-Hamilton, of Broadlands St. Peter's, with Miss Evelyn Addison, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Chater, of 25, Addison Road North, W., and Chesham Bois, Bucks.

The Rev. H. B. Rivington and the Rev. A. Lee-Warner arrived in London this week from Port Sudan by the Union-Castle steamer.

Mr. W. King-Wood, C.I.E., Director of the Persian Section, Indo-European Telegraphs, left London on Monday for Teheran, by way of Petrograd.

El Miralai Powell Bey, Acting P.M.O. of the Egyptian Army, and Mrs. Powell arrived at Khartoum from the North on September 26.

In spite of the fact that their hospitals are all situated on the north-western frontier and in the direct line of the possible invasion of Serbia, eighteen more nurses and orderlies left on Saturday to reinforce the hospital units of the Scottish Women's Hospitals, N.U.W.S.S., in Serbia.

A Memorial Service was held on Saturday morning at St. James's Church, Piccadilly, for the late Major the Hon. Cyril Myles Brabazon Ponsonby, M.V.O., Grenadier Guards, second son of the Earl and Countess of Bessborough, who was killed in action in France on September 28. Queen Alexandra was represented by Earl Howe, Colonel Henry Streatfeild was present on behalf of Field-Marshal the Duke of Connaught, Honorary Colonel of the regiment, and Princess Henry of Battenberg was represented by Mr. Victor Corkran. Among the immediate relatives present were the Earl and Countess of Bessborough, the Hon. Mrs. Myles Ponsonby, Colonel and Mrs. Longfield, Viscountess Duncannon, Lord and Lady Oranmore and Browne, Lady Irene Congreve, the Hon. Cyril and Mrs. Ponsonby, the Hon. Michael Ponsonby, the Hon. Arthur Ponsonby, the Hon. Walter Ponsonby, Lord and Lady Raglan, and the Hon. Mrs. Charles Eliot. In the general congregation were the Marchesa Imperiali, the Earl and Countess of Cromer, the Earl and Countess of Desart, the Earl of Albemarle, Viscount Knollys, Lord and Lady Arthur Hill, Lady Phillips, Lord and Lady Barrymore, Sir David Erskine, Major-General Sir Hugh McCalmont, Sir Owen Philipps, Mr. Robert Naville, Director-General of the Franco-Serbian Bank, and Mr. W. Philip Sheppard, representing the management and all at 26, Throgmorton Street, and Mr. Herbert Locke, representing the management and staff of the Roumanian Bank in London.

Among the passengers for Egypt by the P. and O. steamer "Mooltan," which leaves London to-morrow, are Sir Malcolm and Lady McIlwraith, Miss McIlwraith, His Honour Judge and Mrs. Maxwell Fleming, Mr. and Mrs. G. Alderson, Mrs. Christopherson, Mr. J. E. Cornish, Mr. A. P. Friend, and Mr. P. D. McNaughten.

Sir Mortimer Durand will take the chair at a meeting of the Central Asian Society to be held next Wednesday afternoon, when Mr. H. Charles Woods will read a paper on "The Dardanelles Campaign."

Major Wilfred Edward Nicol, D.S.O., 1st Grenadier Guards, who died on October 1 of wounds received in action, received his commission in the Grenadier Guards in 1900, was promoted lieutenant in 1904, and captain in 1908. He was employed with the Macedonian Gendarmerie from August 10, 1907, to March 14, 1909, and with the Turkish Gendarmerie from March 15, 1909, to July 10, 1911, and was awarded the Liakat medal, third class, of the Medjidieh. Major Nicol saw active service in the South African War and received the Queen's medal and two clasps. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Order "for gallantry and ability" at Neuve Chapelle, and mentioned in dispatches on May 31, 1915.

Captain Oswald Ireland Wood, 1st Suffolk Regiment, killed in France between October 1 and 3, was the elder son of the late Lieutenant-Colonel Oswald Gillespie Wood, C.B., R.A.M.C. He obtained his commission as second lieutenant in the 2nd Suffolk Regiment in September, 1911. When war was declared he was with the 1st Suffolk Regiment in Egypt, and came back from there with that battalion and went to the front. In April last he was wounded and was invalided home, and afterwards rejoined his battalion at the front in July.

Lieutenant Christopher Dearmer, R.N.V.R., Armoured Cars, whose death from wounds was reported two days ago, was the son of the Rev. Dr. Percy Dearmer, vicar of St. Mary, Primrose Hill, and of the late Mrs. Dearmer, the author and playwright who, while attached to the Stobart Hospital Mission in Serbia, died of enteric on July 11, after a fortnight's illness. Lieutenant Dearmer's brother, Lieutenant Geoffrey Dearmer, is serving in the Royal Fusiliers.

The Alexandria correspondent of the *Morning Post* reports, in a letter dated September 22, that at Urfa "there are about one hundred British subjects among the prisoners, but comparatively few are British born. Among them is Captain Gasken, British Consul at Baghdad, who was imprisoned and subjected to very bad treatment before being sent to Urfa. Other Englishmen are Captain White, R.N., and several engineers of the Sir John Jackson company, who were engaged on the Mesopotamia irrigation projects when the war broke out Mr. Opie, Secretary of the Khedivial Mail Line at Alexandria, Miss Macey (from Beyrout), Mr. Glockler and two sons, Mr. Rudolph Young, Mr. Hensman (of the Grand New Hotel, Jerusalem), Mr. McFarlane, Mr. Hall, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Cripps, and Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Joly. The ladies mentioned have now arrived safely at Alexandria, but the men are still at Urfa.

From a correspondent we learn that instead of "Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Joly" in the above report, we should read "Mr. and Mrs. Joly and Mr. Kenneth Joly, their son."

The death is announced of Bimbashi C. E. Koebel, Inspector Kassala Province, Sudan Government, as a result of wounds received in action in the Dardanelles on August 24.

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A telegram from Sir Henry MacMahon, High Commissioner of Egypt, assures the Joint Committee of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John of his sympathetic support to the "Our Day" movement. He says, "I will do everything possible to assist and have local committees everywhere." He suggests, however, a local change of date, since the holidays of the Bairam festival include October 21 and "Our Day" will therefore be kept in Egypt a week later.

Professor J. Hope Moulton has been re-elected President of the Manchester Egyptian and Oriental Society, and Sir Henry Miers, Vice-Chancellor of the University, has been added to the vice-presidents of the Society. Professor Moulton left England on Saturday for a year's visit to India.

Mr. Charles Baehler has left Château Neu-Habsburg, Lucerne, on his return to Cairo.

Mr. Charles Rosher, F.R.G.S., left England on Tuesday to take up the duties of editor-in-chief of a new English daily paper, *The Pharos*, to be established in Alexandria.

The Lord Mayor's Fund now being organised for the relief of the Armenian refugees made a start last week by telegraphing a first £1,000 to the British Consul in Moscow. Although its appeal to the public had not been issued, various generous gifts enabled it to act thus early. The meeting at the Mansion House at three o'clock this afternoon promises to be of great interest. The Lord Mayor himself will speak, and among others who will address the gathering are Viscount Bryce, Cardinal Bourne, the Bishop of Oxford, and Mr. T. P. O'Connor. Contributions may be sent to the office of the fund, 96, Victoria Street, Westminster, or to the Mansion House.

The tenth annual general meeting of the Lebanon Hospital for Mental Diseases, Asfuriyeh, near Beyrout, Syria, will be held (by kind invitation of Dr. and Mrs. Fortescue Fox) at 36, Devonshire Place, W., next Wednesday (October 20), at 4 p.m., when the annual report and accounts will be presented.

M. Radovitch, the Montenegrin ex-Premier, who is now in Rome, after fulfilling a mission here, has expressed to the Rome correspondent of the *Morning Post* the satisfaction felt by his countrymen that the British Red Cross, which has rendered such signal services to Montenegro, is still remaining there.

Mr. Bertram Christian, Chairman of the Serbian Relief Fund, has received through the Foreign Office a communication from Sir Ralph Paget, dated Nish, October 10, announcing that the Serbian Relief Fund Unit No. 5 (2nd British Farmers' Unit) has arrived safely at Mladenovatz, but probably with the loss of its equipment. Mrs. Moore, who is in charge of the Relief Fund's temporary orphanage at Belgrade, is also safe.

A Reuter's message from Naples dated October 13, states:—Ten ladies belonging to the British Red Cross have arrived here from Nish, via Salonika. Four remained here to nurse the wounded from the Dardanelles. The others proceeded to London.

Sir F. Elliot, the British Minister in Athens, has presented to the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs a silver cup awarded by the Board of Trade to Thomas Mitzis, the captain of the Greek vessel "Leon," which rescued the crew of the steamer "Gadsby" sunk in the Channel last July.

Messrs. Robert and Joseph Davies Bryan, of the well-known firm of Davies Bryan and Co., Cairo, Alexandria and Khartoum, have been accorded a warm vote of thanks by the Carnarvon Town Council for their services to Welsh soldiers in Egypt. The Bryans met the vessels on arrival, visited hospitals, and also assisted in tracing missing soldiers and communicating with their relatives in Wales.

The report, published by some native Egyptian papers, that Mr. W. P. G. Graham, formerly Director-General of the Public Hygiene Department, is returning to Egypt to take charge of the Red Cross work in Cairo, is incorrect. The *Egyptian Gazette* states that Mr. Graham is returning to Egypt, but his work there will be confined to the R.A.M.C., and he will take no part in the work of the British Red Cross and Order of St. John.

M. Joseph Angeloff, Consul-General for Bulgaria in Manchester, has, we understand, resigned his office as a protest against the policy of King Ferdinand. His many friends in this country will sympathise most heartily with his feelings in a position that must be painful indeed to him, and admire the sterling honesty and courage he shows in declining to cast in his lot with those who are bent upon dragging the honour of his country through the mire.

The War Office has received information from the Secretary of the International Prisoners of War Agency, Geneva, that according to a recent telegraphic communication from the Greek Red Cross Society, that Society is willing to furnish information to the families of prisoners in the Eastern theatre of war. Inquiries should be addressed to Comité Pour les Prisonniers de Guerre, M. A. Coussidés, Ministère des Communications, Athens.

The British Farmers' Red Cross Fund is doing excellent work, we are glad to note, in many theatres of the war. The whole of the money received by this fund is paid over intact to the national British Red Cross Society, and allocated to certain schemes by arrangement. Amongst the services rendered in this way we may note that the Fund has provided £20,000 for the extension and one year's upkeep of a convalescent home (containing 1,000 beds) at the summer palace of Montazah, lent by H.H. the Sultan of Egypt. Another sum of £20,000 has been devoted to hospital work in connection with the wounded of our Expeditionary Force in the Dardanelles. On April 2 the British Farmers' Hospital for Serbians (No. 4 Serbian Unit), equipped at a cost of £5,000, was dispatched; two months later a second Serbian hospital, equipped at like cost, was dispatched; and £1,000 has also been cabled out for Dr. Barrie's Serbian Hospital. Subscriptions for the Fund, which are urgently needed, should be sent to Room 5, Tower Buildings, Flour Mills, Bermondsey, S.E.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, etc.

Dr. P. Karovitch, who has been temporarily attached as Secretary to the Serbian Legation in London, has arrived and has entered upon his duties.

The Egyptian Council of Ministers has approved the appointment of Mr. Reginald S. Patterson, Controller of Accounts of the Public Works Ministry, as Director-General of Government Accounts, the appointment to date from October 1.

Kaimakam Anderson Bey, R.A.M.C., Assistant-Adjutant-General, Recruiting, has been struck off the strength of the Egyptian Army. He is now serving with the British Forces in Gallipoli.

Captain John H. M. Mee, the Duke of Edinburgh's (Wiltshire Regiment), has been taken on the strength of the Egyptian Army with the rank of Bimbashi, and posted to the 11th Sudanese.

The Sultan of Egypt has conferred a robe of honour ("pelisse d'honeur scientifique") of the 1st Class upon Sheikh Abdel Rahman Qorâa, Wekil of the Mosque of Al Azhar and Director-General of Moslem Religious Educational Establishments.

According to an official message from Nish, Dr. Vesnitch, the Serbian Minister in Paris, is not retiring. He has been granted short leave of absence, during which M. Dragomir Stephanovitch will act as Chargé d'Affaires.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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

BIRTHS.

ALLEN.—On October 9, at Ghezireh, Cairo, the wife (*née* Dorothy M. Parsons) of Arthur Baylis Allen, Egyptian Civil Service, of a son.

GAIRDNER.—On October 1, at Cairo, Egypt, the wife of Canon Gairdner, of the Church Missionary Society, of a daughter.

MARRIAGE.

CARVER—ASHTON.—On October 4, at the Military Hospital Chapel, Citadel, Cairo, by Capt. the Rev. G. D. Hepple, Lieutenant Robin C. Carver, attached Royal Flying Corps, youngest son of the late Henry Clifton Carver, of Wilmslow, and of Mrs. Carver, Alderley Edge, to Rose Caroline, third daughter of the late Charles Henry Ashton and of Mrs. Ashton, The Grange, Ellesmere.

WHERE TO STAY.

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THE NEAR EAST.

Editorial and Publishing Offices:
DEVONSHIRE SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

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

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1915.

FACING THE MUSIC.

The muddle that the diplomacy of the Allied Powers has made of the Balkan question leaps to the eye; what is at present not so clear, but is of paramount importance, is the precise way in which a satisfactory finish is to emerge from the unsatisfactory muddle. To readers of THE NEAR EAST there will be nothing new in the discovery made by the daily Press that British diplomacy has broken down in the Balkans. It had already failed a year ago. But there was then still time to rectify some of the mistakes made. Turkey was already lost to us. Bulgaria remained, and we had it in our power to bring the whole of the Balkans into line with the Triple Entente. British diplomacy, however, preferred to affect a monumental indifference to the Balkan question. It was known that Bulgaria was smarting under the wrong which, she considered, had been done her by the Bucharest Treaty, and was burning to take advantage of Serbia's difficulties in order to avenge herself. It was known, too, that her defection to Germany's side, in the event of any uncertainty attaching to the attitude of Roumania and Greece, must constitute a serious military problem to the Allies. Last February we referred in these columns to the danger of failing to grapple with the Balkan question in the one way that made a solution possible. We pointed out that the Bulgarians were not likely to be convinced of Great Britain's good intentions so long as we were represented at Sofia by a diplomatist notoriously unsympathetic towards the people of the country. Two years previously, when direct charges were being laid before Sir Edward Grey, we drew attention to the danger to Anglo-Bulgarian relations of perpetuating this diplomatic solecism. But the warnings fell on deaf ears, and it was not until a few weeks ago, when the damage was already done, that the British Government consented to make a change in its representation at the Bulgarian capital. At no time during the past two or three years has it required any special prescience to appreciate the possible trend of events in Bulgaria. All that was necessary was that some attention should be given to Balkan affairs, and when the war broke out that a serious attempt should be made to take advantage of the strong position in which German and Austro-Hungarian action placed the Powers of the Triple Entente in regard to the Balkans. Apart from all other considerations there were a million and a-quarter men available for one or other side, and they offered, if associated with the Quadruple Entente, the strategical advantage of an attack on the Central Powers on a third and entirely distinct front. The advantage was great enough to justify even sacrifices in order to obtain it, but the Balkans continued to be treated with comparative indifference, born not of want of heart, but of sheer ignorance of their potential value to the Allied Powers.

But now the mistake has been made. We are reaping the results, and the issue at stake is too serious for time to be wasted over recriminations. The day will come when the personal reckoning for a long series of diplomatic errors has to be made. At present we are called upon to face the music, and to extricate ourselves from an embarrassing position with what grace we can. The details of the situation are clear. Serbia is attacked from the north and west by Austro-German forces and on the east by Bulgaria. If she goes under, not only is the Turkish army galvanised into fresh life by an adequate supply of munitions and the position of the Allies on Gallipoli Peninsula rendered untenable, but Germany herself obtains access to all the foodstuffs and raw material that the Near East and Asia Minor have to offer her, and is able to stultify to a considerable extent the blockade which British control of the sea has established. It is imperative, therefore, for the Entente Powers to come to the aid of Serbia. If Roumania and Greece could be relied upon to shoulder their responsibilities, there would be no need for anxiety in regard to the extension of the war area to the Balkans. These two States would do more than neutralize Bulgaria's adhesion to the Central Powers, while the despatch by the Quadruple Entente of a comparatively small force to Serbia would enable that country to render a good account of itself against any troops that the enemy is likely to spare from its eastern and western fronts. Unfortunately, neither Roumania nor Greece has yet made up its mind to adopt the only course which honour and self-interest alike dictate. In these circumstances the duty is imposed upon the Entente Powers of rescuing Serbia from the fate which threatens her. The opening up of free communication between Germany and Constantinople would be too grave a menace to the Allied cause to allow any fears of weakening our other fronts to deter us from opposing the strongest resistance to the Austro-German and Bulgarian invasion of Serbia. Men and munitions must be found for yet another expeditionary force, while the Allies' strength in the main theatres of the war is maintained.

If ever there was a time for Britain being true to herself it has come now. We had every right to count on the support of Roumania and Greece, but if for one reason or another these States play false, the Entente Powers have reserves enough for this fresh emergency. Too much recrimination over the past, such as the daily Press has attempted to indulge in during the last few days, is liable to distract attention from the task that now lies before us. A point would seem to have been reached at which even the most supine Government must be stirred to action. The threat of the enemy's south-eastern thrust, which, if successful, would have immediate effects in Mesopotamia and on the banks of the Suez Canal, and might prolong the war indefinitely, has forced the Allied Governments to adopt vigorous steps to meet the new danger. With an appropriateness that must be accidental rather than intentional, the British Cabinet has allowed the French Government to give expression to the new spirit which now actuates the Allies. It is too late to anticipate the invasion of Serbia, but the Entente Powers are resolved that the menace shall be met in adequate strength. "The British and French Governments," the French Premier has informed the world, "acting on the advice of their military authorities, agree as to the number of men required. Russia has desired to join her Allies in order to give help to the Serbian people, and to-morrow her troops will fight side by side with ours." If the operations of the Allies in the Balkans are carried out in this spirit, there need be little doubt as to the ultimate result. The first steps of an Austro-German invasion of Serbia will prove the easiest; the difficulties of the invaders will begin when they enter the more mountainous districts. They have the advantage that the Bulgarian attack from the eastern front gives them, and we must expect to see Serbian towns fall into the enemy's hands. But if the Serbian army can avoid giving battle at a disadvantage in numbers and indulge in guerilla tactics, a long time may elapse before the free passage for German munitions to Constantinople, which is to save Turkey, is opened. The Balkans represent the third theatre in which Germany will have tried to achieve a definite result. She will meet with no greater success than she has in the other two, if the Allied Powers act up to the spirit of the French Premier's declaration. We start with the disadvantage of having to allow the initiative to be with the enemy. That is the penalty for diplomatic mismanagement of the Balkan question. But having made up our minds to face the music, we may hope that Great Britain, with the help of her Allies, will now see the thing through in such a way that much of the stigma attaching to our handling of the question in the past will be removed.

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THE MAKING OF MODERN EGYPT.—III.

BANKRUPTCY AND RECONSTRUCTION.

By Professor Todd.

It has been shown in the second article of this series how Mohammed Ali's remarkable rise to power and greatness proved in a way its own undoing. Similarly, though by different methods, Ismail's great schemes for the reconstruction of Egypt on European lines proved his undoing. Ismail's great weakness was finance. There he was Oriental to the backbone, with an Oriental's incapacity to see that debt must be paid in the long run, and that money borrowed must therefore be well spent if the wherewithal for repayment is to be found. Within a period of less than twelve years he increased the Egyptian State Debt from about £10,000,000 to nearly £100,000,000, which, under the circumstances, probably constitutes a unique record. Of this gigantic sum only a comparatively small part, certainly less than half, was spent on public works, railways, harbours, and his own domains, besides many other enterprises of very doubtful utility. Practically the whole of the remainder went in interest and sinking funds on the debts themselves and in discounts or losses on the flotation of the loans, for the terms upon which the money was borrowed naturally grew worse with every loan, and in the later stages were simply usurious. In addition to all this, it is estimated that during Ismail's reign the excess of revenue over ordinary expenditure must have amounted in all to over £40,000,000. But any attempt to account for this balance is pure speculation. It was lost by mismanagement and fraud, or squandered in foolish extravagance, by which Ismail himself benefited but little, and Egypt not at all. Had Ismail been advised and controlled by honest and competent financiers, the greater part of the debt would never have been incurred; but he would not have been Ismail! What he wanted was men to do his bidding and find the money somehow. And the story told of one of these men, his foster brother, Ismail Pasha Sadyk, known to history as the "Mufettish," or inspector, is typical of how he treated them. From 1868 onwards this notorious Finance Minister proved himself past-master of the art of extorting money from the fellaheen, as well as from the European moneylenders, though in the long run the relation between the parties in the latter case was pretty well reversed. But when in 1876 Nemesis came in the form of the Goschen-Joubert inquiry, Ismail the Khedive calmly threw Ismail the Mufettish to the dogs, and indeed was almost certainly instrumental in procuring his murder. There are many tales of how it was done, none of them perhaps true, but the fact is that the Mufettish "disappeared" just the day before Goschen's Conversion Scheme was published.

Ismail's treatment of Nubar Pasha may be quoted, on the other hand, as an illustration of how he treated honest men. Nubar had been his chief financial emissary in connection with some of the earlier loans; but Ismail, dissatisfied with his efforts, threw him over about 1866, and he had to keep clear of Egypt for some years. But when in 1875 Ismail, having pledged every available asset to his creditors, and sold the Suez Canal shares to the British Government, found himself at last forced to appeal to Great Britain for the advice of a financial expert, and Cave's Mission and Report were followed by the Goschen-Joubert inquiry, it was to Nubar Pasha that the foreign experts turned, as practically the only Egyptian (and he was an Armenian by birth) who had at once the knowledge of the intricacies of Egyptian financial methods and the common honesty which European financial methods assume.

The tale of the conversion of the Egyptian State Debt from a hopeless burden on a bankrupt land to a very moderate mortgage on a valuable estate is too long to be told here, but the outstanding features of the history may be briefly outlined as follows: In the first place, the whole success of the conversion was due not entirely to the honesty and industry of those who carried it through, including the political and financial heads of the country as well as the irrigation engineers, but also to the extraordinary luck which raised the value of Egypt's chief crop (cotton) to an altogether unheard-of figure. In the second place, the success was achieved not only without the assistance of Ismail, but actually in spite of his continual opposition, which was none the less strenuous for the fact that it was always underhand. Ismail was always past-master of the art of intrigue, and when Western methods failed him he had not the slightest objection to adopting others, as, for example, when, within a few miles of Cairo, brigands in his employ held up a train from Alexandria carrying funds to the Ministry of Finance, and deliberately removed the contents to his palace at Shubra. At another time public riots in Cairo, for which he was certainly responsible indirectly, if not directly, proved a convenient excuse for getting rid of the Ministry of Nubar Pasha and Sir Charles Rivers-Wilson, which, in Ismail's opinion, had lasted long enough. But that time Ismail overreached himself. The European Powers had stood him long enough, and on June 26, 1879, Ismail found himself ignominously compelled to hand over his Crown to his despised eldest son, Tewfik. Next it is to be noted that the original creditors in the long run proved to have been too well treated. Could it have been possible for anyone to forecast in 1876 the future of the Egyptian cotton crop, and to buy up the Egyptian creditors' claims at their market value then, he would probably have found them willing to accept about 5s. in the £ cash down; but they were all paid in full, and sometimes a good deal over, in converted stocks, which, though they bore a lower rate of interest than the original debts, have since proved of infinitely greater capital value. But if the creditors did well, it must in fairness be admitted that so in the long run did Egypt, for it was the Debt that brought Europe into Egypt, and that was indeed an ultimate blessing, from a financial point of view at least.

It remains only to note how in the long run European control came to be British control, and how the British Occupation became a British Protectorate. Again the causes were partly financial. In the supposed final clearing up of Egypt's affairs by the Law of Liquidation in 1880 certain necessary economies in the army produced a considerable amount of discontent, which gradually focussed themselves in the person of Arabi Pasha. Arabi was certainly little more than a tool, though it has never been clearly shown whose was the hand that held the tool; but his revolt would probably never have become serious had not an accidental *fracas* in Alexandria led to riots there and throughout the country, in which a number of Europeans were killed. That proved the last straw, and as France did not see its way to join in measures of the necessary severity, England took such measures single-handed, and the bombardment of Alexandria, the battle of Tel-el Kebir, and the British Occupation of Egypt in 1882 marked the beginning of a new chapter in Egypt's history.

Egypt, however, was by no means yet free of troubles and tragedies. Of the latter, the greatest and least necessary was Gordon's second expedition to the Sudan and the failure of the relief expedition to reach Khartoum in time to save him. But Egypt's share of the cost of that expedition once more proved enough to upset her financial balance, and again her finances came under a European inquiry and rearrangement. Then came the last great struggle against bankruptcy, when for three years Lord Cromer and Nubar Pasha had to adopt every possible expedient, and some which we would hardly consider possible nowadays, to make ends meet. They were given three years to do it, and they only succeeded by the barest possible margin at the last moment, when on December 31, 1888, they contrived to square the accounts by postponing the payment of all the officials' salaries to the following day, which meant the next financial year; and ever since then salaries in Egypt are paid, not on the last day of the month, but on the first day of the following month.

Since 1888 Egypt's progress has been steady and rapid. Administrative reforms which had been under consideration since about 1875, but which, owing to political and financial difficulties, had been in abeyance or only partially enforced, were now, under British authority, gently but firmly imposed upon more or less unwilling native Ministers. Money was found for irrigation schemes which rapidly repaid their cost and much over, and, in spite of the cost of the second Sudan campaign, which terminated with the battle of Omdurman in 1898, Egypt was able in 1904 to get rid of most of the fetters which international creditors had imposed upon her (for her own good) nearly twenty years earlier.

Events since then are too recent to require retelling as history. The four years' interregnum which followed Lord Cromer's retirement in 1907 only served to prove in record time the utter unfitness of the Egyptians to govern themselves yet; and the decision of Khedive Abbas II. to throw

WHITE HORSE WHISKY.
HEART TONIC.
DIGESTIVE AND NON-GOUTY.
By Appointment to
KING GEORGE. H.M. KING OF SPAIN.
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in his lot in the summer of 1914 with German influence at Constantinople proved, what had long been suspected, his incapacity to be even the hand by which England would rule the country. His removal and the declaration of a formal British Protectorate over Egypt will be only the beginning of the end of the old system of international control. The Capitulations, the Mixed Courts, and the Caisse de la Dette will go as soon as the authorities have time to work out the details of the new institutions which are to replace them; but that will take time. The new ruler, Sultan Hussein, can be relied upon to combine the friendliness to England of Tewfik with the shrewd common sense of their common father, Ismail, and their grandfather, Mohammed Ali.

In conclusion, it is indeed a strange turn of fate that Ismail's favourite son, for whom he fought so hard and spent so much to gain the alteration of the succession and a higher title, should be placed on his father's throne nearly forty years after Ismail's deposition by that very British Government which Ismail all along thought to make use of when it suited him, and to throw aside as soon as he was strong enough; that to do so the British Government had to set aside the very order of succession for which Ismail fought and revert to the old Turkish law of the nearest male agnate, and that to the position which the father had coveted for him so long ago they added a title which Ismail in his wildest dreams would never have dared to hope for, the title of his own master, Sultan.

[Previous articles in this series appeared in THE NEAR EAST of August 20 and September 17.]

SIR EDWIN PEARS ON TURKEY AND BULGARIA.

On Monday last Sir Edwin Pears delivered an address before the members of the Conservative and Unionist Women's Association at 8, Hereford Gardens, W., his subject being "Political and Social Conditions in Turkey." He briefly retold the story of the Turkish people from the earliest times until A.D. 1683, when their empire covered, besides their possessions in Asia and North Africa, the whole of the Balkan Peninsula, southern Russia, and Hungary. In that year the siege of Vienna by the Turks failed, and from that time on the story of the Turkish Empire was one of continual decline in extent and power. The Turk had never shown any capacity for the government of subject races; he believed himself to be of a race divinely appointed to dominate his despised Christian subjects. His idea of government had usually been to suppress any rising by massacre, though he had improved in that respect. The massacres of the nineteenth century were less terrible than those of the eighteenth, and those of the eighteenth less terrible than those of the seventeenth century. Of the three great massacres of the nineteenth century, Greeks, Bulgarians, and Armenians had been the victims, and on each of those three occasions Englishmen and Frenchmen had protected and assisted the persecuted population; but he could not recall a case where a German had ever done so.

Speaking of the events that had led up to the present position in Bulgaria, he mentioned that King Ferdinand was an officer in the Austrian army before he became ruler of Bulgaria, and had always been under Austrian influence. After the war of the Balkan League against Turkey there were differences between Bulgaria and Serbia, but these had been settled by the Premiers of the two countries, when General Savoff, the Bulgarian commander, came in with new conditions. The Bulgarian Premier, M. Gueshoff, declined to have anything to do with these new conditions, which he foresaw would cause war with Serbia. War did, in fact, take place, with the result that Bulgaria, who had fought the hardest in the war against Turkey, found herself with by far the least accession of territory. He (Sir Edwin) did not believe that the Bulgarian people wished now to fight Russia or England; he believed that if an honest vote could be taken there would be a nine-tenths majority against any such course; but a trick had been played upon them. All classes there were irritated at the losses inflicted by the Treaty of Bucharest, and were accordingly hostile to Greece and Serbia. They did not know that the losses and the war itself had been brought about by Austria, using Ferdinand as a tool, and they did not see that in fighting Serbia and Greece they were fighting Russia and England. If hostilities could be staved off for a few days he still hoped that an awakened country would make its voice heard and its will prevail. If diplomacy was energetic, means might yet be found of letting it be known that the Entente Powers were all determined to do justice to Bulgaria. The danger was that we might drift into war through neglecting to counteract the machinations of Germany.

HOSPITAL EXPERIENCES IN SERBIA.

Major Morrison, some time Surgeon-in-Chief of the third military hospital at Skoplje, recounted his experiences in Serbia at a meeting of the Medical Society of London on Tuesday last. He said that a few weeks after the declaration of war he had been invited by the Order of St. John to take charge of their proposed Serbian Hospital expedition. That expedition was united with another sent by a Serbian relief fund, and, thus combined, numbered about fifty members, comprising medical staff, dressers, nurses, orderlies, and wardmates. It sailed on October 29, arrived at Skoplje on November 17, and received its first consignment of wounded a week later. This contingent numbered 180 men, who were in a shocking condition. Many of them had not been able to change their clothes for months, and their wounds had been untended for a fortnight or more. Their clothing was infested with battalions of lice. A large proportion of them were suffering from septic compound fractures, and many had gangrenous feet. All chilled, in spite of fever, and half-famished, they had surely sounded the depth of human misery. But in less than four hours they were all tended and fed, stripped, washed and shorn, treated surgically on simple lines, and put to bed, precedence being given to those who were manifestly the most seriously ill. Within a few days the hospital was full. Nearly all the earlier patients were septicemic in an extreme degree, and in some there was added the complication of recurrent fever (typhoid or dysentery), while five developed lockjaw, which ran a rapidly fatal course. In the early days of the hospital the volume of surgical work meant high pressure for the two surgeons, and the day's quota was not always finished by midnight. Other parties from England had followed his to Serbia, and some groups had returned, the net result being that at the end of March there were over 300 of such British workers, men and women, in the country. America was also strongly represented, and other countries sending helpers were Russia and Greece.

THE SITUATION IN THE NEAR EAST.

Speaking at the Services Club on Friday last, Mr. L. S. Amery, M.P., said that if Germany could, with the help of Bulgaria, break down the resistance of Serbia, and so get into contact with the Bulgarian Army and, through Bulgaria, with Turkey, unlimited ammunition would be available for the Turks at the Dardanelles. Our position there was extremely difficult; but the one mitigation of the difficulties of our troops was that, although the Turks could cover almost every inch of the ground with shell fire, they had not many shells. But once the little wall that Serbia had put up was broken down, we should have to face a new situation, in which the Turks would have unlimited ammunition. They would also have new rifles for their army in Macedonia and for the reinforcements needed for a second attack on Egypt and the Suez Canal. The difficulty that the Turks had had to face all through was that of obtaining munitions: anything from half a million to three-quarters of a million of Turks could be turned into soldiers if rifles and guns were forthcoming; and if Germany could get into contact with Turkey she would be able to put into the field that number of well-drilled and well-equipped Turkish troops. There would also be free passage from Germany to Persia (already in a very serious condition), to Afghanistan, and to the North-West Frontier of India. One enormous advantage that the control of the sea had given us was that of blockading Germany and keeping her from essential supplies of foodstuffs and raw materials. But on the day on which Germany and Bulgaria joined hands the wheat harvest of Bulgaria, the wheat, maize and barley harvests of Turkey, and other such supplies would be free to pour into Germany. With Roumania completely isolated we could not hope that Roumanian supplies of wheat, maize, and petrol would not go to Germany as well. Vast mineral resources in Asia Minor would be available to Germany, also a copper mine in North-Eastern Serbia that had just begun to be effectively exploited. Cotton could be grown in Mesopotamia, and might be available by the time our belated policy of cotton contraband began to take effect.

Bulgaria's decision was the result of her desire to get territory now held by Greece and Serbia. Another consideration was that she believed that if the Allies won Russia would be installed at Constantinople. Bulgaria preferred that Constantinople should remain in Turkish hands, because she hoped that some time in the future it might fall to herself. In addition to these factors, it must be remembered that King Ferdinand believed that the Central Powers would win. As to Greece and Roumania, their sympathies and interests were both with the Allies, but they were in a difficult position, and in considering their action we should look at matters from the point of view of small States with everything at stake.

RUSSIA AND THE BALKANS.

At University College, on Monday, Professor Lyde delivered an interesting lecture on "Racial Frontiers of Europe." Referring to the Balkan States, he said that the Bulgarians furnished the finest type of men, and should have an extension of territory and readjustment of frontier. The Albanians were less capable of being assimilated, while Serbia was the most shut-in country of all, although holding the common trunk of two important gorges. Of course, the Balkan States were a great feature before the world now, and his opinion was that the Power most interested in its waterways should be the predominant Power there, and he gave the decision in favour of Russia.

PERSIAN GULF MEDALS.

The medals for the operations in the Persian Gulf, 1909-11, numbering 7,000, are now being distributed. Nearly 200 of those who earned them are known to have died since, and the medals will be issued to their relatives.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Double Treason?

Mr. Hilaire Belloc devotes a considerable portion of an article in the *Illustrated Sunday Herald* (October 10) to a geographical examination of the Balkan States, together with a statement of the various religious differences that separate the inhabitants of each group. In referring to the Treaty of Bucharest, he lays particular stress upon the attitude of Austria at that time, and shows that Austrian diplomacy was directed primarily to keeping up a lasting feud in the Balkans, thus preventing a firm union of the States which could resist the German race on the one side and expel its old Turkish masters from Europe on the other. Coming to the Bulgarian question of to-day, Mr. Belloc writes:—

I think that the indignation of the Bulgarian people at the loss of these fellow-citizens of theirs is being exploited indeed in the interests of Germany for the moment by Ferdinand, but that a much longer view ahead is taken by him than by his contemporaries.

After dealing with the obvious advantages which Germany secures by Bulgaria's intervention on her side, the writer proceeds:—

The King of Bulgaria is probably acting thus precisely because he thinks the Austro-Germans have now no longer a chance of winning the war.

He knows (as does everybody in this country) that the enemy's effectives will probably begin to decline next month, and will certainly begin to decline not later than the end of the year. He perceives, therefore, that the Austro-German anxiety will begin to become acute in quite a short time. He purposes to use them, I take it, to his own advantage for the moment. Having secured the territory his people covet, having given to the enemy that road to Turkey which they have so long desired, he will watch the increasing difficulties in which the Germans and Austrians will find themselves with the progress of 1916, and, already in possession of all that his act of treason can give him, he will commit a second act of treason and will appeal to the Allies.

The Future of Turkey.

In an article dealing with the new outlook induced by the entrance of Bulgaria into the war, the *Spectator* (October 9) sympathises with the Bulgarian nation as a whole, but points out that once the fatal step is taken nothing can save her from the consequences of King Ferdinand's evil deeds falling upon her. "When the war is over it will be Russia and not Turkey who will be Bulgaria's neighbour at Adrianople and on the Bosphorus." In turning to the Grecian crisis the writer admits that it is as yet difficult to understand its full bearing upon developments, but thinks that there is full time and opportunity for the people to realise the situation, and that if the voice of the people makes itself fully heard the King will follow the general wishes of the country. In dealing with the rival claims of Turkey and Bulgaria in the light of promises made by the Central Empires, the article continues:—

In all probability the Turks will soon realise that the Germans are more likely to pay Bulgaria than them. The Germans, when Turkey has been made as much use of as possible, will be very glad to find an excuse for getting rid of their obligations to her. They do not intend to make Turkey once more an independent Power. Her provinces are too valuable for that. Germany wants Egypt for herself and not for Turkey. The same thing applies to the best parts of Asia Minor and Syria. If, therefore, Germany wins, she will prefer to keep faith with Bulgaria. No doubt the heavily bribed leaders of the Young Turks will not be in a position to make a protest; but when the true significance of what has happened at last dawns upon the Turkish people and the Turkish army, and they find they have been sold twice over, they will show the passions of their kind.

In regard to Roumania, this writer thinks that her statesmen will realise that "if it is a question of looking for German favours Bulgaria has obviously stepped in before them, and that there is not room in the Balkans for two Powers to play the part of the pet and *protégé* of Austria and Germany."

The Greek Crisis.

The *Referee* (October 10), in an article headed "The Iron Hand for the Velvet Glove," comments upon the inequality of the weapons with which the diplomatic war has been waged between Germany and the Allies in the Balkans. "A soft-gloved hand is no match for a mailed fist." In the paragraph we quote the writer sums up the conclusions of his paper on the situation, conclusions which, it may be remarked, appear to have been arrived at by a large number of British journals, although they have not been set forth in so straightforward a manner:—

King Constantine has taken the way imperiously pointed out to him by his forceful brother-in-law's uplifted sword, and, instead of wasting unavailing regrets over a rudely-shattered illusion, it behoves the Allies to have done with words and trust only to the strength of their right hands and the keenness of the sword of justice. Under the influence of crafty advisers, no doubt, the King of Greece has chosen to renounce his honourable obligation—has refused, on the ground of a quibble, to help the companion of his victories, although he shares his Ally's danger, and may have to dree his weird alone and uncommiserated.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* also goes straight to the point in the following paragraph, quoted from a recent leading article:—

We have discoursed *ad nauseam* to the Balkan peoples upon our own high-mindedness and benevolence. It is time to demonstrate that we have the means of backing them and the will to override opposition. The moral support which the Greek nation requires in order to insist that its purposes shall be realized and its government carried out in a truly constitutional manner can be most usefully tendered in the diction of military and naval strength. The pathway into the present maze has been paved with good intentions. The exit from it can be achieved only by unhesitating self-assertion.

The *Manchester Guardian*, on the other hand, advocates the continuance of diplomatic methods, such as have been in progress for months past. In referring to a statement, emanating from French official quarters, that seemed to imply that the Allied forces would push forward to the assistance of Serbia, "in the teeth of serious protest and opposition from Greece," this paper says that "the political arguments for further consideration are so obvious and so strong that they need not be set forth here." The writer continues:—

The proper course would appear to be at once to enter into negotiation with the new Ministry which is now being formed, and on which M. Venizelos, though he will not be a member of it, is bound through his command of a Parliamentary majority to have a great influence, and, if possible, to come to a friendly understanding with it which, while not involving any necessary breach of Greek neutrality, would yet leave the situation an open one, and enable us to give effectual help should the need arise to Greece's ally, Serbia, and to strike an effectual blow for the liberty of the Balkans.

The Albanian Road to Serbia.

In its review of "The Events of the Week" the *Nation* (October 9) takes a properly serious, but not an alarmist, view of the situation brought about by Bulgaria's intervention. It thinks that "it would pay Russia to secure the adherence of Roumania, even at the cost of Bessarabia"; but holds, wisely, that rather than reckon upon the co-operation of Roumania or Greece, "it is best for the Powers of the Entente to depend upon themselves."

They cannot afford to leave their armies in the air, and, although it is incredible that Greece, with a country so terribly at the mercy of sea-power, should definitely side against us, it would be well to be prepared for all eventualities. Both Albania and Monenegro are countries with practically no railway system, or it would have been better to have landed at one of their ports. This would have been an admirable solution of the problem, since an advanced base could have been made at Antivari or Alessio. And with plenty of motor transport this may still be the best way of dealing with the situation. The Turks had to cope with greater difficulties in their advance against the Suez Canal. Yet they brought across the Sinai Peninsula a force of some 12,000 men, with pontoon sections, field batteries, and two 6-inch howitzers, and, what is more, took their beaten army with all its guns back again. With Italy and Serbia both interested in the opening up of northern Albania, it would be to their interest to lay a light railway to the Serbian railway system, and Italy could well undertake this work. The German engineers have probably laid some hundreds of miles of railway in the east and west, and in the west the Allies have on several occasions been compelled to lay new roads. At any rate, what Turkey can do surely the Allies can achieve, and it would be as well to have a safe exit somewhere. Further, as a French contemporary suggests, there must be no driblets. If the expedition continues it must be in force.

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It is, perhaps, rather a novel idea to think of learning from the Turks. But if they can teach us, why not? The plan indicated certainly appears worthy of consideration.

Hungarian Persecutions.

Some of our readers are perhaps acquainted with the brochure written by Professor R. A. Reiss, of the University of Lausanne, entitled "Comment les Austro-Hongrois ont fait la guerre en Serbie." Whoever has done so must have been strongly moved by compassion and indignation by the recital of the atrocities committed by the Hungarian troops. And the same feelings will be experienced by those who read the article, "L'Autriche-Hongrie en Guerre contre ses Sujets," contributed by MM. Pierre Lanux and Milan Toplica to *La Revue Hebdomadaire* (September 4). The subject is almost the same; for the criminal has not changed and the crimes are very often of the same character; but the Austrian Government and the police take the place of the army, and it is in the Austrian empire that the crimes are perpetrated. The Austro-Hungarian Administration persecutes the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, its own subjects, in every possible way, simply because these poor people are of the same race as the Serbs of Serbia. It is impossible to give an adequate summary of this article, as it is impossible to say which part of it is the most important. All the evidence cited is important.

"In Bosnia," we are told, "before any mobilization, the police imprisoned more than 5,000 Serbs without any plausible pretext. . . . In Dalmatia all the prefects of towns, and almost all the people's representatives, were imprisoned . . . and at Marburg alone 332 Dalmatians were imprisoned. . . . In Istria sixty-seven Catholic priests and four deputies met the same fate." After a long list of families driven out of Bosnia alone in the month of March, we read: "In scarce a month the Government of Bosnia expelled 5,260 Serbian families"; and further on: "The number of Bosniak refugees in Montenegro alone amounts to 70,000." A few pages further on we find testimony no less eloquent: "An engineer saw with his own eyes at Trebinje (Bosnia) thirty-seven people led off to the gallows at one time; amongst them were six women. . . . A military chauffeur almost fainted in passing along a road at Trebinje along which every tree bore a victim." And so forth. It is to be noted that all the examples given in the article "are selected—the authors guaranteeing them and providing their proofs—after most strict investigation."

The better to understand the tragic fate of the hapless Jugoslav people, it must be borne in mind that while the families in the country are being thus treated, the sons of these same families are forced to fight in the ranks of the Austro-Hungarian army. We see what effect this produces upon the Jugoslav soldiers when they return home:—

Wounded in a battle, a Serb of Syrmia, an Austrian soldier, obtained leave to return to his home. But, arrived there, this is what he found: his father had been hanged on a charge of high treason, his mother had been driven from home, two of his brothers had been killed at the front, and the last two were still fighting *for their generous Sovereign.*

German Humanity.

In the course of a powerful indictment of Germany for her share of the responsibility for the latest—and greatest—of the Armenian massacres, the *Nation* says well:—

Germany's responsibility for this crime is direct. She is admittedly indifferent; it is charged against her in the United States that some of her consuls have aided individual massacres. In her Pagan mood she dissociates herself from Christian humanity; nevertheless, she stands to-day under a load of guilt unexampled in modern history.

When it occurs to them that some neutral force, which they must respect, objects to their holding the garments of the murderers of the Armenian nation, the Germans will probably try and dissociate themselves from this crime. But Count Reventlow's endorsement of it is no more than the sequel of the Kaiser's effusive tender of friendship and patronage in 1898, and his ensuing visit to Constantinople, which an ugly monument commemorates. Turkey and Germany first clasped hands over the Hamidian massacres. No other European Power could then have touched Turkey; and Germany's persistent courtship of her was the first definite act of policy which culminated in the dragonnades of last August. It will be interesting to see what the leaders of Catholic and Protestant Germany will have to say. Is this also a case in which "might makes right"?

British in the Balkans.

In a leading article on the "Outlook in the West and East" the *Daily Chronicle* (October 11) forecasts the probable plan of campaign which will be adopted by Germany and her allies in the Balkans, and is emphatic concerning the need of prompt and sufficient assistance being sent to Serbia. "It is impossible not to send troops; honour and interest seem quite unmistakable on the point; and it would be the height of folly to send too few." The writer reserves all comment upon the relation which the new campaign must bear to that of Gallipoli beyond remarking that, even if the offensive is suspended, the presence of our troops will detain a large number of Turkish effectives on that front. We quote the concluding paragraph of the article:—

The arguments for throwing a large force through Salonika promptly can hardly be over-stated. Politically it would certainly make a great difference, and very probably all the difference, to the final attitude of Roumania and Greece; and the attitude of Bulgaria herself could scarcely be unaffected by it. The occasion seems emphatically one for us to act strongly and rapidly, and, if necessary, to draw pretty heavily on our reserves for the purpose. If we do not we run a great risk of seeing the Balkan area of the war transformed into the decisive area, and in it the war decided against us.

"The Suffragette" on Serbia.

The *Suffragette* for October 1 makes a sympathetic reference to Serbia in its review of the week:—

Victory and long life to Serbia, beloved and gallant ally! . . . Serbia and her people have compelled the admiration and love of this country. Their heroism and their golden-hearted loyalty have dispelled the mists that Germanism, for purposes of its own, had tried to interpose between ourselves and Serbia. The long Serbian struggle for freedom, independence, and right is one of the most glorious in human history. We are glad that our country is helping to write this last and triumphant charter of Serbia's centuries-old crusade for national liberty.

Cities of the Balkans.

In an article entitled, "A Railway Journey," Mr. R. A. Scott-James describes in the *Westminster Gazette* (October 7) much of the country of the Near East that is absorbing the interest of Europe at the present moment. The first paragraph quoted refers to the Plains of Hungary:—

For mile after mile, hour after hour, the traveller moves through perfectly flat but very rich, well-tilled, and well-wooded country. From time to time appear the remains of old castles and little white church towers, survivals from the Middle Ages. And there are crosses, many of which mark the spot where of old the Christians fought against the infidel Turk. Might not one expect the buried to cry out against this new unholy alliance between infidels and Huns—Huns in the strict sense—against the civilization of the West?

The writer describes the country in Serbia where the railway leaves the Danube and turns south among the mountains as the "Arcadia of modern Europe."

Silver streams leap down green-carpeted valleys, and rustic bridges and paths lead you from meadow to woodland and woodland to meadow, and little clusters of brown houses, shaded by trees from the sun, and sheltered by the mountains from the fiercer winter gales, are the dwelling-places of peasants who still wear their gay national costumes. Every hill is the home of a deity who has become, often enough, a saint, or is sacred to the memory of a national hero.

In describing the Bulgarians the writer speaks of them as being energetic, passionate, capable, and often reckless, and of their capital he writes:—

Sofia strikes one as a new town, though it has a long history behind it. It has a tramway system of its own. It has big, square, uncouth public buildings, and two modern hotels, with cafés on the ground floor stretching, Parisian fashion, into the street. It seems ridiculously small to be really the capital of a powerful nation, and Cabinet Ministers live in houses that we should call cottages.

Articles to Note.

"Jerusalem and the War," by Miss Annie E. Landau, in the *Jewish Chronicle* (September 24).

"Czar Ferdinand and the Balkan Crisis," in the *World* (October 5).

"The Imitation of Napoleon by the Germans," in the *Contemporary Review* (October).

"Germany's Railway Grip on Asia Minor," by L. Morton, in the *Windsor Magazine* (October).

"Orsovo," by J. M. Dodington, in the *Badminton Magazine* (October).

"A History of the War," in the *Fortnightly Review* (October).

"Obiter Dicta," in the *British Review* (October).

"A Maid of Modern Athens," by Athena Pretenderis, in *Vanity Fair* (October).

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MR. BALFOUR AND THE ARMENIANS.

In reply to an invitation, addressed to him by Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., on behalf of the Committee, to attend the inaugural meeting of the Armenian Refugees' (Lord Mayor's) Fund at the Mansion House to-day, Mr. Balfour has written the following letter:—

"Admiralty, Whitehall,
"October 6.

"My Dear Mr. O'Connor,—I am very sorry that the pressure of public work puts it out of my power to take part in your meeting next week. I earnestly hope it will be a success. In the midst of all the horrors of this war nothing, I think, is more horrible than the treatment meted out to the wretched Armenians by the Turkish Government, who claim to represent Progress and Reform. It is a crime which surpasses the worst deeds of their predecessors. As they are entirely dependent for support upon the Germans, the latter surely could, if they would, put an end to so disgraceful a condition of affairs; and I should hope that the German-Americans, who must be anxious to save what remains of Germany's good name, would use their influence to check the further continuance of these purposeless barbarities.—Yours sincerely, "Arthur James Balfour."

THE SPIRIT OF SERBIA.

Speaking at the Royal Victoria Hall on Tuesday last, Dr. Seton Watson said that as the result of our grave miscalculations and sins of omission the fate of Serbia hung in the balance, with, as he believed, that of the whole future of the Entente and the British Empire. In mediæval times Serbia had blocked the way to the Turkish invaders, and now she was the last obstacle to the achievement of the programme that Germany had long thought over secretly and was now boastfully proclaiming, of extending her authority from Berlin to Baghdad. Only prompt, energetic, and spirited action could save us from disaster.

Dr. Watson told several stories illustrating the spirit of the Serbian people. One was of a young soldier who, at the time of the last Austrian invasion, lost heart when things were at their worst, deserted, and went home to his native village. Here his old grandfather met him, and said: "What do you mean by coming here? No member of my family has ever fled from the battle-field. Go back, or you will have my curse and not my blessing." The young man returned to his regiment, where the colonel told him he would overlook the act of desertion, but bade him never to forget the words of his grandfather. Then came the great advance, and the young man captured a flag. He came back badly wounded, and, handing the flag to his captain, said: "We are near to my village, now. Tell my grandfather about it." He died, and was buried on the field. The next day, when the village was reached, the old man was found on his death bed, brought there by the ill-treatment of the Austrians because he had refused to be their guide to Kragujevatz.

AUSTRIANS ATTACK MONTENEGRO.

Sir J. Roper Parkington, Consul-General for Montenegro, has received the following official telegram from Cettinje:—"On Saturday last the Austrians commenced an attack on practically the entire Austro-Montenegrin frontier. Attempts were made to cross the Drina in three places, but were vigorously opposed by our troops operating in Bosnia; at the same time the Austrians attacked Prahovo, but were repulsed with great loss."

GERMANY AND TURKEY.

In the current issue of *La Vita Italiana* Signor Paolo Orsini discusses the brand-new Teuto-Turkish alliance from an historian's standpoint. Why, he asks, has a European Power, which was the last to enter the turbid sphere of Eastern politics, ousted all rivals? An answer is to be found in Germany's internal condition, and in the later phases assumed by the perennial Eastern question. Fifty years ago the Fatherland was split into seven independent States, subject now to Austrian and to French influence. Prussia alone knew her own mind. Under Bismarck's guidance, she secured the leadership of a united Germany at the cost of two successful wars. But she was still too remote from Turkey to meddle with Eastern politics; and when at length she came into direct contact with affairs of the Orient at the Berlin Conference of 1878, Bismarck declared that "the Balkans were not worth the bones of a Pomeranian grenadier." While professing perfect disinterestedness, he schemed to secure a footing for Germany in the Near East. He checkmated Russia by helping to destroy the Treaty of St. Stefano, and diverted Austrian attention from German politics by assigning to her the guardianship of two Turkish provinces.

William II. has reaped where Bismarck sowed. His design is simple enough, despite its grandeur, and it has hitherto succeeded because he pursued it with sleuth-hound tenacity. To Austria, he gave the task of Germanising the Balkans; for himself, he reserved the colonization of Asia Minor, and the construction of a railway which would link Berlin with the Persian Gulf. His dream is an Empire far exceeding that of Alexander, and serving as a stepping-stone to world-dominion. It may seem that of a megalomaniac, yet it might have materialised had not his ambition brought forces into the field which must ultimately prevail against him.

Signor Orsini traces the successive steps by which Germany has risen from the status of suppliant for a share in Eastern commerce, to become the virtual ruler of Turkey. He points out the immense advantage with regard to the ex-Sultan which her unique position secured. Alone among the Great Powers she did not ostensibly seek territorial aggrandisement at Turkey's expense. While others exasperated the umbrageous despot by demanding reforms, or protesting against his massacres, Germany posed as his protector against Western aggression. So William II. slowly wormed his way into Abdul Hamid's confidence, and finally became indispensable. The Turkish army was remodelled and armed by von der Goltz; Marschall von Bieberstein and his myrmidons proved more than a match for the diplomatists pitted against them by England and France. When the setting was made ready for his theatrical entrance, William II. embarked on a new crusade. In one of Islam's Holy Places he stood forth as a close ally of the "Khalif," and protector of Moslems throughout the world. Such perseverance in the teeth of tremendous difficulties must wring a tribute of admiration from Germany's foes. But they should realise, ere it be too late, that the Kaiser's ambition to rule the world from the ancient seat of empire will be thwarted only if they, too, display a similar resolve to conquer at all costs.

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DIRECTORY

showing the present addresses of English residents in Turkey, who have left the country in consequence of the war, or have been prevented from returning there. Readers from Turkey whose names are not given below will oblige by forwarding to the Managing Editor their present addresses for inclusion (free of charge) in the Directory, which is intended to be of assistance in bringing friends together. Changes in addresses should be notified as early as possible. The "Near East" accepts no responsibility for the correctness of the addresses given.

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NOWILL, Stephen, Sandygate House, Sheffield.
O'NEIL, Miss, Hotel Grande, Bretagne, Athens.
PALMER, S., and family, Old Phaleron, Greece.
PARFIT, Rev. Canon J., M.A., St. Edward's, Victoria Road, Worthing.
PARFITT, Harold, 176, Whitehouse Rd., Croydon.
PATERSON, Mrs. Alexander, Allanshaw, Hamilton, Lanarkshire, N.B.
PATTERSON, Miss E. Mabel, Crag Head Hospital, Manor Road, Bournemouth.
PATTERSON, Mr. and Mrs. H., Hotel d'Angleterre, Athens.
PEARS, Sir Edwin, 24, Riverview Gardens, Barnes, S.W.; also Reform Club.
PEARS, Henry E., 21, York Street, Portman Square, W.
PEARS, Miss Lorna E., 21, York Street, Portman Square, W.
PEDDIE, F., 109, Avenue de Villiers, Paris.
PISANI, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick, and son, Hotel Centrale, Rue du Stade, No. 22, Athens.
PISANI, Mr. and Mrs. Edward, Boulevard Constantin le Diadoque, No. 53, Piræus.
POYNTER, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh E., 70, Addison Road, W.

RAMSAY, G. McGregor, Hotel Lincoln Hall, Upper Bedford Place, W.C.
RAMSAY, Miss, 18, Alwyne Mansions, Wimbledon, S.W.
RAMSAY, Mrs. Alexander, and family, 18, Alwyne Mansions, Wimbledon, S.W.
RAMSAY, Mrs. G., and family, Old Phaleron, Greece.
RAWE, Reuben, Old Phaleron, Greece.
REES, T. Bowen and Co., Ltd., 26, Boulevard Constantin du Diadoque, Piræus.
REES, T. Bowen, 26, Boulevard Constantin du Diadoque, Piræus.
REITH, Mrs. G. Douglasa, U.F. Manse, Clunie, near Murthly, Perthshire.
RIZZO, Mr. and Mrs. Edgar V., and family, 48, Odos Hypocratis, Athens.
ROBSON, F., 142, Earlston Road, Liscaird, Cheshire.
ROUTH, R. A. C., 64, Torrington Square, W.C.
ROWELL, Mr. and Mrs. Robert, and family, 124, King Henry's Road, South Hampstead, N.W.
RUSSELL, J. MacDowall, British Postmaster, Shanghai, China.
RUSSELL, Mrs. J. MacDowall, Ivy House, Hill Village Road, Four Oaks, Birmingham.
RYAN, Andrew, Foreign Office, S.W.

Continued on page 675.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

The turn political events have taken in the Balkans must needs reflect on the economic situation. This, as far as the Near East is concerned, is as bad as it possibly can be. Germany has been wanting copper for munitions, and now she is penetrating into Northern Serbia, where one of the richest copper mines in the world is situated. Months ago I pointed out in these columns that we—the Allies—should do our utmost to keep the Germans away from this mining district; but we did nothing until a few weeks ago, and then only in a half-hearted manner. It is a pity!

***

Bulgaria, on the other hand, claims that she has joined forces with the Central Powers because she can only dispose of her grain crops at fabulous prices to Austria and Germany. Perhaps it is the last crop she will ever dispose of. But, in the meantime, it is regrettable that we were unable, with our huge resources, to make her a serious, tempting bid for her crop. It could easily have been shipped at Dedeagatch on friendly bottoms and have been dispersed throughout the world at little pecuniary loss to ourselves. As it is, Germany and Turkey, short of cereals, acquire this year's Bulgarian harvest at fancy prices (long credit and no security) merely for the asking.

***

As for Greece, her attitude is enigmatic. Italy is no friend of hers, and our pro-Bulgar attitude has given the German propagandists an excellent opportunity for villifying us in the eyes of the Hellenes. There is only one consolation, and that is that, in spite of all our diplomatic blunders in the Near East, it is inconceivable that Greece should side with Bulgar and Turk, her two natural enemies, against us. Elsewhere we reproduce extracts from interviews between a representative of the *Morning Post* and three well-known members of the Anglo-Greek community in this country. I have, also, within the past few days spoken to various Greek business men resident in this country, and they are unanimous in stating that between Greece and Bulgaria there can be no friendship until Bulgaria is brought to her senses, until she relinquishes that domineering spirit of Prussianism-let-loose which has characterised her in the past to the detriment of her neighbours.

***

Roumania's attitude is likewise enigmatic. She has no open seaboard, and her exports, unless they be directed up the Danube or across the Black Sea, have no outlet. No wonder, therefore, that she should be at some loss to dispose of her oil and grain, and that reports reach us that Germany is likely to be a heavy purchaser. Here, again, we must be careful and circumspect. If Roumania is to strike (on our side) she will want guarantees, and one of these is that when the settling day comes her position should be improved in such a way as to ensure her a free outlet for her products to the sea. It is not my intention here to examine how this can be done, but it will have to be done if peace is to be maintained in future in the Balkan Peninsula.

***

The task undertaken by the Committee of the British Refugees from Turkey Fund is decidedly up-hill work. Some time ago, I have been given to understand, a few circulars asking for subscriptions to this useful fund were sent out to some of our leading firms interested in the Turkish market. Results were deplorable; there was one favourable reply, three refusals, and the remaining firms, perhaps a dozen in number, gave no reply at all. This is regrettable. There are many British refugees from Turkey, who, owing to the war, are in straitened circumstances. The majority of them were in business before the war broke out and were good clients of British firms. Could not these latter, therefore, respond now by helping the former in their hour of need? I am sure they could—and would—if the matter were ventilated, and I appeal to them now. All donations should be sent to the British Refugees from Turkey Fund, Lowndes House, Lowndes Place, Belgrave Square.

***

In connection with the references made by Sir Edward Pears to the mismanagement of our affairs in Constantinople, and to the fact that no redress was obtainable from either Consulate or Embassy, Mr W. S. McGregor, of the Imperial Ottoman Gas Works, writes to the *Daily Mail* in support of Sir Edwin Pears' contention, and says: "I am speaking feelingly, as possibly Sir Edwin Pears may remember. A contract made in England was repudiated by the Turks when it suited them in favour of a German (over £500 was due), and the only satisfaction to be had was that the Embassy had done their best and could not recover. Mr. Morgenthau, the American Ambassador, said: 'Had you been a German, Russian, or even an American, your just claim would have been paid in twenty-four hours.'"

***

Leaving the question of diplomatic incapacity to be discussed elsewhere, a few words anent the Consular Service may be said here. For the past four or five years, ever since THE NEAR EAST first saw the light of day in its present form, the failings of our Consular Service have been pointed out, and we have urged reforms. We have, in this respect, erred in good company, but all to no good. There is a sacred *noli me tangere* halo surrounding the service that makes it invulnerable; it is bound and laden with chains forged by centuries of red-tape to formulæ and prohibitions that are worthless; its members, more often than not, are "delightful fellows"—sociable, pleasant and kindly when off duty, but keeping strictly within the meshes which surround them when on duty. In the Consular Service it is, therefore, not the men who are generally to blame, but the whole system, which is antediluvian, fossilised and archaic. Compared with the activity and thoroughness of the German and American systems, it is dead, of no use to traders as a body, and therefore heartily condemned by them. Still, it exists, and will continue to exist, owing to Foreign Office indifference and red-tape conservatism, unless the whole business community of the United Kingdom rises up against it. Until this happens, no administrator in Downing Street will trouble the placid, somnolent waters of our great Consular Service.

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As predicted in these columns two weeks ago, when opposing the increase of the half-penny postcard rate to one penny, the Postmaster-General has wisely dropped his proposal. I congratulate Sir Adolph Tuck, and those associated with him, in keeping the postcard down to the old rate. Had they not been successful, the illustrated postcard industry in this country would have been ruined. While on this subject, I should like to state that when in Belgrade last year, four months before the war broke out, one of the very few travellers whom I met representing a British firm was a gentleman working for Messrs. Tuck. He had been all through the Near East, Syria and Egypt, and had done remarkably well with his wares, in spite of the cheaper prices of Austro-Hungarian and German cards. This shows what can be done with travellers if they are actively employed, and it ought to convince other British firms who have hitherto been slow to work the Near East market that, when the war is over, it will be their bounden duty to send travellers thither.

***

The rapid strides made in the woollen industry of India of late years has placed it in the front rank of Eastern trade. The natural advantages of pure wool clothing material in a climate such as India, where the extreme variations of temperature are so treacherous, is fully realised by Indian residents, and enormous mills, employing many thousands of hands, are daily engaged in supplying the ever-increasing demand for woollen clothing materials. In a country where labour and climate are so much against that assiduous care and attention which are necessary in woollen manufacture, it is hard to realise that such a perfect standard of production as exists is possible, yet, without exaggeration, it would tax many of the leading mills at home to improve upon the high-grade quality of Indian woollen goods. The Indian woollen mills are nothing if not up to date. All the latest machinery and scientific improvements are employed in the production of their goods, and the promptitude and precision with which huge orders are dealt with is a source of continuous surprise to business men from home. In the management of the Indian woollen mills are to be found some of the foremost experts in the woollen industry, and it is doubtless not a little due to their knowledge that Indian woollen goods hold their place amongst the leading clothing fabrics of the world. The two principal woollen mills of India are the Cawnpore Woollen Mills Co, Limited ("Lalimli"), of Cawnpore, and the New Egerton Woollen Mills, of Dhariwal, in the Punjab; these two concerns are the pioneers of the Indian woollen industry, and it is to their untiring efforts in a struggle against most unfavourable conditions that the industry owes its present proud position. Both firms publish booklets containing full information regarding their goods, and offer to send copies free to anyone applying for same, as they deal direct with the consumer.

COMMENTATOR.

ENGLISHMAN, with good connections in England and Near East, desires FINANCIAL BACKING to open out, after War, a General Merchants' and Agency Business in Turkey. Several good Agencies in hand, and other profitable business can be secured on proof of financial ability to handle.

Principals or Solicitors only, apply to "AGENCIES," "NEAR EAST," Devonshire Square, London.

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Trade Notes.

Egypt.

H.M. Consul-General at Alexandria reports that tenders are invited by the Egyptian Ministry of the Interior (Lunacy Division) for the supply and delivery of miscellaneous supplies (including clothing, bedding, furniture, hardware, slippers, brushes, and other household necessaries) required by the Abbassia and Khanka Asylums at Abbassia, Cairo.

Copies of the specification and form of tender may be obtained from the Director of the Lunacy Division, Ministry of the Interior, Cairo, at which address sealed tenders, on the proper forms, will be received up to November 15. A copy of the specification and form of tender may be consulted by United Kingdom manufacturers of the goods mentioned at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

H.M. Consul-General at Alexandria also reports that tenders are invited by the Egyptian Coastguard Administration for the supply of general stores, including wood, rope, stable necessaries, marine stores, bicycles, and clothing.

H.M. Consul at Cairo reports that tenders are invited by the Egyptian State Railways and Telegraphs Department for the supply of 20,000 oak sleepers and 101,300 pine sleepers. The sleepers must be of very good quality wood and preferably of one of the following species:—European and Japanese oak, Montenegrin, Swedish and Norwegian and Baltic red pine or any other species of oak or pine of equal quality. In default, tenders for sleepers of any other quality of wood coming from Japan, America, India or Australia, would be taken into consideration. Copies of the specification, containing form of tender and form of bank guarantee, may be purchased, price 2s. each, from Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Broadway, Westminster, London, S.W. Sealed tenders, on the proper forms, will be received, up to 10 a.m., on December 15, by the General Manager, Egyptian State Railways and Telegraphs, Cairo. The tenderer must forward to the Chief Engineer (Way and Works), Egyptian State Railways, Cairo, samples (in duplicate) of the wood for the sleepers he proposes to supply.

A provisional deposit equal to 2 per cent., or a bank guarantee of 10 per cent., of the value of the offer is required to qualify any tender. Domicile (legal) in Egypt is necessary for the contractor. A copy of the specification, etc., may be consulted by United Kingdom manufacturers of timber sleepers at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade.

A firm in Alexandria wishes to get into touch with Canadian manufacturers of cheese and flour. For further information application should be made to the Canadian Trade Commissioner's Office, Portland House, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

In consequence of the adjudication held on September 11, 1915, at the Cairo Tanzim Department, for the supply of fifty tons of cement during the period ending March 31, 1916, the offer of Messrs. W. and H. Ablitt, Cairo, has been accepted for £E180.

DELICIOUS COFFEE.
RED WHITE & BLUE
For Breakfast & after Dinner.
Wholesale, of Hanson's, London, England.

Tenders are invited by the Director of Coast Guards Stores, Arsenal, Alexandria, for the supply of general stores and clothing required for the year 1916. Specification may be seen and all information obtained at the Head Office, Coast Guards Administration, Bab el Luq, Cairo. Date November 15.

Tenders are invited by the Director-General, Coast Guard Administration, Cairo, for the supply of coal, petroleum, and benzine required by the Service during the year 1916. Specification may be seen and all information obtained at the Coast Guard Magazine, Arsenal, Alexandria, or at the Coast Guard offices at Port Said, Ismailia, Suez, and Damietta. Date December 1.

Sudan.

With reference to a Notice published in April in these columns respecting the requirement of Consular Certificates of Origin for goods imported into the Sudan from certain European countries under a notice of February 11 last, the Board of Trade have now received copy of a further Notice dated July 31, 1915, which amends the above-mentioned Notice by providing that Certificates of Origin, in prescribed form, or other evidence satisfactory to the Director of Customs, must be presented in respect of all goods imported into the Sudan from any port in Greece or Bulgaria.

Malta.

The Board of Trade have received copy of a Government Notice (No. 210), dated September 27, 1915, prohibiting, under Articles 94 and 97 of Ordinance No. 8 of 1908, the importation of cotton seed into Malta from Port Sudan, with the exception of cotton seed required for use as fodder for Sudanese cattle.

Cyprus.

The Board of Trade have received, from the Chief Collector of Customs at Larnaca, copy of a further Order-in-Council (No. 641), dated September 3, 1915, which continues for another period of two years from November 1, 1915, the free importation of motor cars, parts of motor cars and their fittings and gearing, into Cyprus.

The Chief Collector of Customs at Larnaca (the Board of Trade Correspondent for Cyprus) reports that he has set apart a special room at his office for the exhibition of samples, and is prepared to receive samples of goods of United Kingdom manufacture and to bring them before the notice of the merchants in the island interested. The samples most required are for the following goods:—China and glassware of cheap qualities; fancy leather goods; rubber goods of all kinds; leather; cutlery; tools of all kinds, especially those used by carpenters; electro-plated goods; imitation jewellery; buttons of all descriptions; cheap laces; men's and women's wear, especially cheap blouses and underwear; ready-made clothing of all kinds; boots and shoes; umbrellas; parasols; stationery; school and office requisites; paints; oils; lamps; ship chandlery; watches, etc. Samples should be addressed to the Chief Collector of Customs, Larnaca, Cyprus, and should be accompanied by an advertisement card showing the name and address of the manufacturer and a price list quoting terms of payment and prices for delivery c.i.f.

Tunis.

With reference to previous notices published in these columns respecting the prohibition of the exportation and re-exportation of certain articles from Tunis, the Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of copies of two Beylical Decrees, dated August 31 and September 13, which extend the prohibition to include the following articles, viz.:—

(1) Decree of August 31, 1915:—Woods, viz, mahogany, "okoumé," plane, beech, birch, lime, ash; iridium; osmium, rhodium, ruthenium; wines; receptacles for compressed or liquefied gases, of iron and steel; cotton yarns; cotton rags; and tussah silk, raw, woven or spun.

(2) Decree of September 13, 1915:—Coal; coke (carbonised coal); Sponges, washed and unwashed

SUDAN TRADE IN AUGUST.

The following extracts are from the monthly report for August issued by the Central Economic Board of the Sudan Government:—

Gum.

Nine hundred and fifty-three thousand one hundred and twenty-two kilos of gum, valued at £E27,407, were exported viâ Port Sudan during the month. A report from the Kordofan Province states that the gum season is now over; 26 cantars 99 rotles were sold in the Suk during the month, bringing the total for the season up to 167,389 kantars 63 rotles, which is over 27,000 kantars more than last year and not quite 7,100 kantars less than the record year of 1912-1913.

The following table shows the quantity of gum carried on the Kosti-El Obeid Railway from January to July, 1914 and 1915.

Period.		Quantity. Tons.
January,	1914	747
,,	1915	424
February,	1914	1,198
,,	1915	716
March,	1914	2,198
,,	1915	1,639
April,	1914	1,843
,,	1915	1,961
May,	1914	1,393
,,	1915	2,586
June,	1914	629
,,	1915	1,561
July,	1914	204
,,	1915	593
Total,	1914	8,212
	1915	9,480

Cattle Plague.

Two fresh outbreaks of rinderpest have been reported, one in Kordofan Province and the other at the Experimental Farm, Khartoum North. The latter outbreak is of minor importance. Sennar Province is reported free of this disease. The only other infected district is Kassala, the conditions here approximating those of last month.

Contagious pleuro-pneumonia still exists in the Kosti district, White Nile Province.

The outbreak in Mongalla Province is confined to Government transport cattle and is decreasing steadily.

PARCEL POST TO ROUMANIA.

The parcel post to Roumania by way of France is suspended, but parcels are accepted for transmission to Roumania (1) by way of Archangel, (2) by way of Sweden and Russia, and (3) by way of Norway, Sweden, and Russia, at the following rates:—

	Via Archangel.	Via Sweden and Russia.	Via Norway Sweden and Russia.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
For a parcel weighing not more than 3lb.	2 4	2 9	3 2
For a parcel weighing more than 3lb., but not more than 7lb.	2 8	3 4	3 6
For a parcel weighing more than 7lb., but not more than 11lb.	3 0	3 10	3 10

Parcels cannot be accepted for insurance. The other conditions relating to the service by these new routes are the same as those for the service by way of France as shown in the Post Office Guide.

NEW SUEZ CANAL ORDER.

The following Order has been published by General Sir John Grenfell Maxwell:—

No passengers from any vessel unless actually disembarking or transhipping shall be permitted to land in the Suez Canal zone saving those provided with regular passports and who are either British subjects or subjects of an Allied Power.

Ships' officers and members of the crew on duty belonging to merchant vessels shall be permitted to land if provided with a pass signed by the master of the ship and countersigned by the police.

The Suez Canal zone includes Port Said and Port Tewfik and all intermediate landing places ("ports" or "gares") on either side of the Suez Canal.

With reference to the complaints of the non-delivery of correspondence to members of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, the Secretary of the War Office desires to state that special measures are now being taken to expedite delivery of letters and parcels, and it is hoped that an improvement in the service will shortly be effected.

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Near East Markets.

EGYPTIAN COTTON.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, October 4.

It has been announced that the British Government, ever anxious for the well-being of the Egyptian cultivators and in order to ensure that they will be able to dispose of their cotton under advantageous conditions, has decided to purchase Egyptian cotton whenever it may appear that its intervention is necessary in order to maintain prices at a level that will be remunerative to the growers. As things are going at present, it is not expected that the proposed Government action will become necessary, for prices are better than they have been for some considerable time. All the same, the announcement of the decision is welcome, as it guarantees the fellaheen against a recurrence of last year's situation, when they sold at a huge loss and all the profit went into the pockets of the dealers, and, at the same time, as *Al Mokattam* says, it is an outward and visible sign to the Egyptian nation that British protection is not merely nominal, but that the British Government intend to give it very practical effect in the interest of their protégée.

COTTON MARKET.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Liverpool. October 14.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson telegraph:—Egyptian Spot.—The market has been quiet throughout the week, only a moderate business being done at fluctuating prices. Quotations show an advance of 10 points, except for fully good, fair, and below Upper, which are unchanged, and fine and extra fine Joannovich, Sakellarides, and Abassi are advanced 20 points. Sales, including 220 bales of Sudan cotton, are estimated at 2,000 bales, against 2,500 last week.

Manchester.

Since our last report there has been extensive inquiries from India for price goods.

TEXTILE INDUSTRY IN ROUMANIA.

The old adage that "it's an ill wind that blows nobody good" may be regarded as strictly relevant to the textile manufacturers of Roumania at the present time, says the *Textile Mercury*. While the world-war is raging outside the Roumanian manufacturers have the home market to themselves—and what this means may be gauged by the fillip received during the Austrian crisis and the time of the Balkan war, when competition from outside was suspended only in part. When every allowance is made for the obstruction to the circulation of money entailed by the difficulties in the way of exporting agricultural produce, the fact that Roumania has become entirely dependent on home manufactures implies a large margin of advantage to native industries.

The chief manufactures are located in Northern Roumania, and coarse goods and small firms are the rule; nevertheless, there are undertakings of a larger growth, and the calibre of these may be illustrated by particulars concerning sundry leading companies. In the front rank of these stands the manufactory of woollen goods, underclothing, etc., near Bacau, the company having its head offices at Bucharest. As to the company's position, the fact that a dividend of 15 per cent. on its three million francs share capital was declared just before the European war broke out may be allowed to speak for itself.

Next to be adverted to are various undertakings in Jassy, first and foremost of which is the Societate Anonima Romano-Italiana a Industriulor Textile, with a capital of one and a-half million lei or francs. It specialises in hemp spinning, rope, twine, cordage, and allied commodities, and employs 400 persons, chiefly women and children; the wages average 1.40 to 2 francs per day for the latter and up to 4 francs for adults. Attached to the works are dwellings for 100 employed families.

Another firm is the Testabura Jasi, with a capital of 750,000 francs; it is engaged in the manufacture of cotton stuffs for underclothing, linings, etc., and possesses a dyeworks attached. The employees number between 200 and 300 (chiefly women and children), the wages of adults ranging up to 4 francs per day. Next comes the "Moldova" firm, with a capital of 320,000 francs, specialising in the manufacture of cotton hosiery goods, such as jackets, body underwear, and stockings; it employs about 150 workpeople. In the outskirts of Bucharest is the English-owned Fabrica Romana, a well-equipped cotton weaving and bleaching concern, with a considerable number of Lancashire operatives.

Coming next to the smaller undertakings, the chief stocking manufactory in Jassy (belonging to Hodan, Cave and Co.) is deserving of mention. This firm, which speculates in cotton and woollen stockings, and runs its works by electric power, began some eight years ago with half-a-dozen employees, and during the interval has increased them to ten times that number, while the employees' wages have also risen considerably during the last four years.

BULGARIAN WHEAT EXPORTS.

The *Frankfurter Zeitung* published on the 9th inst. the conclusion of a document circulated in Bulgaria by the Bulgarian Government. Arguments are therein adduced for the purpose of proving that the requirements of Bulgarian grain growers necessitate Bulgaria choosing the side of the Central Powers. "If we export our grain to Italy, France, and England we shall not receive half the prices we could get if we were to export our grain to Germany and Austro-Hungary. If our grain supply is exported to these two States it will bring Bulgaria about 360,000,000 lewa, a sum which is twice as great as our entire export in the best years can be."

The document then claims that the free passage of the Danube is an absolute necessity for Bulgaria. Serbia and Russia do not permit Bulgaria to use this river. "Serbia will hear nothing of opening the Danube, therefore, in agreement with Germany and Austria-Hungary, we must create a free passage of the Danube by force."

PERSIAN GRAIN.

The great arid wastes of Persia would lead one to believe that the country does not produce sufficient grain to supply the needs of its population, says the U.S. Consul at Teheran. Such, however, is not the case, and considerable quantities of grain are exported each year. The principal grains grown are wheat, barley, and rice. Corn is planted in small quantities, but is only used for roasting ears. Oats and rye are seldom sown. Except along the Caspian coast, Persian agriculture is dependent almost entirely on irrigation.

The agricultural implements used in Persia are of the most primitive kind. Ploughs are made from forks of small trees with the addition of a share of iron. It is doubtful, however, whether the yield of grain would be greatly increased by using modern ploughs, as there is no sod and this crude implement seems to stir the soil fairly well.

Wheat is grown throughout Persia and considerable quantities are exported. The amount exported from the interior would be greater if transportation charges were not so high. Barley is grown in great quantities, and is the principal animal food: It is also used for making bread in the poorer districts. Rice is grown along the Caspian Sea, where there are immense plantations, and also around Urumia, and in some districts in south-west Persia.

PRODUCE REPORT

London, October 14.

Currants.

The market continued strong and dearer this past week, and low descriptions are scarce. Pyrgos in bags quoted 34s., and in quarter-cases 37s. to 39s.; Gulf, 44s. to 46s.; Vostizza, 47s. to 53s.; and Patras, 40s. to 42s. The stocks of currants in London on September 30 were 2,754 tons, against 2,965 tons the same period last year.

Sultanas.

The advance of prices continues. Greek have been sold, from 95s. to 100s.; and Afghan, 76s. to 78s. The stocks of sultanas, of all kinds, in London on September 30 were 1,246 tons, against 2,645 tons last year. With such a small supply of this fruit it is obvious that the advance will be increasing until arrivals of new fruit from Greece and Afghanistan relieve the situation.

Figs.

The market is steady. Calamatas were sold at 42s., and Malagas 35s. to 42s.

Dates.

New Persian are slightly cheaper, and there is no improvement in the demand.

Seeds.

Linseed.—In sympathy with the strong demand for oil, an active business is passing at 6d. advance. London-Calcutta spot and near at hand sold at 57s. 6d. to 57s. 9d. and October-November at 58s., with further buyers. Cottonseed.—There are no actual sellers of Egyptian, the Alexandria market being too high for offers. Rapeseed is firmly held. Toria pure basis October-November, 55s.; brown Cawnpore, ditto, 55s., and Guzerat 62s. 6d.

Oils.

Linseed oil is dearer with a good demand. Spot pipes £28 5s., barrels and month £29; October-December, £29 10s.; January-April, £30, were paid to-day; May-August, £31 asked, with £30 15s. refused. Cotton oil is strong and dearer. Spot pipes, crude, £30; refined pale, £34; sweet edible, barrels, £37 to £39. Rape oil is firm. Ordinary brown naked spot, £35 to £36; English barrels, refined, £37 10s. to £39.

Oilcakes.

Cotton-cakes.—There are no Egyptian available on spot, but there are sellers for October and November shipments at £8 to £8 2s. 6d., ex ship, and a fair business is passing at these prices. English makes command £8 12s. 6d. to £8 15s., and Bombay £8 5s. Linseed-cake.—No improvement in the demand, the market being very dull for the time of year, but with no anxiety from holders to sell, prices remain practically unchanged. Best London-made remains £11 10s. to £11 15s. East India seed pures £11 7s. 6d. to £11 10s.

Locust Beans.

There is comparatively only a small demand, but prices are maintained, for whole at £8 5s. per ton, and kibbled at £8 10s.

The Bucharest correspondent of the *Secolo* telegraphs that Brig.-General B. Hamilton has arrived at Nish.

DATES.

SPHINX BRAND.

PRODUCE OF BASRAH.

Selected from the famous Gardens.

Only superior qualities of

Hallawees, Khudrawees, Sayers and Zehdi

are packed.

In cartons of one to four pounds, small boxes, ordinary cases, baskets, tins, and skins.

SPHINX competes with all other brands in quality, packing, and is guaranteed to be clean, sound, fresh, and free from disease.

Sole Proprietor:

BAHJET S. FORAGE, BASRAH.

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Mineral Resources of Asiatic Turkey.

Asiatic Turkey is rich in many different ores and other minerals (says *Engineering*), the deposits being situated at considerable intervals in the various provinces. In addition to metallic ores, there are deposits of sulphur, meerschaum, marble, salt, petroleum, asphalt, and coal; precious stones are also found in some places.

Although foreign capitalists in recent years have given some attention to the undoubted possibilities of the country, no progress of real importance has yet been made with the mining industry. One of the principal reasons for this is probably the absence of adequate means of communication and transport, many of the deposits being located in out-of-the-way places at a great distance from railways and seaports. The labour question also presents difficulties, the natives being of little use and foreign labour being most expensive and difficult to obtain. Another reason is to be found in the fact that the Government have done nothing to encourage mining operations; in fact, they have done the reverse by imposing rather heavy fees on the concession-holders. Any concession is subject to an annual fee of 10 piastres (about 1s. 9½d.) per djerib, or hectare, as long as the concession runs, whether it is worked or not. There is a further tax of 1 to 5 per cent. on the production of mines worked by shafts or galleries, and of 10 to 20 per cent. on open mines or quarries. The cost of an annual permit to work up to 100 tons of ore on a claim ranges from £4 10s. to £13 10s., and for the right to work up to 2,000 tons of coal or ore an annual charge of from £45 to £180 is made.

These high fees tend to encourage the importation of commodities which are to be found in the country.

The mineral resources of Asia Minor are the best known, chrome-iron ore being found in vast quantities in the vilayet of Brussa (Kutaiah) in the South-Western part at Denisli and Makri, and in the South-Eastern part near the Gulf of Alexandretta. The most important deposits in the vilayets of Brussa and Khodavendikiar comprise those at Dagardi, which are estimated to contain 10,000,000 tons, and are regarded as the largest and richest in the world. Here the State has worked some 12,000 to 15,000 tons annually for about fifteen years, the value of the annual production being about 45,000 tons. The ore has to be conveyed on camels or mules to the nearest railway station, Kutaiah, a distance of over forty-three miles. Other chrome-ore mines in the Brussa district are being worked to the extent of 6,000 tons to 7,000 tons annually, the ore being shipped to England and America. There are also large deposits of pyrites and other iron ores, but they are only worked to a very limited extent, and the quantity exported is insignificant. There are large deposits on the south-east coast of the Black Sea, between Tireboli and Rize, in the vilayets of Erzerum and Sivas, south of Aivalyk, opposite the island of Mitylene, and especially at Zeitune, about ninety miles north of Alexandretta. The aggregate production of iron ore in Turkey in 1910 is given as from 50,000 to 60,000 tons, and as 100,000 tons in the year 1911. Manganese ore is found in the districts of Smyrna and Makri, and also at Mersina and Kerassunte, but the exploitation is irregular.

Both Germany and Austria, especially the former, have hoped to benefit largely from future developments of the mineral wealth of Turkey under their financial and industrial guidance. That results have hitherto been so meagre is attributed to apprehensions on the part of the Turkish Government that unsatisfactory results would follow the too easy admission of enterprising and grasping foreigners. These fears, it seems to us, are not entirely groundless in connection with Turkey's new allies, so that after the war there may be room for others.

COST OF LIVING IN GREECE.

There has been a rapid rise in the prices of foodstuffs in Greece since the beginning of the war, says the U.S. Consul in Athens. According to authoritative publications, the increase in the price of cereals and flour has been 50 per cent., legumes have increased 45 per cent., while the price of meats has remained practically stationary. This is perhaps explained by the fact that the average Greek is not a consumer of meat. The increase in cost of flour is due to the closing of the Dardanelles and the high freight rates on this commodity from America.

The rise in cost of the following articles in the six months from January to June, inclusive, is shown here by percentages: Wheat, 2 per cent.; barley, 6 per cent.; corn, 40 per cent.; semolina, 15 per cent.; farina, 20 per cent.; bread, 9 per cent.; beans, 18 per cent.; chick peas, 40 per cent.

Eliminating the comparatively trifling rise in wheat and barley—these having reached the highest point in their price curve before January—it will be seen that the average increase during this period is approximately 24 per cent.

Another disquieting factor in present economic conditions is the unprecedented increase in rents, conservatively estimated as ranging from 25 to 40 per cent. This has been caused by the presence of large numbers of Greeks from all parts of Europe and Asia Minor who have gathered in Athens since the beginning of the war, as well as of various foreign missions which have been established here since that time.

Lieutenant T. W. Moore, R.N.R., secretary of the Imperial Merchant Service Guild, has just received a communication from Captain V. E. Lazzolo, who formerly commanded the Ellerman liner "City of Khios," but is now interned in Turkey, stating that he and his fellow prisoners have been informed that they are not allowed to send or receive letters exceeding four lines. Letters of greater length will not be allowed to go through.

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Engineering Notes.

Wealth in Peat-Bogs.

To the ordinary traveller the aspect of a peat-bog is, as a rule, anything but inviting, while in some parts its existence is often considered as a scourge to the surrounding district. Yet modern science has, more or less successfully, proved that there is as much wealth in a peat-bog as may be found in a valuable mine. Peat, as is known, is formed by vegetable substances partly decomposed and more or less compressed. It is formed in damp places, where the roots of mosses and other moisture-loving plants begin to decay, while the uppermost part throws up fresh shoots, so that what was once only a shallow pool becomes a bog many feet thick. Peat-bogs are found in many parts of England, are more common in Scotland, and still more numerous in Ireland. Some large ones occur in the South of Europe, and many are found in the Near East, even near the sea. In the latter region the bogs are a real scourge in winter. Besides, little or nothing is apparently known of the utility of peat, or even that it can be used as fuel for domestic purposes, as is done by the Irish peasantry. It will, therefore, be of interest to enterprising parties and others in the Near East to know that, far from being a scourge, peat-bogs are a rich and valuable property, for science has proved that peat can be utilised as fuel and a substitute for coal. Consequently peat-bogs are a source of power, and as it is a well-known fact that industries always gather around any source of power, the prospects of districts in which such bogs are found are quite obvious.

Various efforts have been made to compress peat and so make it commercially available as fuel, but, as a rule, with little success, for although a good article could be produced out of peat, the cost of production has hitherto been too high to compete with coal. One of the reasons was that the processes generally relied on mechanical pressure for the expulsion of water. Other more successful processes for compressing peat until its specific gravity was nearly equal to that of coal, are now in use in Germany, Holland, Switzerland, Hungary, and to a small extent in Scotland and Ireland. But an invention which utilises electricity for the purpose of releasing the water is interesting, and probably more suitable for some localities in the Near East. By this process the raw peat in a broken state is put into a large vertical cylinder perforated with an enormous number of small holes. This cylinder is set in rapid motion and a large percentage of the water is expelled by centrifugal force. When the water has been driven out electrodes are inserted in the peat, which is made the medium of completing the circuit between the positive and negative points. The resistance offered by the soft peat to the passage of the electric current leads to the generation of heat, which pulverises the material into minute particles. The current breaks up the cells of the peat and reduces them to fine powder, but the powder still retains all the oils in the original peat, the electric current in no way injuring the properties of the peat. The powdered peat is passed on to a kneading apparatus, where a teasing manipulator is used to bring the mass into a plaster condition, when it can be readily concentrated in any form desired. It is next passed on to the moulder, and the material is then formed into briquettes or any other shape required, and is ready for storing. The whole operation occupies about two hours. The distinguishing feature of this process as compared with others is the application of electricity for breaking up the peat cells.

Many advantages are claimed for this fuel. In the first place, it is practically smokeless. It takes up less space than coal. It makes no clinker or cinder, deteriorates but little by keeping, does not crumble by handling, and has a high calorific. Another important consideration is the amount of space that will be required for the storing of this fuel in railway trucks, ships' holds, or bunkers. Ordinary coal takes on an average forty cubic feet for a ton, and weighs 55 lbs. per cubic foot. The electro-peat coal takes about 34 cubic feet to the ton, and weighs 66 lbs. per cubic foot. As to calorific value of the product as compared with ordinary coal, it has been found that the time in raising water from 65 deg. F. to boiling-point is eighteen minutes in favour of the peat as compared with Welsh coal. With regard to the production of electro coal peat, as compared with the cost of working a coal mine, there is a great saving. It is said that a ton of this peat-fuel can be produced for five shillings. It is calculated that a square mile of bog, 10 ft. deep, contains peat equal in heating power to more than 350,000 tons of coal. In a scheme for the utilisation of peat the recovery of ammonia and other by-products is also a subject of great importance.

As a Nourishing Plant Food.

Apart from the utilisation of peat as a source of power, *i.e.*, a substitute for coal, there are great possibilities in its use as a medium for increasing the output of vegetables. At the meeting of the British Association recently, Professor W. B. Bottomley gave some very interesting illustrations of his experiments with bacterised peat. He made the discovery that bacterised peat has an extraordinary influence on the growth of plants. It accelerates growth by approximately three times the normal, and the Professor asserts that, employed on a large scale, not only would the food supply be greatly increased, but large tracts of bog land, which are now practically useless, would be numbered among our most valuable assets. For they will supply the peat which, after bacterial treatment, is converted into extraordinarily nourishing plant food. Next week the professor will exhibit at the Royal Botanical Gardens vegetable plants which have been grown with bacterised peat. And, as he stated, he is quite prepared to give to the country, for the benefit of the war, his interests, patents, and rights in the manufacture of bacterised peat if a national committee, or some other representative authoritative body, could be found to carry out experiments on a large scale.

Stoppages of Gas Supply in Turkey.

The correspondent of the *Nieuws van den Dag* in the Turkish capital reports that scarcity is gradually beginning to be felt in almost everything; and the prescriptions and regulations interfering with the ordinary manner of living are becoming ever more severe and more numerous. Among other things he reports is that the three gasworks have had to come to a stop, so that there is no more street lighting. The electricity works will have to do the same during the present week; and then the trams will be unable to run. For days there has been not a drop of petroleum to be got in the city. Candles arrive now and again by parcel post from Austria, and then cost three piastres apiece—a price for which a whole packet could formerly be bought. The correspondent reflects: "How we shall warm ourselves in the winter if the present condition of things continues a few months longer is still an unsolved riddle."

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RAILWAY PROGRESS IN SYRIA.

The U.S. Consul at Aleppo, writing on July 31, gives the following interesting particulars concerning Turkish railway progress in Syria and Asia Minor:—

Despite the great crisis prevailing, there has been no diminution in the railroad progress of the country. The Jaffa-Jerusalem line, controlled by a French company, but whose twenty-five-year lease is about to expire, was taken over by the military authorities at the outbreak of the war. Work was immediately begun to connect this line with the Haifa-Damascus line, and in this way link the system with Aleppo (on the Baghdad line), and eventually connect with Constantinople.

Lydda, a station on the Jaffa-Jerusalem line, is the junction, whence the new line runs due north via Sebastiah, Jenin, and Afoulah, joining the Haifa-Damascus line to Deraa (on the Hedjaz line), a distance of 167 miles; thence over the Hedjaz line for a distance of eighty miles to Damascus, the entire distance from Jerusalem to Damascus being about 280 miles, and entailing a twenty-four-hour journey. On May 20, 1915, this branch line was opened to traffic, and the writer was the first passenger completing the railroad journey from Jerusalem to Damascus.

New Mileage of Baghdad Railway.

Equal energy has been displayed in the extension of the line from Aleppo towards Baghdad, known as the German or Baghdad Railway. In spite of all sorts of difficulties created by the abnormal situation, the Baghdad company has succeeded in opening for traffic more than sixty-two miles of line within the last two months. On June 1, the thirty-nine-mile line between Tell Abiad and Touem was completed, including the construction of a bridge across the Euphrates. On July 23 the twenty-six-mile line between Touem and Ras-el-Ain was opened. The following stations at present compose the itinerary of this branch: Aleppo, Mouslemiie, Akterine, Tchoban Beyi, Akje Koyounli, Hulmenie, Jerablus, Siftek, Ser Arab Pounar, Kharab Nass, Qul Tepe, Tell Abiad, Ghodjar, Touem, Tell-el-Hamoud, and Ras-el-Ain. Trains leaving Aleppo at six in the morning arrive at the last station at five in the afternoon.

Mention must be made of the fifty-six miles constructed at the southern terminus of this line, from Baghdad to Samara. There now remain about 373 miles before the entire line between Aleppo and Baghdad is completed.

The Constantinople-Aleppo Line.

The Constantinople-Aleppo line is gradually nearing completion. At present trains run direct from Constantinople to Posanteah (a three-day journey); here immense tunnels are being pierced through the Taurus Mountains. From Tarsus to Mamoure a completed branch of this line is in operation (about a day's journey), whence another series of tunnels is in process of construction. For the remaining seventy-one miles between Rajou and Aleppo the line is completed, and trains are running regularly. Under present conditions the journey between Constantinople and Aleppo is completed in six days.

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NISH-SALONIKA RAILWAY.

Under the above heading a correspondent, signing Georgina Pennant, publishes the following letter in the *Times*:—"At this moment, when so much attention is directed towards the landing of Anglo-French troops at Salonika, the following details—which do not seem to be widely known—with respect to the railway from there to Nish and Belgrade may be of interest to your readers. In May, 1914, a convention was signed between Greece and Serbia by which the latter country obtained on a fifty years' lease a piece of ground on the railhead at the Port of Salonika to use for importing without control anything that she required. This all-important railway, which only runs through Greek territory for 60 kilometres, is only a single line, but it has crossing places about every 20 kilometres and also possibilities of being further developed without much difficulty. Owing to this convention, the Government at Berlin has been unable to protest at Athens against the supply of munitions to Serbia viâ Salonika, and it is by this route that all war and hospital requirements have been furnished her by her Allies since the outbreak of hostilities."

GREEK TONNAGE.

A contributor to one of the Tyneside papers writes:—Nobody expected the calling in of the Greek tonnage to the Ægean Sea, or the more recent ban put upon another class of traders, but their immediate effect has been to force up outward rates to the Mediterranean to record figures and to seriously advance homeward rates from America. A steamer can now secure the enormous rate of 11s. per quarter for carrying wheat from North America to this country, while as much as 65s. per ton can be obtained for a grain cargo from the River Plate, an advance of about 10s. a ton within the last few days. It seems clear that the withdrawal of Greek tonnage will cause a great demand for tonnage in both the American and British markets in which the Greek steamers were largely employed. So far as the North American trade is concerned, it is some satisfaction to know that these huge freights are a set-off to our indebtedness for munitions; also that a good proportion of the excess profits will be annexed by Mr. McKenna for national purposes. There are those, however, who would rather see these extra earnings set aside to replace lost vessels.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES

An Egyptian paper states that the authorities have given orders to prohibit the exportation of eggs from Egypt, and that a Ministerial decision is expected to be issued shortly to the above effect.

Mr. M. di A. Nacamuli, after sixteen years of valuable work in the service of the National Bank of Egypt at Alexandria as chief of the Merchandise Department, is retiring from the active list as from August 31, 1915. Mr. H. C. Thomas, who has hitherto been Assistant Chief of the Department, has been appointed to succeed him.

Owing to the difficulty in getting supplies of caustic soda from Europe, says the *Egyptian Gazette*, the soap makers in Egypt have in many cases been obliged to stop their business, with the result that soap has risen considerably in price. For example, the Yaffaui has risen from P.T.3 to P.T.8, and the Nablusi from P.T.4½ to P.T.10. Both these kinds of soap are much used by the natives. Caustic oil, also, is used for refining cotton oil seed, and so the cost of oil has increased.

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SUDAN IRRIGATION.

We published last week the text of the amended schedule of the Sudan Guaranteed Loan Ordinance, 1913, under the title of the "Sudan Guaranteed Loan Ordinance, 1915." The schedule, it will be remembered, allowed £2,000,000 for "Works for the purpose of irrigating the Gezira Plain," as against only £1,000,000 allotted to the work by the schedule of the Sudan Loan Act, 1913. In this connection the following extract from an article which appeared recently in the *Sudan Times* on the "Gezira Irrigation Project," will be of interest:—

"It will be remembered that immediately upon the outbreak of the European war, work on the Gezira Irrigation Scheme, which had been going on at a rapid pace, had to be stopped rather abruptly. The reasons were of course financial. But now, it seems, financial conditions are in certain respects easier; and we hear that arrangements are being made for resuming work on the Gezira enterprise. These negotiations have been going on between the Sudan Government and Egypt, and, so the rumour goes, the negotiations have lately come to a satisfactory result. Though we have not heard these rumours from authoritative sources, we are inclined to believe them, and to connect with them the expected visit to the Sudan of Mr. Buckley, of the Egyptian Public Works Ministry, and the party of engineers, to whose visit we referred in our last issue. If so, work will soon be started.

Writing in the *African World* on October 2, Mr. Percy F. Martin said:—

"The energy with which the Sudan Administration are pursuing the matter of irrigation, and the large sums of money which it is proposed to expend upon the consummation of the great Gezira scheme—the total cost of which was to have been some £3,000,000—show how large an interest the Government holds in the ultimate extension of this form of land cultivation. . . A recent report upon the scheme confirms and accentuates in every way the favourable opinions which had been already formed upon the practical possibilities and utilities—including the technical standpoint—of the enterprise. The careful attention that was devoted to the selection of a site for the great dam has been abundantly justified by further testing and experimental work of an exhaustive character. This site, as may be remembered, is situated five miles south of the town of Sennar. It is here that will be constructed the immense dam capable of utilising the whole of the water supply in the Blue Nile during the period when water is required for irrigation, and the cost of which, as was originally estimated, will alone amount to £E1,420,000. The Gezira Canal, it was believed, would call for the outlay of another £E580,000. Latterly, however, the figures covering the whole enterprise have been reconsidered and as a consequence re-cast, with the following result:—Works for the purpose of irrigating the Gezira plain will cost a round £2,000,000; extension of the Sudan Railway system another £E800,000; and other irrigation works and 'contingencies' £E200,000, thus bringing up the grand total to the sum of £3,000,000 above mentioned. . . To make the undertaking remunerative—and Sir William Garstin sees no reason, when it is once in full operation, why it should not pay an interest upon its cost of construction and working of something like 8 per cent.—the Government will impose a tax on the irrigated land, low at first and increasing gradually as the land improves and cotton is introduced."

Balkan Securities.

At the present moment (says the *Economist*) the situation in the Balkans is dubious and critical, with Bulgaria inclining to Germany, while Greece and Roumania waver. London is not much interested in Balkan securities, and present prices of securities of the Balkan States do not give us an accurate criterion as to how values have been affected by the momentous Russian ultimatum to Bulgaria. There have only been two transactions on the London market in any Balkan stocks this week, and those were in Bulgarian 6 per cents. on October 6, at 79⅞ and 80. Apparently dealers are apprehensive, and find it a matter of difficulty to form an accurate conception of the real value of the issues of the Balkan States. The following table shows a number of Balkan securities and the fall in values since the outbreak of the war:—

Description.	Issue Price.	Present Amount.	Mean Price, July 27, 1914.	Last Business Done.	Fall.
		£			
Bulgaria 6% (State) Bds., 1892	—	2,521,800	99	80	19
Do. 4½% Gold Bds., 1907	—	F140,720,000	82	—	—
Do. 4½% Gold Bds., 1909	—	3,853,872	80	67½	12½
Greek 5% Funding Loan, 1893	—	335,000	54	51	3
Do. 4% Railways Loan, 1902	83½	2,222,680	77	64¾	12¼
Do. 5% Loan, 1914 (London issue)	92½	884,278	90	73	17
Montenegro 5% Govt. Loan	—	239,800	82½	—	—
Roumania 4½% Gold Loan, 1913	90½	1 793,385	92	85	7
Serbian 4% Unified Bds.	—	937,600	67	—	—

No minimum prices have been fixed for any of the above securities. The Stock Exchange Committee fixed minimum prices in five Greek stocks which do not appear in our table. The last dealing in Bulgarian 6 per cents. was on October 6, and in 4½ per cents. on September 13. Declines have not been severe, considering the uncertainty of the position in Bulgaria. The last Greek loan in London was in 1914 in 5 per cents. at 92¼. Now it stands at 73. Montenegro and Serbia, two of our Allies, have loans in London, but no transactions have been recorded since the outbreak of the war. The Roumanian loan was issued in 1913 at 90 1-12, and now stands at 85. But it is important to recall the fact that on January 27, 1915, the Bank of England advanced £5,000,000 to the Bank of Roumania against Roumanian Treasury bills.

The Financial World gives the following particulars concerning Bulgarian finances:—

Bulgaria's public debt amounts approximately to £25,000,000, exclusive of loans believed to have been provided recently for political purposes by Germany. A fairly large proportion of Bulgarian Government bonds is held in this country, but the French are mainly responsible for financing Bulgaria. There are three issues in which London has taken part, although four issues of bonds are known here. Only the three are quoted in the Official List, and all are exempt from Bulgarian taxes and budget duties. The six per cent. bonds are best known. They are of £20, £40, £100, and £500 denomination, with their value in francs, reichsmarks, and Austrian currency also expressed on them. They were issued in 1892, the amount now outstanding being £3,338,220. The bonds are specially secured by a first mortgage on State railways and on the harbours at Varna and Burgas. Coupons are payable in January and July, the principal to be repaid at par in or before 1926 by half-yearly drawings, payments to be made in gold in London—by the Imperial Ottoman Bank—Paris, Berlin, Amsterdam, Geneva, Vienna, and Sofia. Should Bulgaria default with the interest for two years it is provided that the bondholders may sell the railways—if they can! At the time of the outbreak of the war with Germany the quotation was about 99, whilst the latest price given in the Official List, under business done, is 79⅞ and 80—on the 6th inst. The 5 per cent. gold bonds of 1902 were issued in London and on the Continent by the Imperial Ottoman Bank and Messrs. Stern Bros., the amount now outstanding being £3,900,800. The price of issue here was £89.10 per bond of £99. The loan is a direct obligation of the State of Bulgaria, and is specially secured by a preferential charge on the tobacco duties. Coupons are payable in March and September, whilst the redemption of the loan is to be effected in or before 1953 at par by half-yearly drawings. There are two series of Four and a Half per Cent. Loan. The one dating back to 1907 was issued in Paris, and chiefly concerns the French investor, although it is quoted in this country, the mean price being 82 when the Stock Exchange closed in July, 1914. The other Four and a Half per Cents. were brought out in February, 1910, the issue in London being made by Messrs. J. H. Schroder and Co. On the 15th of last month these bonds changed hands at 67½, compared with the mean price of 80 on July 27, 1914. The loan was raised for the completion of railways and harbours and the repayment of floating debt. As to the advances made by Germany, the details of these are, of course, not publicly known, but in July, 1914, £4,800,000 Bulgarian Treasury bills were offered in Germany on the basis of 7¼ per cent.

EGYPTIAN COMPANIES.

Publication of Weekly Receipts

The *Egyptian Gazette* writes:—

"We have received complaints from a number of readers on the subject of the cessation of our publication of the weekly receipts of the Alexandria and Ramleh Railway Co., Limited, and of the Alexandria Tramway Company. On inquiry of the management of these companies as to why the statistics were no longer furnished us, we have been informed that the Board of Directors has refused to allow the publication on the ground that the shareholders may be easily led into error on only seeing the temporary increase in the receipts without taking into consideration the supplementary working expenses due to the rise in the price of combustibles and other articles of the first necessity. The management goes on to state that some articles that have appeared in certain local journals justify this policy of the board of directors, and it is likely that it is in consequence of similar considerations that no other company engaged in the working of a public concession in Alexandria publishes its weekly receipts."

NATIONAL BANK OF GREECE.

ESTABLISHED IN 1841.

CAPITAL - Dr. 20,000,000. RESERVES - Dr. 13,500,000.

Head Office: ATHENS.

BRANCHES.

Aegion, Agrinion, Almyros, Amalias, Amphissa, Arta, Atalante, Calamata, Calavryta, Céphalonia, Chalkis, Corfu, Corinth, Cythère, Dimitzana, Gythium, Ithaque, Janina, Karditza, Kyparissia, Lamia, Larissa, Lévadia, Mégalopoli, Messina, Missolonghi, Naupacta, Nauplia, Patras, Paxos, Piræus, Poros, Pylos, Pyrgos, St. Maure, Salonika, Santorin, Sparta, Syra, Thèbes, Trikkala, Tripoli, Volo, Zante.

Every kind of Banking Business Transacted.

Cable Address—NATIONALBANK, ATHENS.

Correspondents in all Parts of the World.

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THE EGYPTIAN BUDGET.

Reuter reports from Cairo that the Ministry of Finance has issued a circular-letter to the various Ministries and Departments requesting their Budget estimates for the financial year 1916-17. In this circular the Ministry points to the considerable fall in the State revenue, owing to the European war, which renders the balancing of the Budget impossible, in spite of the economies already effected on this year's Budget, and urges the Departments, in preparing their Budgets, to observe the strictest care and economy. The Ministry also points out that the reserve fund had to be drawn upon to make up the deficit of the last Budget, and that this fund will certainly be exhausted if it be not administered with the strictest care, so that, as the revenue is not expected to recover for some time to come, every possible economy must be made.

EGYPTIAN GOLD DEMANDS.

There is every indication, says the *Standard*, that the earmarking of gold on Egyptian account at the Bank of England will shortly come to an end. The issue of notes, by which, since the commencement of the war, the movement of the crops has been financed, now amount to 8½ millions sterling, which is practically up to the maximum of last year, and although, owing to certain circumstances, this may be exceeded, the further requirements are not expected to be of great importance. The area under cotton in Egypt this year shows a reduction of about one-fifth, and the crop is expected to amount to only 4½ million cantars, which would also show a reduction of about 20 per cent. on last year's figures. Currency requirements in connection with the actual moving of the crop therefore should be considerably smaller on the present occasion, but this may be neutralised by the current high price of the staple, which at 19½ Egyptian cents per cantar compares with only 13 cents a year ago. In addition, too, the presence of large numbers of troops in the country may result in increased demands for currency, but in the view of good authorities on this side the utmost limit to which the note circulation is likely to rise would be nine millions sterling, and as the notes are backed as to 50 per cent. in gold and 50 per cent. in securities any further drafts upon the gold supplies at the Bank of England should be limited to well under half a million.

COMPANY RESULTS, &c.

Egyptian Delta Light Railways.—Receipts for the ten days ended September 20 amounted to £E4,495, as against £E3,665 for the corresponding period of last year.

Hellenic Transport and Industrial Corporation.—The first annual meeting of shareholders will be held at the offices of the company, 16 and 17, Pall Mall, London, on the 21st inst. at 3 p.m.

Land and Mortgage Company of Egypt.—The numbers are announced of 84 four and a-half per cent. debenture bonds (Series "B"), which have been drawn at the offices of the company, and will be paid off at par on November 11.

Oriental Carpet Manufacturers.—The directors announce that in consequence of the war they are unable to hold the annual general meeting, communication between the various branches of the company being completely cut off from the head office at Smyrna.

Oriental Telephone and Electric Co.—The directors have declared the following interim dividends:—3 per cent. on the Six per Cent. Cumulative Preference shares for the current year, less income tax, and 4 per cent. on the Ordinary shares, free of income tax, payable to those shareholders whose names are on the share registers at this date. The warrants will be posted on the 30th inst.

Ottoman Three and a-Half per Cent. Loan of 1894 (Secured by the Egyptian Tribute).—Messrs. Dent, Palmer, and Co. give notice that the bonds drawn for redemption to-day, and also the half-yearly dividend due on the outstanding bonds of the above loan will be paid at their office.

Roumanian Government Four and a-Half Per Cent. Gold Bonds, 1913.—Messrs. J. Henry Schroeder and Co. announce that they have now received the necessary funds for the payment of the coupon and drawn bonds due on October 1, and that such coupons and bonds can now be lodged at their counting-house.

Suez Canal.—Receipts for the 9th and 10th inst. amounted to 430,000 frs., as compared with 350,000 frs. for the corresponding days last year.

NATIONAL BANK OF ROUMANIA.

BALANCE-SHEET, SEPTEMBRE 5/18, 1915.

ASSETS.

Metallic reserve	Gold (specie)	172,577,104	
	On deposit..	25,220,000	
	Gold (bars) .	260,000	
	Foreign bills payable in gold.....	75,814,310	273,871,414
Silver and other coins			436,691
Roumanian and foreign bills			202,656,402
Advances against Government securities		26,190,600	50,422,303
On current account		48,883,100	
Unused balance ..		24,651,397	24,231,703
Loan of 15 millions to the State			11,273,958
Loan to Government on 3 per cent. Treasury Bonds (1914-15)			245,501,348
Bank's capital invested in Government stock			10,699,576
Reserve invested in Government stock			16,407,177
Reserve, depreciation of buildings, furniture and printing machinery			3,956,681
Premises			6,738,025
Furniture and printing machinery			1,111,153
General expenses			793,506
Government and other securities deposited			139,112,216
Three per Cent. Gold Treasury Bonds as security for loan to State			300,000,000
Securities held against advances or temporarily lodged			164,319,741
Current accounts			20,804,489
Security accounts			21,752,310
Sundry accounts			39,518,300
Total Lei			1,509,375,290

LIABILITIES.

Capital	12,000,000
Reserve	39,804,376
Reserve, depreciation of buildings, furniture and printing machinery	5,907,700
Notes in circulation	714,567,890
Profit and loss account	4,902,667
Interest and various earnings	2,847,664
Current accounts and drafts at sight	54,291,226
Securities, etc., held on account of customers	603,431,957
Sundry accounts	71,621,810
Total Lei	1,509,375,290

Bank Rate, 6 per cent.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Situation au 31 Août, 1915, publiée en conformité de l'Article 8 des Statuts.

SERVICE DE BANQUE.

	£E.
Titres d'Etat et Titres garantis par le Gouvernement Egyptien	1,127,812
Titres divers	386,108
Comptes-Courants	343,988
Avances sur Marchandises	649,431
Avances sur Titres Locaux et Etrangers	1,572,121
Avances sur d'autres garanties	1,151,529
Effets sur l'Etranger	1,347,770
Effets sur l'Egypte	340,840
Immeubles et mobilier	246,403
Placements à courte échéance	687,375
Comptes Banquiers	789,786
Ministère des Finances	257,370
Gouvernement du Soudan	445,842
Encaisse:	
Espèces:	
Or £E.186,123	
Argent et nickel £E.260,802	
£E,446,925	
Billets de Banque £E.558,963	1,005,888
Divers	161,614
	£E.10,513,877

	£E.
Capital	2,925,000
Réserve:—	
Statutaire	1,267,500
Comptes-Courants, Dépôts et autres	4,314,477
Tribunaux Mixtes	1,303,743
Ministère des Finances:	
Ministère Compte Wakfs	23,650
Ministère Compte spécial	7,941
Comptes Banquiers	159,760
Chèques et effets à payer	120,158
Divers	391,648
	£E.10,513,877

SERVICE D'EMISSION DE BILLETS DE BANQUE.

Espèces	£E.3,724,111
Titres	2,975,889
	£E.6,700,000
Billets émis	£E.6,700,000
	£E.6,700,000

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE	Mean Price. July 27.	Min. Price. Mar. 20.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	—	89½xd
Do. 4½% do. Bonds, 1907	82	—	—
Do. 4½% do. Bonds, 1909	80	—	66
City of Alexandria 5%, 1909	99	—	90½
City of Constantinople 4% Bnds	96	—	—
Egypt, Gov. 3% Guar. Loan	93½	87½	87½
Egyptian 4% Unified Debt	98	85	85
Do. Pref. Rd. 5%, 1890	88	78	78
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82½	73½	78⅝
Do. 4½% State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	80½	75	75½
Greek 5%, 1881	57	52	53
Do. 5%, 1884	56	52	52
Do. 4% Monopoly, 1887	49	45	45
Do. 4% Rentes, 1889	45	40	40
Do. 5%, 1890	56	52	52
Do. 5% Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	—	50
Do. 4% Rails. Loan, 1902	77	—	64
Do. 5% Nat. Ln., 1907	94	—	90
Do. 5% Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	—	73
Montenegro 5% Loan	82½	—	—
Persian 5% Loan (1911)	91	—	80
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £60p.	92	—	85
Servian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—xd
Turkish Guar. 4% Loan, 1855	103	97	—
Do. 4%, 1891	94½	—	83
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	—	73½
Do. 4% Loan, 1902	82½	—	—
Do. 4% Unified	79	—	54
Do. 4% Loan, 1908	65½	—	49
Do. 4%, 1909	69	—	47⅛
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	—	2½
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	—	6⅛
Do. 3½% Bonds Red.	80	—	70
Do. 3½% Guar. Bonds Red.	83	—	71
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	—	9⅜
Bank of Abyssinia	½	—	—
Bank of Athens	£2	—	1½
Bank of Roumania	8½	—	—
Eastern Bank	5	—	82/6
Imperial Bank of Persia	7½	—	6
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	—	—
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅝	—	3½
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	—	4½
National Bank of Egypt	13⅜	—	10½
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½% C.P.	8	—	nom.
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8½	—	5
Do. do. 5% Debs., Red.	98	—	95
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½% Debs., Ser. I.	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88½	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17½	—	12
Do do. 6% Cum. Pref.	22	—	13½
Do. do. 4% 1st Deb.	87	—	57
Do. do. 5% 2nd Deb.	101	—	69
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	90	—	—
Do. do. 3% Bonds	61	—	—
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	—	2/16
Do. 5% 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	—	95
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	¼	—	—
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	—	2
Do. Do. Def.	¼	—	—
Béhéra Co.	8½	—	6
Do. Pref.	4⅜	—	3½
Daira Sanieh	2/2	—	2/6
Do. Def.	⅞	—	20/-
Egyptian Agr. 5% 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	9/-	—	7/6
Do. Gov. 4% Irr. Tst.	98	—	90
Do and Foreign Trust	5/-	—	2/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	—	1
" " Founders	¼	—	—
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—	—
Do. 5% Debs. Red.	—	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	9⅜	—	7½
Do. 4½% 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	—	85
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	—	¼
Sidi Salem Co.	7/8	—	⅛
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	—	⅛
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	—	-/9
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	—	10⅜
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt	97	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	—	—
Egyptian Hotels	1¼	—	—
Do. 4½% 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—	—
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅜	—	1⅛
Do. do. 5% Debs. Red.	99½	—	95
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	¼	—	14/3
Do. 5% 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	96	—	95
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	—	9/-
Do. do. Prefs.	3½	—	2½xd
Do. do. 4½% 1st Mt.	90	—	88
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (fr. 500)	£179½	—	£—
Upper Egypt Hotels	2¼	—	—

OIL.	Price on July 30.	Oct. 13.
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	⅜	4/3
Anglo-Persian	22/1½	18/-
European Oilfields	4/9	2/6
Roumanian	20/-	12/3

PARIS BOURSE.

	Jan. 4.	Oct. 13.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane	—	—
Canal de Suez	4050	—
Credit Foncier Egyptien	639	565
Turkish Unified 4%	61.50	—
Egyptian Unified 4%	87.75	—
Serbian, 1895	—	—

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 233.—Vol. IX. FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1915.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The situation in Serbia is critical. Immediate successes on the part of the Austro-German and Bulgarian forces were not unexpected, and it may yet be possible for the Serbians to hold their foe at bay for some time in the mountainous districts in which the struggle will have to be fought out. But they are matched against heavy odds; the German attack under von Mackensen is being skilfully deployed, and the Bulgarian movements, we may be sure, are strictly co-ordinated with the German plan of campaign. Everything would seem to depend on the ability of the Entente Powers to reinforce the Serbians. As far as is known at present, the Allied forces, though dispatched by rail from Salonika, have not yet reached Uskub, much less Nish. Nothing has been divulged regarding their numbers; but we know that the capacity of the single line from Salonika is limited, and that the rolling stock of the railway is likely to be wholly inadequate for the movement of large bodies of troops.

The chief Bulgarian success for the moment is the reported capture of Vrania—a third of the distance between Uskub and Nish—which cuts railway communication between those two towns. Serbian accounts deny that Vrania has fallen, but admit that communication has been interrupted. The line at this point runs close to the Bulgarian frontier, and as the bulk of the Serbian forces must be farther north, it would probably have fallen to the lot of Anglo-French troops to defend Vrania, if they could have been in time. It has not been stated definitely on what date the Allied troops first appeared at Salonika. The French were probably there by October 2, and the British will have begun to arrive a week later. If the Allies had been directed by a single mind, there can be little doubt that the troops would have been pushed up hurriedly into Serbia in order to forestall the Bulgarian attack, leaving the Serbians free to devote their whole attention to the invaders on the north. But for reasons which have not been divulged, immediately after the landing at Salonika, paralysis seems to have seized the counsels of the Allies, and valuable time was lost at Salonika. The Bulgarians began their offensive at four main points along the frontier, and, in view of the pressure from the north, the Serbian forces opposed to them cannot have been numerous anywhere.

As things are, it would be idle to deny that Serbia's military problem is a formidable one. With strong reinforcements from the Allies already in the country she could have rendered a good account of herself. Even now, if the Anglo-French force were placed under the direction of a master-mind, it might be possible to save her. But when the delay at Salonika is recalled, it is obvious that there has been no firm resolve behind the expedition. Sir Edward Carson's resignation from the Cabinet confirms the worst fears. The situation, he explained to the House of Commons, necessitated, in his opinion, a clearly-defined and well-thought-out and decisive policy on the part of his Majesty's Government; but with what he understood "was laid down as a policy by the Government" he was unable to agree in any respect. The Entente Governments have delivered many resolute utterances; Italy declares war on Bulgaria, Russian troops are promised to be fighting side by side with the French and British "to-morrow," Great Britain is to give Serbia all the support in her power. The execution of all these plans, however, is bungled, and in the meantime the Serbians are passing through the fire. When all that is at stake for the Allies, if Serbia should fail to hold the gate to Constantinople, is remembered, it might be thought that the four Governments would have acted with vigour. But Italy only declared war on Bulgaria four days after France, and would appear even then to have to make up her mind as to the course to be pursued in giving effect to the declaration, and Russia has not yet been able to use her control of the Black Sea to any purpose against the Bulgarian coast. It is on such an occasion that we may envy the enemy his centralization of control, reflecting that if the same centralization existed on our side and were put to the good purpose to which Germany uses it, our Ally in the Balkans would not be *in extremis*.

The need of the moment is vigorous military action in every theatre of the war. Both in regard to Roumania and Greece we now have to deal with the situation in the Balkans as it stands to-day, not with any abstract theories of what that situation ought to be. Fear of Germany is the predominant factor, and until it can be exorcised no future advantages and no appeals to honour seem likely to carry weight with either Roumanians or Greeks. Unless the Greek

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Government is unable to see beyond the words of an Imperial telegram to Queen Sophie, it must be engaged at this moment in plumbing the uncomfortable depths that threaten to swallow up those in the Balkans who chose a seat between the German and the Entente stools. In a Near East which is to be dominated by a Germanised Bulgaria and a Turco-German Asia Minor there will be little room for Greece, even though her destinies are still ruled over by a subservient monarch. On the other hand, if after a maximum effort, in which the Greeks have had no part, Bulgarian aggression is rolled back and Europe is freed from the menace of German militarism, there will be no incentive to consider the feelings of Greece. Roumania, as we know, stands in a different category. Germany has been able to make her the definite offer of Bessarabia as well as an outlet for her products. The Roumanians are more anxious to obtain Transylvania than Bessarabia; but when they scan the German bulletins of the war and listen to German threats, they find it hard to resist the attraction of what to them is the bird in the hand.

As ignorance of the part which the Near East could play in the European war, indifference to the situation in the Balkan States and a complete lack of forethought have brought the Entente Powers to the present straits, it may be well to consider betimes what the result would be, if Serbia went under. As already insisted upon, the immediate effect of an unlimited supply of munitions for the Turks must be the withdrawal of the Allied forces from the Dardanelles. The blow to British prestige from this confession of weakness would be severe in the Near East and beyond. Not only would the Turkish forces at Gallipoli be liberated for service in other theatres of the war, but new Turkish armies could be equipped and trained. The position of the British Expeditionary Force in Mesopotamia would be seriously prejudiced; there would be a fresh advance against Egypt. The liberation of the forces under General von Mackensen, or of all that was left of them, would hardly affect the position on the eastern and western fronts; but this in turn would be considerably modified, if as a result of Germany's victory over Serbia, Roumania were to find herself unable to stand out any longer against German arguments. A joint German-Roumanian attempt on Russia might follow, and our Eastern Ally's task would be made still heavier. Germany and Austria-Hungary would at once receive practically all they need in the way of foodstuffs and raw materials from the Near East and Asia Minor. In this way the direct bearing on the duration of the war might be considerable. In the aggregate these potential developments ought to make it well worth the while of the Allied Governments to risk much in order to save Serbia from going under.

It is significant of the lack of confidence with which the conduct of the military operations in the Near East has come to be regarded that even in responsible circles the prospect of a withdrawal of the Allied forces from the Dardanelles is contemplated with indifference. The Turks, we know, are being incited by their Government to believe that relief in the form of German troops is close at hand, and they will have derived some encouragement from reports of an impending retirement from Gallipoli. But if the Peninsula were evacuated, we should be sorry to think that the step would spell for the Turks relief from all pressure. We have had little liking for the Dardanelles enterprise, and would gladly have seen it abandoned months ago, when the determination which it argued on the part of the British Government could have been put to better use in securing the co-operation of Greece and Roumania in a combined invasion of Austria-Hungary. But it would be a different matter at this juncture by relinquishing our hold on Gallipoli to leave the Turkish forces free to support Bulgaria or to undertake fresh operations against Egypt or Mesopotamia. For Turkey's respite to be gained in that way, it would be necessary to suppose that the appointment of General Sir Charles Monro was merely intended to relieve Sir Ian Hamilton of the duties of an embarkation officer.

The curious will find a theme for speculation in the elaborate reports which the Admiralty has now allowed to be published of the new ships intended to cope with submarines. Several of these have been sent out to the Dardanelles, and are described in a picturesque communication from there. This sudden burst of confidence, unfortunately, only serves to emphasise the fact that neither the ingenuity of our ship-designers nor the excellent practice of our guns has availed to counteract the initial mistakes made in connection with the operations against the Dardanelles.

The statement made by Sir Edward Grey in the House of Commons on October 14 was essentially colourless and perfunctory. It disappointed his hearers, and it must equally have disappointed all those who outside the House were looking for an intelligent appreciation on the part of the British Government of its responsibilities in the Balkans. Perhaps the most pregnant sentence in the whole recital was the one in which Sir E. Grey said that "it must be obvious to everyone that the interest of Greece and Serbia is now one, and that in the long run they stand or fall together." But if our communications to the Zaimis Cabinet have been couched in this language, there is little wonder that Greece should maintain her neutrality. However much King Constantine might like to enter the lists against the Quadruple Entente, it is evident that the possibility of the stopping of Greece's currant trade, the bombardment of her coasts, and the capture of her shipping will prevent him from taking the step. On the other hand, a threat to adopt these measures, if Greece should not at once go to the rescue of her Ally, might materially help to bring the Greek Government to consider the true interests of Greece, and would, we believe, be better policy than to offer her Cyprus. If Bulgaria, with the help of the Central Powers, is successful against Serbia, her first desire must be to settle her quarrel with the Greeks. Not only would the latter lose Kavalla in those circumstances, but the whole northern coast-line of the Ægean, including Salonika, would fall to the victorious Bulgarians.

The indignation that the reports of the massacre by the Turks of thousands of Armenians in Asia Minor has evoked in this country found expression last week in a meeting at the Mansion House, over which the Lord Mayor presided. Reference has already been made in these columns to the horrible occurrences which have to be laid at the door of the Turkish Government. The fate of the Armenians, as Mr. A. J. Balfour reminded the meeting in a letter, is a crime that surpasses the worst deeds of the Porte's predecessors. There is good ground for supposing that it was instigated by its German overlords, for the thoroughness with which the deed was carried out would never have been attained, unless it had been planned by a master mind. The British nation for the time being is impotent to succour the hapless Armenians. It can, however, do something to improve the lot of such survivors as there may be, and to this end a Mansion House fund has been opened. The British Government is committed to the principle of holding the Turkish authorities responsible for these and similar misdeeds, and the country must see to it that this resolve is acted upon when the time comes for the inevitable reckoning.

An unconfirmed report reaches this country that the British Expeditionary Force is within a few miles of Baghdad. The news was not altogether unexpected, although the actual report may prove to be an intelligent anticipation of events. There would have been no point in sending British troops as far as Kut-el-Amara, if they were not intended to complete the journey to Baghdad. At the former point, we know, the Turks were routed a month ago, and the hundred miles of country that separated them from Baghdad offered no convenient ground for a fresh stand. By the river, which the British expedition would have to follow, the route to Baghdad would be two hundred miles in length. If the force encountered little or no opposition, not many days ought to elapse before we have official news of its progress.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, October 11.

The Balkan Crisis.

The one topic of conversation for the past few days has been the situation in the Balkans. The news of the resignation of M. Venizelos came as a veritable thunderbolt to everyone—probably as more of a shock to us than to you, seeing that for nearly a week we had had no indication of what was happening in the Balkans, and it had appeared to everyone, from the Greek Premier's declarations in the Chamber, that everything was going as it should. The next thing we heard was that all Bulgarian and Bulgarian protected subjects, of whom there are but very few in Egypt, had been ordered to register themselves, under pain of punishment by a military court, and from this we knew that matters had progressed to the point where diplomatic relations had been broken off between the Entente and Bulgaria; but we are still in the dark as to what preceded and directly led up to this development. No little regret is expressed that all the news from the Balkans should have been suppressed in this manner, and that the first intimation of any development should have been the bombshell cast in our midst in the form of the message that M. Venizelos had resigned. This sudden and laconic announcement set the most fantastic rumours in circulation, as always happens in a country like this in such circumstances; and there is little doubt that the silence which preceded, and to all intents and purposes has followed it, has had on local opinion an effect that could not have been worse if the full account of the progress of affairs had been made public. Even if it was considered advisable at the outset to keep back the details of the progress of events—and one is quite prepared to concede that there may have been very good reasons for this—once the very serious step taken by the Greek Premier and the British Government had been given publicity, there could surely have been no reason to maintain this silence, which as a result is being interpreted in the very worst light locally.

Local Greek Opinion.

As for the Greek colony, it is in a very perturbed and unhappy frame of mind. No community more loyal to the Crown or more attached to the principle of constitutional government could be found than the Hellenes of Egypt, who enjoy great influence in Greece proper, and have on more than one occasion given proof of their patriotism. They are plainly not satisfied with the explanation given of the reason why Venizelos found it necessary to resign, or with the latest declaration of policy made by the new Government, and it is no exaggeration to say that their loyalty to the Crown has been subjected to a severe strain by the attitude of King Constantine. They are prepared to admit that he is a great general, but they very much question his qualifications, in the present peculiar circumstances, to deal with the situation, and strongly resent the position in which he has placed M. Venizelos, in whose statesmanship, perspicacity, and sincerity they have the fullest confidence and on whose return to power they had counted confidently for the restoration of the prestige of their country with the Quadruple Entente. What the Greek colony does not seem to like at all is the Teutonic flavour about the interpretations which, it is understood, the King puts on the terms of the Greco-Serbian Treaty. From what I gather, the Court view is not that held here in Hellenic circles, where a much broader conception of the duty of Greece to herself and to those with whom her interests are so intimately bound up is entertained. The community feels the position very acutely, and awaits further events with painful anxiety; but it is convinced that, as after the first crisis last spring, only the return to power of M. Venizelos and the unrestricted adoption of his views can save the situation as far as their country is concerned.

The Armenian Refugees.

Sir Henry McMahon last week accompanied Lady McMahon to Port Said, where her ladyship embarked for England. During his stay at that town the High Commissioner paid a visit to the camp where the Armenian refugees rescued from Suedia by the French cruisers are quartered. Everything that is possible is being done for these unfortunate people, and it is hoped that in time work will be found for all of them. The Armenian community has formed a committee to co-operate with the Government, and has already subscribed a substantial sum towards the initial expenses. The Bishop of the Armenian Orthodox Church, who is taking an active part in the organisation of the assistance given to these people, and on whom I called last week, told me how grateful the refugees are to France and Great Britain for their help, and said that the men are tremendously keen to form a corps and fight side by side with the Allies against the Turks. It has, however, been considered advisable not to accede to their request at present, though later on means may, no doubt, be found to give them satisfaction, as was done in the case of the Zionists. Speaking of the work to be found for the refugees, the Bishop mentioned that one of the occupations of the people of Suedia is the manufacture of combs. In normal times these are made out of camels' bones, which are shipped to Suedia from Egypt, and a large part of the combs made out of them is, after manufacture, shipped back here again. There is no reason why the refugees should not carry on this industry over here, and efforts will be made to enable them to do so.

The Bomb Outrage.

Although the second inquiry into the bomb outrage and an investigation into another important matter which may reveal useful information has not been concluded yet, I understand that it has been decided not to delay the trial by a military court of the nine men implicated in the former. The prosecuting counsel is about to proceed to deal with the evidence, and the trial should take place very shortly before a military court, which will assemble at Alexandria, where the attempt on the Sultan took place.

BESIDE THE NILE.

'Tis there she dwells—too far by long, long league—
Where mirage builds and skies perpetual smile,
Where Pharaoh made with life and death mysterious intrigue,
This morning's flower beside the old, old Nile.

And slim is she as are the reeds that grow
Along that southern river, to beguile
The stranger eyes that would for beauty forth a-roving go,
This little dark-eyed maiden by the Nile.

How came she there, not here, I cannot say,
Our gardens may not know her yet awhile;
Beside her faithful river she would seem content to stay,
Sweet mystery in girlhood by the Nile.

A precious trust is she, great stream of Time—
(How marked with trusts hath been thy every mile!)
Ah, keep the desert back that steals from life its dew and rhyme,
And leave her always young beside the Nile.

Mary A. Poynter.

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PORT SAID NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Port Said, October 10.

The Greek Reservists.

About 400 Greek reservists left Port Said on Saturday by the steamer Goulandris for Athens. This is the first contingent from Port Said, the number of Greeks called up from here for military service totalling about a thousand. The reservists received an enthusiastic send-off from their colony, as, headed by a local band and a detachment of boy scouts, they marched through the streets to the quay. The Greek Consul, priests, and notables of the colony accompanied them on board to wish them God-speed and a safe return.

The Armenian Refugees.

A miniature town has been formed on the Asiatic side of the Canal at Port Said by the refugees from Armenia, whose numbers have recently been augmented by further arrivals from Northern Syria. Huts and tents form the greater part of the dwellings; streets have been laid out, and the refugees are settling down comfortably in their new quarters. Several marriages have taken place, and a movement is on foot to provide such as are capable of working with a means of earning their living.

Subscriptions to the local relief fund amount to over £400, and numerous gifts of clothing and food have been received.

Canal Zone Regulations.

The general regulations governing embarkation and disembarkation in the Suez Canal zone, including Port Said and Suez, have recently been made considerably more rigid than hitherto.

A proclamation by Sir John Maxwell, issued by the Provost Marshal of the Suez Canal zone, ordains that

No passenger from any vessel, unless actually disembarking or transhipping, shall be permitted to land in the Suez Canal zone, saving those provided with regular passports, and who are either British subjects or subjects of an Allied Power. Ships' officers and members of the crew on duty belonging to merchant vessels shall be permitted to land with a pass signed by the master of the ship and countersigned by the police.

A further notification made by the Provost Marshal to-day is to the effect that:—

All persons wishing to land in Egypt must be provided with a British passport, if they are British subjects, or with a passport bearing the visa of a British Consul.

For the passage of steamers through the Canal a military permit is necessary, and this is only granted after examination of the sandbag defences of bridges by naval officers. Such passes are issued between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m.

Steamers' transits are averaging slightly longer than in normal times; this is mainly owing to occasional delay at Ismailia, where outward bound ships are sometimes held up at night time. At the same time, it often happens that a steamer entering here in the morning is able to pass Kabrit before nightfall, and thus gets a clear run through, while homeward bound steamers are seldom delayed in their transit.

LIFE IN JERUSALEM.

(From a Correspondent.)

News from Jerusalem, dated August 25, has been received viâ Athens, according to which all is well, and the place quiet. Letters seem able seldom to leave or enter the country, and then with difficulty; and this news was by postcards written in English.

Knowing that the writers could hardly say anything but that all was well, however much otherwise the case might be, it is a comfort to have this statement confirmed by the report of an American Jew, lately come from Jerusalem, who said that all was quiet, and that though things are becoming very scarce and expensive, there is no actual starvation; the rice is finished, and petroleum so scarce and costly that the people are using *sceraj* (melted cooking which smells very nasty) and olive-oil for lighting purposes. The Nablûs soap, formerly four piastres the rotl, is now ten; and everything seems to be rising on much the same scale. The markets are open, however, and life proceeds much as usual. No Christians have been taken for active service yet, the Turks feeling that they could not be counted on at the front. For the comfort of this assurance we cannot be too thankful.

SUDAN NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Khartoum, Sept. 29.

A Hopeful Outlook.

The general situation of the Sudan is too normal to call for comment. Crops are, on the whole, good, and the year will probably be an average one. There are places where the harvest will be unusually good, but in other parts serious damage has been done by locusts, or grasshoppers, and the general average will come out as a normal year.

There has been a considerable increase in the demand for cattle to supply troops engaged at Gallipoli and in Egypt, and there is hope of extending the trade further. It is not improbable that the export of live stock, cattle, and sheep will exceed the value of any other exports from the Sudan, and this notwithstanding the fact that the prices for gum ruled high with a big output, whilst there has been an unprecedented export of grain to the Red Sea littoral. Thus what was expected to be a bad and difficult year has turned out extremely well for the natives, who have been able to place all the chief products of the country on the market at a good price.

The Blue Nile continues to hold up, and it is possible that the prospects of the basins in Berber and Dongola provinces may not be as bad as was anticipated—the local weatherwise prophesy an early, long and cold winter, from the behaviour of the Blue Nile flood. This will be most welcome, as the weather in Khartoum recently has been exceptionally hot and damp and undeniably unpleasant.

An Example to Follow.

It is gratifying to find that an important British firm, Messrs. J. Laing and Sons, have sent out their own representative in Mr. Lake, who arrived in Khartoum recently. Hitherto British firms have relied on German and Greek agents for the most part. As the former are now elsewhere and the latter mobilised, it is a shrewd step to take, and it is to be hoped that other firms will follow this example.

Native Elephant Killing.

The untutored savage, finding that ivory had its price, and lacking the arms and ammunition to kill elephants with, discovered a variety of means of obtaining his object, chief amongst which were burning and pits. A band of negroes having found a herd would set the grass alight all round them and thereby kill almost every animal within the ring of fire. The slaughter was, of course, indiscriminate, young and cow elephants were destroyed, and only a few good tusks obtained for a huge loss of life. In the same way, pits dug in the forest were as likely to trap the small or female elephant as the old tusker. It is always a difficult matter to persuade the savage of the inefficacy of his habitual methods, but arrangements have now been made, and it is hoped that these obsolete methods will be given up and only the big bull elephants killed off.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

The summer season is closing. It is a satisfaction to feel that all that was possible has been done to render life as pleasant as possible for the wounded and convalescent visitors to Mt. Troödos, including those who were kept in hospital.

Subscriptions towards a fund on behalf of the Belgians are being collected in all districts.

Forest fires have unfortunately taken place in several parts of the island. In the Machara forest there has been a destructive one, which has caused havoc over an area of about 500 native acres (*donums*), or nearly 200 English acres. Another fire occurred recently near the picturesque ruined fortress of Kantarà, in the Famagusta District. Cyprus can ill spare any of her trees, but forest fires are unhappily not uncommon. Though sometimes due to malicious injury, they are probably more often the result of accident, such as the careless throwing away of a cigarette, or failure to extinguish some small fire that has been kindled.

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ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, October 5.

A Critical Situation.

Up to the last moment, even this morning, everything tended to indicate that Greece was drifting rapidly into war. The statement made in Parliament by M. Venizelos on Wednesday last, to the effect that Greece would never allow any Balkan State, meaning Bulgaria, to become predominant, had given rise to this belief, which was strengthened by the fact that the text of this statement had previously been approved by the King and by M. Gounaris, the leader of the Opposition, the latter of whom had raised no objection to it. This evident agreement between the different political factions in the country inspired confidence in the men who have been flocking to the colours. The number of these has already reached nearly 400,000.

General Hamilton at Salonika.

Friday last saw the fulfilment of the promise of the Entente Powers to M. Venizelos, when General Bruce Hamilton landed at Salonika with a number of French and British staff officers. On his arrival General Hamilton approached General Moscopoulos, commanding the 3rd Army Corps, with a view to arranging with him for the landing and transport of the troops, but as the latter had not been authorised to take any steps in the matter, he communicated with the Minister of War. This was followed by a consultation between M. Venizelos and the King, after which the former called on the British Minister. Immediately the organs of the Opposition set up the cry that Greece's neutrality had been violated. In order to placate the anti-Venizelist Press, the Ministerial organs declared that there had been a misunderstanding, that General Hamilton had landed of his own accord, and that the British Legation had given assurances to that effect. As, however, the landing at Salonika coincided with Sir Edward Grey's declarations in the House of Commons in favour of Bulgaria, grave apprehension was felt, even in official circles. It was feared that England, taking advantage of M. Venizelos' request for the despatch of troops to aid Greece in the event of war with Bulgaria, would occupy Greek Macedonia, with a view to guaranteeing to Bulgaria the territorial concessions offered her by the Western Powers.

Sir Edward Grey's Declaration.

These suspicions were allayed, however, by formal assurances made to the Government, as well as by Sir Edward Grey's subsequent statement to the Press, in which, while denouncing the presence of German officers in the Bulgarian Army, he employed terms that were no longer construed as friendly to Bulgaria. This declaration caused considerable satisfaction in Greece, where it is now believed that England has finally abandoned the vain hopes that her Government persisted in placing in Bulgaria. Russia's ultimatum also helped to confirm the belief that a change had taken place in the attitude of the Entente Powers towards Bulgaria. Now that that country has definitely thrown in its lot with that of the Central Powers, there would seem to be no possible doubt as to the course that Greek policy should follow. Everyone here is now convinced that Greece's only course is to throw in her lot with the Entente Powers.

The Arrival of French Troops.

On Saturday last M. Guillemin, the French Minister, presented a Note to the Government informing them of the arrival at Salonika of the first detachment of troops sent by France and England to aid Serbia and to maintain communications with that country, and stating that the two Powers relied upon Greece not to oppose any steps taken in the interests of her Ally. After consultation with the King, M. Venizelos replied by issuing a formal protest (which, it is said, was insisted upon by his Majesty) against the passage of these troops through Greek territory.

A Historical Sitting of the Chamber.

On the following day, after having communicated to the Chamber the text of the Entente Note and the reply thereto, M. Venizelos declared that to take any material steps to prevent the passage of troops to aid a State allied to Greece, and now threatened by Bulgaria, would, in the present upheaval, exceed the limits that honourable adherence to her policy of neutrality imposed upon Greece. M. Venizelos added that the passage of these troops through Greek territory should not cause any apprehension, as he had the formal assurances of the Entente Powers that the proposals they had made to Bulgaria, involving the cession of Greek and Serbian territory, had become null and void. The leaders of the Opposition—MM. Rallis, Théotokis, Gounaris, and Dimitracopoulos—protested strongly against the violation of Greek territory. The discussion then turned on the obligations imposed upon Greece by her treaty of alliance with Serbia and on the general policy that should be adopted. M. Théotokis maintained that, the object of the Greco-Serbian Treaty having been the preservation of territory acquired in the Second Balkan War, it had become void when Serbia agreed to cede a part of this territory to Bulgaria. M. Gounaris shared, more or less, in this opinion. M. Théotokis asked the Government what they would do if, in attacking Bulgaria to defend the Serbs, Greece found herself faced with German bayonets, and concluded by advocating strict neutrality to avoid incurring the enmity of the two Central Powers, which, he considered, would be a calamity for Greece. M. Venizelos replied that the Government had no intention of going to war with either Germany or Austria. It did not follow that she should, and he pointed to the case of Italy, who had been at war with Austria for four months, but had not declared war on Germany. He added, however, that if the Greek army, while accomplishing a task of honour, and defending the national interests, were to meet the Germans in the field, it would not fail in its duty, however much one might regret a conflict with a country with which Greece has no direct quarrel. These outspoken declarations of the Premier caused a great sensation in the Chamber.

M. Venizelos reminded the Chamber that the treaty with Serbia imposed on both States the duty of coming to the aid of each other against any third party, and that the duration of that treaty was ten years. Replying afterwards to the allegations against the Entente Powers made by M. Théotokis, the Premier declared that it was the Southern Slavs that Greece had to fear, not Russia, and that reminded him that England, in spite of her Bulgarophil sentiments, had let Greece have Crete and the islands, whilst the Central Powers were the allies of Turkey, whose interests were opposed to Greece. The pro-Entente policy of the Government was approved by a vote of confidence, and the Chamber rose at five o'clock in the morning.

The Cabinet's Resignation.

This afternoon M. Venizelos was received in a lengthy audience by the King, who declined to approve of the course of action proposed to be taken by his Prime Minister. As a consequence, M. Venizelos has handed his resignation to his Majesty. The news has aroused consternation in Athens. It is impossible to hazard any guess as to the future. Meanwhile, the landing of French troops commenced this morning. Whether it will be continued or not, no one knows. The situation is uncertain in the extreme.

October 10.

The New Cabinet.

The Coalition Cabinet formed by M. Alexander Zaimis, who, as President of the Council (after the war of 1897) and Governor-General of Crete, has rendered signal services to his country, has been qualified in certain diplomatic circles as a Coalition Cabinet directed against M. Venizelos. Composed almost exclusively of ex-Prime Ministers and former party leaders who, with

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the exception of M. Gounaris, now possess no influence whatever in Parliament, the new Cabinet cannot be described as a Coalition Cabinet, inasmuch as it is not a combination of Parliamentary groups possessing the majority of votes in the country, which still belongs to the Venizelist party. Neither can it be called "Œcumenical," or universal, which is the appellation given in Greece to a Cabinet comprising all parties, since the Venizelist following are not represented.

The Cabinet's Policy.

The principal aim of the new Cabinet is to avoid at all costs entering into the war, whilst strictly maintaining an armed neutrality, with benevolent dispositions towards the Entente Powers. As regards the treaty obligations towards Serbia no official statement has as yet been issued on the subject. Judging, however, by statements in the Ministerialist Press, the members of the Cabinet, while recognising the validity of the Greco-Serb Treaty, in so far as it provides for action in the case of isolated aggression on the part of Bulgaria against Serbia, maintain that in the event of Bulgaria attacking Serbia simultaneously with the Central Powers, Greece is under no obligation to intervene, because, according to their theory, the conflict would have thus assumed a European character. To interpret the terms of the treaty thus is regarded in competent circles as a mere splitting of hairs, seeing that its provisions are explicit, and make no distinction of this sort. Now Bulgaria, who has doubtless been informed by its Minister at Athens of the Greek Government's attitude, will have nothing to fear from Greece, and will have no hesitation in attacking Serbia. From this point of view M. Venizelos made a fatal blunder in not deferring the action which precipitated the crisis and brought about his resignation, as Bulgaria, being aware of his attitude, would have continued to live under the menace of a Greek attack, and would have hesitated to invade Serbia, thus enabling the latter to employ the whole of her troops in repelling the Austro-German attack.

Its Fears.

The interpretation thus given by the new Cabinet justifies, at least in appearance, its refusal and the state of powerlessness in which it evidently finds itself to fulfil the engagements imposed upon Greece by the treaty of alliance. In reality, the Government seems to fear the danger arising from the German invasion and to believe that the Allies will not be able to despatch, at any rate in time, the 150,000 or 200,000 troops promised to M. Venizelos; in which case Greece, with Serbia, would not be able to resist effectually the numerous Austro-German troops—to which would be added the Turks—and that they would both be crushed. In these conditions the Government appears to be of opinion that the participation of Greece, whilst it would be of no use to either Serbia or the Entente, would expose Greece to grave dangers, not the least of which would be the capture of Salonika by the Austrians.

This gloomy prediction is in a large measure due to the influence wielded by certain military circles, who are always prone to exaggerate the strength of the Germans, while overlooking the fact that it is not an easy matter for them to detach from the other fronts very large contingents, nor to send them as far as the Balkans. But, in any case, it is an unfortunate fact that the authorities are not alive to the fate that would await Greece and Hellenism should the Germans, having crushed Serbia, march on Constantinople, reviving Turkey and creating a Great Bulgaria. This eventuality would mean for Greece the burial of all her national aspirations, and she would constantly find herself intimidated by two savage neighbours, one on land and the other at sea. Such an abstention on the part of the Greeks would be in direct opposition to the glorious traditions of their ancestors, who, heedless of the number of their adversaries, always fought to free their blood-brethren. As the Government does not appear to have the intention of demobilizing, it is a moot point whether the troops will have the patience to remain, probably the whole winter, inactive on the frontiers, if events do not force Greece into the struggle.

NEWS FROM TURKEY.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Athens, October 6.

British Subjects Arrested.

With a certain respite in the persecution of the Armenians, the Turkish authorities seem to have turned their attention to the subjects of their enemies. The following Englishmen have been arrested in Constantinople and exiled to Karahissar:—Messrs. Leete, Rawe, Hoare, Willard, Harold Ashover, Lee, and Colley. Mr. Gilbert, of the Credit Lyonnais, was also arrested, but was subsequently liberated on account of his age. Mr. Charles Ferguson has now been sent to Urfa.

For the present, it is said, no other Englishmen will be exiled; but one never knows when the net will be cast again, and it is now rumoured that a similar fate awaits a number of Frenchmen. So far, however, no arrests have been made. It is said that these measures have been taken by the authorities as a reprisal for the arrests of Turks in England and elsewhere.

Arrival of Flour and Coal.

As mentioned last week, a large quantity of flour has arrived in Constantinople, but where it actually came from has remained a mystery. Some reports say part of it came from Adrianople and part from Bulgaria. Be this as it may, no further arrivals have since been announced, but the bread question is not likely to become acute again, just yet at any rate, as further arrivals of coal are reported, and the stocks in Constantinople are now said to amount to over 30,000 tons. The prediction made in a recent letter that the Russians would probably be even less successful in the future than they have been in the past in preventing coal coming into Constantinople is proving correct. The one article of which a lack would have paralysed Turkey's naval and military operations, besides producing a serious state of affairs in the capital, the Russians have been unable to prevent entering the Bosphorus.

Petroleum in small quantities finds its way into Constantinople, but is evidently snapped up by the authorities, as it is difficult to obtain, and at least £T1 a tin has to be paid. Fuel of all sorts is very scarce. Coal for private use is practically unobtainable, and about £T4 per ton has to be paid for coke, but is difficult to obtain even at that enormous price. Charcoal is about 150 piastres per 100 okes, and wood about eighty piastres per cheki, both being about five times their normal prices.

Turks' Confidence.

With the Turks' ability to replenish their stocks, and with Bulgaria as an ally, the economic position at Constantinople is likely to be considerably ameliorated, and any hope which may at one time have been entertained of reducing Constantinople to starvation may now be abandoned. Under present conditions, nothing but decisive military operations is likely to make any impression on the Turks. They are more buoyed up than ever, confident in the expectation that, now Bulgaria has joined them, a German army will soon be in Constantinople, and direct communication with Germany established.

The military authorities continue to seize every building they can for their wounded. One of their latest requisitions is the Asile des Pauvres at Chichli, an institution maintained by Catholic sisters for old people. The occupants were turned out without any ceremony at a few hours' notice, but fortunately room has been found for them in other charitable institutions. Many churches, with their dependencies, have been seized and converted into schools, and there is some fear of the Crimean Memorial Church meeting with a similar fate.

The authorities are now trying a new method to extort money out of the public. A committee has been formed for the purpose of obtaining warm clothing for the soldiers, and its agents visit shopkeepers and demand a contribution of goods or money. When the goods offered in a shop are unsuitable and money is unobtainable the shopkeepers are told to take their contributions to certain shops in Stamboul, where they will be exchanged for the articles required.

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ROUMANIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Bucharest, September 28.

Desire for Mobilization.

The mobilization in Bulgaria, followed by that in Greece, caused the Roumanians whose sympathies are with the Entente—and they are 99 per cent. of the population—and who see in the present movement the most favourable opportunity to enter the European struggle and thus ensure the fulfilment of Roumanian aspirations, to hope, if not to expect, that M. Bratianu and his party would order a similar step. Expectations regarding the Cabinet Council of Saturday (25th inst.) ran high; and consequently the disappointment was great, when it was known that the Government had decided to make no change at all in its policy, and that the state of "expectant neutrality" was to continue. An official *communiqué* published in the Press runs as follows:—

A Council of Ministers was held yesterday at the house of M. Costinescu, Minister of Finance, who is unable to leave his room.

The Council considered the external situation, taking into consideration the mobilization of Bulgaria and Greece. The Ministers are unanimously of opinion that these fresh events are not of a character to modify in any way the course of conduct decided upon and followed up to the present by Roumania. Therefore, our troops will remain concentrated along our frontiers.

Regarding the proclamation of a state of siege, which has been referred to in some journals, it may be affirmed that this question has not even been discussed by the Ministry.

Save amongst the followers of M. Bratianu and the Marghilomanists, this decision has caused great dejection in the country. For some time past there have been murmurs, not loud perhaps, but certainly deep; but when called upon to adopt a more active policy M. Bratianu has always replied with the phrase, "The time has not yet come." And now, with Serbia threatened on both sides, with Greece mobilized to go to the help of her gallant neighbour, and with the German-Austrian forces on the frontier, he again uses the same time-worn expression.

Protest to M. Bratianu.

The people of Roumania are beginning to lose patience, and to ask what is the reason for this continual hesitation. A meeting took place on Sunday which was attended not only by leaders of the Opposition, such as M. Take Jonescu, Dr. Istrati, and M. Filipescu, but also by several influential Liberals, including General Crananceanu and M. Moldoveanu. The flagrant way in which German propagandists are allowed to carry on their work and similar topics were discussed, and the following resolution was passed:—

The undersigned Senators and Ministers of Parliament assembled this 26th day of September demand that an end shall be put to the foreign corruption that disgraces the country and poisons the national spirit. In face of the danger threatening the country, which degrades it from its high position, we demand general mobilization of all our military forces.

A delegation was chosen to present this resolution to the Prime Minister, who, it is generally reported, has been requested to give a reply by to-day.

What the reply will be is unknown as yet, but it is generally expected that it will be unfavourable. The country is certainly in a highly excited state, and both in the streets and in the cafés one hears a good deal of violent criticism of those in high places. The troops, too, who, to the number of almost a quarter of a million, have been mobilized at no great distance from the frontier for close on four months, are becoming impatient at having nothing to do. The near future may, therefore, see some interesting developments.

Bulgarian Deserters.

According to all accounts, the mobilization in Bulgaria is far from popular. In two days no less than 800 reservists, mostly with their military equipment, have deserted and crossed into Roumanian territory, principally from the Widdin district. They complain that they do not know whom they are to fight against, and that they could get no information on the point when they applied to their officers. And they were unwilling to fight against "Russia the Liberator" and her Allies.

From Sofia comes the news that hundreds of letters were addressed to King Ferdinand asking against whom the writers were summoned to fight.

An Ottoman Protestant.

The march of events has brought Roumania a new and interesting subject in the person of Batzaria Effendi, the well-known Macedonian and Ottoman statesman, who was at one time Minister of the Interior in Turkey. Apparently unable to approve of the policy of the present Government of Turkey, he has quitted that country and settled in Roumania, where he has applied for and obtained citizenship. At the same time he applied for enrolment in the military list in a class corresponding to his age, and as a result he is at present undergoing a period of instruction as a private in the 46th Regiment.

ROUMANIAN HISTORY AND FOLKLORE.

Mr. A. R. Wright lectured on Saturday last at the Horniman Museum, Forest Hill, on "Roumanian History and Folklore." He said that Dacia was conquered by Trajan and settled by Roman colonists, who intermarried with the original people. When the Roman armies afterwards withdrew south of the Danube, many of the people went with them, but others retired into the Carpathians, from which they emerged in the Middle Ages, gradually resettling the plains. To-day there were about thirteen million Roumanians, seven million in the country named after them, the others in continguous districts of Russia, Austria, and Serbia; which districts, together with the kingdom of Roumania, roughly corresponded to the ancient Dacia.

Mr. Wright told some quaint and amusing folklore stories. One related how, God having made the sheep as a help to Adam and Eve, who were starving after being turned out of Paradise, the devil made the wolf to prey upon the sheep; so God made the dog to protect the sheep from the wolf. Another story told how when God made the bee, the gipsy boldly pushed forward and seized it. God said nothing, but he was annoyed at the gipsy's impudence, and, as some consolation to the Roumanian, made and gave him the wasp. Afterwards the Roumanian was successful in making a swindling exchange, whereby the Roumanian got the bee, while the wasp went to the gipsy. So to-day the wasp is the gipsy's bee.

Gipsies are not liked in Roumania, nor are Jews, and about the latter a characteristic story is told. The Roumanian keeps Easter as the greatest of the year's feasts, and naturally believes that it is equally kept in heaven. At that time the gates of Heaven are left unguarded, so that if anyone has the luck to die at Easter he goes unchallenged into Heaven. Among those who thus got in was a Jew. Next morning the whole place was in a turmoil; angels and archangels came to the Jew and pointed out his mistake, but he declined to budge. Saint Peter tried to persuade him to retire, and afterwards King David and King Solomon, but all to no effect. Then a little angel said: "I know what to do." He went outside the gate, and just on the other side of the wall began to beat a drum, which in the East is the signal for a sale. The Jew cried out, "Wait, wait. I will bid." He ran after the supposed sale out of the gate of Heaven, which was promptly closed behind him.

Another and longer story related how anciently it was the woman who beat the man, not the man who beat the woman. One man was taught by a lark whose nest he had spared to reverse the process, and others followed the example. Upon this the women assembled, and resolved to cross the Danube. The other men turned upon the innovator who had introduced the unfortunate custom, and would have killed him. But again the lark proved his friend. Flying over the heads of the crowd of women the lark sang out, "There are no men on the other side of the Danube. There are no men on the other side of the Danube." Upon hearing this the women gave up their resolve; beaten or not beaten, they preferred to remain, and to-day, says the Roumanian, if a man lets his wife beat him he is not a man but a donkey.

Equally ungallant was the story of the woodpecker. This was originally a very inquisitive, mischief-making old woman. God filled a huge sack with insects, and tying it tightly gave it to the old woman, bidding her carry it home and beware of opening it on the way. The old woman took the sack on her back and trotted off, but could not restrain herself. No sooner had she gone a short distance than she sat down in the meadow and opened the sack. All the insects came out and scampered away; some hid in the earth, others scrambled under the grass, some ran up the trees. Then came the voice of God: "Where are the insects I gave you? From this moment you shall change into a bird and go about gathering them until you have got them all back into the sack." So the old woman became a bird, her long nose became a long beak, and she goes about hunting for the midges, beetles, and other insects that escaped. When she has refilled her sack she will resume her human shape.

Other lectures to be given shortly at this centre include one on "Our Eastern Allies," by Dr. A. C. Haddon, on the 30th of this month, and another by Professor Simpson on December 4, his subject being "Sant Sophia, Constantinople, and the Mosques of Constantinople and Brusa."

BRITISH REFUGEES IN ATHENS.

The attention of ex-British residents of Constantinople at present in Athens is drawn to the fact that "The Near East" is on sale every week at M. Th. Vafiades' Bookstore, here subscriptions are also received.

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SERBIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Nish, October 7.

The Diplomatists' Last Word.

Events are moving rapidly. The representatives of the Quadruple Entente at Sofia have said their last word and demanded their passports. The Serbian Minister, it is said, has already quitted Bulgaria, and the Bulgarian Minister is supposed to have left Nish last night. Even as I write it is not known whether the roar of cannon may not have already supplanted the voice of the diplomatists.

The two rival Balkan States are fully prepared and eager for the fray, and, as if in reply to the Entente's demand to Bulgaria for a categorical response, on the day before yesterday, for the first time during this war, there flew over Nish two enemy aeroplanes, which dropped some bombs, killing three persons and wounding several, and afterwards disappeared flying in the direction of Bulgaria.

This visit, and the throwing of bombs amidst the inhabitants of Serbia's temporary capital, had every appearance of a bellicose Germanic-Bulgarian declaration. Everywhere in the streets one heard the remark, "There is Bulgaria's reply! We know it now, before receiving the news from Sofia." And this morning we have had evidence of every preparation being made for the worst, in seeing the departure of many empty Red Cross railway wagons for the front.

Nish Calm and Courageous.

Last night the streets were quiet. The calm that reigned outwardly did not tally with the anxious inquiries passing from friend to friend; it was a time of strained suspense; none knew what the morrow might bring forth, yet all felt persuaded that war is now almost inevitable. But among those with whom I came in contact there seems to be no fear; they all expressed themselves in terms of great confidence, and they believe that a conflict with Bulgaria would end in a rapid victory for the Serbian arms. To-day one Nish paper makes use of these words: "Ah, now the soldiers of the bloody king of war may come in innumerable numbers, the eternal traitors of the Balkan cause may also come, the Serbian army, covered with the laurels of Kumanovo, of Monastir, of Bregnalitza, of Tzer, and of Rudnik, which has never merited reproach, awaits them without fear."

The threatened renewed attack, this time of German as well as of Austrian forces, has not yet been realised. It almost seemed at one time as if the enemy forces were more intent on preparaing for a defence than for an attack, for they directed their principal attention to the construction of trenches and to fortifying their position opposite the Serbian frontier along the Save and the Danube.

Austro-German Methods.

Lately, possibly with a view of encouraging and giving confidence to the Bulgarians, who are counting on the support of the Austro-German troops, Austrian and German aviators have amused themselves by throwing bombs into Serbian towns; and the day before yesterday, and again yesterday, the Austrian batteries bombarded parts of Belgrade, as well as the fortress. Whether bombarding a defenceless town and throwing bombs among civilians will attain the end the Austrians and Germans have in view is another question, and one that is not likely to be answered in the affirmative. Still, we must deplore the loss of many innocent lives and many persons wounded. On October 2 the enemy aeroplanes flying over Pozhaurevatz threw twenty-five bombs, killing one person and wounding three. On October 4 several enemy aeroplanes flew over the lower Morava and the Mlava, throwing thirty-three bombs.

Welcome for the French.

The town of Nish is to-day decorated with flags to welcome the French troops which are said to have landed already at Salonika.

Yesterday evening about four hundred reservists, who had arrived from Roumania on their way to Greece to join the army, formed a procession, carrying banners through the streets of Nish.

Nish continues to be overcrowded, and the Home Minister has issued an order that no permits shall be given to persons in other parts of Serbia to come here with the object of residing here permanently.

Prahova-Nish Line.

The broad-gauge railway from Nish to the Danube, Prahova-Negotin-Knajievatz-Nish, which has been some years in the course of construction, is likely to be in working order in about one month or six weeks. The last part of the work, the tunnel at Gremada, has been pierced, and the work is progressing rapidly. There is communication between the port of Prahova on the Serbian side and the railway station on the opposite side of the Danube on the Roumanian frontier.

The completion of this railway opens direct intercourse with Russia by trains passing through Roumania, and will greatly facilitate the passage of passengers and conveyance of goods or materials from the port of Salonika.

Nish, October 8.

Enemy Activities.

Since writing you yesterday I have heard that the last Austro-German forces' demonstrations were of a more serious character than any of the preceding ones. But these attempts at crossing into Serbian territory are probably movements intended to distract attention from the real points where the enemy intends to make an invasion in force.

It is reported that small bodies of the enemy's forces crossed into Serbia at four different points—across the Danube at the south-eastern end of Belgrade and across the Save at the north-eastern end of Belgrade, and also in two places crossed the Save in the north-western part of Serbia. Those who succeeded in landing either lost their lives or were taken prisoners. None succeeded in escaping. Two hundred prisoners, it is said, have been forwarded to Nish.

Referring to the aeroplane which dropped bombs on this town and disappeared, flying in the direction of Bulgaria, it appears that the aviators were received in that country with great enthusiasm; and I am told that this friendly reception of the enemy, and the failure to disarm the officers, or to intern them, is regarded here officially as a declaration of war. But I cannot conceive how this view can be taken of the incident unless the Bulgarian Government has been notified accordingly. All aeroplanes are not dangerous. Yesterday I had the pleasure of seeing a friendly aeroplane hovering over the town; it flew very low, and crowds gathered in the streets, gazing at this rare occurrence at Nish.

MR. ASQUITH ON SERBIAN BRAVERY.

The Prime Minister was presented by indisposition from presiding on Tuesday at a lecture given at King's College by Professor T. G. Masaryk on "The Problem of Small Nations in the European Crisis." Lord Robert Cecil, Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, presided over a large audience, which included the Belgian Minister and the Serbian Minister. Lord Robert Cecil said that the Prime Minister had asked him to convey the following message to the meeting:—

> I must send a message of most sincere apology and regret that I am unable, through indisposition, to carry out my promise to take the chair at Professor Masaryk's inaugural lecture. I congratulate King's College on his appointment, and I can assure him that we welcome his advent to London, both as a teacher—the influence of whose power and learning is felt throughout the Slav world—and as a man to whose personal qualities of candour, courage, and strength we all are glad to pay a tribute. We believe that his presence here will be a link to strengthen the sympathy which unites the people of Russia and Great Britain. First and foremost, the Allies are fighting for the liberties of small nations, to the end that they be left in future free from the tyranny of their more powerful neighbours to develop their own national life and institutions. Above all, to-day our thoughts and our sympathies are moved towards Serbia, whose undaunted courage wins day by day our unbounded sympathy and admiration.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

SIR EDWIN PEARS'S RECOLLECTIONS.*

"Forty Years in Constantinople," by Sir Edwin Pears, published by Messrs. Herbert Jenkins, Ltd., is certainly a *tour de force* when one considers the circumstances under which it was written, namely, in the space of a few short months and without the aid of the books and memoranda which the author was most unfortunately obliged to leave behind him in Constantinople. To compress the experiences of a lifetime into less than 400 pages is by no means an easy task, especially when these experiences cover such an interesting period of Turkish history and the author has come in contact with so many of the people who have contributed, in a more or less degree, to the making of that history.

Sir Edwin Pears has been happy in the choice of what he has narrated, and while there is a little which seems perhaps trivial enough to be omitted, one could wish that more could have been told. There is no mention, for instance, of the presence of the international fleet at Constantinople during the critical days of the war between Turkey and the Balkan States, when the Goeben first made her appearance in the Turkish waters where she is now so much at home.

For anyone desirous of obtaining a good idea of events in Turkey for the past 40 years, Sir Edwin's book will form very entertaining and enlightening reading, though one must not forget that the work is a book of reminiscences, not one of definite and purely historical record. But, read it from any standpoint that one may, it is an intensely interesting human document. The author has told a blunt, straightforward narrative, and has had the courage to criticise those in high places who he thinks have failed in the performance of their duties, whether through the fault of circumstances or their own.

At times Sir Edwin's attitude is more that of an advocate than a judge, but in this he is consistent at least. He has always been a strong opponent of Turkish misrule. His sympathies have been for the peoples he has seen most of and knows best, the Greeks, Armenians and Bulgarians, with whom intercourse was easier. Linguistic barriers are greater when among Turks; for the Eastern man when speaking a European language seems to lose something of his real self when translating his thoughts for Western understanding.

It is somewhat unfortunate that the author's memory has occasionally played him tricks, with results that reference to notes would probably have avoided. On page 278, in speaking of the attack on Constantinople by the army from Salonika during the counter revolution of 1909, he states that little opposition was met with at the Tashkishlar and Artillery Barracks, whereas it was not till the afternoon that these two places fell, after artillery had been freely used against them. Nor is there any mention of the fighting in Stambul, when the front entrance of the Sublime Porte was blown in by a shell. On page 280 the date 1899 is an obvious mistake for 1909.

A second edition—and there will doubtless be many editions—will enable Sir Edwin to correct such errors as Javad for Javid, the Minister of Finance, Tashkisla for Tashkishlar, Serkedji for Sirkedji; and his spelling of "kadikewi," will, we think, find few adherents. A little reflection might have avoided the statement, on page 320, that Sir Richard Crawford was the reorganiser of the Egyptian Customs. Sir Richard was Commissioner of Customs in London up to the time of his appointment to Turkey, where he succeeded so well in instilling British methods into the Ottoman Customs House authorities. "Cafes chantantes" should not have been allowed to slip in, and the Turks "drink" ("ichmek"), not "eat" their narghilés, as the author has suggested.

Apart from these and other minor errors, one cannot but admire the energy with which the book has been written. The author has always been a hard and conscientious worker, as all who know him will readily admit, and his contributions to the world's interest in and knowledge of the fascinating city of Byzantium, both past and present, deserve to earn him a high place in the esteem of all his readers.

Few books have been put upon the market so opportunely as this one. The Near East, with Constantinople as its centre, is in all the world's eye at this moment. Sir Edwin's forty years cover a period of dramatic and swiftly moving events, and his historical sense—so well illustrated in his previous books—enables him to tell his life story with a force and value beyond that which attaches to most autobiographies. It is not a book of the moment only—it is a forty-years' experience in too important a period and with too broad a background to enable it to appear without making a lasting impression.

It is really remarkable that with memory and not notes to draw upon the author lets so few important data escape him. The earlier chapters up to the fall of Abdul Hamid, are perhaps the most interesting, as the events recorded in them are less generally known and have the advantage of a perspective, while recent history is too near us to enable a historian to give it its true proportion.

* "Forty Years in Constantinople." The Recollections of Sir Edwin Pears 1873-1915 Herbert Jenkins. 16s. net.)

BOOK NOTES.

A book which is sure to be in great demand at the present juncture is "Eleftherios Venizelos: His Life and Work," which Mr. Murray has just published. It is a translation by Beatrice Barstow from the original of Dr. C. Kerofilas, and M. Take Jonescu has written a brief introduction.

A lively account of what one may call the outward life of the Turkish capital is provided in M. E. Edwards' "Journal d'un Habitant de Constantinople (1914-15)," which is published by Plon-Nourrit at 3.50 frs.

Among Messrs. Gay and Hancock's announcements, we notice "The Story of Prince Ahmed: From the Arabian Nights Entertainments," illustrated by Charles Robinson, with coloured plates. We have not seen the book, but mention it as likely to appeal to readers on the look-out for a suitable present for young friends. The price is 2s. 6d.

Messrs. Lippincott's autumn announcements include "The Civilization of Babylonia and Assyria," by Morris Jastrow, Junior.

"Across Asia Minor on Foot" is written by W. J. Childs, and published by Blackwood.

Messrs. Longmans, Green and Co. will publish very shortly "Constantinople, Old and New," by H. G. Dwight. The author has lived in Constantinople in boyhood and manhood in real intimacy with the people, and the vividness of his early impressions has been supplemented by a deep study of marked character and of the significance of the city's associations. The book is to be illustrated with photographs taken by the author himself.

The same firm have now in the press the first two volumes of "East and West through Fifteen Centuries: Being a General History from B.C. 44 to A.D. 1453," by Brigadier-General G. F. Young, C.B., author of "The Medici." The two volumes cover the history of 800 years up to, in the East, the death of the Emperor Leo the Iconoclast in 740, and in the West the death of Charles Martel in the same year.

Messrs. Grevel have published "Popular Stories of Ancient Egypt," a translation by Mrs. C. W. H. Johns of the fourth French edition of Sir Gaston Maspero's well-known work. The price is half-a-guinea net.

Messrs. Simpkin, Marshall and Co. have published, at 1s. net, "Light on the Balkan Darkness," by Mr. Crawfurd Price.

"L'Epopee Balkanique," by M. Paul Liseron, has just been issued in Paris (E. Sansot et Cie), at 3fr. 50c.

BOOKS on the NEAR EAST.

ROUMANIA AND THE GREAT WAR.

By R. W. SETON-WATSON, D.Litt. 2s.

Here, in a few pages, Dr. Seton-Watson takes us hurriedly through the salient features of Roumanian history with a view to offering an estimate of Roumanian policy in relation to the war.

THE DARDANELLES: Their Story and their Significance in the Great War.

By the author of "The Real Kaiser." 2s. net.

This book makes excellent reading, and is full of very useful information.

L'ALLIANCE BALKANIQUE.

By IV. E. GUESHOFF, formerly Prime Minister of Bulgaria. 2s. 8d. net.

This work is concerned mainly with the negotiations leading up to the alliance, and is of considerable interest and value.

BULGARIA AND THE POWERS.

By THE O'MAHONY. With a foreword by R. J. KELLY, K.C. 1s. net.

This little book tells of the fatal disagreement between the Balkan Allies at the end of the war with Turkey and of the disasters that fell upon Bulgaria.

REPORT ON PLANTATION WORK IN CYPRUS FROM 1879 TO 1914.

By A. K. BOVILL, Principal Forest Officer. 7s. 6d.

An interesting resumé of the work done during the period of the British Occupation in the matter of re-afforestation.

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

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

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

When I read of Russia's preparations against Bulgaria I am reminded of the sad story of Algy and the Bear. I suppose it was the word "Bulgy" that put it into my head, and I must say that with but a little alteration the thing seems peculiarly applicable. Everyone, I suppose, knows the story, but in case any of my readers may have escaped it, I will tell it here. It is a story in three chapters. In the first, Algy met a bear. In the second the bear was bulgy. In the third and last, it appeared that the bulge was Algy. Well, a Bulgar met a bear . . . . and so on.

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In the *Morning Post* last Friday I came across three contiguous paragraphs which, taken together, offer an interesting little study in character as it stands revealed in certain Balkan royalties who are much in the public eye to-day. One occurs in a communication forwarded by the *Post's* Rome correspondent, and runs:—

King Peter of Serbia, although unwell, insists on being conveyed to the front to fight among his soldiers, as he did when he led them to victory over the Austrians last year. King Ferdinand is not likely to follow his example, for, as a Bulgarian once said to me, "Les Bourbons n'aiment pas la poudre."

I take off my hat to King Peter, who, in the hour of his country's ordeal, shows that he knows what a king should do—and does it. The second paragraph is in the form of a Reuter's message from Paris, which passes on a report received from an Italian source:—

Prince George of Greece sent his brother, King Constantine, a telegram in plain language, asking him to honour his engagements towards Serbia by declaring war on Bulgaria.

This may, or may not be true. But it is just what one would expect of a frank, large-hearted man like Prince George, to whom the sight of a gallant little nation standing up heroically against a couple of bullies like Germany and Austria, and at the same time fighting a third nation—and one which the Greeks have never loved—must be extraordinarily painful. For it is a sight, surely, to appeal to any man with a particle of chivalry in him; and Prince George is nothing if not chivalrous. The third paragraph occurs in a letter from the *Post's* Bucharest correspondent, who reports that King Ferdinand (of Bulgaria, of course) in bidding farewell to the departing French Minister, said:—

"I have French blood in my veins, but what can you expect? The Germans are victorious, and I would like you to advise your Government to conclude peace."

Evidently one rat at least is determined not to remain on a sinking ship. But when the ship comes safely into port I wonder where the rat will be?

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It would be interesting, by the way, to know just how King Ferdinand and his advisers have managed to make the Bulgarians forget their former dislike of the Turks, who so long oppressed them. And how did they work them up to a point where they could forget the debt they owed to Russia?—Or, rather, have they succeeded in doing so at all? We may have an answer to the second question very shortly; but if it be in the affirmative, we shall have to wait some time for any answer to the first. And when that comes I fancy it will be about time for Ferdinand to make himself scarce. In the meantime, I observe, he has the satisfaction of knowing that the German Press is falling over itself, so to say, in its haste to hold him up to the gaze of an admiring world as a noble and enlightened statesman, and the person to whom the "turn of events in the Balkans is in the greatest degree due." It is also amusing to observe that all reference to the Kaiser's former claim that the Treaty of Bucharest, to which the Bulgarians so strongly objected, was due to his own august self.

***

Prince Carol of Roumania recently had an escape from a motor accident, which is likely, one supposes, to give a lesson to two youthful peasants. His Royal Highness was on his way from Sinaia when, suddenly, the chauffeur observed a fallen tree lying across the road. Fortunately he was able to pull the car up just in time to avoid a bad smash. And inquiries showed that two youths of the village had dragged the tree across the road in order to "see what would happen if a motor travelling fast should strike it." I do not know what would have happened, but I am prepared to hazard a guess that though the tree was not struck by the car, those two hopeful youths found that other things besides motors can, on occasion, "strike."

***

Seventeen German professors are reported to have really arrived in Constantinople to reorganise the Turkish University, and incidentally to pave the way for the further expansion of the German language. "Gott strafe Turkey" apparently. It is small wonder if, as reported, Constantinople is somewhat chaotic in these days. First, all wounded have to be brought into the capital at night so as not to alarm the populace. Next, all prisoners have to be marched round and round the city at intervals, like a stage army, so that the people may imagine each batch to be a new one. Added to all this the nerves of the Turk are being further wrung by the ministrations of fat Teutonic professors. But, at the same time, on the outskirts of the city, a triumphal arch is being erected, under which the Hajji Wilhelm is to pass when, having done something he said he was going to do, he arrives in Constantinople. When!

***

The controversy about conscription which is raging at the present moment reminds me of the extreme measures taken by a few of the less heroic Egyptians who were called upon to serve in the Sudan not so many years back. But in those days the Sudan had the reputation of being a gigantic graveyard where the bones of Egyptian soldiers were laid to rest. And on this particular subject the customary fatalism of the East appeared to fail, not the Egyptians as a people, but certain of their countrymen. It was no uncommon thing in those days for men to blind themselves rather than be sent to the Sudan for service with the Army. I remember once seeing a maimed Egyptian soldier in the streets of Khartoum, and I remarked upon his physical defects. Then it turned out that his injuries had been self-inflicted, and that he had been sent up country as a warning to the rest of his village, lest, seeing him escape service, others might go and do likewise. In these days, of course, the Sudan is no longer regarded with terror. Danger at the hands of its inhabitants has passed, while its fevers and its pestilences are well under control, thanks to the tireless band of Englishmen who have given the best years of their lives in fighting for the mastery. Even the mosquito has been banished from Khartoum, and from other river stations as well. If we in England worked half as laboriously to attain the destruction of the deadly house fly as the men of Khartoum worked for the destruction of the mosquito there would be never a fly left to carry disease when spring comes round. But even in these campaigns against insects an organised plan is necessary. In the early days of the mosquito campaign orders were issued for certain things to be done to destroy the larvæ, and "progress" was to be reported. Those who did not understand found food for much merriment in this latter order. The Government officials insisted, and the result we know. I wonder why it is that the Englishman abroad is usually so much more thorough than his brother at home.

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It is not without interest at the present time to note that one of the most active, not to say violent, opponents of M. Venizelos is M. Théotokis. And M. Théotokis, who is, I believe, Deputy for Corfu, is, so to say, a neighbour of the Kaiser, when that August Personage makes holiday at the Achilleion. Can there be any connection between the two facts?

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In a recent number of the *Daily Chronicle* I notice a reference to the walking capabilities of the Serbian peasant. When I come to think of it, it is curious that this characteristic of the Serb should, as far as I am aware, have escaped comment earlier in the war. To it he owes a great measure of his success as a soldier; for marches which would kill an ordinary man, or at the least render him incapable of fight at its end, are as nothing to him. I think one of the greatest evils of civilisation lies in the fact that it robs man of the necessity for natural physical exertion. The ordinary Londoner would sooner stand with bent head in the vitiated atmosphere of an omnibus than walk from the City to the Strand. In the country districts it is better, but even there your countryman usually takes his walk with a weather eye for'ard for a passing cart. It is only the gipsies who habitually walk in England. I know many families of these people who have never entered a train or tram, and, what is more, no money in the world would induce them to do so. And at times, when the camp is far in the forest country the women will cheerfully walk twelve miles in to the nearest town, stand on the pavements selling flowers all day, and tramp home again, singing, in the evening. But then they, although there is no pure Romany family left now, are not wholly English. I think that one of the things which most struck me when first I visited the Sudan was the marvellous walking capabilities of its inhabitants. A man on foot would follow me, mounted, all day, and then give me points in freshness after having cooked my dinner while I rested. I often wonder if things are the same now, or if the "blessings of civilisation" have wrought their accustomed change. I happened to be in the Sudan at the time when one of the Sudanese regiments were given boots for the first time. They were child-like in their delight, but the same afternoon, when the order to march off through thorny fore was given, the men carefully tied their boots together by their laces and slung them over their shoulders before they moved. It certainly seems strange that God should have given us five toes, if the best use we can make of them is to put them into boxes!

CORSAIR.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

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

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

BRITISH DIPLOMACY IN THE BALKANS.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—In your leading article on the 15th you say that British diplomacy in the Balkans broke down a year ago. Permit me to say that it broke down seven years ago, and has never recovered since. British diplomacy suffered eclipse in the Near East when it refused to uphold public rights on the wrongful annexation of Bosnia and the Herzegovina by Austria-Hungary, and allowed it to be inferred that new principles obtained in Balkan affairs, to the effect that a change in the political status of a Balkan State was no longer necessarily a matter of European concern, but could be the subject for adjustment between the parties locally affected. The danger of such a departure was fully recognised in THE NEAR EAST at the time, for in your editorial note of February 4, 1910, you said that "allowing the impression to prevail that Austria-Hungary could disregard the treaty rights of European Powers with impunity could not fail to bring loss of prestige to Great Britain in the Councils of Europe." And you remarked that the extent of the mischief had yet to be revealed, but there could be no doubt that encouragement had been given to Pan-German aggression to proceed on its path irrespective of European interests, and despite British protests. That the tearing up of one Treaty has now been followed by the tearing up of another is no more than was foreseen at the time, and it is in failing to arrest at the outset this disposition to treat international compacts as "mere scraps of paper," that British diplomacy made its initial and sovereign blunder.

But the blame should be put on the right shoulders. If there is one thing clearer than another it is this, that it was the British Government and not the Foreign Office which gave way before the Austrian refusal of a conference. The British withdrawal was the subject of public announcement by the Prime Minister, and not by Sir Edward Grey, and Sir Edward Grey publicly and, I believe in fact, was no party to it. Apparently indisposed to suffer any interruption of its domestic programme, the Government sought a peace-at-any-price formula, and left British interests in the Balkans to be vindicated in the debilitating atmosphere their withdrawal had created, and the results we now deplore.—I am, etc.,

October 19, 1915. OBSERVER.

THE "UNSPEAKABLE" TURK.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—In your issue of September 17, page 553, you ask "Who shall say that the Turk is 'unspeakable' after this?"

Who? About 80,000,000 of Americans. Never more "unspeakable" than in the present "Holy War." His indescribable barbarities to the Armenians and Nestorians surpass any atrocities—Lord Bryce being reporter in both cases.

A very great deal of the sympathy of Americans for the Allies is deepened by the fact that they are also against the Turks. If your kind words for the Turks indicate that the British intend to let the Turks off easily, your American friends will be greatly disappointed. We wish the work done thoroughly this time, so that there may not be for ever hereafter any Armenian massacres.—I am, etc.,

X.X.X.X.

Indiana, Pa., U.S.A.
October 5, 1915.

THE TURK AS A FIGHTER.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—All this talk about "clean fighting" on the part of the Turks at the Dardanelles seems rather beside the mark, when we read of the wholesale extermination of Armenians throughout Turkey by Turks as well as Kurds, of the remarkable cruel treatment of Russian wounded in the Armenian theatre of war, and the gross discourtesy and insult shown to English and French women interned in Syria, and the trouble that was taken to let them see the Urfa horrors.

As for the Kurds, were the officials and officers whose deeds Mirza Firooz Khan, your Persian correspondent, describes in a recent letter—and a most interesting one—all Kurds? Not they; they were Turks. I happen to have known several of the persons most deeply implicated in the massacres elsewhere, and they are Turks. The Turk is an automaton who is cruel when ordered, humane when bidden to be so. At the Dardanelles he was very humane after the first day or two, when he found that certain things did not pay. In this connection may I point out that nothing has been said in your columns of the torture and execution of two French officers taken prisoners under the white flag at Kum Kalé on April 25, or of the numerous abuses of the white flag of which the British and French navies have had to complain.

No, sir; I quite grant that the average Turk is no more inhuman than the average "gemüthlich" beer-swilling genial German; but he is as ready to commit cruelties when ordered to do so by a white-turbaned fanatic or a ruthless soldier or revolutionary as the German is ready to commit or condone any brutality under the influence of the *idée fixe*, whether that fixed idea is "Deutschland über alles" or Nietzsche's "This I say to you, breathren, become hard!"

The Turk is a pocket edition of the Boche. All of us have known decent Turks or decent Germans, only neither are individualists, that is all. Comes the order or the hint from a high official quarter, and they carry it out. That is all.—I am, etc.,

Egypt. ARISTODEMOS.

KING FERDINAND'S OVERSIGHT.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—In the current issue of THE NEAR EAST, "Corsair" writes that he cannot understand how King Ferdinand of Bulgaria can ever have made up his mind to take the fatal plunge, referring, of course, to the fact that his Majesty does not enjoy a very high reputation for personal valour. But is it not fair to assume that it was precisely this characteristic that decided the King to act as he has done? No doubt he was anxious about his Hungarian estates, which, we are told, were threatened with confiscation if he did not climb off the fence on the Austro-Hungarian side—and quickly. But he was still more anxious, one feels sure, about his personal safety. And we read now that he was, and perhaps still is, firmly convinced that the Central Powers are going to be victorious; for he said as much to the departing French Minister, after insulting that diplomatist by reminding him that he (Ferdinand) had French blood in his veins.

Yes, sir, obviously the poor Bulgarian's ruler believes absolutely in German Might, in the Kaiser, the Shining Armour, the Mailed Fist, and all the rest of the Teutonic stage properties. But what surprises me is that he is so blind to the events of the last fifteen months. Does he not believe in Right, in Justice, and in a God of Justice, who is greater than many Kaisers and mightier than all the Prussians? Apparently not. For, whatever else may be in doubt, there can be no doubt as to which group of the belligerents has Right on its side to-day. Let King Ferdinand of Bulgaria ask any impartial neutral!

Have the Allies sunk a Lusitania—and gloried in the deed? Have they, with the set purpose of demonstrating their "frightfulness," systematically butchered helpless civilians by thousands, as the Huns have done in Belgium and the Austro-Hungarians—though on a smaller scale, it is true—in Bosnia, Dalmatia, and Serbia? Above all, is the honour of the Allies stained with any crime that can be compared with the latest, and greatest, massacre of the Armenians, for which the Turks and their German advisers and instigators will surely have to share the responsibility between them?

Such horrors as humanity has suffered at the hands of the Kaiser and his Huns, of Talaat and Enver and their tools, prove that they have no fear of any Power alive. But what of Ferdinand? Has *he* forgotten, too? If not, how comes he to have dragged Bulgaria in on the side of the oppressors? How can he profess to believe that the forces of oppression, the forces of evil, will be—nay—"*are* victorious"?

I, for one, cannot share that belief. I hold with the Armenian correspondent, whose letter appears in your current issue, that, "after all, there *is* such a thing as everlasting justice in this world." The fact that King Ferdinand has chosen to match himself against that Everlasting Justice is certainly an amazing one, in view of his temperament. But it will cause no uneasiness to those who have not forgotten. We rest assured that, sooner or later, he will find that he has not, after all, chosen the stronger side, and that he will pay the price of his error of judgment to the uttermost farthing.—I am, etc.,

AVANT-COUREUR.

Kensington, October 16, 1915.

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Julian (Old Style).	Gregorian (New Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1915. Oct.	1915. Oct.		1333. Julhijja.	5676. Hesvan.
22	9	Friday	13	14
23	10	Saturday.....	14	15
24	11	Sunday	15	16
25	12	Monday	16	17
26	13	Tuesday	17	18
27	14	Wednesday	18	19
28	15	Thursday	19	20

Tuesday is the birthday of the King of Denmark.

H.R.H. Prince Danilo of Montenegro will, it is announced by the *Matin*, shortly join the staff of General Joffre.

H.H. the Aga Khan had the honour of being invited to luncheon with the King and Queen at Buckingham Palace on Sunday.

Reuter's Athens correspondent reports that Prince Alexander, second son of the King of Greece, who is an officer in an artillery regiment, was riding out to manœuvres at the head of his battery on Monday, when he had a fall from his horse and fractured his leg. The Queen and the Crown Prince hurried to the Piræus, where the accident occurred, and brought the Prince to Athens in a motor-ambulance.

Prince Mahmoud Hamdy, brother of the Sultan of Egypt, arrived at Alexandria on the 4th inst. by the Khedivial Mail Company's s.s. "Borullos," together with his family, on his way from Constantinople to Cairo.

Writing on September 28, our Roumanian Correspondent reports :—The country seat of Prince and Princess Bibescu at Posada, near Comarnic, was burnt to the ground on Sunday night. At the time their little daughter was at the castle with her English governess, and they only just succeeded in making their escape in their night attire. The entire building, which was constructed of wood, was burnt down, and only some furniture, once the property of Napoleon I., and a few pictures and tapestries were saved.

Lord Kitchener had an audience of the King at Buckingham Palace on Wednesday.

Sir Alexander Baird has arrived in Cairo for the season.

Lady Anne Blunt is expected to arrive in Egypt about the end of this month.

Lady Barclay and her daughter, Lady Kennard, and Mrs. Frank Rattigan, the wife of the First Secretary of the British Legation at Bucharest, arrived in the Roumanian capital on September 26.

Mrs. Youell has arrived in Galatz from England.

Mr. Percy Bennett, the recently appointed Commercial Attaché to the British Legation at Bucharest, has arrived in that city and has taken up his duties.

CAPTAIN ARTHUR CHARLES DAVIES, 6th BATTALION ROYAL WELSH FUSILIERS, Reported WOUNDED and MISSING on August 10 at the DARDANELLES.—Any INFORMATION will be gratefully received by his Wife, Mrs. Arthur Davies, Treffos, Menai Bridge, Anglesey.

TO OFFICERS leaving for War Zone Special Terms. ANY LANGUAGE under the sun TAUGHT, TRANSLATED, TYPEWRITTEN and DUPLICATED on machines in shortest periods.—Apply or write, The British Egyptian Syndicate, 90, Bishopsgate, E.C. Wire, "ABDELMALEK, London." 'Phone, 2947 London Wall.

The Rev. Canon Sterling, formerly of St. George's, Jerusalem, has joined the R.A.M.C., and is at present, we understand, attached to the 11th (Lonsdale) Battalion, the Border Regiment.

At the request of Bishop MacInnes, D.D., Archdeacon Ward has accepted a place on the Council of the Jerusalem and the East Mission. The post of editor of *Bible Lands*, a quarterly diocesan paper, has also been placed in his hands, and the Bishop has appointed him to be his Commissary in England.

We understand that Lieutenant Macdonald, A.S.C., who before he received his commission was employed in the Egyptian Department of Education, has lately left England for the Mediterranean.

Sub-Lieutenant J. S. La Fontaine, R.N.V.R., who was severely wounded on July 16 at Gallipoli, arrived in England last week, and is now at Haslar Hospital, Gosport, recovering from his wounds.

Mr. H. G. Dwight, long and pleasantly known in Constantinople, has just had published by Messrs. Scribner and Co., of New York, a scholarly and well-illustrated book entitled "Constantinople, Old and New." It will be a distinct and valuable addition to any "Near Eastern" bookshelf. We understand that Messrs. Longmans, Green, and Co. will publish the book in this country.

The Roumanian Minister of Commerce, M. Alex. Radovitch, was lately the victim of a serious motor accident. While accompanying the Royal Family on their excursion in the Dobruja, he was proceeding from Tulcea to Braila when the car collided with a post, and he was thrown out, receiving severe injuries. Happily, however, it was possible to convey him to Braila at once, and thence he was sent by special train to Bucharest, where, our Correspondent reports, he is progressing rapidly towards recovery.

The Bulgarian Minister, the members of his family, and the Legation staff left on Thursday night last week for The Hague. Under Sir Edward Grey's direction a special saloon was attached for their use to the boat train from Fenchurch Street, and Mr. Cecil Dormer, one of Sir Edward's private secretaries, was present at the station to see them off on behalf of his chief. From Fenchurch Street the travellers went to Tilbury, and there embarked for Holland. With the exception of Mr. Dormer, a representative of Scotland Yard, and a few private friends, there was no one on the platform to see the party off, and there was no demonstration of any kind. Before taking leave of Mr. Dormer, M. Hajji Misheff asked him to convey to the Foreign Secretary his gratitude for all the arrangements made for his comfort and convenience.

Under date October 12, Reuter's Cairo correspondent reports :—

Dr. Abbate Pasha, the doyen of the European colonists in Egypt, died yesterday at the age of ninety. Born in Palermo in the first years of the Italian "risorgimento," Dr. Abbate was identified with the revolutionary movement against the Bourbons, and had to flee for sanctuary to Egypt. He was accompanied by his old schoolmate Francesco Crispi, who took refuge in Malta. Arrived in Egypt, he became a collaborator of Clot Bey, and, with him, founded the Sanitary Service. In his medical capacity he took part in all the Sudan campaigns under Ismail Pasha, and later was appointed Surgeon-in-Chief to the Egyptian Expeditionary Army in 1877-78. With de Lesseps, Dr. Schweinfurth, Emin Pasha, Romolo Gessi, Gordon Pasha, the Marquis of Antimori, and others, he founded the Geographical Society of Egypt, of which he had always been the President. In later years he devoted himself entirely to science, and lived practically the life of a hermit, amongst his books, in a house at the Pyramids.

Brigadier-General G. W. H. Pain, C.B., who was recalled from the retired list last year and placed in command of the 108th Infantry Brigade of the Fourth New Army, has seen a great deal of service in Egypt and the Sudan. He was appointed to the Egyptian Army in 1888, and in the same year took part in the operations against the Dervishes in the Sudan. He received the medal and clasp and the Khedive's Bronze Star for his services on that occasion, and in the following year he received the 3rd Class of the Order of the Medjidieh for services with the Nile Frontier Force. Subsequently he took part in the operations against Osman Dinga, when, as a captain, he was in charge of the advance forces of the expedition. Some years later he narrowly escaped drowning when, during a heavy gale in the Red Sea, the transport, on which he was the only British officer, sprang a leak and for some time it looked as if nothing could save her from disaster. For his assistance in saving this vessel he received the commendation of the late Duke of Cambridge, who was then Commander-in-Chief. Receiving his majority in 1894, Major Pain remained in the Egyptian Army and served under Sir Herbert Kitchener in the British advance up the Nile two years later. He played a distinguished part in these operations, and was mentioned in despatches, besides being rewarded with the brevet of Lieutenant-Colonel. In the Nile Expedition of 1897-99 he served as acting Adjutant-General, Egyptian Army, and left the country in the following year.

Lieutenant-Colonel George de Wet Verner, 7th (late 2nd) Scottish Borderers, died on October 10 of wounds received in France on September 25. Born in December, 1859, he obtained his first commission in August, 1879, and reached the rank of substantive lieutenant-colonel in December, 1906, retiring in December, 1910. He was appointed to the command of the 7th K.O. Scottish Borderers on August 22 last year. Lieutenant-Colonel Verner had his first fighting in the Afghan War of 1879-80, and in 1884-5 was in the Sudan Expedition, earning another medal and the bronze star.

Major Colin Napier Buchanan-Dunlop, R.H.A., who was killed in action on October 14, was the second son of Lieutenant-Colonel Buchanan, of Whitley Rise, Reading. He was born in 1877, received his commission in 1896, and attained the rank of major in 1913. He was professor at the Royal Military College of Canada from 1903 to 1905, and was employed with the Egyptian Army in 1913-14. He saw active service in South Africa in 1899-1902, and was present, among other actions and operations, at the relief of Kimberley, Belmont, Modder River (where he was wounded), Magersfontein, Paardeberg, Poplar Grove, and Diamond Hill. For these services he was mentioned in despatches and received the brevet of major, the Queen's medal with five clasps, and the King's medal with two clasps.

On Thursday of last week, at Buckingham Palace, the King decorated Sergeant J. Somers, of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, with the Victoria Cross for most conspicuous bravery on the night of July 1-2, in the Southern Zone of the Gallipoli Peninsula. When, owing to hostile bombing, some of our troops had retired from a sap, Sergeant Somers remained alone on the spot until a party brought up bombs. He then climbed over into the Turkish trench and bombed the Turks with great effect. Later on he advanced into the open under very heavy fire and held back the enemy by throwing bombs into their flank until a barricade had been established. During this period he frequently ran to and from our trenches to obtain fresh supplies of bombs. By his great gallantry and coolness Sergeant Somers was largely instrumental in effecting the recapture of a portion of our trench which had been lost.

On Monday, at Buckingham Palace, the King decorated Lieutenant W. T. Forshaw, the Manchester Regiment, with the Victoria Cross, for most conspicuous bravery and determination in the Gallipoli Peninsula from August 7 to 9, 1915. When holding the north-west corner of the "Vineyard" he was attacked and heavily bombed by Turks, who advanced time after time by three trenches, which converged at this point, but he held his own, not only directing his men and encouraging them by exposing himself with the utmost disregard to danger, but personally

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throwing bombs continuously for forty-one hours. When his detachment was relieved after twenty-four hours he volunteered to continue the direction of operations. Three times during the night of August 8-9 he was again heavily attacked, and once the Turks got over the barricade, but, after shooting three with his revolver, he led his men forward and recaptured it. When he rejoined his battalion he was choked and sickened by bomb fumes, badly bruised by a fragment of shrapnel, and could barely lift his arm from continuous bomb-throwing. It was due to his personal example, magnificent courage, and endurance that this very important corner was held.

On the same occasion the King also decorated with the Victoria Cross, Second Lieutenant G. R. D. Moor, the Hampshire Regiment, for most conspicuous bravery and resource on June 5, 1915, during operations South of Krithia, Dardanelles. When a detachment of a battalion on his left, which had lost all its officers, was rapidly retiring before a heavy Turkish attack, Second Lieutenant Moor, immediately grasping the danger to the remainder of the line, dashed back some 200 yards, stemmed the retirement, led back the men, and recaptured the lost trench. This young officer, who only joined the Army in October, 1914, by his personal bravery and presence of mind saved a dangerous situation.

A party of nurses and a surgeon-radiographer left London last Friday to take up duties at the Wounded Allies' Relief Committee's Hospital at Kragujevatz, Serbia.

This evening at 8 o'clock Sir Edwin Pears will deliver a lecture on "Constantinople," in the theatre of the Y.M.C.A., Aldersgate Street.

The War Office announces the appointment of General Sir C. C. Monro, K.C.B., to the command of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, in succession to General Sir Ian Hamilton, G.C.B., D.S.O., who is returning to England to make a report. Pending the arrival of General Sir C. C. Monro, Lieutenant-General Sir W. R. Birdwood, K.C.S.I., K.C.M.G., C.B., C.I.E., D.S.O., has been appointed temporarily to command the Force.

Sir C. C. Monro was born in 1860, entered the Army in 1879, and reached the rank of colonel in 1903. He served during the operations on the North-Western Frontier of India, 1897-8, with the Malakand Field Force and with the Expedition into the Mohmand country. He also saw service with the Tirah Expeditionary Force, for which he received the medal with two clasps, and served on the Staff in the South African War, when he was mentioned in despatches, receiving at the same time the Queen's medal with three clasps and the brevet of lieutenant-colonel. He was made a C.B. in 1906, and was created a Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath last February "for services rendered in connection with operations in the field" during the present war. Sir Charles, who was on the General Headquarters Staff, was mentioned in despatches by Sir John French after the Battle of the Aisne.

General Sir Ian Hamilton left this country to take charge of the Gallipoli operations on March 13 last. He is 62 years of age, and one of our most distinguished military commanders. His first service was in the Afghan War of 1878-80. In the South African War he took part in the defence of Ladysmith, and later became Chief of the General Staff to Lord Kitchener.

In his despatch of August 26 Sir Ian Hamilton wrote of Sir W. R. Birdwood as follows: "Lieutenant-General Sir W. R. Birdwood has been the soul of Anzac. Not for a single day has he ever quitted his post. Cheery and full of human sympathy, he spent many hours of each twenty-four inspiring the defenders of the front trenches; and if he does not know every soldier in his force, at least, every soldier in the force believes he is known to his chief."

A telegram from Malta states that Admiral d'Artige du Fournet, the new Commander-in-Chief of the French Navy in Near Eastern waters, has entered upon his duties.

According to a message to the *Kölnische Zeitung* from Sofia, the illness of the Russian Minister in Sofia, M. Savinsky, has become considerably more serious.

General Radko Dimitrieff, the Bulgarian General serving in the Russian Army, has returned all his Bulgarian orders, states a Petrograd telegram.

Mrs. Harley, sister of Sir John French, visited the city hospital at Marseilles on Tuesday, and will shortly leave for the Levant on board a French liner, accompanied by forty nurses.

Lady Davies, wife of Lieutenant-General Sir Francis J. Davies; Mrs. De Lisle, wife of Major-General De Lisle; and Mrs. Paris, wife of Major-General A. Paris, appeal for funds to enable them to send plum puddings to the British troops and Naval Division in Gallipoli. To ensure the delivery of the puddings in the trenches by Christmas Day they must be dispatched by November 15. Subscriptions in money (amounts large or small) should be sent as soon as possible up to November 1 to Lady Davies, hon. secretary of the Gallipoli Puddings Fund, 2, Gloucester Place, Portman Square, London, or to Messrs. Child and Co., 1, Fleet Street.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, etc.

Mr. F. Ongley, Registrar-General of Cyprus, has taken up his duties, on returning from leave.

Mr. Edgar Edward David Gout has been appointed Acting Vice-Consul at Cairo. Before the war he was Clerk in the Consulate-General at Smyrna, where he was Acting Vice-Consul on various occasions, and was given the local rank of Vice-Consul in 1905.

The *Egyptian Gazette* announces that Mr. F. P. Walton, Professor in the Sultanieh School of Law, Cairo, has been appointed as Principal of that school, in succession to Mr. M. Sheldon Amos, who has reverted, at his own request, to the appointment of Councillor in the Native Court of Appeal. This post he held before his appointment as Principal of the School of Law.

The following appointments are officially announced in the Cyprus *Gazette*:—

Mr. Alexander Logan Murison, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., to be a District Medical Officer. Dated September 4, 1915.

Major George Croker Bayly, Commissioner of Paphos, to act as Chief Commandant of Police and Inspector of Prisons. Dated September 12, 1915.

Captain Arthur Marlay Fleury, a Local Commandant of Police, to act as Commissioner of Paphos. Dated September 12, 1915.

Mr. Spiridon Georghiou Televantou, an Inspector of Police, to act as a Local Commandant of Police. Dated September 12, 1915.

Mr. Alexander Stephen Mavrogordato, Finanical Assistant for Public Works, to act as Accountant, Treasury. Dated September 25, 1915.

The Cyprus *Gazette* announces that his Excellency the High Commissioner has been pleased to grant the following officers special leave of absence for the purpose of joining his Majesty's Forces:—

Mr. Henry Alwyn Bros, President District Court, Kyrenia. Dated December 11, 1914.

Mr. Crawford Noble, Assistant Principal Forest Officer. Dated August 28, 1915.

Captain Albert Ernest Gallagher, D.S.O., Chief Commandant of Police and Inspector of Prisons. Dated September 12, 1915.

Mr. Thomas Millard, Assistant Treasurer. Dated September 18, 1915.

Mr. Arthur Jary Cunningham, Assistant Island Postmaster. Dated September 18, 1915.

Mr. Baron Brooke Booth, Accountant, Treasury. Dated September 25, 1915.

Mr. Sharman, Principal of the Saidieh Secondary School, Cairo, who volunteered for service with the British Army during the early months of the war, has now returned to Egypt and resumed his duties.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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

BIRTH.

TITE.—At the Anglo-American Hospital, Cairo, on October 1, the wife of H. W. Tite, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

CLARKE—ETHELSTON.—On September 27, at Mount Troodes, Cyprus, William Peter Dunham Clarke, Sudan Civil Service, eldest son of William Alexander Clarke, of Ash, Whitchurch, Salop, to Ethel, eldest daughter of Edmund Ethelston, of Hinton, Whitchurch, Salop.

LOCH—VINCENT.—On September 27, at Simla, very quietly, owing to the war, Captain Percy Gordon Loch, Political Department, son of the late Lieut.-Colonel W. Loch, Political Department, to Isabel Wynne, daughter of Sir William Vincent, I.C.S., and Lady Vincent.

DEATH.

SHAKOOR.—On October 17, at Roelah Cottage, Liphook, Hants, Luceya Rose, beloved daughter of the late Milhem Shakoor Bey, of Cairo, and Mrs. Shakoor, and granddaughter of the late Richard Chute, J.P., D.L., of Chute Hall, Co. Kerry, and the Hon. Rose Chute.

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THE NEAR EAST.

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1915.

SEEING IT THROUGH.

In an atmosphere of irresolution, with the policy of living from hand to mouth applied to everything, from night clubs to recruiting, air raids, and the operations at the Dardanelles, it is difficult to find ground for confidence. But amid the uncertainty that dominates the situation in the Balkans we must perforce hold tenaciously to the latest undertaking which the British Government has given to the nation. As its spokesman in the House of Lords, Lord Crewe recently announced that the untoward event of the adhesion of Bulgaria to the cause of Germany and Turkey, and the renewed attempt to crush Serbia before a marked change could take place in any theatre of the war, would only serve to make sterner and fiercer the determination of the Allies to carry through the war to a definite conclusion of absolute victory. It is true that a statement on similar lines was made at a much earlier stage of the war, and that it did not prevent a multiplicity of mistakes wherever an opening occurred. But, as time passes, experience bought at a great price accumulates, and we like to fancy that sooner or later it must affect the faculty for error which the present war has engendered in high places. Unfortunately it cannot be stated with any degree of certainty that such a stage has yet been reached. So long as a considerable interval of time is allowed to lapse between the indication of the obvious course to be pursued and its fulfilment we must recognise that the lesson of experience is but half learned. Great Britain and her Allies stand on the threshold of grave developments in the Balkans. Austro-German forces are attacking the Serbians with an intensity that is eloquent of previous disappointments over the same ground and, perhaps, in other theatres of the war. Bulgarians, seeking to join hands with the invaders from the north, have cut the only railway line by which reinforcements can reach our hard-pressed Ally. In spite of the valour shown by the Serbians—success is costing the invaders heavy losses—it seems well-nigh impossible that their small army should be able to hold out indefinitely. A point must be reached sooner or later when the Serbian higher command may have to decide between two desperate courses—whether it will risk everything by remaining in the Belgrade-Nish-Orsova triangle in the hope of Anglo-French reinforcements arriving in time to turn the tables on the enemy, or whether it will try to make good its escape out of the triangle before it is too late. Does the "sterner and fiercer determination of the Allies to carry through the war to a definite conclusion of absolute victory" make provision for the safety of the Serbians, or does it not?

A little more than three weeks ago Sir Edward Grey gave a definite pledge in the name of Great Britain and her Allies to the Serbian nation. "If the Bulgarian mobilization," he told the House of Commons on September 28, "were to result in Bulgaria assuming an aggressive attitude on the side of our enemies, we are prepared to give to our friends in the Balkans all the support in our power, in the manner that would be most welcome to them, in concert with our Allies, without reserve and without qualification." A day or two later the aggressive attitude of the Bulgarians stood revealed, and in the first days of October an Allied or French force was landed at Salonika. To what extent the British Government has made good Sir Edward Grey's pledge future events will show. Our information to-day is necessarily incomplete. We hear of a Franco-Serbian force engaging the Bulgarians and capturing Strumnitza, a village in Bulgarian territory, but far removed from the districts where the Bulgarians are hurling their main forces against the Serbians. British troops have been landed at Salonika, but we have no knowledge whether they have proceeded up country, or, if they have, when they left and how far they have advanced. It would have been thought that, if Great Britain was "prepared" on September 28 to give the Serbians all the support in her power "without reserve and without qualification," an adequate number of British troops could have joined hands with the Serbian Army before now, and could have prevented the Bulgarians from cutting the line. We do not disguise from ourselves the fact that there is a school of military or political thought which is opposed to the "dispersion of effort" and would have us not follow the Germans into a Balkan campaign. That is a debatable point; but we must suppose that, when Sir Edward Grey gave his pledge to Serbia, the question had been discussed and decided in favour of giving military support to Serbia. In such circumstances there could be no room for further discussion or delay. A landing at Salonika ought to have been effected at once and troops hurried into the threatened districts of Serbia. We are not concerned here with the wisdom or unwisdom of the course. The only thing that mattered after Sir Edward Grey had spoken was that the pledge should be redeemed "without reserve and without qualification." Has this been done? The British public can pronounce no final verdict, as it is not in possession of all the facts. It cannot fail to note, however, that Sir Edward Carson, who presumably does know all the facts, has satisfied himself that it has not been done. No other interpretation can be placed on his resignation from the Cabinet.

If Sir Edward Carson's view be correct, the British Government has given a pledge to Serbia which it has not fulfilled. In such circumstances we should have looked for resignations in other quarters than on the part of the Attorney-General; but the Government's policy is enigmatical in other directions than towards the Balkans. It may be that a "sterner and fiercer determination" to "see the thing through" overrides questions of detail and such matters as Great Britain's plighted word. While nothing is likely to detract from the admiration felt for the course adopted by Sir Edward Carson, the British public would, no doubt, be reassured in some measure to find that there was still time to see the thing through without sacrificing Serbia. There are other ways of seeing the thing through than by concealing mistakes, with or without surreptitious attempts to rectify them. Although the sands of time are running low, as far as the Balkans are concerned, it ought yet to be possible to save Serbia from the annihilation that threatens her. Certain it is that, if the Serbians go under, then the course of the war for the Allied Powers is seriously affected, and for none more than for Great Britain. With communication opened up between Germany and Constantinople the Allies' position on Gallipoli becomes untenable, and a whole new vista of desperate remedies is conjured up, compared with which the minor resolution to throw at once our military and diplomatic weight into the scale in favour of Serbia calls for little courage.

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THE SUDAN IN WARTIME.

(From a Correspondent.)

Since the time of its institution, over sixteen years ago, the Administration of the Sudan has probably not experienced any such period of inconvenience and handicap as has latterly been its bad fortune, due principally to the loss of many officers and high officials who have been called away by reason of the war. Apart from several lamentable deaths and resignations, the Military Department last year lost the valuable services of Major Grant, who, during the five years that he was Director of Military Works, did much to improve the operations of the department. A programme of some importance, largely formed under the direction of Major Grant, had been prepared for the current year, and in normal circumstances the greater part at least would probably have been carried out. But, owing to the short-handedness of the department, coupled with the fact that it is the fixed purpose of the Administration to conserve the funds at their disposal with the greatest care and not to expend a piastre more than is absolutely imperative, a practical cessation in all new military works has taken place.

Just before Major Grant left the Sudan, he had reported to the Governor-General upon the condition of affairs under his management, observing: "Owing to the war in Europe and the difficulty in obtaining material, it seems probable that little, if any, new work will be proceeded with for some time to come." The prophecy has proved correct. The maximum output of work possible from the department referred to depends upon the following:—(a) adequate initiative power and administrative control by British officers; (b) adequate executive control by Egyptian officers; (c) correct proportion of tradesmen to quantities of work to be done, viz., soldier artizans; and, (d) correct proportion of unskilled labour assisting artizans, viz., civilian unskilled labour.

It has been found that the proportion of (a) and (b) to (c) will have to be materially increased; but as an increase under (a) and (b) would be very difficult to obtain in these abnormal times, the only alternative has been to reduce the proportion of (c), viz., soldier artizans. In the annual budget proposals of the Military Department it has, therefore, been suggested to increase the strength of officers by one British officer and two Egyptian officers, and if this can be carried out—and in view of the scarcity among them, this is no simple thing—there would be but little question as to the ability of the department to do much towards carrying into effect the greater part of the substantial programme outlined. The difficulty has not yet been surmounted, however, and as a consequence much urgent work is still postponed, although it is quite possible to find the necessary number of artizans when required.

Where progress has been made has been in the Sapper Section, which now consists of one Sudanese officer and 36 other ranks. It is hoped to make speedy provision for the full organisation of this unit. All ranks have received some training under Mr. Hart, formerly of the Royal Engineers, and now superintendent of the military workshops. The subjects in which most advance has been noted are: trench work, knotting and lashing, erection of entanglements and trip wires, erection of observation towers, bridging experiments, and improved boats and rafts. The sappers are also being trained in trades, the younger members receiving daily instruction in reading and writing. A special officer is appointed for drill and physical training of the sappers.

A word of commendation should be said for the Headquarter Workshops, which compare in every way with the admirably conducted Government experimental workshops established at Khartoum—in the Gordon College—and at Kassala. The first-named, it may be mentioned, were completely equipped through the generosity of a private benefactor—Sir William Mather, P.C., J.P., formerly M.P. for Salford, Gorton and Rossendale divisions of Manchester. There are about 150 boys at the Khartoum and some 46 at the Kassala schools, while at that of Omdurman, which should also be referred to, as the one other useful establishment of its kind, there are about 53 boys. The Military Headquarter Workshops at Khartoum have been in full working order now for over 18 months, and they turn out all the doors and windows used in the department, all the timber roofing, and an increasing amount of iron roof framing, as well as many other miscellaneous articles, such as iron gates, fencing standards, arm-racks, portable magazines, shelving, etc., etc. No one who has visited any of these three Government schools, and has thus had the opportunity of seeing the boys at work, can doubt that they thoroughly enjoy their labours. A considerable proportion of the boys are Egyptians, and in very humble circumstances. The Sudanese appear to be by far the brighter and more enterprising among the pupils, as well as the cleanest and smartest in appearance. I have noted the same characteristics in connection with the primary schools, both in Khartoum and the provinces.

It is in no way surprising that the rising generation of Sudanese should learn to respect the Government which has done so much for their parents and elder brethren, and is doing equally good service for them. Their natural intelligence enables them to understand the value of their present privileges in regard to the moulding of their future lives, while their by no means blunted feelings—no matter what their detractors may state to the contrary—conduce to their entertaining a feeling of sincere gratitude to their instructors.

MR. H. C. WOODS ON THE DARDANELLES CAMPAIGN.

Speaking before the Central Asian Society on Wednesday last, Mr. H. Charles Woods said that the modern defences of the Dardanelles might be divided into three groups: those which defended the entrance to the straits, those at the Narrows, and those above the Narrows. Over and above these were any forts that might have been constructed during the last few months and temporary forts that were not part of the permanent defences of the straits. There were also the Bulair lines running across the isthmus and protecting the Peninsula of Gallipoli from attack from the east. The narrowness of the Dardanelles denied the power of real manœuvring to ships except those of small size, and it prevented the great guns of large ships from being used to full advantage. The Turks could put up mobile batteries in secluded valleys, and these guns having made their presence unpleasantly felt could be moved to another place even before they could be located and our fire brought to bear upon them. Since the commencement of operations, there had been three distinct stages. The first was the original naval attack, which might be said to have lasted from February 19 to March 18; the second stage was the landing on April 25, and the terrible fighting for three months that followed; while the third was that connected with Suvla Bay operations that took place in the month of August.

There could be no doubt that, provided the necessary forces were available, we were fully justified in undertaking a campaign which, had it been begun and carried out in the right way, would probably have constituted an overwhelming defeat for the Turks. Directly after the entry of the Goeben and the Breslau into the Dardanelles last year, the Allies might have demanded the immediate expulsion of those ships, and, failing this, might have occupied the straits. This might well have been done, not as an act of war against Turkey, but with the object of saving that country from her German enemies, and of keeping open an international highway which the Germans were not then in a position to close. Had an internal revolution followed in Turkey, as might have been the case, that would have been a gain to the Allies' cause, and if war had followed we should have been in a position in the straits to paralyse the power of the Turkish Empire, which would have collapsed if Constantinople had fallen into our hands. All this had been impossible because, unfortunately, we were not then in a position to send a fleet to the Dardanelles. We did not know even now whether it was originally intended to make a dash at the straits, or whether it was intended that the naval attack should be supported by military forces. If the first course was intended, it was clear that those responsible did not know the real strength of the defences. In the alternative, it was a mistake that the naval attack was ordered before an adequate landing force was on the spot to make an attack on the rear of the forts. The attack of February and March was an utter failure. Moreover, it showed the enemy the weak spots in his defences, and before the April attack was made he had ample time to turn the peninsula into an entrenched camp. As to this second attack it was apparent that the magnitude and importance of the Dardanelles operations had been underestimated—as they had continued to be ever since. It was undertaken by contingents, the strength of which was almost ridiculously small, with the result that it became impossible to maintain successes at first obtained. The Turks brought up reinforcements, and the Germans arrived and took over the complete direction of affairs. At the present moment, when a new commander-in-chief was about to take over the direction of operations, it was impossible to forecast the future of the Dardanelles campaign; for the entry of Bulgaria into the war and the continued neutrality of Greece and Roumania had created a situation the importance of which it was impossible to overestimate. We did not know how far this campaign would be influenced by the sending or the not sending of an expedition to some other part of the Balkan Peninsula, and, in any case, it was clear that withdrawal from the Dardanelles would be beset by dangers and accompanied by casualties the magnitude of which had never been equalled in the operations. He hoped the events that had taken place in the Dardanelles would be a warning that any new Balkan operations might prove a far larger operation than anything that was justified under present circumstances.

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THE WAR IN THE BALKANS.

During the past week interest in the great war has centred in the Balkans, and this not only because a certain novelty attaches to our new Near Eastern campaign, but also because it is fully realised that among the hills and vales of Serbia preparations are being pushed forward for the staging of one of the big battles which will have to decide the fate of nations and empires. In the words of Mr. J. L. Garvin in the *Observer* on Sunday, "the Balkans, in the infinitely fateful weeks lying before us, will either be the grave of German ambition or the grave of British hopes." Needless to say, therefore, that the advance of our plucky little army from Salonika northwards into Serbia, accompanied by its French companion army, is being watched anxiously and hopefully, and that the brave resistance and slow retreat of the Serbs in the north is being followed painfully, and yet with sincere admiration.

The Strumitza Salient.

Before analysing the position in the vital sectors of the peculiar "7" shaped front of the Serbian position, a reference must be made to the successful and continued landing of allied forces in Salonika. From the mass of contradictory telegrams published daily from Paris, Rome, Athens, and Bucharest it is difficult to obtain a clear view of the situation—and this applies to the whole Near Eastern campaign—and it is likewise impossible to determine dates, so that we shall have to devote ourselves in the following paragraphs to the news to hand since last week, though in reality the fighting may have occurred more than ten days ago. It would appear certain, however, that the Allied forces have advanced in considerable numbers from Salonika northwards into Serbia, General Sarrail being in command of the French contingent, part of whom, it is said, have got through to Nish. A report published on Tuesday, semi-officially confirmed on Wednesday, and denied yesterday, states that we have crossed the Bulgarian frontier and taken Strumitza. If true, it is an excellent beginning, both as regards its cheering effect on the Serbian *moral* and as regards the importance of its position (or rather that of the hills to the immediate east of the Strumitza River) in relation to the Uskub-Salonika railway line. If, however, the Bulgars' claim to have taken Ishtip by passing down the Ramitza valley is true, it is difficult to see how we have occupied Strumitza itself. At any rate, our forces seem to have cleared the enemy out of the Valandova region to the south of the Bulgarian Strumitza salient and to have kept him away from the railway line in this sector. This must momentarily, and until we have hurriedly sent troops northwards to the Serbian relief, be our main objective south of Vrania.

The Timok Sector.

From the very nature of Serbia's geographical position, the two sectors of most immediate military interest are the Timok region, in the north-east, and the region comprising the low water-shed between the Morava and Vardar Rivers. The former can roughly be said to reach from Zaichar, in a north-westerly direction, to the Danube, and thence along the latter river, in its erratic course east and southwards, to its junction with the Timok River. It forms a salient which, if it falls into the hands of the enemy, will form the connecting link between Berlin and Constantinople through Sofia. In this section desperate fighting has been going on throughout the week, but as to net results very little is known. According to a Bucharest report, Prahovo, Serbia's only railhead port on the Danube opposite Roumania, has been evacuated. Another report states that some of the forts at Zaichar have been taken by the Bulgars, and that they have crossed the Timok River, which forms the boundary between the two countries, in a score of places. The latest Serbian official *communiqué* to hand (dated Sunday) states that the engagements in this sector "have been of no great importance," from which it would appear as though German strategy were bent rather on smashing the Serbian defence of this triangle southwards along the Belgrade-Nish and Pozarevaz-Nish lines as far as Parachin, and thence eastwards along the Parachin-Zaichar line. If successful it would have the effect of cutting off the defenders of the Timok sector from Voivode Putnik's main army. The position is one of extreme peril, and if the Bulgarian claims to wonderful achievements in this sector are substantiated by facts, and unless we can rush up men to the assistance of the Serbs, this important region will have to be given up. The question is, how long can the Serbs hold out?

The Significance of Vrania.

The next most important sector is, as stated, the region forming the water-shed between the Vardar and the Morava, between Vrania, in the north, and Uskub, in the south. The whole of this region is the historic (Kossovo and Kumanovo) and geographical centre of Serbia, and it is here that the enemy are attempting to drive their wedge from east to west across Serbia.

Bulgarian reports state that Vrania has already fallen into the hands of the Bulgarians (it is reported to have occurred on Friday last), whereas a Serbian *communiqué*, issued by the Serbian Legation in London yesterday, but otherwise undated, denies the statement, though admitting that the enemy have seized and are holding "a point in the neighbourhood dominating the railway." The difference between the two reports is, unfortunately of little moment, as the strategic significance of Vrania depends entirely on the railway, and not on the importance of the town as such. It is regrettable that we were not in Vrania a week ago at least to help the Serbs protect this most vulnerable point. If the enemy can hurry up support from the east to his newly acquired position, it will be difficult to dislodge him, especially from the south, owing to the nature of the terrain, which is undulating, as opposed to the hilly surroundings of Vrania. The capture, moreover, of Egri Palankra and Kochana—the latter in the Bregalnitza valley—are, if confirmed, invaluable supports for the Bulgarian attack in this sector, and facilitate the continued interruption of the Salonika line and the westward drive from the Morava towards Northern Albania. It will thus be seen that the situation in this sector, the "waist-line" of Serbia, is far from reassuring. The recapture by us of the enemy position near or at Vrania would be most welcome news. It is essential to the success of the whole campaign.

Drina-Save-Danube Front.

Having thus briefly reviewed events in the two most vital points of the Serbian resistance—vital inasmuch as they are the immediate objectives of the enemy's strategy—we can pass to the other fronts of the Serbian army. The most important of these is the Danube front, because intimately connected with the Bulgarian attempts to break through the Timok defence. On this front, the Serbs are stubbornly fighting a superior force, with a heroism beyond ordinary conception. Belgrade has fallen, and is being ruthlessly sacked and pillaged by the Huns; Semendria and Pozarevaz, the one to the right and the other to the left of the mouth of the Morava, have been evacuated, but not before the enemy was severely punished. "Near the village of Lipe, near Semendria, stubborn fighting took place on the 9th," says an official *communiqué* published in Nish on the 12th inst. "The enemy were able to take and occupy Lipe, but their success cost them heavy losses. In no engagement since the beginning of the new offensive of the enemy has the latter had such great losses. The battlefield is covered with the enemy's dead." According to a German report, Milanovaz, further east on the Danube, has also been captured, and it is only about forty miles as the crow flies from the Bulgarian frontier, and barely twenty miles from Brza Palanka. If the latter falls into German hands, the extreme north-eastern corner of Serbia—formed by a peculiar elbow-twist of the Danube—is doomed, Negotin is threatened on three sides, and the Teuton will be in a position effusively to praise his Bulgar slave. While this strategic plan is maturing, the Teutons are advancing their main army slowly up the Morava valley from their headquarters in Pozarevaz; they are meeting with the fiercest resistance, are losing their soldiers by thousands, but continue, nevertheless, obstinate in their endeavour to penetrate into the heart of Serbia. Simultaneously, from Belgrade southwards and from the Save front, which is in reality merely the continuation of the Danube front, the Austro-Germans are pushing on (a German report says that Obrenovaz has fallen), whilst, step by step, the Serbs are defending their homes and their country from the fate of unhappy Belgium. They are holding their own bravely, but the fight is an unequal one. Magnificent defensive fighting has taken place along the Drina River, where the Austrians are endeavouring to retrieve their disastrous campaigns of last autumn, and where, in all probability, they will, with a view to separating the Serbs from the Montenegrins, attempt to drive a wedge from Vishegrad in a south-westerly direction through the old Sanjak of Novi Bazar. They have succeeded in crossing the Lower Drina in several places, most likely in the sector between the Jardar and the Save, for we hear that Machva, the fertile plain in the extreme north-west, has fallen into enemy hands. Yesterday's German report stated that Shabatz, after a fortnight's valiant defence on the part of the Serbs, had been captured; but, in any case, progress in this corner will be slower than along the Morava front, owing to the extremely difficult mountainous terrain to the south and south-east of Machva.

Gravity of the Situation.

In summing up the obscure military situation in the Balkans, as revealed to us by the conflicting news of the past week, we must rely on admissions of non-success rather than on assertions of victory. This gives us, roughly speaking, the following picture of what is happening: (1) In the southern sector, and as far north as the Strumnitza salient, we have kept the Bulgars away from the Uskub-Salonika Railway. (2) Farther north the Bulgars have crossed the frontier, and have approached (or captured) Egri Palanka and Kochana. They also lay claim to having descended the Bregalnitza to Ishtip. (3) In the Vrania region the Bulgars have cut the railway line between Nish and Uskub, and are in possession of a commanding position. Fierce fighting on this vital front is reported at the time of going to press. (4) Further north, Pirot, and through it Nish, is being threatened along the Nishava valley, but little progress is being made here. (5) In the Timok sector the Bulgars have crossed the boundary in numerous places, lay claim to have captured some frontier villages, and are threatening Negotin, Zaichar, and, further to the south, Kniashevaz. To the north of the same sector the Austro-Germans practically control the southern bank of the Danube, and, in spite of enormous losses, are advancing their main army up the Morava valley. (6) Further to the west the heavy fighting of the last few days to the south of Belgrade has resulted in the enemy pushing the Serbs from Avala slightly further south-east into the hills along the Belgrade-Parachin-Nish railway. (7) On the Save front it is reported that Obrenovaz and Shabatz have fallen, and the Lower Drina has been forced, but in this sector no immediate results are likely to be obtained by the enemy. More importance must, therefore, be attached to the Timok and Vrania sectors. It is here that the brunt of the great fight will have to be borne by the Serbs in the course of the next few weeks, and it is here that she will need all the help which, tardily, we are sending her. If it does not arrive in time, the road from Berlin to the Persian Gulf, in spite of the magnificent resistance of the Serbs, will be in the hands of the armies of the Huns. The moment is a grave one for all of us.

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NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Egyptians as Aliens.

October 14.

The EARL OF CROMER asked whether the statement that had recently appeared in the Press to the effect that Egyptian residents in England were treated as alien enemies was correct. About a year ago he had pointed out that it was undesirable that young Egyptians should be treated as Ottoman subjects, although, of course, they were technically. Nothing was done at the time, and shortly afterwards the Protectorate of Egypt was proclaimed. Although he was not lawyer enough to say whether that made all Egyptians British subjects with all the privileges, he conceived that it did make it politically more desirable that no distinction should be made between Egyptians and other British subjects. An order was issued by the Home Secretary in December last in which the notification was given that Egyptians had ceased to be alien enemies, and he therefore thought the thing had been settled. But he saw it stated in a letter written to *The Times* by an Egyptian that a notice had been issued to him by the police that all Turkish subjects of military age were liable to internment, and therefore Egyptians had been told that unless they obtained exemptions their internment would take place. He wished to know if that statement was true.

LORD NEWTON said that on the 4th of this month instructions were issued to the Metropolitan Police to proceed with the internment of Ottoman subjects, and owing to some mistake, not yet explained, Egyptians had in some instances been served with the notice mentioned in the letter to which the noble lord referred. This mistake had now been corrected by the issue of a new Memorandum, which stated that "it is to be noted that Egyptians, as described in the Memorandum of December 26 last, are not subject to internment or repatriation, and are not to be served with notices." His noble friend had again pointed out the obvious absurdity of treating every technically Ottoman subject as an enemy, and in that everybody who had a most rudimentary acquaintance with the subject would agree with him. He personally (Lord Newton) had taken a great interest in this question and was able to assure the noble lord that there were very few Ottoman subjects interned at this moment in this country.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

British Prisoners in Turkey.

October 14.

Replying to Mr. Peto, LORD R. CECIL said he had no official information as to the conditions under which British merchant seamen are interned in Turkey, but the United States Consul-General at Smyrna was doing all he could for the crews interned at Magnesia. In the absence of proper lists of prisoners it had been impossible to take all the same steps for the assistance of our prisoners in Turkey as of those in Germany, but the United States Ambassador at Constantinople had a fund at his disposal for the relief of British subjects interned in Turkey, and he was being consulted as to whether the activities of the Prisoners of War Help Committee could usefully be extended to Turkey. As far as the speaker was aware, letters and parcels addressed to British subjects interned in Turkey were duly received.

In reply to Mr. Butcher, LORD R. CECIL said:—We have repeatedly pressed the Turkish Government for lists of British prisoners. It was recently decided, in view of the failure of the Turkish Government to communicate to his Majesty's Government lists of the British prisoners of war in their hands, to suspend the dispatch of similar lists to the Turkish Government. In the meantime we have received four lists of British prisoners of war in Turkey, which have been forwarded to the Admiralty or War Office. We received information, dated September 1, that visiting of the British wounded had been absolutely prohibited as a retaliatory measure for supposed ill-treatment of Turkish prisoners. The United States Ambassador at Constantinople at once took steps to secure an official permit for the Secretary of the Embassy to visit freely all wounded in hospitals, and he expected that this would be given at an early date. There is, of course, no foundation whatever for the allegations of ill-treatment of Turkish prisoners, and we so informed the United States Ambassador, and asked him to convey that information to the Turkish Government. We also asked him to inform them that we had no objection to the inspection of any Turkish prisoners of war in our hands by United States Diplomatic or Consular officers, and that we expected that the Porte would give us reciprocal treatment.

Dardanelles Operations.

Mr. OUTHWAITE asked the Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether, in view of the statement made by the British Ambassador at Petrograd that the operations at the Dardanelles were initiated at the request of the Russian Government for the purpose of drawing Turkish forces from the Caucasus, he would state whether the Russian Government continued to attach the same importance to these operations, which, up to October 10, had resulted in 96,899 British casualties.

Lord ROBERT CECIL: It would obviously be improper for me to make any statement regarding the importance attaching to any special theatre of war by any one of our Allies, or even by ourselves. The operations in the Dardanelles are military and naval operations, and the statement of the Ambassador at Petrograd is quite accurate, if quoted accurately. But it must not be taken as a complete statement of all the considerations involved.

Indian Army Officers (Sick Leave).

Colonel YATE asked the Secretary of State for India whether he would consider the case of officers of the Indian Army who, after three months' absence in England, due to disablement on service, are placed on English furlough pay and extend to officers invalided to England the same rate of pay that they would receive if on sick leave in India.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN: The different rates of pay which officers of the Indian Army receive while on sick leave in India and out of India respectively are long established and well recognised. A liberal concession has been already made by the grant of full Indian pay and full staff pay for the first three months of disablement, and I regret I cannot adopt my hon. and gallant friend's suggestion.

The Landing at Salonika.

Mr. G. TERRELL asked whether the Under-Secretary for War would state what British officer was in command of the forces which were being landed at Salonika, and why no public announcement had been made of his name.

Mr. TENNANT: I think my hon. friend must allow discretion to the Government to make announcements on such points as those mentioned at such time as it may be in the public interest to do so.

Anglo-Persian Oil Company.

Commander BELLAIRS asked whether, in organising the oil supply in the territory which has been captured from Turkey, no private monopoly would be conferred other than that secured by public tender; and whether the Government would take care that no pledges were given to the Anglo-Persian Oil Company or any other private company.

Lord ROBERT CECIL (Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs): The subject of the oil in the territories in question is engaging the attention of H.M. Government. While it would be premature to make any definite statement at present, the points raised by the hon. and gallant member will not be lost sight of.

Russia and the Dardanelles.

Asked whether he would issue as a White Paper the speech recently made by the British Ambassador at Petrograd, in which the latter is reported to have stated that the first attack on the Dardanelles was undertaken at the request of the Russian Government, Lord ROBERT CECIL said: "It does not seem worth while to issue this separately. When the next presentation of papers on Russian affairs becomes possible it can be included. I understand it is already accessible in the Press."

Italy and Serbia.

Sir H. DALZIEL asked the Prime Minister whether Italian forces were to co-operate with the British and French forces in Serbia.

Mr. LLOYD GEORGE replied: The method in which Italy can most effectively co-operate in helping Serbia or in the common cause is under discussion between the Allies.

Allied Command in Serbia.

Asked by Sir H. DALZIEL whether the Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Expeditionary Force in Serbia would be French or British, Mr. LLOYD GEORGE replied: My right hon. friend regrets that he is not in a position to make an announcement in this matter.

The Bulgarian Negotiations.

Asked by Mr. KING whether it was intended to lay upon the table papers showing the negotiations with Bulgaria before the departure of the British Minister from Sofia, Lord R. CECIL said: It is difficult to separate the negotiations with Bulgaria from those with the other Balkan States, but papers will be laid as soon as this can be done without detriment to the public interest and in agreement with our Allies with whom we were a party to these negotiations.

Mesopotamia Operations.

October 20.

Replying to Mr. BUTCHER, Mr. TENNANT said that no time was being wasted in connection with the granting of distinctions and honours in recognition of the gallantry and brilliant achievements of the officers and men now operating in Mesopotamia. "It is hoped," added Mr. Tennant, "that the list will be issued almost immediately."

The Suvla Bay Command.

Lieutenant-Commander WEDGWOOD asked the Under-Secretary for War who the officer was who was in command of the troops that landed at Suvla Bay; whether he was still in command; and, if not, whether he was still in the Service receiving full pay.

Mr. TENNANT: The officer who was in command at Suvla Bay is no longer in any command. I do not think it would be in the public interest to say more on this point at the present time.

Baghdad Contingencies.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN, in answer to a question by Lieutenant-Commander WEDGWOOD as to whether the possibility of a German advance on Baghdad was receiving the attention of those responsible for the Anglo-Indian Expeditionary Force in Mesopotamia, and whether a sufficient supply of river gunboats was available either to press the advance or cover the retreat, said: The contingencies mentioned by the hon. and gallant member and the provision required to be made against them have received due consideration.

Egyptian Legislative Assembly.

Replying to Mr. GINNELL, Sir E. GREY said: As far as I am aware, the Legislative Assembly of Egypt has not sat since the outbreak of war. The power of the Sultan and his responsible advisers has not been suspended.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

A Swiss View of Serbia.

In a leading article, "Ce qui se prépare," the *Journal de Genève* (October 12) adds its quota to the tribute of admiration which the civilized world has paid to the gallantry of Serbia in face of her terrible danger. We quote the following paragraphs:—

Depuis la chute de Venizelos, un secours grec est devenu peu probable. Les Roumains ne donnent pas signe de vie. Dans ces conditions, s'il ne se produit un miracle. . . . les Serbes pourront lutter avec tout l'héroïsme dont ils ont déjà donné au monde le superbe spectacle, leur triomphe paraît impossible. Ils vont être vaincus et écrasés. Leurs victoires même ont enragé leurs ennemis, bien décidés à les supprimer et à se partager leurs dépouilles. . . . Il n'y a peut-être pas, dans l'histoire, une épopée comparable à celle du peuple serbe.

And here is the writer's sad conclusion:—

Le peuple serbe, à l'inverse de ses voisins, peut avoir des défauts. Mais sa résurrection héroïque aurait dû lui valoir la sympathie de tous les Etats chrétiens. Il n'a trouvé longtemps devant lui que machinations ténébreuses. Il a été égaré par plusieurs mauvais bergers. Son fonds de dévouement, de bravoure, de confiance dans l'avenir, de fidélité à sa foi religieuse, n'a jamais été entamé. Il a donné dans sa lutte contre l'Autriche-Hongrie un exemple prodigieux. Le voir écraser aujourd'hui entre l'Allemagne, l'Autriche, les Turcs d'un côté, les sujets aveuglés de Ferdinand de Cobourg, de l'autre, par tant de brutalité, doublée de tant de félonie, ne sera-ce pas un spectacle atroce, surtout pour les petits peuples, qui estiment posséder, comme les grands, le droit de vivre et de se développer selon leurs traditions et leur génie propres?

Italy and Roumania.

In an article entitled "The Frontiers of Right," a writer in *World's Work* (October) makes the following observations regarding Roumania and Italy. Since the article was written the question of Italian troops for the Balkans has arisen, and Italy's hesitation seems to give colour to the paragraph which we quote:—

The curious international situation in regard to Roumania remains as it was, causing one almost to believe all the amazing stories told about secret treaties between this country, Serbia, Greece, and Italy. It is strangely significant that Italy is not yet at war with Germany, although she is with Austria and Turkey. The only reason one can imagine for such a situation is the truth of the story that an undisclosed treaty between Italy and Roumania compels the latter to go to the assistance of the former in case she is attacked by two Great Powers.

The Kaiser made ominous threats about the wreaking of his vengeance upon Italy in case she decided to go to war against the Central Empires, but so far he shows such a remarkable restraint in carrying out his threats that one is almost inclined to believe the story about the Italo-Roumanian agreement.

The Path to Victory.

In the usual short preface to its weekly article on the war the *Observer* (October 17) says that "if we fail in the Near East there can be no thorough victory over the Central Empires." The whole of this article is devoted to the position in the Balkans, and through it all there is the one imperative note, "Save Serbia." This, in the writer's opinion, is the keynote to success, the one unfailing guarantee of victory, which may be ours if we act with strength and promptitude now.

The conditions are such that if only we are strong and prompt enough we can wrest good out of evil and turn the Balkan struggle entirely and fatally to German disadvantage. . . .

The wider the Central Empires spread their forces the better, on condition that in the Balkans, as in France and Russia, they are baulked in the first instance of their fell purpose. Then, indeed, the enemy will be entangled in a hopeless situation. The Balkan enterprise will be a log tied to his leg. Serbia will be fatal, after all, to those who first decreed all the horror and slaughter of the world-war by the ultimatum against Serbia.

The writer urges the postponement of the offensive in the West if this is necessary to the despatch of men and munitions in sufficient quantities to ensure the certainty of success in the Balkans. In reference to our diplomacy in Greece and Roumania, the *Observer* says:—

We must act at Bucharest and at Athens as we failed to act at Sofia. We must guarantee Roumania and Greece that with the Allies they will be on the winning side. To make that guarantee fully effective we must pledge ourselves to raise the British and French forces in the Balkans within a stipulated time to a strength of half a million men, and more, if need be.

Coming to the repudiation of its treaty with Serbia by the Zaimis Ministry at Athens, the article continues:—

We doubt whether the consequences of that policy, if adhered to, have been fully understood in Athens. It would mean, in effect, a repudiation on the part of King Constantine and his Government of the Treaty of Bucharest, under which Greece received all her additions of territory. It is quite impossible for Greece to have all the profit arising out of the arrangements of 1913 with none of the responsibilities.

The following quotation is taken from the concluding paragraph of the article:—

If we grasp the situation, Germany must either give up the attack on Serbia and abandon both her Bulgars and her Turks, or the "Balkan ulcer" will be a drain on the enemy's strength—just when it is becoming, in any case, barely sufficient for its task anywhere—as was the "Spanish ulcer" on Napoleon's.

The Balkan Crisis.

In an editorial under the above title, the *Statist* of October 16 discusses the landing of Allied forces in Salonika, and concludes by saying:—

We would advise our readers to reserve judgment, to take fully into their consideration the strong reasons that exist for doing what is possible to prevent an Austro-German force overrunning Serbia, relieving Constantinople, and opening the way to the Persian Gulf. It is not a very small interest that we are fighting for. The attack of the Central European Empires is an attack upon a position which is of the very utmost interest to us, for it is practically an attack upon the road to India. It may be, of course, that strategic considerations would decide in favour of crushing the enemy in France, Belgium, and Poland rather than in dispersing forces so widely. But it is to be presumed that the British Empire, Russia, France, and Italy have all taken counsel with their military and naval advisers, and that they have not rushed blindly and ignorantly into what they must be aware is a very grave undertaking.

The Siege of the Central Powers.

The Right Hon. C. F. G. Masterman has contributed an article under the above head to the *Daily Chronicle* (October 20), in which he shows the German campaign in the Near East to be the last effort possible if the siege of the Central Powers is to be prevented from becoming absolutely complete. The writer enumerates the points at which the siege is already deadly, and continues:—

In all that gigantic encirclement of fire and steel, by land and sea, only one little door remains unstopped. It is a little door, but it is of immense importance, because it is a door behind which are the only conceivable reinforcements and reserves upon which those beleaguered Empires could draw. Like the "little door" of "Alice in Wonderland," it leads to the Enchanted Garden. Beyond it is all the magic of the East, which has fascinated and drawn to it and destroyed so many great conquerors.

Will this door be thrust open? If so, can it be kept open? In answer to the first question, the writer considers it possible that the door may be opened, but even if it is he does not think that it will remain so. There is no analogy, he thinks, between Belgium and Serbia. The one was a peace-loving country, flat, too, and unsuited to retaliation when once the German armies had passed through; Serbia is different.

The Serbian may break up into guerilla warfare amongst those hills and chestnut woods, as Spain did before the advance of Napoleon's armies, and prove equally unconquerable; and with Salonica as a secure sea base, like the Lisbon of a hundred years ago, it may be that the Serbians, like the Spanish guerillas, backed by help through that base from oversea, may not only render that corridor between Europe and Asia untenable, but materially assist in the killing and wounding of the German and Austrian effectives, which is the real and immediate purpose of the war.

Mr. Masterman considers any discussion as to the action that should be taken by the Anglo-French armies as either futile or mischievous. Only the Governments of the allied nations can know the exact circumstances; it should be left without question to the Governments to decide.

An Appeal from M. Mestrovic.

A correspondent, a Serbian gentleman now in England, has drawn our attention to an article which had escaped our notice. It is entitled "The Sorrows of My Country," and is contributed to the *Weekly Dispatch* (October 10) by M. Ivan Mestrovic, the famous sculptor, whose name is well known to readers of THE NEAR EAST. At the moment when the German invasion of Serbia began M. Mestrovic was impelled to express the feelings of his race in face of the dire peril with which it is threatened:—

I can only speak what I feel in my inmost soul, but in so doing I think I am only expressing the feelings of every man of my race at a time when we are endeavouring to carry into execution the dream of so many generations of our ancestors, which is nothing less than the final union and liberation from tyranny of the whole southern Slav race.

Everywhere around me I hear you say in England, "Poor little Serbia."

You cannot tell how those words of intelligent compassion thrill my soul, as indeed they must move every man with a

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soul when he thinks of the agony of Serbia in a struggle which is more Homeric even than Homer

Serbia, he says, is prepared to resist to the death, "but how different the stature of the combatants, and as if to accentuate this difference, lo! those who are her brothers in blood are falling away from her and leaving her alone to bear the brunt of the shock, forgetting the while that to-day the Balkans must stand as one together or fall into eternal slavery." And here is a passage eloquent of the feeling that unites all the Jugoslav peoples:—

I was myself born in Dalmatia, the country, I consider, which of all civilisation possesses the most beautiful traditions and the cradle of the Jugoslav ideals of unity, so you can imagine the tortures I feel at the thought that even after this war, with its deluge of heroes' blood, my country, instead of becoming united to the kindred race, must be wrenched farther apart than ever!

The blood that has flowed red in the valley of the Vardar has made it too precious to give up, and the tears that have flowed in torrents down the grey rocks of the Dalmatian coast have made the land for ever proof against whatever cannon shall attempt to threaten its liberty. The sighs and aspirations of Croatia are too precious, the necessity of Slavonia too urgent, and the sufferings of Bosnia, so long crushed under an iron heel, are too acute that they should be longer separated and kept apart instead of being encouraged to join in the great fraternal movement of emancipation begun by Serbia and Montengro

So great are our sufferings, in fact, that Serbia appears to me as a figure drowning in the blood of its own wounds. Surely—I cry out—surely Europe cannot at such a time demand of us the amputation of our very limbs—Croatia, Istria, Macedonia, Dalmatia!

The article concludes with an urgent appeal for help:—

Ah, hurry, hurry, lest it be too late, and, believe me, as I know my own people, I tell you this—when victory and peace crown our cause at least there is no nation on earth will prove its gratitude to humanity than will my own beloved united Jugoslavia.

The Problem of the Adriatic.

In contributing his second article on the above subject to the *Outlook* (October 9), Mr. V. R. Savitch gives a detailed table of the nationalities of the inhabitants of the provinces of the Adriatic coasts, where meet the interests of the Italians and the Serbo-Croatians. The Slav population is shown to be 1,052,082, out of a grand total numbering 1,506,891, the balance being made up of 372,623 Italians and 32,186 Germans. He then proceeds to combat certain arguments of the Italian Press that Italy possesses ethnographic claims upon these provinces, and that as they contain a large Italian population they should be incorporated by Italy in order to achieve her national unity.

The argument for Italian incorporation of those provinces based upon ethnography must fall at once when we look at the numbers of the racial statistics. In Dalmatia, against a pure Serbo-Croatian population numbering 630,000, the Italians number only 18,000, which represents less than 3 per cent. of the total population. Therefore to base the Italian rights of occupation upon ethnography would be sheer absurdity.

In the remaining provinces of Istria, Trieste, and Goritza the writer admits that the Italian claims on ethnographical grounds are better founded, although they are not justified, and quotes an imposing array of statistics in support of his latter assertion. He denies also that there are any sufficient historical rights to justify Italian claims and concludes:—

The closer study of the Italian claims on the Adriatic will convince us at once that those claims, though announced in the name of military efficiency and strategic frontiers, are calculated to serve the interests of Italian commercialism, and to secure for Italy a practical monopoly of the whole trade in the Adriatic. Not only the Serbo-Croatian ports would be placed in Italian territorial waters, and under the command of the Italian guns, but the Italian territorial claims in the Northern Dalmatia are carefully calculated to the effect to impede and hinder a possible new railway communication between Croatia and her historical ports in Dalmatia. The projected railway line, before reaching Splet (Spalato), would have to pass through Italian territory, and its trade would be obliged to pass to an Italian port. Of course, the commercial and economic development of the South Slav country would be handicapped, which must be a new source of antagonism and friction between both nations.

The Cost of Greek Hesitation.

In writing of the hesitation of Greece in the *Morning Post* (October 15), Mr. E. B. Osborn insists that if the country remains a spectator, her position will be compromised, whatever the ultimate decision:—

If Serbia be crushed and the road cleared to Constantinople and Salonika for the Germanic policy of *Drang nach Osten* (which seeks its profit in Asia Minor and Mesopotamia), Greece must inevitably be deprived of the territory she gained in the Balkan wars.

A clear statement of the territorial and other advantages which went to Greece as the result of the Balkan wars is followed by the obvious argument that in the event of victory attending the Germanic Powers "the *spolia opima* would be returned to Turkey, and Bulgaria would take the rest—how else could they be recompensed for their services to Austria and Germany?" If, on the other hand, the Allies are victorious, the writer considers that the "benevolent neutrality" of these times will command less for Greece than what would have been given had one single Greek soldier fallen in the cause of civilisation:—

It is true no doubt, that no penalty would be imposed for her failure to grasp a great opportunity—that nothing would be done to bring home to her the vast difference between "benevolence" based on definite treaty-rights (Serbia is entitled to the use of Salonika as a supply-port) and the beneficence which risks all to gain all in a glorious cause. In the peace settlement that should come, however, Serbia will be regarded as the equal of any of the Great Powers engaged, and must be rewarded in proportion to the stupendous sacrifices she has made. She must, *inter alia*, have her long-desired outlet on the Ægean, and Greece, if she chooses to remain a spectator throughout, might have to pay something for her seat at the spectacle. Why not? She cannot expect to have it both ways; she is not in the position of, say, Spain or Norway.

The remainder of an interesting article is divided between an examination of the causes which, in Mr. Osborn's opinion, have combined to hold Greece from decisive action and a disquisition on "Philhellenism."

Russia and the Dardanelles.

Although the entrance of Bulgaria into the war has considerably modified the picture presented by "A Military Correspondent," who writes of the Eastern war areas in the *Asiatic Review* (October 1), there is still much of interest in his résumé. The article is divided into two parts, the first of which deals with the Dardanelles and the second with the Russian retreat. In his observations on the Dardanelles the writer points to the ever-increasing difficulty of transport of men and material which besets the Turk in this campaign. This difficulty, by the way, is in no way set aside by the mere fact of Bulgaria's intervention, as some of the more pessimistic of our journals appear to imagine. We quote a paragraph in reference to the part which Russia has played towards the attainment of this end:—

One factor of the campaign which has not received the attention it merits is the aid furnished by Russia in the Black Sea—indirect aid, it is true, but not less valuable for that. When it was found that a shortage of munitions was likely to occur in Gallipoli, the German masters of Turkey established munition factories at Constantinople, and an immediate shortage was averted. But for the working of munition factories coal is needed, and, since there is no rail communication between the Turkish coalfields and Constantinople, fleets of colliers conveyed the mineral to the factories by way of the Black Sea—until the Russian Black Sea Fleet got to work. The Turkish plan at the outset was to send numbers of small colliers out, in the hope that some, at least, would get through—and they were sunk by the hundred by Russian torpedo-boats. When these small unescorted craft had been practically swept off the water, the plan of sending larger vessels under escort was tried—and with no better success, for in the last Black Sea action the Turkish escort vessels were severely punished, and the coal-carriers were sunk.

Articles to Note.

"Bulgaria and Her Method of Fighting," by an Englishman from Sofia, in the *World* (October 19).

"Bulgaria," by M. W. Patterson, in the *Standard* (October 20).

"Entente Powers and the Balkans," by M. Stephen Pichon, and "The Near East Situation: Interview with Mr. Ashmead-Bartlett," in the *Sunday Times* (October 17).

"Belgrade Under the Austrian Occupation," by Helen Douglas-Irvine, in the *Pall Mall Gazette* (October 18).

"Serbia and the Serbian People," by Charles Sarolea, and "Eleutherios Venizelos: the Regenerator of Greece," in *Everyman* (October 15).

"The Danube River," by J. M. Doddington, in *Country Life* (October 16).

"Boldness, Boldness, and Again Boldness," in the *Spectator* (October 16).

"Salonika," in the *Field* (October 16).

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ROLL OF HONOUR.

British Subjects from Turkey in H.M.'s Forces.

The Editor of THE NEAR EAST *would be obliged if relatives of former British residents in the Near East who have joined H.M.'s forces would communicate additional names or other particulars for insertion in our Roll of Honour. Biographical details concerning those who have fallen in their country's service would also be appreciated.*

ASHE, Lance-Corp. R., R.E.
ATKINSON, Bombardier G. M., 266th Battery, 85th Brigade, R.F.A., Colchester.
ATKINSON, Gunner T., "A" Co., Royal Field Artillery.
BAKER, Captain A. Warden, 7th Royal Scots Fusiliers.
BARRON, 2nd Lieut. J. B., Worcester Regiment, France.
BATH, Nurse, Sister, Army Hospital, Malta.
BINNS, 2nd Lieut. Harold H., Intelligence, M.E.F., c/o G.P.O.
BINNS, Lieut. C. E., R.M. (Interpreter to Mediterranean Forces).
BOLTON, Alfred, Naval Brigade.
BOND, Private H. C., 7th (Reserve) City of London Regt.
BOND, Gladwyn J. T., Inns of Court O.T.C.
BOND, Trooper Sidney (1,779), Royal Horse Guards. (Wounded.)
BOND, Corporal R. (41,357), Headquarters Staff, "D" Battery, 79th Brigade, R.F.A., 17th Division, B.E.F., France.
BORRELL, Rifleman Alfred, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
BOWMAN, Private Henry J., R.A.M.C., Duke of York's Barracks, Chelsea.
BROOKS, Corporal G., Royal Field Artillery, Swanage.
BURN, E. R., 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
BURNS, Rifleman Edward, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade. (*Accidentally Killed.*)
CASTELL, Rifleman Henry, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
CAUCHI, Act. Corporal Henry (6113), 19th Service Battalion, C. Company, Royal Fusiliers, Epsom, Surrey.
CLIFTON, Capt. H., Interpreter, 11th Batt. Durham Light Infantry, 54th Division, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.
COLES, Dr. D. A., R.A.M.C. (formerly of the English Hospital. Haifa).
COLLEY, Trooper Isaac E., Royal Horse Guards.
CORBETT, Lieut. H. C., M.D., R.A.M.C.
CRAWFORD, Private James, 7th (Reserve) City of London Regiment.
CUMBERBATCH, Lieut. A. Noël, 9th East Yorkshire Regiment, Fulford Barracks, York.
CUMBERBATCH, 2nd Lieut. H. D., 9th Batt. the Buffs.
CUMBERBATCH, Lieut. and Adjutant R. C., 7th Batt. Rifle Brigade.
CUMING, Bombardier A. C., 262nd Battery, R.F.A., 84th Brigade, Colchester.
DAVIDSON, Bombardier C. T., 266th Battery, 85th Brigade, R.F.A., Colchester.
ELLIOTT, Eric C., 2nd Lieut., Essex Regiment, 11th Battalion.
ELLIOTT, Flight Sub-Lieut. Clifford W., R.N.A.S.
EPPSTEIN, Lieut. W. R., Durham Light Infantry.
FAULKNER, Lieut. M., Admiralty House, Malta.
FROMANT, Private F., Grenadier Guards.
GALLIA, Rifleman M., 7th (S) Batt. Rifle Brigade.
GOODACRE, Miss C., Red Cross, Shoreham.
GOUT, Captain Charles L., 2/4th King's Own Yorkshire L.I., Hyde Park Schools, Doncaster.
GOUT, Rifleman Evelyn, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
GOUT, Rifleman Richard, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
HADKINSON, Rifleman Vivian H., "A" Co., 7th Batt. Rifle Brigade, Queen's El Ward, Bed 40, Graylingwell War Hospital, Chichester. (*Wounded.*)
HIGGS, Private J., 6th Dragoon Guards.
HOLMES, 2nd Lieut. Gerald H., 2/5th Batt. Leicestershire Regiment.
HOLTON, Corporal Alfred, Royal Naval Division, Divisional Engineers.
HOLTON, Trooper John, B. Squadron, Essex Yeomanry.
IRELAND, Private D. J. (3340), 15th County of London Regiment.
JACKSON, Rifleman Edward, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
KERR, Miss E., Q.A.I.M.N.S.R., H.M. Hospital Ship Brighton, British Expeditionary Force, France.
KEYSER, Lieut. A. G., 8th Batt. King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry.
KEYSER, 2nd Lieut. R. N., 10th Batt. East Lancashire Regiment.
KEYSER, 2nd Lieut. Henry, 2/10th Batt. Middlesex Regiment.
KEYSER, 2nd Lieut. J. C., 2/9th Batt. (D.C.O.) Middlesex Regiment.
LA FONTAINE, Rifleman Fred., 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
LA FONTAINE, 2nd Lieut. Hugh, 2/7th City of London Regiment.
LA FONTAINE, Sub-Lieut. J. S., R.N.V.R., Hawke Battalion. (*Wounded.*)
LANDER, 2nd Lieut. Arthur.
LE BAILLY, Lieutenant R. F., R.N.V.R., Recruiting Officer for Royal Naval Air Service, Brook Green Road, Hammersmith.
LORIMER, Private D., Army Service Corps, Aldershot.
MACKENZIE, 1st Lieut. W., Egyptian Labour Corps.
MACKINNON, Private Eric, 9th Royal Scots Highlanders.
MACKINNON, Dr. F., R.A.M.C.
MACKINNON, Dr. J. M., Captain E.A.M.S., British East Africa.
MACKINNON, Patrick, Sapper, Divisional Engineers, 1st Canadian Contingent.
MACKRAY, E. D., Dardanelles Expeditionary Force.
MICHEU, Bombardier C. G., Royal Field Artillery.
MOORE, Miss K. M., Royal Red Cross, Serbia.
MORRISON, 2nd Lieut. J., 4th Seaforth Highlanders, B.E.F., France.
MORTON, Private Stanley, 2nd Sportsman's Battalion.
MOSS, 2nd Lieut., Public Schools Battalion.
MUMFORD, P. F., Army Service Corps, R.E., Baldock.
MUNRO, 2nd Lieut. J. G., 4th Scottish Rifles, Fort Matilda, Greenock.
NOWILL, 2nd Lieut. Sidney J. P., 2/7th City of London Regiment.
PARKER, Trooper G., Royal Horse Guards.
PATERSON, Lieut. Alexander, R.A.M.C., The Military Hospital, The Castle, Edinburgh.
PEACOCK, 2nd Lieut. Frank, 4/4th Batt. London Regiment, Royal Fusiliers.
PENGELLEY, Sapper Walter, R.E.
POYNTER, Lieut. Hugh E., No. 2 Base Supply Depot, Portishead, Somerset.
RAMSAY, Corporal F. R. F., 14th Service Batt. Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.
REES, Trooper R. (1709), Squadron D (in Egypt), Herts Yeomanry, c.o. G.P.O., Southampton.
ROBINSON, Lance-Corporal J. E., Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment (formerly of the C.M.S. College, Jerusalem. (*Killed in action.*)
RICE, Rifleman Cecil, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade. (*Died from Wounds.*)
ROUTH, 2nd Lieut. C., 3rd/8th (D.C.O.) Middlesex Regiment.
SACKVILLE-WEST, 2nd Lieut. Hon. B., R.N.V.R.
SAMSON, Seaman George McKenzie, V.C., R.N.R. (*Seriously Wounded.*)
SEAGER, Lieut. John Owen, B. Co., Public Schools Batt., 16th Middlesex Regiment, Woldingham.
SHAW, 2nd Lieut. T., R.E.
SIMMONS, Gunner H. C., 123rd Heavy Battery, R.G.A. (*Died from Wounds.*)
STEPLING, Rev. Canon, R.A.M.C.
STOCK, Lieut. H. W., Royal Marines. (Serving abroad.)
SUMMERS, Lieut. H. C., R.N.V.R., H.M.S. "Europa."
SUNDERLAND, Interpreter (at the front).
THOMPSON, Lieut. Harold H., R.N.V.R.
THOMPSON, John, Interpreter, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, Alexandria.
THOMPSON, Commander W. A., R.N.V.R., H.M.S. "Egmont."
THWAITES, Dr. H., R.A.M.C., France.
TORRANCE, Dr. D., R.A.M.C.
TRENTER, Trooper T., Household Cavalry.
VAN LENNEP, Private E., 2nd Sportsman's Battalion.
VAN MILLINGEN, 2nd Lieut. Charles A. M., 14th Rifle Brigade.
VAN MILLINGEN, Private R. G. C., 3rd Batt. London Scottish.
VEDOVA, Rifleman Eghbert, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
VEDOVA, Rifleman Lionel, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade. (*Killed in Action.*)
VERE, Lieut.-Commander Harry, R.N.
WARREN, Act.-Corporal R. M., 7th (S) Batt. Rifle Brigade. (*Killed in Action.*)
WEALE, 2nd Lieut. W. W. C., 11th Batt. Devonshire Regiment. (*Wounded.*)
WELLS, Nurse, Sister, Army Hospital, Malta.
WHEATLEY, Miss, Sister, Q.A.I.M.N.S.R. No. 21, Ambulance Train, British Expeditionary Force.
WHEELER, Captain P. F. C. d'Erf, 1st Dorset Regiment. (*Wounded.*)
WHEELER, 2nd Lieut. Geoffrey Nowell Popham d'Erf, 7th Dorset Regiment, Portsmouth.
WHITTALL, Captain G., 1st Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry.
WHITTALL, 2nd Lieut. Arthur, 7th (Res.) City of London Regiment.
WHITTALL, Lieut. Hugh, Royal Marines. (Serving abroad.)
WHITTALL, Private Kenneth, 10th Batt. Royal Fusiliers, Colchester.
WHITTALL, Private Roland, 10th Batt. Royal Fusiliers. (*Died from Wounds.*)
WHITTALL, Rifleman Walter, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade. (*Wounded.*)
WOODS, Harold, Interpreter, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, Alexandria.
WRATISLAW, Captain J. C., 8th Leicestershire Regiment, 110 Brigade, 37th Division, B.E.F., France.

An appeal for further contributions and gifts to enable the supply of comforts to our troops in Gallipoli to be continued is made by Lady Ian Hamilton and the Committee of Lady Hamilton's Dardanelles Fund. The work of despatching the gifts to the front is now discharged on behalf of Lady Hamilton's fund by the Queen Alexandra's Field Force Fund, whose premises are at 24A, Hill Street, Knightsbridge. It is worthy of note that though numerous complaints have been received of the non-arrival of packages despatched by the ordinary parcels post, so far the things forwarded by Lady Hamilton's workers have found their way with accuracy into the hands of the men for whom they were intended. In many cases acknowledgments follow from the men or their officers, and they are alike strong in their expressions of gratitude and appreciation. In a letter from a base depôt an Army chaplain writes: "Last week I had one of the greatest treats of my life, and I only wish I could write a full report to show you and your Committee how grateful we are for your good gifts, and what a service you are performing to our dear lads. God bless you all for it—that is not only my prayer, but the prayer of hundreds of our boys, who are giving their best. What does not a shirt mean to a man who has not had his off for weeks! And many of our boys are of gentle birth. . . . Most of the men are in bivouac, and we have unfortunately had some tropical thunderstorms, with cold nights. I leave the rest to your imagination."

The brother of the Prime Minister of Abyssinia, who had been undergoing treatment at Alexandria for about two months, is now at Cairo, where he has been admitted into the French Hospital at Abbassia, says the *Egyptian Gazette*. He has proceeded to Cairo on the invitation of a delegate of his Eminence the Coptic Patriarch.

Dr. R. O. Moon delivered the first of the Chadwick Public Lectures on "Typhus in Serbia" at the Royal Society of Medicine, Wimpole Street, on Wednesday. He said that during the present war the armies of France and England, fighting in numbers which had never been equalled before, had remained entirely free from typhus. The second lecture of the course will be given on Friday, the 29th inst.

Mr. Ellis Ashmead Bartlett, who has just returned from Gallipoli, will lecture at the Queen's Hall, Langham Place, on Wednesday next, at 8.15, on "The Operations in the Dardanelles."

At the quarterly Court of Governors of the Seamen's Hospital Society (Dreadnought), held on the 14th inst. at the Institute of Chartered Accountants, Sir Percival Nairne presiding, it was reported by the committee that five convoys of sick and wounded naval ratings from the Dardanelles had been received at the Dreadnought, while a sixth was expected. The result of the special appeal made by Lord Devonport's Committee has been the collection of £34,000, and contributions are still being received.

Now that the cold weather is approaching help is urgently required for the Royal Naval Air Service Comforts Fund, originated last year by Mrs. Sueter, wife of Commodore Murray F. Sueter, the present Superintendent of Aircraft Construction. Contributions in kind should consist of warm underclothing, mufflers, etc. The cash contributions are devoted primarily to the purchase of such garments when urgently required by the men abroad who cannot purchase them on the spot, and for the purpose of buying cigarettes, tobacco, etc. Cheques should be made out to Mrs. Sueter, The Howe, Watlington, Oxon. Contributions in kind specifically intended for the men of the Royal Naval Air Service with the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force may be sent to Mrs. Samson, mother of Commander C. R. Samson, at the Grand Hotel, Trafalgar Square, and to Mrs. Thomson, 10, Great Stanhope Street.

The Hon. B. R. Wise, having been instructed by the State Government in Sydney to hand over to the proper authorities the sum of £5,000, representing £3,000 subscribed by private citizens and £2,000 by the Government of New South Wales, for the relief of distress in Serbia and Montenegro, has forwarded a cheque for £4,000 to the Serbian Relief Fund and one for £1,000 to the Montenegrin Red Cross and Relief Fund.

The Sailors' and Soldiers' Tobacco Fund is making a special effort to provide a Christmas gift for our troops at the Front, including those in the Mediterranean and the Persian Gulf. All contributions should be addressed to the Managing Secretary, Sailors' and Soldiers' Tobacco Fund, Central House, Kingsway.

Lady Maud Wilbraham writes: "The Admiralty are asking me to send as many sweaters as I can for the hospital ships coming back from Gallipoli, as the men suffer so from the cold in the Bay of Biscay and on landing. I have already sent 260, and they ask for more. Parcels should be sent to me at 62, Lower Sloane Street, S.W."

A DAY IN THE DARDANELLES
LECTURE BY
H. W. NEVINSON
(War Correspondent just returned from Gallipoli),
Portman Rooms, Baker Street,
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24th, 5 p.m.
Reserved seats, 2/6 and 1/-, from United Suffragists, 27, Chancery Lane, W.C.; or at the Portman Rooms.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

Sir Edward Grey's reference to cotton prices in Egypt (reproduced elsewhere) was the official view of a very complicated question. As such, it appears to have disposed of the whole problem in less than a dozen lines. I would that I could be as concise! Last year, when war broke out, the grower had to be protected from utter ruin. Prices collapsed, and he could not sell his purchases at anything under a decided loss. Steps were taken to prevent this, and the Governments of the great cotton-growing countries appeared on the scene as purchasers at normal prices. This sent the price up, and the growers were saved. This year prices are inflated, due principally to speculation in America. An authority on cotton questions, to whom I have spoken, believes that this speculation is mainly due to the fact that it has generally been given out—not without a motive—that the stocks held in America are far lower than they really are, and that the world's consumption will show no great decrease. Both suppositions, and more particularly the latter, are entirely erroneous. The fact is that this year's cotton supply is more than enough to meet all demands, and that, therefore, there is no need for inflated prices and no further need to protect the grower. The man to be protected now is the consumer, and this can only be done if the Governments interested step in as sellers instead of buyers. They were buyers last year to protect the grower; let them now be sellers to protect the consumer, else prices will go on rising to an extent beyond all justification. I see that the High Commissioner for Egypt has promised the grower Government support, if necessary. I do not know whether, in the long run, this will have been a wise move or not, because I am sure that it will tend to keep prices up above their normal, to the great detriment of the consumer.

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Last Thursday week Commander Bellairs asked in the House whether, in organising the oil supply in the territory which had been captured from Turkey, no private monopoly would be conferred other than that secured by public tender; and whether the Government would take care that no pledges were given to the Anglo-Persian Oil Company or any other private company. The answer was that "the subject of the oil in the territories in question is engaging the attention of H.M. Government," but that the points raised would not be lost sight of. I do not see how Government could have given any other answer to so futile a question—an echo, one might think, of last year's violent opposition to the arrangement concluded between the Government and the Anglo-Persian Oilfields, whereby the latter certainly lost a good deal of that "private" character to which Commander Bellairs was pleased to refer. This point should not be lost sight of in future.

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Another oil topic of considerable interest reproduced in our financial columns is the circular issued by the directors of the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields. The gist of the circular is, practically, an admission that the company's available financial resources are approaching exhaustion. What is wanted, argue the directors, is a better working arrangement with the Egyptian Government, and, if it should be obtained, an increase of capital, by £50,000 to £100,000, might be justified. Supposing, however, these better conditions are not obtainable, what is to happen? We are not told. One immediate effect of the circular was to send the Anglo-Egyptian "B" shares down to 3s.

***

I have frequently pointed out in these columns that there are many experts, both in this country and in Egypt, who maintain that the management of the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields never went about the development of the Egyptian field in the right way; that they continuously exploited shallow oils only—sometimes, admittedly, with momentarily successful results; and that they refused to give the deep boring a chance of proving the existence or non-existence of lower petroliferous strata. It has even been asserted that, unless "deep" oil is struck, the future of Egypt as an oil-producing country is nil, as it cannot depend on shallow oil alone. The necessary deduction to be made from the above expert view is that if the company continues tapping its various properties only by means of numerous small borings, the venture will never pay, whatever the working arrangement with the Government. The latter, on the other hand, should impose on the company a condition (for a consideration, if necessary) obliging it to sink at least some of its wells to a depth where, according to the experts of deep boring, oil should be struck. An alternative is that the Government should, on its own initiative, test the theories held by the last-named engineers, and thereby free itself from the charge of indifference as to the oil resources of the country. Eventually, and supposing the test to have been successful, the Government could exploit its own fields. It would, therefore, hardly be advisable for it to bind itself to any private concern now drilling in Egypt. In any case, the negotiations between the Egyptian Government and the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields will be followed with great interest.

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Though, as will be seen by an official statement published elsewhere, Bulgarians have been declared "enemy aliens," and as such have to submit to strict police registration, they are not to be interned. In the House of Commons Mr. Brace on Tuesday declared that "it is not proposed at present to intern or repatriate Bulgarians unless in individual cases special reason is found for doing so."

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In connection with the notice published recently in THE NEAR EAST of the tenders invited by the Egyptian Postal Administration for the supply of general stores, we have received a copy of the specification, which can be seen at THE NEAR EAST offices by firms interested. The closing date for offers is December 1. The stores required include:—Mail bags, boots, fuel, ready-made furniture, letter-boxes and accessories, hardware articles, electric lamps and accessories, electric fans, enamelled plates, safes, stamps and punches, special postal stationery, telltale watch requisites, lead seals, rolling-stock and accessories, flags, disinfectants, etc., etc.

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Judge Grain, in delivering his judgment in the case of the cargo of the s.s. "Baerenfels" and s.s. "Gutenfels"—reported fully elsewhere—made a most interesting statement. "It has struck me," he said, "as a somewhat curious fact that in a very large majority of the cases which have come before me, in which German firms have decided to turn themselves into British companies, the date chosen for this conversion is invariably on or about November, 1912. It may, of course (he added), be mere coincidence." It will be remembered in this connection that in November, 1912, the first Balkan war was at its height, and that the international situation at the various Chancelleries was, at the time, anything but reassuring.

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The current issue of the *Cyprus Gazette* to hand contains the following statement: "In the third schedule of the contract for Cyprus Motor Mail Service, published in Supplement No. 1 to the *Cyprus Gazette*, No. 1182 of Aug. 13, 1915, insert the following rates to be paid by the Postmaster to the contractors: Rates.—£960 per annum; payable monthly, £80." It will be remembered that when the original contract was published, I drew the attention of the Cyprus authorities to the fact that they had omitted to state what subsidy the motor company was to receive, and that, therefore, it was impossible to pass any criticism on the contract as it stood. I am glad to see that the authorities have now published the necessary addendum. The grant of £960 per annum is certainly not an exorbitant one; I only hope that it is sufficiently high to enable the new company to keep its service going.

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One of the chief hives of industry in Cawnpore is the Elgin Mills. Established some fifty years ago, the Elgin Mills have gradually increased and prospered until to-day they are recognised as one of the largest and most notable monuments of British commercial enterprise in India. The great variety of manufactured goods issuing from this well-known mill would surprise many. In addition to a wide range of cotton goods such as twills, drills, towels, shirtings, sheetings, etc., the Elgin Mills are recognised as the largest tent manufacturers in India. Another of their specialities is the manufacture of horse clothing for practically every occasion, in all styles, whilst a third department deals solely with the making of uniforms, the firm being contractors to the Police, Telegraph, Postal Army Hospital, Excise, Railway, and various other Government departments. All readers of THE NEAR EAST who are interested in this firm's output should send for their catalogue.

***

Mr. Edward Atkin, the hon. secretary of the Anglo-Armenian Association, writes to the *Times* as follows: "Although Armenians who reside in the United Kingdom are treated humanely by the Home Secretary, the goods of Armenians in Turkey sold to their countrymen in the United States are seized in transit at Liverpool by Customs officers, notwithstanding the fact that there is no ground for suspicion that the confiscated merchandise is contraband of war or destined for the use or comfort of the King's enemies. This treatment of the chattels of a martyred nation, which has the misfortune to groan under the Ottoman yoke, on the plea (no doubt strictly legal) that 'alien enemies' includes *all* Turkish subjects, will hardly commend itself to those who have some acquaintance with history and are not blind to the dictates of justice or deaf to the appeals of an outraged people in bonds."

COMMENTATOR.

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Alexandria Prize Court.

S.S. "Barenfels" and S.S. "Gutenfels" (ex Cargo).

On September 18, Judge Grain delivered three judgments in the Alexandria Prize Court, of which the following extracts concern the first two judgments, viz., s.s. "Barenfels" and s.s. "Gutenfels," both ex cargo. The judgment in the case of s.s. "Luetzow" (ex cargo) will be published in a forthcoming issue of THE NEAR EAST.

S.S. Barenfels (ex Cargo).

This is a claim put forward by Mr. Booth on behalf of the liquidator appointed by the Controller of Hostile Trading Companies, India, of the Badische Co., Ltd., of Bombay, and although I have already decided against them in a previous claim of this company, in the case of the s.s. "Gutenfels" (cargo ex 11/555), nevertheless, Mr. Booth urges that there are some new facts in this case which may cause me to come to a different decision with regard to this particular cargo. In an affidavit put in and sworn to by Maurice Suter, the liquidator of the company in Bombay, it is stated that the chief business of the company was to import and sell dye stuffs bought by the company through its home (Germany) directors from the manufacturers, the Badische und Anilin und Soda Fabrik at Ludwigshafen; that the control of the company was in Bombay, and all its operations of giving orders for goods and selling the goods to its customers were performed in Bombay. A balance-sheet of the company struck on January, 1915, shows that a sum of Rs. 185,710.6 is owing to the Badische Anilin und Soda Fabrik, while various firms (including a sum of Rs. 12,231.3 due from Badische Co., Ltd., London) owe the company the sum of Rs. 180,801.14.1.

Mr. Booth urges that these goods were bought by the Badische Company, who were acting as merchants in Germany through their resident directors there; that the directors bought the goods and invoiced them to their firm in Bombay; that as the consignors of the goods they are entitled to the release of this cargo. But it appears to me that the affidavit of the liquidator, Maurice Suter, is against him on this point, because he states: "These goods are paid for by the company in due course of business by remittances made to its home (Germany) directors after the goods have been received in India, for which reason the goods claimed for by the company in this case have not been paid for."

I see no reason to alter the decision I arrived at in the former case, viz., that the property in these goods remains in the German manufacturers, the Badische Anilin und Soda Fabrik, and, therefore, the order will be that this cargo is condemned as enemy cargo and the goods to be sold under the order of the s.s. "Barenfels," dated March 17, 1915.

S.S. Barenfels and S.S. Gutenfels (Ex-Cargo).

The facts in this case are as follows:—On or about July 18, 1914, various consignments of goods were shipped at Bremen on the s.s Barenfels and Gutenfels by, as the Procurator alleges, a German firm, Herren Schroder Smidt and Co., but Mr. Booth, who appears for Schroder Smidt and Co., Limited, a registered British company in Calcutta, claims that they were shipped by a branch of the British company which had carried on business in Germany on behalf of the registered company.

The various consignments of goods were as follows:—A: 25 cases of velvet. B: 1,000 kegs of red earth and 1 case of cotton goods. C: 12,868 bundles of Belgian steel bars. D: 250 bundles of Austrian steel bars, 1 package of church utensils, 1,011 bundles of German steel bars, 22 packages of paper, 250 bags of phosphates, 1 package of leather, 200 casks of lubricating oil, and 292 packages of woollen, cotton, and silk goods.

I mention the various consignments because the facts differ slightly with regard to each. The "A" consignment, the velvet, was shipped on board the s.s. Gutenfels. These goods, according to the invoices produced, were bought by Herren Schroder Smidt and Co., Bremen (that is the printed heading of the invoice), and consigned to the order of the company in Calcutta.

This is one of the many cases which have come before this court where a British company, consisting mostly of Germans and bearing a German name, is carrying on business in India or British Colonies with firms in Germany bearing names identical with the German name of the British company. And when they come before this court the cry is: "It was not a German firm we were dealing with in Germany, but a branch of our British company from India or the British Colony." The only directors of the British company mentioned in the affidavit before me are George Hach, Hermann Smidt, and Adolf Bertelsman, all of whom apparently resided at Bremen, and Julius Frerichs, who was permanent director at Calcutta. The first question I have got to decide is, Was this mercantile house, which on the invoices describes itself as "Herren Schroder Smidt and Co., Bremen," a branch of Messrs. Schroder Smidt and Co., Limited, of Calcutta, or was it really, in fact, a separate concern altogether, a German firm of merchants who were using the British company in Calcutta as their distributing agents to native dealers in India? I do not think, in the absence of any precise evidence on the point, that I shall be assuming too much if I assume that the German members of this company located in Germany have been carrying on business as a private German firm in Germany for a considerable number of years, while the British company is of very recent growth, as it was only formed in November, 1912, and so had had but a short trading life when these goods were shipped in July, 1914. Therefore, there appears to me to be a very strong presumption that it was the well-established German firm who were carrying out the various business transactions, and that the British company in India was in reality merely the distributing agent of the German firm.

With regard to consignment "A," no bills of lading nor bills of exchange are produced, the goods are invoiced from and bought by Herren Schroder Smidt and Co., and there is no evidence before me to show that the property has passed from the shippers, Herren Schroder Smidt and Co., of Bremen, beyond the affidavit of Mr. Frerichs, the German permanent director of the British company, who merely states that they were bought by the branch of the British company, and that, "according to the usual course of procedure, the said goods should have been paid for" by the branch of the British company. I think there is a very strong presumption in this matter that these goods were bought by the German firm for the purpose of forwarding for sale to natives in India by the British company in India, and as there is no evidence beyond the affidavit already referred to of the goods having been paid for, I hold that the property in the goods remains in the German firm of Schroder Smidt and Co., and the order will be for condemnation and sale.

In the next consignment, "B," there is one bill of lading for each consignment produced, but neither of the original invoices, although a printed invoice is produced from the British company in Calcutta to a native firm in India, dated June 4, 1915, the goods having been shipped in July, 1914. The bill of lading shows that they were shipped by Schroder Smidt and Co., Limited, but only one bill has arrived, and as the affidavit states that the goods were bought in Bremen, presumably from German firms, and there is no evidence that they were ever paid for, the order will be for condemnation and sale.

With regard to consignment "C," it was all invoiced from a German firm, the Deutsche Eisenhandel of Berlin, to various native firms in India, and shipped by the German firm of J. Freige Eisenexport on board the s.s. Barenfels on or about July 13, 1914. Beyond the affidavit of Mr. Frerichs there is practically nothing to show that the British company had anything to do with this consignment. There is no reason to think that the native firms have paid for these goods. Therefore, the property remains in the German consignors, and there will be an order for condemnation and sale.

The last consignment, "D." The completion of the shipment of these goods on board the s.s Barenfels was on or before July 18, 1914, and Mr. Frerichs, in his affidavit, states that most of these goods were sold forward to native Indian dealers, and that in the ordinary course of events the goods would have been procured by the branch office of the company, and would have been paid for out of the funds of the company in possession of the branch at Bremen. And apparently when the goods are shipped one bill of lading is forwarded to Calcutta, and on the goods being paid for the other two bills of lading are forwarded at weekly intervals. But in this matter only one bill of lading has arrived at Calcutta—the first. Most of those goods were shipped by German firms from Bremen, but in some cases Schroder Smidt and Co. appear as shippers; but in all cases the documents show that the goods have all been bought from German firms, and all the various firms either to native firms of India or to Messrs. Schroder Smidt and Co., the British company at Calcutta. But there is nothing to show that the German firms have been paid for their goods, and there is a very strong probability that they have not been paid for. The German invoices mostly bear on the face of them "Calcutta, delivered a/c.," "payable by Bremen."

I have very little doubt that the system pursued was for the branch of the British company, Messrs. Schroder Smidt and Co., or the German firm, Herren Schroder Smidt and Co., to buy goods from various German firms for the purpose of being sold to native firms in India. These goods were forwarded to Calcutta and sold on arrival by the British company, Schroder Smidt and Co., who were doubtless the distributing agents of various German firms. The goods having been sold, the Calcutta firm notified their German directors of the branch company at Bremen, and they paid the various German firms who had bought and forwarded the goods.

I am of opinion that the property in these goods is still in the various German firms who invoiced them to the native firms of India. Therefore, they are enemy goods, and the order will be condemnation and sale.

SHIPPING CONGESTION AT SALONIKA.

The congestion at Salonika (says *Syren and Shipping*) is giving rise to many claims for damage, and underwriters of goods consigned there are anticipating that matters will be still worse before they mend. It seems that the bulk of the goods landed are in transit for Serbia, Roumania, or Russia; while, of course, others are for Greek consignees. The facilities of the port, which are by no means of an up-to-date character, are now still further taxed by military exigencies. Steamers on arrival discharge their cargoes into lighters, and there they remain until they can be handled ashore. These barges are frequently overloaded, and the handling is generally careless, and hence many claims through sea-water damage and breakage. The harbour-master is powerless, in spite of representations that the barges should be rendered more seaworthy and that the railway authorities should give greater dispatch. Pending an improvement in the present state of affairs, underwriters must, of course, protect themselves by increasing their premiums.

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Trade Notes.

Egypt.

H.M. Consul at Cairo reports that tenders are invited by the Egyptian Ministry of the Interior for the supply of equipment and clothing required by the Stores Department during 1916, including the following:—Bandoliers, belts, bayonet frogs, ammunition pouches, cartridges, and other accoutrements; brushes; bits, bridles, chains, collars, reins and other horse and camel equipment; camp equipment; bedsteads, chairs, cupboards, tables and other furniture; tools; calico, canvas, uniform cloth and other textile materials; leather; oils; paints; boots; breeches, jackets, shirts, tunics, trousers and other clothing.

Copies of the specifications, with forms of tender, etc., may be obtained, at a cost of 2s. per copy, from the office of Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Broadway, Westminster, London, S.W., where also sealed samples of the articles required may be inspected between the hours of 9 a.m. and noon, and at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Representatives calling at Sir A. L. Webb's office must produce a written request from their firm to do so. Sealed tenders, on the proper form, will be received, up to noon on December 1, by the Under-Secretary of State (Personnel and Equipment Department), Ministry of the Interior, Cairo.

Tenders are invited by the Egyptian Ministry of the Interior (Lunacy Division) for the supply and delivery of miscellaneous supplies (including clothing, bedding, furniture, hardware, slippers, brushes, and other household necessaries) required by the Abbassia and Khanka Asylums at Abbassia, Cairo. Copies of the specification and form of tender may be obtained from the Director of the Lunacy Division, Ministry of the Interior, Cairo, at which address sealed tenders, on the proper forms, will be received up to November 15. A copy of the specification and form of tender may be consulted by United Kingdom manufacturers of the goods mentioned at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

Tenders are invited by the Director-General, Coast Guard Administration, Cairo, for the supply of coal, petroleum, and benzine required by the Service during the year 1916. Specification may be seen and all information obtained at the Coast Guard Magazine, Arsenal, Alexandria, or at the Coast Guard offices at Port Said, Ismailia, Suez, and Damietta. Date, December 1.

Tenders are invited by the Director of Coast Guards Stores, Arsenal, Alexandria, for the supply of general stores and clothing required for the year 1916. Specification may be seen and all information obtained at the Head Office, Coast Guards Administration, Bab el Luq, Cairo. Date November 15.

Tenders are invited by the Controller, Cairo Tanzim Department, for the supply of general stores required by the Giza and Gezira Water Works during the financial year 1916-1917. Date, December 2.

Tenders are invited by the Army Finance Department, Cairo, for the supply of ten tons of candles to be delivered c.i.f. Alexandria, Port Said, or Port Sudan. Date, November 2.

Tenders are invited by the Controller, Cairo Tanzim Department, for the supply of general stores required during the financial year 1916-17. Date, December 1.

The General Secretary of the Domaines de l'Etat, Cairo, calls for tenders for the supply of 5,400 kilogms. of yellow grease. Date, November 1

For particulars concerning the tenders invited by the Egyptian Postal Administration, see page 705.

The tariff on cotton thread which expired September 30, 1915, will no longer continue in force, and Customs dues will in future be collected "ad valorem."

Cyprus.

The *Cyprus Gazette* (Extraordinary) for September 13 last, contains a notification laying down the procedure with regards to bills of lading for goods which are contraband of war or fall to be dealt with under the Retaliation Order in Council of March 11, 1915.

Bills of lading, or certified copies, are now invariably required to be on board the vessel in the case of goods, whatever their nature may be, *i.e.*, whether contraband or not. In the case of goods destined to Russia or neutral countries in Europe, such bills must be drawn either in the name of the actual consignee or to a bank or other financial house with the marginal endorsement "Notify A.B."—A.B. being the consignee as shown in the declaration of destination. Shipments for England, France, and Italy need not be for a named consignee, provided that the bill of lading and manifest clearly show that the destination is as stated. Goods for the Netherlands should be consigned to the Netherlands Oversea Trust.

Morocco.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of a copy of a Dahir, dated April 29, 1915 (amending the Dahir of April 8, 1914), which prohibits the importation into, the manufacture, circulation, storing, sale, or offering for sale in the French zone in Morocco of absinthe and similar products, and of essence of absinthe and similar products. The Dahir defines "absinthe" as covering all alcohol (however manufactured) containing aromatic principles derived from the wormwood (absinthe) plant, whether alone or combined with other aromatic substances; and also contains a definition of products which are to be regarded as "products similar to absinthe."

FURTHER EXPORT RESTRICTIONS.

The further restriction of the export of cotton and other articles recommended by the Board of Trade is made operative by an Order in Council published on Tuesday as a supplement to the *London Gazette*.

The exportation of "all manufactures and products of cotton, except cotton lace and cotton waste," is now prohibited to all foreign countries in Europe and on the Mediterranean and Black Seas, other than France, Russia (except through Baltic ports), Italy, Spain, and Portugal.

The Order also prohibits the exportation of coke made in gas works to all destinations abroad other than British Possessions and Protectorates, in the same way as all coal except that shipped as bunker coal is forbidden to be sent to foreign countries.

The exportation of acetic ether, ether, phosgene (carbonyl chloride), and platinum is prohibited to all destinations, while the following articles can only be exported to British Possessions and Protectorates:—Chronometers and all kinds of nautical instruments, compasses for ships, and parts thereof, including fittings such as binnacles, animal hair of all kinds, and tops, noils, and yarns of animal hair, insulated copper wire, electric light wires and cables, and power cables.

Among new goods the exportation of which is prohibited to foreign countries in Europe and on the Mediterranean and Black Seas, other than France, Russia (except through Baltic ports), Italy, Spain, and Portugal are arsenical ore, black plates and black sheets under one-eighth of an inch in thickness, furs dressed or undressed, and manufactures thereof, and ramie.

In connection with the new Order in Council by virtue of which the exportation of "chronometers and all kinds of nautical instruments" and "compasses for ships, and parts thereof, including fittings such as binnacles" is prohibited to all destinations abroad other than British Possessions and Protectorates, the Board of Trade give notice that in future firms in this country will be required to obtain the approval of the Admiralty before accepting orders for such goods from firms in foreign countries, and that applications for licences to export such goods must be accompanied by the order issued to the firm by the Admiralty permitting them to take the work in hand.—*The Times.*

THE WAR WITH BULGARIA

The following notification appeared in a Supplement to the London *Gazette* on Saturday:—

"Whereas the Convention relating to the status of enemy merchant vessels at the outbreak of hostilities, signed at The Hague on the 18th day of October, 1907, has not been ratified by the King of the Bulgarians, therefore We do not think fit to extend to Bulgarian ships the Order in Council issued on the 4th day of August, 1914, with reference to the departure from Our ports of enemy vessels, which at the outbreak of hostilities were in any such port or which subsequently entered the same." The operative clauses of the Proclamation are:—

1. The Proclamations and Orders in Council issued with reference to the state of war between Us and the German Emperor, or with reference to the state of war between Us and the German Emperor and the Emperor of Austria, King of Hungary, or with reference to the state of war between Us and the German Emperor, the Emperor of Austria, King of Hungary, and the Sultan of Turkey, other than the Order in Council issued on the 4th day of August, 1914, with reference to the departure from Our ports of enemy vessels, which at the outbreak of hostilities were in any such ports, or which subsequently entered the same, shall, if still in force, apply to the state of war between Us and the King of the Bulgarians as from this 16th day of October, 1915.

2. The Proclamation issued on the 5th day of August, 1914, warning all Our subjects, and all persons resident or being in Our Dominions, from contributing to or participating in, or assisting in the floating of, any loan raised on behalf of the German Government, or from advancing money to or entering into any contract or dealings whatsoever with the said Government, or otherwise aiding, abetting, or assisting the said Government, shall be deemed as from this 16th day of October, 1915, to apply to all loans raised on behalf of, or contracts or dealings entered into with, or to aiding, abetting, or assisting the Bulgarian Government.

3. The words "enemy country" in any of the Proclamations or Orders in Council referred to in Article 1 of this Proclamation shall include the Dominions of the King of the Bulgarians, and the words "persons of enemy nationality" in any of the said Proclamations or Orders in Council shall include subjects of the King of the Bulgarians.

The Vice-Admiral commanding the Eastern Mediterranean Squadron of the Allied Fleets has declared a blockade of the Bulgarian coast in the Ægean Sea, commencing from 6 a.m. on the 16th instant. Forty-eight hours' grace from the moment of the commencement of the blockade has been assigned for the departure of neutral vessels from the blockaded area.

BULGARIANS AS ALIEN ENEMIES.

It is officially announced that as a state of war now exists between Great Britain and Bulgaria persons of Bulgarian nationality are alien enemies within the meaning of the Alien Restriction Order. They are therefore subject to the provisions of the Order requiring them to register themselves with the police, forbidding them to enter or reside in prohibited areas or to travel more than five miles from their place of residence without permits from the police, and placing other restrictions upon them.

BULGARIAN CONSULATE IN MANCHESTER.

In accordance with the decision which he had already announced and the opinions he expressed to a representative of the *Manchester Guardian*, Mr. Joseph Angeloff, the Bulgarian Consul in Manchester, sent in his resignation nearly a week ago to the Bulgarian Government. Mr. Angeloff has stated that he had received no acknowledgment of or acceptance of his resignation. Nevertheless, he has removed from his business premises in Portland Street the Bulgarian national arms and the brass plates announcing that the consular office was there situated, and has ceased to perform consular duties.

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Engineering Notes.

Portable Air Compressors.

In the recent report of a mining company in the East the apparently unsatisfactory output of a property was attributed to the limited use of pneumatic tools, owing to the want ot suitable air compressors. It was mentioned that whenever work was required at a given spot, the whole installation of the air compressing plant had to be taken down, carried and re-erected, a procedure which required considerable time to be carried out, while the pneumatic tools remained idle. Yet there are portable air compressors which can be removed from place to place without disturbing the plant, and always ready for work at any convenient spot. Such compressors may be obtained in Great Britain in all sizes, and for any specified class of work. These compressors can be used, not only in mines and quarries, but also in dockyards and other places where a convenient form of power can be advantageously employed. A type of recent design, which is now being successfully employed in mines, shipyards, and contractors' works, is in the form of a complete installation fixed upon a substantially constructed truck, fitted with large, broad wheels, the front ones being mounted on a turntable to allow of the plant being manœuvred into any position. It is driven by a paraffin engine of ample power, with air cylinders and covers thoroughly water-jacketed; it has an inter-cooler of large surface carried at the back of the cylinders. The lubrication throughout the machine is on the forced system. The valve gear in this compressor is of the multiple ported small lift type, and included is an automatic air-regulating device, so that the output of the machine can be automatically controlled in accordance with the demand for air. Driven direct from the compressor, a small pump affords an adequate water supply, whilst an air receiver is coupled to the compressor replete with all necessary mountings. The water tank for cooling purposes is situated beneath the truck, from whence it is connected to both the engine and compressor. Should the plant be located in an exposed position, it may be readily closed in with wooden shutters, which form part of the equipment. As a reliable means of transmitting energy in a convenient form from one point to another, and where space considerations are of importance, this type of machine can be most advantageously employed.

Wireless Telephony.

According to recent reports from New York, long distance wireless telephony is now an undisputable fact. The president of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company spoke from his office in New York to the chief engineer of the company at Mare Island in California, 3,000 miles away. But owing to the want of sufficiently high wireless aerial equipment in New York, the president's voice had first to be carried over the telephone wires for a distance of 500 miles to the wireless station in Arlington, Virginia, and from there the words were sent across a space of 2,500 miles without the aid of wires into a receiving instrument at Mare Island. By the same route the engineer answered various questions, and also said that were it not for the European war it would have been found much easier to have talked by wireless telephone from New York to London, Paris, or Berlin, than to San Francisco. He also asserted that as soon as the experiments are completed, it will be a simple matter to call up a friend in mid-ocean and have a chat, and eventually there will be no place, however isolated, which will not have its wireless telephone station. He admitted, however, that wireless telephony would never replace the wire telephone, because the former was a much more difficult process, and at present no means had been discovered of making wireless telephone conversations private from any eavesdropper whose instrument was keyed to the same pitch.

Motor Ambulances.

Referring to the improvement in motor-ambulances during the past twelve months, a writer in *The Times'* "Red Cross Supplement," published yesterday, says that the new cars have twin back wheels which are a great safeguard on bad roads. The first standard motor-ambulances, which one may now call the old type, have a rectangular frame covered by canvas curtains which can be rolled up at the sides. The stretchers are placed on the supports at the sides, and on projections from a central bar, so that when the ambulance is fully loaded a nurse or orderly cannot sit inside the car. The new type is wider and provides a gangway between the stretchers. On the inside, too, curves take the place of right angles to facilitate cleaning. The frames for carrying the stretchers, two on each side, are adjustable and stable, and by an ingenious contrivance can be packed away on each side so as to afford seating accommodation for eight patients when there are no stretchers to be carried. The canvas awning, painted in service green, is fixed, and the sides cannot be rolled up as in the early pattern. The interior is painted in leadless white; such windows as are necessary are of celluloid to minimize the risk of injury should they be broken, and an electric bulb in the roof takes the place of the former oil lamps. A speaking-tube for communication between the driver and the attendant and a dressing-box beneath the attendant's seat are further refinements of the new type.

Baghdad Railway.

A telegram from Constantinople received in Amsterdam on Wednesday announces that the section from Islahie to Radju of the Baghdad Railway was opened on Tuesday. Both these stations are situated east of Amanus and north of Aleppo. The opening of this section brings the Syrian system of railways thirty miles nearer to the main tunnel of the line, which has already been pierced near Bagtche.

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Near East Markets.

EGYPTIAN CROPS.

The state of Egypt's crops, exclusive of cotton, in September last was, according to the Egyptian Government's official bulletin, which has just reached us, as follows:—

Rice.

Weather favourable, and water supply, on the whole, sufficient, except in some areas lying at the tails of canals in Beheira and Sharqia. The crop is practically free from pests and in excellent condition. Harvesting has commenced in Beheira, and "Yabani" is being reaped in most places in Daqahlia. Elsewhere, the crop is almost ripe.

Maize.

Weather favourable, and water supply, on the whole, sufficient, notwithstanding complaints as to shortage of water in Menufia. Watering, thinning, and hoeing are in progress. Isolated attack of borer and cut-worm are reported in various provinces but with insignificant damage. The crop is growing well and is very promising. It is to be feared, however, that with the continuance of the cool weather which has set in rather early, the maize may not ripen very well, especially the late-sown. Early-sown maize is now in flower and has formed cobs.

Millet.

Sêfi millet is nearly all harvested. The crop in the basins has escaped damage from flood. *Nili* millet was sown late for the most part owing to delay in filling the *Nili* canals. The plants, however, are doing well.

Sugar Cane.

Weather favourable, and water supply, for the most part, adequate. The stalk borer is still prevalent, but the crop continues to make good progress.

Ground Nuts.

Weather favourable, and water supply plentiful. The crop is coming to maturity and promises an average yield.

TOBACCO-GROWING IN EGYPT.

It appears, says the *Egyptian Gazette*, that the question of cultivating tobacco in Egypt is again to the fore. It is stated that the Ministry of the Interior is considering the possibility of raising money by allowing the cultivation of tobacco again and taxing all fields in which tobacco is grown.

GREEK TOBACCO CROP.

Greek tobacco growers anticipate a crop for 1915 superior in quality and quantity to that of 1914, says the U.S. Vice-Consul at Athens, writing on August 31. The Macedonian yield is expected to equal that of 1914, while in the Phthiotis-Phocis districts indications point to an increase of 20 to 30 per cent. Larissa is said to have a crop 15 per cent. larger than that of the past season, and the Argolis-Corinth provinces promise an increase of 30 per cent. The average increase would seem to be not far from 15 per cent. when all districts are taken into consideration.

The figures for the tobacco crop for 1914 have just been given out in an annual report of the Ministry of National Economy. Reduced to English equivalents, they are given below:—

Province.	Acreage.	Pounds
Thessaly and Arta	13,308	12,524,60
Mainland of Greece	14,372	9,889,35
Peloponessus	6,177	4,655,47
Cyclades and Euboea	742	55,87
Ionian Isles	247·1	169,29
Macedonia	38,300	34,916,60
Epirus	790·7	434,51
Ægean Isles	5,930	4,232,25
Crete	494.2	310,36

As the tobacco crop in Greece matures in September-October, the tobacco year coincides with the calendar year.

The currant crop for the coming year, wrote the U.S. Consul at Kalamata, Greece, on August 15, is expected to be about 35,000,000 pounds, against 50,000,000 pounds last year, a falling off of about 30 per cent. This decrease is due to unfavourable weather conditions and to the development of injurious insect pests, chiefly the Peronosporos.

PRODUCE REPORT.

Currants.

LONDON, October 21.

Owing to scarcity of supplies, the market continues very firm. Provincial and Pyrgos quoted 38s. to 40s., bags 34s. 6d. Amalias, 39s. to 41s.; Gulf, 45s. to 47s.; Vostizza, 47s. to 55s.; and Smalls, 39s. to 43s. Several steamers are on the way, but all with only small quantities.

Sultanas.

Whatever remains is being bought at continuously increasing prices. Smyrna common to fine, 80s. to 100s.; Greek, 100s. to 120s.; and Afghan, 76s. to 80s. Some Cretan fruit was sold from 90s. to 96s.

Figs.

The market is steady. Calamatas sell at 43s. to 44s.; Taps, 36s. to 38s.; and Malagas, 36s. to 42s.

Seeds.

Linseed: The market is steady. London-Calcutta, spot, quoted 59s. 3d.; November-December, 59s. 6d.; and business is also passing in October-November at 59s. 3d. Resellers of La Plata would accept 56s. 6d. for October-November, but shippers generally hold for 57s. and over. Cotton seed has been firm, but quiet. London-Egyptian loading is quoted £11 10s. per ton. Rape seed remains firm. Brown Cawnpore, October-November, quoted 55s. 9d.; and Guzerat, ditto, 63s.

Oils.

Linseed oils is firm and in good request. Spot pipes, £28s. 5d., barrels and month, £29s. 5d.; January-April, £29 17s. 6d., paid; and May-August, £30 15s., buyers. Cotton oil is very firmly held. Crude spot pipes, £30 15s.; refined pale pipes, £34; and barrel sweet, £37 to £39, as to make. Rape oil remains firm. Ordinary brown naked spot, £35 to £36; English refined barrels, £38 to £39.

Oilcakes.

Cotton cakes: Owing to the absence of new crop arrivals of cakes or seeds from Alexandria, the prices of £8 17s. 6d. to £9 are asked for English, spot delivery; whilst for Egyptian October-November shipment, £8 10s., ex-ship, is quoted. At the latter price only little business is passing. Linseed cake: There is only a limited consumptive demand, which is attributed to the abundance of natural foodstuffs. Values, however, are firmly held up, with the hope of even higher prices as the winter approaches. East India seed pures are offered at £11 7s. 6d. to £11 10s., while best London-made sells quietly at about last week's quotations, £11 12s. 6d. to £11 15s. Fine seedy Argentine is selling at £11 10s. to £11 12s. 6d. per ton.

Locust Beans.

Ready parcels can be bought at £8 per ton for whole, and £8 10s. for kibbled; but for shipment rather high prices are held.

Gums.

The market is quiet, with little doing, in all descriptions. Arabic, Turkey sorts are quoted £3 5s. to £3 12s. 6d.; Ghezira, 15s. to 48s.; East India common, to fine, 45s. to 60s.; mastic, 3s. to 3s. 6d.; myrrh, good to fine, 96s. to 100s. per cwt.; sandarac, 28s. to 83s.; Tragacanth, first, £28 to £45; low to good sorts, £4 10s. to £7 2s. 6d.

OIL PRODUCTION OF THE WORLD.

According to a return compiled by the United States Geological Survey, the quantity of petroleum entering the markets of the world in 1914 was 400,483,489 barrels of 42 gallons, against 384,667,550 in the previous year. Of this quantity the United States is credited with 265,762,535 barrels, or two-thirds of the total. Russia stands second in the list with 67,020,522 barrels, followed by Mexico (21,188,427 barrels), Roumania (12,826,579 barrels), and Dutch East Indies (12,705,208 barrels). The largest proportionate increase in output was in Egypt, the production of which rose from 94,635 barrels in 1913 to 777,038 barrels last year.

COTTON MARKET.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Liverpool.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson telegraph:—

Egyptian Spot.—There has been an active demand for cotton this week, more especially the last few days, and large business has resulted. Holders have met the market freely, and quotations show a decline of five points. Sales are estimated at 3,900 bales, against 2,000 last week.

Manchester.

The inquiry for yarn continues to be on the quiet side, but as production is only moderate, prices keep fairly steady, and inquiry for piece goods for India has been considerable.

EGYPTIAN COTTON REPORTS.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Cairo, under date October 3, publishes its monthly bulletin for September. Taking 100 as representing, irrespective of the area under cultivation, the average crop of each division of the country, we obtain from Lower Egypt 93 in September, as against 100 in August, and for Upper Egypt 99 in September, as compared with 98 in August. The bulletin then continues:—Weather in general was favourable during the first half of the month, but rather cold during the second half. The water supply was sufficient. The crop has been for the most part seventeen days to a month earlier than usual in maturing, but, in spite of the fact that it promised to be well above the average at the end of July, there has recently been a deterioration in its general state, due mainly to pink boll worm attacks in all the Mudirias in Lower Egypt. Upper Egypt, on the other hand, has not suffered to a large extent, and has yielded a good crop. On the whole, the boll worm attack arrived earlier than last year, but as the crop was also earlier the effect produced has been almost the same. Certain districts have suffered much more than others, and late maturing cotton is in most cases in an unfavourable condition. The gradual substitution of the pink boll worm for the Earias has been very marked throughout Egypt.

It is particularly unfortunate that the reversion to the bad method which was adopted generally under special circumstances last year, with regard to the gathering of the cotton crop in one instead of two or three pickings, should have been continued in practice this year, when there is no excuse for it. The result has been that a certain amount of cotton has fallen on the ground and become damaged, and that the seed as well as the lint crops from some estates has suffered from the mixture of the two pickings.

The following report on the state of the cotton crop was issued by the Alexandria General Produce Association on October 1:—

Lower Egypt.—The temperature, which was fairly favourable during the first fortnight, has since become cooler; on the other hand, the fogs which we have had at this time in the past years have not occurred this season. Damage by boll worm and pink worm are fairly serious, and vary according to districts. The first picking is general, and fifteen days in advance. Results are very variable; in several districts they are estimated as equal and slightly better than last year, whilst in other parts they are considerably inferior. Second picking will give a worse result on the whole. Reports for the third picking predict a minimum result. Ginning yields are very variable, but a good deal lower than last year.

Upper Egypt and Fayoum.—The temperature, with the exception of two or three rather cool days, has been on the whole favourable. Some slight fogs of no importance were re-

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corded at the beginning of the month. With the exception of the worm attack mentioned last month, there has been no new damage. First pickings have given satisfactory results —better than last year—whereas second pickings will be less. Ginning yields are slightly less than last year.

In connection with the above reports, it can be mentioned incidentally that the area under cotton cultivation shows a big fall from 1,755,000 feddans last year to 1,186,000 feddans this year. Consignments of ginned cotton to Alexandria show a decline from 7,627,000 cantars to 6,398,000 cantars.

COTTON NOTES.

The current issue (October) of the *Monthly Journal* of the British Chamber of Commerce of Egypt states that arrivals of cotton in Alexandria for September totalled about 400,000 cantars. It then continues:—Comparison with last season's corresponding figures is useless; but the arrivals for the first month of the season are very satisfactory, and have no doubt been influenced to a great extent by the big advance in prices since last month. The exports fall short of the arrivals by about 150,000 cantars, thus increasing the stock of cotton in Alexandria to over 1,000,000 cantars.

The spot market during the month has been exceptionally strong, and prices since our last report show a considerable advance. The advance has been caused by a big rise in the contracts market, due chiefly to a big "bull" campaign in America on unsatisfactory crop news, and influenced also by adverse reports of the Egyptian crop, both as regards quantity and quality.

With regard to the size of the present crop, it is not likely to be so small as some of the "bull" clique would have us believe, taking into account that with a decreased acreage the present crop was never expected to be as large as usual. Judging from the arrivals so far received, the quality certainly seems to have suffered chiefly owing to worm trouble, and also to a very hot spell of weather, which caused a too early ripening of the second pickings, with the result that in many cases the first and second pickings all came together. The consequence is that the top grades are likely to be very scarce. A redeeming feature of the crop is that the staple is quite equal to, if not superior, that of last season.

His Excellency the High Commissioner has informed the Egyptian Government, in a communication addressed to the Prime Minister, that the Government of His Britannic Majesty, desiring to assure the well-being of the Egyptian cultivator by facilitating the sale of the cotton crop under advantageous conditions, has decided to intervene as purchaser, should it be necessary, in order to keep the prices of cotton at remunerative rates. This decision of His Majesty's Government, says the *Monthly Journal*, is a fresh proof of the constant interest which it takes in the condition of the agricultural population of Egypt, and a proof of the advantages which arise from the intimate and cordial relations existing between the two countries.

In the House of Commons, on Wednesday, Sir Edward Grey, in replying to Mr. Ginnel, said that the market price on the Liverpool Exchange of fully good fair brown Egyptian cotton in the middle of July, 1914, was 9.10d. per pound, and the price on October 18, 1915, was 9.95d. per pound. The price of middling American was 7.35d. in July, 1914, and 7.29d. on October 18, 1915. Thus, the price of American cotton, though rising, was still slightly lower than before the war. On the other hand, the price of Egyptian cotton had been higher than before the war for the last three or four weeks. Having regard to the fact that the exchange between this country and Egypt was in favour of Egypt, he did not understand how there could be any difficulty in carrying on legitimate trade.

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Economic Note on Morocco.

Growing Importance of Casablanca.

H.M. Consul at Casablanca has forwarded a copy of a pamphlet entitled *Notice Economique sur Casablanca et la Région des Chaouia,* issued in connection with the Franco-Moroccan Exhibition at Casablanca, from which the following information is extracted:—

Since 1907 the town of Casablanca has developed considerably and now extends 8 kiloms. (about 5 miles) along the sea-front. Work is being actively carried on in connection with the harbour, which in a few years will possess a water area of 141 hectares (348 acres), with a depth of 12 metres (39 ft.) at the entrance. The quays will be extended to a length of 615 metres (670 yards). There are eleven warehouses for the reception of merchandise.

The value of the trade of Casablanca in 1913 was 79,372,000 frs., an amount three times greater than the value in 1910. In 1914 trade naturally declined as a result of the European war and reached a total of only 55,676,000 frs., of which imports accounted for 47,008,000 frs., and exports for 8,668,000 frs. The positions occupied by the several countries participating in trade with Casablanca in 1913 were (1) France, (2) United Kingdom, (3) Spain, (4) Germany, (5) Belgium, and (6) the United States.

The total trade of Germany with Casablanca in 1910 was valued at 3,546,000 frs. and in 1913 at 5,769,000 frs. Imports from Germany progressively increased from 966,000 frs. in the former year to 3,509,000 frs. in the latter. Trade with both Germany and Austria naturally declined in 1914. The following articles, and their values, are given as the principal "Austro-German" imports into Casablanca in 1913:—Sawn wood for joinery and cabinet-making (285,000 frs.); hosiery (34,000 frs.); cement (38,000 frs.); iron and ironmongery (203,000 frs.); wire (32,000 frs.); drinking glasses (102,000 frs.); ornamental glassware, artificial coral, etc. (24,000 frs.); clocks (27,000 frs.); sewing machines (34,000 frs.); steam and other engines (91,000 frs.); furniture (77,000 frs.); packing paper (42,000 frs.); chinaware (56,000 frs.); locks, etc. (58,000 frs.); woollen tissues, drapery, etc. (385,000 frs.); cotton tissues (29,000 frs); pepper (27,000 frs.); potatoes (25,000 frs.); and rice (36,000 frs.); refined sugar (542,000 frs.); tea (298,000 frs.).

The pamphlet proceeds to state that the German success in obtaining trade was due in the first place to the facilities for payment for goods which German firms gave; the credits allowed were at least three months from the date of shipment of goods, and in the case of textiles credit of even six to eight months was given or, alternatively, clients were allowed to settle by instalments for goods as these were sold. The second factor contributing to the success of German firms was that they worked through the medium of commission firms in Hamburg, Berlin, etc. Travellers from these commission firms brought to the Casablanca market considerable quantities of goods of all kinds, such as Bohemian glass, Hamburg sugar, Leipzig woollen stuffs, aniline dyes from Baden, etc., so that native clients were not obliged to apply to a different manufacturer for each one of the articles desired to purchase. German commercial travellers, moreover, contributed to the progress of German trade by organising exhibitions comprising wide ranges of cheap goods.

Amongst the "European" industries developing at Casablanca the following are mentioned:—Those connected with building and constructional work, wood and metal working, alimentary goods, and others, such as printing, and the preparation of "crin vegetal." It is anticipated that after the war additional factories and works will spring up on the outskirts of Casablanca. Native industries include carpet making, dyeing, the manufacture of rush mats and art pottery, water vessels, etc., but these industries are stated to be declining as a result of European competition.

In addition to the State Bank of Morocco, there are several banks and credit societies at Casablanca which undertake all kinds of banking business, and the leading banks have agencies in the interior. The rate of discount is generally 7 per cent., but rises occasionally to 8½ per cent.

The "Magasins Généraux" issue receipts and warrants on goods deposited (see notice on p. 720 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of September 2).

French currency tends more and more to replace the Moroccan currency amongst European, but scarcely any French gold is in circulation. The bills of exchange usually dealt in are those negotiated through the Bank of Algeria.

In addition to the military railway, merchandise can be conveyed into the interior by motor vehicles. A number of motor transport firms are established at Casablanca, and services are provided to Rabat, Fez, Marakesh, Mazagan, Fedalah, etc. A cheaper means of transport is by horse-drawn vehicles. Goods are also transported by camels.

CAIRO BOURSE PREMISES.

It will be remembered, says the *Egyptian Gazette,* that Mr. Melachrino, the well-known cigarette manufacturer, purchased the building of the Cairo Bourse a few weeks ago. He has now discovered that in the deed of sale of the land by the Société Immobilière d'Egypte to the Cairo Bourse Company, it is stipulated that the land is intended for use as a Bourse, and has asked them to cancel this restriction from the act before he takes it over. As the Board of Administration of the company is at Brussels, they cannot refer to them, and the sale will in consequence have to stand over for the present.

In accordance with an Egyptian Ministerial Order, the export of eggs has been temporarily suspended by the Customs authorities. It is hoped that this measure will appreciably reduce the price of eggs, which, since the beginning of last month, when their export was authorized, has risen considerably. During last month, 1,255 cases of eggs were exported to Europe, two thirds of which were sent to England.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN OILFIELDS.

Need of Further Capital.

The directors of Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields, Limited, have issued a circular forecasting the need of further capital. They state that the share capital is fully paid up, and the company's available financial resources are approaching exhaustion. At the present rate of production and of expenditure the funds would not last far into next year. The directors have every reason to hope that the boring operations now being conducted, if freed from such obligations as are unsuited to existing conditions, can be carried on with greater economy and despatch and may result in securing a paying production. To attain this end and to subject the fields to a sufficient test, it will be necessary to invite the co-operation both of the Egyptian Government and of the shareholders. Sir Reginald MacLeod, K.C.B., a member of the board, is proceeding to Egypt to place himself in communication with the Government, and on his return the shareholders will be further informed of the position, and the directors hope that the prospects may then be such as to justify them in inviting the shareholders to provide such further capital as may be required to secure the end in view. If satisfactory arrangements can be made, and prospects are held to justify further outlay, the additional capital required might be from £50,000 to £100,000, which would represent a contribution of from 1s. to 2s. per share.

CONSOLIDATED LANDED INTERESTS, EGYPT.

Under the above title a limited liability company has been registered in Egypt with a capital of £E2,000, divided into 500 shares of £E4. The subscribers are Dr. Herbert Milton (British), 380 shares; Mr. Astley P. Friend (British), 50 shares; Mr. William Henry Perkins (British), 15 shares; Mr. Giona M. Pietroni (British), 15 shares; M. Hector Fonti (Italian), 20 shares; M. Michel Farwagi (Egyptian), 10 shares; and M. D. Paléologue (Greek), 10 shares. The objects are stated to be: To acquire and otherwise deal in real estate. The company was registered on May 19.

OBITUARY.

News has been received in Egypt from Paris of the death there of Mr. Eric M. Cattaui. He was born at Cairo in 1848, and when twenty years of age left Egypt in order to found a branch of the Cattaui Bank in the French capital. The office of the bank in Paris was on many occasions a pivot for financial operations in this country, and there began the first negotiations for the purchase of the Daira Sanieh estates. Mr. Cattaui was one of the founders of the Crédit Foncier Egyptien, and remained on the board of directors until last year. The French Government made him a Chevalier of the Legion of Honour for his services in advancing French interests in Egypt. He leaves a widow and three daughters, Madame Frederic Reitlinger, Madame Henri Lipman, and the Countess de Minervi.

The Postmaster-General gives notice that insured letters and parcels are accepted for transmission to Roumania. The maximum limit of insurance is £400; and insured parcels cannot be sent by the route by sea direct to Sweden.

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GREEK OPINION ON THE WAR.

A representative of the *Morning Post* has had interviews with Messrs. G. Marchetti, G. A. Burlumi, and M. Embericos, three well-known members of the Greek business community in London, who have given their frank views on the situation. The opinions they express can be regarded as representative of those held by the entire Greek community in this country. We reproduce the following extracts from the three interviews :—

Mr. Marchetti said :—"In the first place, there is, I am afriad, a widespread misunderstanding of the scope of the treaty between Greece and Serbia. That treaty was never meant to involve us as partners in a European war. It was a treaty to defend Serbia and ourselves against aggressive action on the part of any other Balkan State. The fact that Serbia herself has not up to the present appealed to us to come to her assistance is evidence of that understanding.

"I regret to say that there is not in Greece at the present moment that enthusiasm for the cause of Great Britain and her Allies which we would wish to see displayed. That is the fault of British diplomacy, which has aroused irritation and suspicion in consequence of the efforts it has made to conciliate Bulgaria at the expense of Greece, who has been asked to make concessions on points she regards as vital to the maintenance of her position. The successes of the German army on the Eastern side have no doubt made an impression on the Balkan States, but wise and prudent diplomacy could have destroyed this feeling and done much for the Quadruple Entente. Greece, of course, does not forget how much she owes to Great Britain and France. The policy of M. Venizelos is the policy of the majority of the Greek people, who thoroughly realise that their interests are with Britain, Russia, France, and Italy."

Mr. Burlumi said :—"I am convinced that Greece must come in—it is only a question of time. Whatever happens, she will never side with the Central Powers. It is an impossibility. The feeling of the country is pro-Entente. In Greece, what we call the three protective Powers—France, Britain, and Russia—have always been popular, taking the population at large. I do not think Greece can wait in a state of armed neutrality very long. It is absolutely impossible for a small country with little more than five million people to keep an army of nearly half a million under arms for more than a month without things coming to a head one way or the other, either demobilising or fighting. Greece will have to fight with the Entente and against Bulgaria. The Bulgarians and the Turks are the traditional enemies of the Greeks." Pointing out that M. Zaimis was a great friend of France, M. Burlumi expressed the view that, although some of the members of his Government had leanings towards the Central Powers, they would not cause him to change his policy. They were sufficiently patriotic to see that the interests of Greece lay with the Entente Powers. "There is a great deal of dissatisfaction among Greeks here," he said, "owing to the fact that British diplomacy has failed in the Near East. It has patted Bulgaria on the back through thick and thin at the expense of Serbia and Greece. Until the other day concessions were talked about of territory won by the shedding of precious blood two years ago. After the first Balkan War the Bulgarians went into Greece and Serbia like a thief in the night. That will never be forgiven, but the Great Entente Powers were trying to force Greece and Serbia to make liberal concessions to Bulgaria in order to bring them together."

Mr. Embericos said :—"There are not, figuratively speaking, five men in Greece whose feelings are not with the Great Entente Powers. My opinion is that Greece should declare herself with the Allies at once, and proceed against Bulgaria rather than wait on Bulgarian policy. If she does that she will serve both her own interests and that of the Allies. It is absolutely impossible for her to escape from the war. She will have to come in sooner or later to defend her own interests, and later, perhaps, may be too late. If Bulgaria becomes larger it can only be at the expense of Greece and Serbia."

FRENCH INTERESTS IN THE ORIENT.

One of the immediate consequences of the entry of Turkey into the war has been, quite naturally, to destroy, for the moment, the enormous strides made and about to be made by our capital and industry throughout the Orient in the domain of railways and public works, says *La Dépêche Coloniale*.

Thus an idea can be gained of the importance of the subject by the simple statement that the origin of the ports of Constantinople, Salonika, Smyrna, Beyrout, and Tripoli is due to French enterprise.

As regards the railways exploited or under construction in Ottoman territory, under the direction of our compatriots, or by means of our capital, the following enumeration, though brief, will suffice to show what a formidable debt Turkey will find herself owing, from this point of view alone, on the conclusion of hostilities, it being understood that the figures given are simple valuations.

First of all, there is the Salonika-Constantinople Railway. This line was ravaged in the Turco-Bulgarian War; a claim in respect of this was about to be lodged when the European conflagration broke out. The capital sunk in this venture represents 30,000,000 francs.

The Danube-Adriatic Railway, now under construction and starting from Scutari: The works, abandoned at the time of the Turco-Balkan War, have reached by now a total expenditure of about four to five million francs.

The Smyrna-Kassaba Railway and extensions represents the value of about 40,000,000 frs.

The branch line between Panderma and Sanma and the junctions Smyrna-Haidar, Pacha-Scutari, confiscated; representing 10,000,000 frs.

The Beyrout-Damas-Hamah and extensions registers a capital which cannot be less than 100,000,000 frs.

Finally, there is the unfortunate affair of the Yemen Railway in Arabia. This undertaking comprised the establishment of a port in the environs of Hodeidah-Sanaa and its extensions, including the Sanaa-Aden line, already surveyed, giving it a length of 850 kilometres. The works, executed in totality or in parts, already over 90 kilometres, crossing a portion of the 150 kilometres of desert region which separates the banks of the Red Sea from the fertile plateau, are probably lost; they represent, with the material, an expenditure of 50,000,000 frs.

COMPANY RESULTS, &c.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN.—Production for last week—Gemsah, 161 tons (last, 155 tons); Hurghada, 240 tons (last, 240 tons).

ANGLO-ROUMANIAN.—Production of oil for the week ended 2nd inst., 308 tons.

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.—Receipts for the ten days ended September 30 amounted to £E5,234, as against £E3,611 for the corresponding period of last year.

ROUMANIAN CONSOLIDATED OILFIELDS.—Production for the week ended October 9, 2,650 tons. Moreni wells Nos. 30, 49, and 53 still flowing.

ROYAL EXCHANGE ASSURANCE.—At a court of directors, held on Wednesday, it was decided to pay, on November 6 next, an interim dividend of £4 10s. per cent., less income-tax, on the capital stock of the corporation, in respect of the half-year ending June 30, 1915.

SUEZ CANAL.—Receipts for the 18th inst. amounted to 200,000 frs., as compared with 220,000 frs. for the corresponding day last year.

H.M. Consul-General at Tangier reports that, with a view to facilitating the colonisation and development of Morocco, the Resident-General has reorganised the services having relation thereto by centralising them under the direction and control of the Secretary-General of the Protectorate.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE	Mean Price. July 27.	Min. Price. Mar. 20.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	—	89½xd
Do. 4½% do. Bonds, 1907	82	—	—
Do. 4½% do. Bonds, 1909	80	—	66
City of Alexandria 5%, 1909	99	—	90½
City of Constantinople 4% Bnds	96	—	—
Egypt, Gov. 3% Guar. Loan	93½	87½	87½
Egyptian 4% Unified Debt	98	85	85
Do. Pref. Rd. 5%, 1890	88	78	78
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82½	73½	78½
Do. 4½% State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	80½	75	75½
Greek 5%, 1881	57	52	53
Do. 5%, 1884	56	52	53
Do. 4% Monopoly, 1887	49	45	45
Do. 4% Rentes, 1889	45	40	41
Do. 5%, 1890	56	52	52½
Do. 5% Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	—	50
Do. 4% Rails. Loan, 1902	77	—	63
Do. 5% Nat. Ln., 1907	94	—	90
Do. 5% Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	—	74
Montenegro 5% Loan	82½	—	—
Persian 5% Loan (1911)	91	—	80
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £60p.	92	—	85
Servian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—xd
Turkish Guar. 4% Loan, 1855	103	97	—
Do. 4%, 1891	94½	—	81xd
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	—	73xd
Do. 4% Loan, 1902	82½	—	—
Do. 4% Unified	79	—	54
Do. 4% Loan, 1908	65½	—	49
Do. 4%, 1909	69	—	47 1/16
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	—	2
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	—	6½
Do. 3½% Bonds Red.	80	—	70
Do. 3½% Guar. Bonds Red.	83	—	71
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	—	9½
Bank of Abyssinia	½	—	—
Bank of Athens	£2	—	1½
Bank of Roumania	8½	—	—
Eastern Bank	5	—	82/6
Imperial Bank of Persia	7½	—	6
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	—	—
Ionian Bank, Limited	3½	—	3½
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	—	4½
National Bank of Egypt	13½	—	10 1/16
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½% C.P.	8	—	nom.
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8½	—	5
Do. do. 5% Debs., Red.	98	—	95
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½% Debs., Ser. I.	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88½	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17½	—	12
Do do. 6% Cum. Pref.	22	—	13⅞
Do. do. 4% 1st Deb.	87	—	57
Do. do. 5% 2nd Deb.	101	—	69
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	90	—	—
Do. do. 3% Bonds	61	—	—
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	—	5/8
Do. 5% 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	—	95
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	½	—	—
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	—	2
Do. Do. Def.	½	—	—
Béhéra Co.	8½	—	6
Do. Pref.	4½	—	3½
Daira Sanieh	2/2	—	2/6
Do. Def.	⅜	—	20/-
Egyptian Agr. 5% 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Invs.	9/-	—	7/1½
Do. Gov. 4% Irr. Tst.	98	—	84½
Do and Foreign Trust	5/-	—	2/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	—	1
" " Founders	½	—	—
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—	—
Do. 5% Debs. Red.	—	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	9⅜	—	7½
Do. 4½% 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	—	85
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	—	½
Sidi Salem Co.	⅛	—	⅛
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	—	⅜
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	—	-/9
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	—	10⅞
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt	97	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	—	100
Egyptian Hotels	1½	—	—
Do. 4½% 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—	—
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1 1/16	—	1 1/16
Do. do. 5% Debs. Red.	99½	—	95
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	⅛	—	14/9
Do. 6% 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	96	—	95
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	—	9/-
Do. do. Prefs.	3⅜	—	2⅜xd
Do. do. 4½% 1st Mt.	90	—	88
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (fr. 500)	£179¾	—	£—
Upper Egypt Hotels	2½	—	—

OIL.	Price on July 30.	Oct. 20.
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	⅜	3/-
Anglo-Persian	22/1½	⅛
European Oilfields	4/9	3/3
Roumanian	20/-	12/6

PARIS BOURSE.

	Jan. 4.	Oct. 20.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane	—	—
Canal de Suez	4050	—
Credit Foncier Egyptien	639	565
Turkish Unified 4%	61.50	—
Egyptian Unified 4%	87.75	—
Serbian, 1895	—	—

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 234.—Vol. IX. FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1915.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

"Serbia is making superhuman efforts to defend her existence, in response to the advice and the desire of her great Ally. For this she is condemned to death by the Austro-Germans and Bulgarians. For twenty days our common enemies have tried to annihilate us. In spite of the heroism of our soldiers our resistance cannot be expected to be maintained indefinitely. We beg you, the many friends of Serbia in England, to do all that you possibly can to ensure your troops reaching us, that they may help our army, and that we may defend together that common cause that is now so gravely menaced."

A more pathetic appeal than the Serbian Premier sends to Great Britain in the above words could hardly be imagined. It is right that the British public should grasp the situation in Serbia and understand something of the circumstances which have wrung this despairing cry from M. Pasitch. With roughly about a quarter of a million effectives, the Serbians are seeking to defend themselves against a more numerous Austro-German force invading the country at three widely separated points from the north, and the same number of Bulgarians, who are attacking in four main columns from the east. A further Austro-German force is advancing from the west, aiming apparently at Ushitza, the terminus of the Kruchevatz railway, and it is the progress made by this army, with probably very little opposition to overcome, and the force at Valievo, that has suddenly rendered the position of the Serbians so precarious. The main effort of the German headquarters will have been directed towards expelling the Serbians from the territory contained in the angle formed by the Danube and the Timok, in order to open up communication with the Bulgarians and expedite the transport of munitions to the latter, but primarily to the Turks. In the absence of reinforcements which would enable her to turn the tables on her enemies, Serbia's hope lay in her ability to imitate the Russian tactics and to withdraw gradually westward or south-westward, while inflicting heavy punishment on the advancing Austro-German and Bulgarian forces. The movements of the latter have been unexpectedly rapid, and have doubtless encouraged the Germans to believe that a determined thrust from the west will enable them to cut off the retreat of the Serbian army and to capture or annihilate it.

There can be no doubt as to the grave and immediate danger in which the Serbian army finds itself. On the information available to the public there would seem to be little chance of any effective help reaching the Serbians from the Allied Powers to enable them to hold their enemies advancing from three points of the compass. It will rest, therefore, with Serbian generalship to extricate the army from its peril and to withdraw it towards Montenegro and Albania. In such a critical position it is clear that the active support of the small Montenegrin army might be of the greatest value. The retreat will have to be conducted in hilly country, and these hardy mountaineers are excellent at guerilla tactics. But a strange silence has brooded over Montenegro for some months, and it is not possible to state what part the Montenegrins will play in Serbia's dire need. It may be that Montenegro as well as Serbia has been adopting a watching policy at the advice of their Allies, who preferred to see them conserving their strength rather than expending it in aimless attacks on Austria-Hungary. An enemy report speaks of a Montenegrin battalion taking part in the operations east of Vishegrad, and, if this be true, we shall hope to learn that Montenegro has definitely placed all her resources at Serbia's disposal.

It will have come as a shock to the British public to find with what apparent callousness the British Government contemplates the prospect of Serbia going under. "I am afraid," said Lord Lansdowne, speaking on behalf of the Government in the House of Lords on Tuesday, "we must admit that the progress of the campaign in Northern Serbia has been such as to render it highly improbable that the Serbian Army will be able to withstand for any long time the attack to which it is exposed from the Austro-German force in the north, aided, as it is, by the stab in the back that Serbia has received at the hands of Bulgaria." Lord Lansdowne was explaining the inability of the Government to state what was going to be done with the Allied Force in the Eastern Mediterranean. "The military plan must depend upon the military situa-

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tion. . . . It will be necessary to take careful stock of the position. It will be necessary for the naval and military advisers of the British and French Governments to consult and to endeavour to come to a conclusion, and it cannot be until these consultations have taken place that we can be in a position to say that we intend to use the British force for this particular purpose or for that."

We can well imagine that every word in this frigid statement will pierce as deeply into Serbia's soul as any German bayonet thrusts into the bodies of her valiant army. A month ago the British Government gave its pledge to the Serbian nation—"If the Bulgarian mobilization were to result in Bulgaria assuming an aggressive attitude on the side of our enemies, we are prepared to give to our friends in the Balkans all the support in our power, in the manner that would be most welcome to them, in concert with our Allies, without reserve and without qualification." By "all the support in our power," Lord Lansdowne now explains, Great Britain meant the despatch of 13,000 men, who would be landed at Salonika, but would by no means be sent on at once from that port into Serbia. No doubt it was expected that Greece would honourably fulfil her bargain with Serbia; but there was no mention of Greece in Sir Edward Grey's undertaking, when he assured the Serbians that Great Britain and her Allies were then "prepared" to give all the support in their power. The episode, we believe, will leave a stain on the British escutcheon, the responsibility for which rests on a body of men who, after fifteen months of war, remain utterly impervious to the nation's clamouring that they should "get on" or make room for others, fewer in number and capable of interpreting in action the national mood.

As if to make Great Britain's breach of faith appear as suicidal as it is criminal, Lord Lansdowne complacently announced that the German invasion of Serbia was foreseen. "The Central Powers," he told the House of Lords, "naturally looked about them to discover some new direction in which to seek for a decision satisfactory to themselves, and their choice fell, *as it obviously was likely to fall*, upon the great attempt to make a push to the south-east through Bulgaria, *threatening our forces in Gallipoli, threatening Constantinople, and perhaps Egypt, to say nothing of vaster aspirations which perhaps lay behind.*" The German move was anticipated, its probable effects on Great Britain's military position were realized; but a fortnight after the move, which had been two or more months in course of preparation, had started the British Government has only 13,000 men in Salonika to oppose to it. When the Germans have joined hands with the Bulgarians and opened up communication with Constantinople then comes the heroic determination which is expected to still the voice of criticism. Further reinforcements are to be sent to the Eastern Mediterranean. "What we shall endeavour to use it (the British force) for will be to counter the movement of the Central Powers across Bulgaria." It sounds very magnificent, but it is not war.

As far as it is possible to follow the military operations in Serbia, we may regard it as established that the Serbians have been ejected from the north-eastern corner, where the Danube makes an irregular horseshoe bend between Serbia and the adjoining territories of Hungary, Roumania, and Bulgaria. Bulgarians have occupied Negotin and Prahovo; Austrians are at Kladovo. Thus the narrow link between Serbia and Roumania is severed, and the latter country becomes isolated from Western Europe. What effect this fact will have on the attitude of the Roumanian Government remains to be seen. Its line of communication was cut when Bulgaria marched against Serbia; but there was the chance that the Entente Powers and the Serbs would make short work of the Bulgarians. Now that the Germans and Bulgarians have joined hands, Roumania is practically surrounded by the enemies of the Entente. Will the military situation, which appeals strongly to all the Balkan States, induce the Roumanian Government to throw itself into the Germanic camp? So long as M. Bratiano remains Premier we refuse to believe that it will. The Allies, however, must be prepared to see the fiercest pressure brought to bear on Roumania by the Germans, and if further untoward events are to be avoided no time must be lost in allowing the Roumanians to see that we are this time in earnest in launching the expedition which is "to counter the movement of the Central Powers across Bulgaria."

In the hope of covering up its own shortcomings the British Government offered Cyprus to Greece if she would give immediate and full support to Serbia. The offer, which was at once rejected by Greece, furnished another proof of the complete misreading of the Balkan situation of which the Allied Governments have been guilty from the outset of the war. King Constantine is not a Ferdinand of Bulgaria; he has no fantastic ambitions. His one guiding principle in the present crisis is a desire to safeguard interests which he considers would be in danger if he were to lead the Greek Army against the Bulgarians. The offer of further territory for Greece, therefore, has no attractions for him, and was bound to be refused. If the Allies wish for Greek support while King Constantine and his present advisers direct the destinies of Greece, they must persuade them that the national safety is in greater danger from breaking faith with Serbia than from declaring war on Bulgaria.

The publication in the form of a Blue Book of despatches from the generals directing the operations in the Persian Gulf and Mesopotamia is a tardy acknowledgment of the uniformly successful progress of the Indian Expeditionary Force "D." These despatches, however, do not bring the narrative of events beyond last April, when the determined attack by the enemy on Shaiba, near Busreh, was repulsed with heavy losses. They have, moreover, been published some time ago in India. Their official appearance in print in this country—a concession made by the Government to a popular demand—will, we hope, serve to remind the Expeditionary Force that their splendid efforts and sacrifices are not really ignored by their fellow-countrymen. Progress has been so rapid that they have encouraged us to fix our eyes on the ultimate goal of the expedition, and have helped us to forget all that their steady advance means to officers and men day by day. Recent questions in Parliament prove that public opinion is no longer minded to take things for granted, but it is a matter for regret that the elementary nature of the questions put to the Government regarding the steps to be taken in the face of the new menace arising from the opening up by Germany of through communication to Constantinople should indicate how much the conduct of military operations in the Near East has shaken confidence in the general management of the war.

The announcement that a detachment of the Persian Cossack brigade, 320 strong, has been sent to Hamadan, "to help the Russian and British Consuls in their struggle against the violence of our enemies, who have been considerably reinforced at Hamadan," throws a lurid light on the situation in Persia. It points to the ubiquitous activities of "our enemies" in that country, and leaves it to be inferred that no really effective measures can be taken at present to cope with the menace. The Persian Cossack detachment, it is to be hoped, will ensure the safety of the British and Russian Consuls at Hamadan, but will hardly avail to clear that part of Persia of German agents and their tools.

A decree has been issued in Cairo indefinitely postponing the meeting of the Egyptian Legislative Assembly and suspending the operation of the election provisions of the Organic Law. This step will evoke no surprise, as it is evident that the present situation ill accords with the normal progress of a constitutional experiment which is still a novelty for the country.

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NEWS FROM TURKEY.

(From a Correspondent.)

Alexandria, October 10.

Annexation of the Lebanon.

Although the blockade of the Syrian Coast has put a stop to direct communication between Syria and Egypt, even by the American warships, yet the occupation of the Island of Ruad by the French affords now an indirect means of getting occasional news of Syria. For in spite of the vigilance of the Turkish authorities, surreptitious flights of persons from the mainland to Ruad continue; and the news brought by these persons is transmitted through the owners of the sailing craft of Ruad, who are allowed to trade freely between that island and Cyprus and Egypt. The latest report is that the Turkish Government has declared the annexation of the Lebanon as a Turkish vilayet, and has appointed Hassan Munir Bey as Governor-General. Although this province has since the war been governed under martial law by the Turks, its internal administration and local privileges have not been interfered with. It now remains to be seen whether the onerous system of taxation obtaining in the vilayets will be applied to this poor and rocky province, and whether its hitherto free inhabitants will be subjected to military service.

The French at Ruad.

This move is perhaps a counterblast to the French occupation of Ruad. This tiny island, through its proximity to the mainland, is serving as a very useful intelligence base. The French seem to be showing every kindness to the Moslem inhabitants of the island, and all those who take refuge therein. They lose no opportunity to impress upon the people the fact that they have not come as conquerors, but as liberators and friendly guides, and special emphasis is laid on the fact that no distinction whatever shall be made between the different sects, but that Christians and Moslems alike shall receive the same paternal treatment at their hands.

French Aviator's Feat.

The continual flights made by the French aviators over the Lebanon must prove a source of constant irritation to Turkish pride. It is reported that while a French aviator was hovering in his seaplane over the village of Aley a company of Turkish soldiers opened fire on him, and hit one of the wings of the seaplane. The aviator made a few turns in the air in such a way as to deceive the Turks into the belief that he was seriously hit; and as he continued to descend a large number of Turkish troops assembled in and around a large summer residence belonging to an Italian subject in a neighbouring village, in the hope of seeing the aviator drop in their midst as a captive, when the latter suddenly dropped a bomb on the building, blowing it up, together with the troops.

Turkish Destructiveness.

The work of wanton destruction of trees is reported to be still going on in Syria. This would seem to indicated that the Turks are very badly off for fuel. The fine pine forest lying on the southern outskirts of Beyrout, which is known to have been planted by order of Ibrahim Pasha during his conquest of Syria, is now being cut down; and what promised to become under an enlightened Government a fashionable promenade is doomed to disappear, to the great grief of the Beyroutines. The immense and rich olive plantations known as Sahrat Esh Shwifat lying on the stretch of plain between the sea and the Lebanon are said to be meeting the same fate. When it is remembered that an olive tree takes years before it can yield fruit the degree of wantonness reached by Turkish barbarity is realised.

The Syrian Protestant College.

The president of the American College is reported to have succeeded in his mission at Constantinople. Thanks to his tact, he has been able to persuade the Turkish authorities to postpone the immediate application of their programme providing for the use of Turkish as the principal teaching medium by the proposal that Turkish should be at first taught as a secondary language, and that as soon as the students have become well grounded in Turkish, it should become the principal medium of instruction for the higher sciences.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Athens, October 13.

The Turco-Bulgarian Accord.

Outside official circles in Constantinople the Turco-Bulgarian Agreement and the mobilisation of the Bulgarian Army appear to be received with certain misgivings, and instead of strengthening confidence in the governing clique, the effect has been rather to create further discord. In the first place there is a very general opinion that the alliance can only be temporary; for in view of her desire to possess Thrace it is realised that Bulgaria will not be satisfied until she has reoccupied the territory she had to abandon after the first Balkan War. On the other hand, it is felt that should the German Army succeed in getting to Constantinople a military occupation will follow, and the entire administration be taken over by the Germans, an event which would be more distasteful to the Turks than the entry of the Allies into Constantinople. In spite of these opinions, however, which are said to be shared by the majority, no change in the political situation is likely to occur.

Parliament Meets.

Parliament met on September 28, the Senate presided over by Rifaat Bey, and the Chamber of Deputies under the presidency of Hussein Djahid Bey. The sittings were short, and both houses adjourned for a week.

The general situation remains practically unchanged in Constantinople. Bread is again scarce, owing, it is said, to the railways in Bulgaria being occupied by the military, which prevents flour coming in from Roumania. On the other hand, there appear to be regular arrivals of coal.

The Armenians are now being expelled from Rodosto, and there are again rumours that the Armenian population in Constantinople is to share the same fate.

More Military Requisitions.

The military authorities are again largely requisitioning all sorts of articles in Constantinople, mostly materials suitable for soldiers' clothing. The effect of these requisitions is to increase the ruin of shopkeepers.

Enemy Subjects' Property.

Nothing further has been heard of the Government's intention to seize the properties of enemy subjects in order to defray the losses sustained by Ottomans through bombardment or other military operations. A law has, however, been passed enabling the Government to deal with the properties, liabilities, and assets of persons who have been exiled.

Baron Wangenheim, the German Ambassador, has returned to Constantinople.

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THE TURKISH ATROCITIES.

Englishwomen's Terrible Experiences.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, October 3.

By all accounts, the work of extermination of the Armenians in Asia Minor is continuing, and the latest reports are every whit as gruesome in their details as the earlier ones. A good deal of information has been corroborated by Allied lady refugees, who have been brought to Alexandria from Alexandretta by the American cruisers. I have before me a letter, which I have received from one of the English ladies, in which she graphically describes her experiences and shows how cavalierly and cruelly she and her companions were treated by the authorities in the interior.

All their men folk had been taken from them in December and sent to Urfa in May, having been detained in the meanwhile at Damascus, where, during the visit of one of H.M.'s cruisers to Alexandretta and Adana, they were closely confined and threatened with death if a single Turk was killed during the bombardment. The last week in July the authorities commenced to send the Allied women and children from Beyrout to the interior. They were given very short notice, and took two days to reach Aleppo. There they were kept for six days, and in spite of the American Consul's efforts to have them detained there permanently and so save them from what he knew was to follow, they were made to continue their journey.

All went well until they came to the Euphrates bridge, where they were stopped to allow a German to take a photograph of the train. After a while they started again, and got across the bridge; but once more they were stopped, and sent back. Three times they crossed, and three times they had to retrace their steps. At length, after waiting a considerable time in the burning heat, they were sent on their way. It subsequently transpired that the German who was "taking a photograph" was a cinematograph operator, who was securing a film of the "10,000 Allied prisoners on their way from the Dardanelles to the interior of Asia Minor"! This film is to be shown in Constantinople and also in Germany, where it will doubtless evoke wildest applause. One wonders whether the Kultur intellect in its enthusiasm will ever spot the similarity of the "seven" trains, or the curious fact that the "10,000" prisoners are very "womanly" and "childlike" in appearance!

At Seraraj-Poaner the refugees were bundled out of the train and ordered to go to a dirty khan, where they were kept until 11 p.m., when fifteen carriages—pathetically described by my correspondent as "barrels on wheels"—arrived for their conveyance. At midnight they started off on their journey to Urfa. The road was very bad, and at 2 a.m. they arrived at Suruj, where more ill-treatment awaited them. They were crowded into the filthy yard of a khan, and the police forced them by threats to pay for the hire of their carriages. They were to have resumed their journey an hour later, but they did not start again until 8 a.m. The reason given by the police was that the road was not safe after dark owing to brigands, but from the fact that they passed numbers of blackened bodies on the road from Suruj to Urfa my correspondent and her companions are more than inclined to believe what was told them afterwards, viz., that they were kept back so that they should not meet the Armenian women and children, who were being driven from the interior during the night, and who, as they fall out and die by the roadside, are burned as they lie.

Eventually they reached Urfa, though only after much suffering from the intense heat and the lack of water. Most of the refugees went up to the Monastery, just outside the town, where their men-folk had been interned, but some, principally French, remained in the town. "The Monastery," writes my correspondent, "is a big, rambling place with only shutters to the windows, no glass, and everything is very rough, with a general absence of furniture. We each had a camp-bed, mug, knife, fork, spoon, and chair, and several shared a table. The American Missionary had most of the beds, chairs, and tables made in his school. We had to feed ourselves, and some of us clubbed together and formed a sort of mess, getting one of the French prisoners to cook for us. There were two or three police on guard at the gate—not much protection in the case of a rising of the mob. On August 10 all the unmarried women were ordered out of the country. They had a bad time of it going to Aleppo and then on to Alexandretta, with only two police in charge, and were much distressed on the way, as they overtook some of the 2,000 Armenian women and children from Diarbekir, who were being driven along the road. A friend told me that some of the poor women just dropped by the wayside from hunger and fatigue, and were left there to die, and little babies and children were seen alone on the road." (I have since heard that those of the refugees who tried to do anything for these poor abandoned infants were very roughly treated by their escort.)

The Urfa massacres started on the afternoon of August 13, when about 150 Armenians were killed and a few police wounded. None of the refugees were allowed out until two days later, when they found the place comparatively quiet, "but daily some Armenians were killed, and we could see birds of prey hovering over the place where their bodies had been thrown."

On August 24 the first batch of married women and children left in charge of the American Vice-Consul at Aleppo, who had come up with relief funds. (The Turkish officials offered to distribute the money, but the Vice-Consul was not "having any.") At Aleppo the first contingent waited for the rest, and then all went on to Alexandretta, where they joined forces with the unmarried women. They had to wait some time at Alexandretta in filthy accommodation, and many went down with fever, but at last on September 18 the U.S. warship Chester came in and took them all on board. Thus, the two months' Odyssey to and from the interior of Asia Minor of these unfortunate but brave women and children came to an end. While they are thankful to have escaped from the horrors and cruel treatment that further captivity had in store for them, they are far from being in a happy frame of mind, for their men are still at Urfa, a desolate spot, and their "great wish is to get them moved to a more civilised spot, if they cannot be got out of the country."

My correspondent makes a brief reference to what she saw and heard of the massacres whilst in Urfa. All the time they were there, and even before they arrived, Armenians were being constantly driven through from the interior to an unknown destination. According to her, the men were first taken and done away with, and then the women and children were driven over the mountains until they dropped from starvation and fatigue, and when the refugees left Urfa there was talk of the local Armenians being similarly treated. (It is interesting to note, as an illustration of the attitude of the other elements of the population, that at the outset the Moslems of Diarbekir protested against the massacre of their fellow-citizens, but that very soon they repented them of their opposition, and the massacre was allowed to follow its normal course.)

In common with her companions, however, my correspondent suffered too much mentally and physically to be able to go into details as to her experiences, which, to say the least of them, were harrowing. Nevertheless one can read between the lines, and the account given serves to confirm only too clearly the grim tales that had reached here ahead of the refugees. Her letter closes with the following sentence:—"I wish we could impress upon our people at home the terrible state of affairs in the interior of Turkey, so that some-

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thing might be done, not only for our men, but for the unfortunate Armenians"; and all out here who know anything about the situation sincerely re-echo her wishes.

The two questions are, indeed, intimately bound up with one another. The anti-Armenian movement, if allowed to continue, may easily and suddenly turn into an anti-Christian one, and in that event the lives of our men and those of our Allies interned in Asia Minor and Syria, as well as those of neutral subjects resident there, would become not worth a minute's purchase. It is understood that the German and Austrian Ambassadors have protested at the Porte, and that they have been promised that the massacres shall cease at once. But, as I wrote last week, under existing conditions and in view of past experience, such promises are worthless and cause one to feel more anxious than ever, if indeed the protests were made with any seriousness. The situation demands very strong action on the part of the few remaining neutral Powers both at Constantinople and through Berlin and Vienna, but short of the removal of Talaat from his present post as master of the pageant of blood, it is difficult to see what satisfactory guarantee of practical effect being given to their demands the neutral Powers could obtain.

ODESSA NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

ODESSA, October 6.

Russia and Bulgaria.

The action of Bulgaria in throwing in her lot with Russia's enemies has caused amazement and intense disgust throughout Russia. For, surely, if there was one Power to whom Russia had a right to look for sympathy, if not for active help, it was Bulgaria. It is only another illustration that all that is base and unworthy in international life at the present day seems drawn irresistibly towards the Hun. Judged by this standard, therefore, it does not seem any longer surprising that the nation which exhibited such a greed for power in the last Balkan War, and which turned its sword against its allies, should now be found on that side which represents barbarity, oppression, and lust of power, the would-be extinguisher of all small nations.

Bulgarian Residents' Protest.

Meantime, the position of the many thousands of Bulgarians resident in Russia is a very unenviable one. Drawn by many bonds of sympathy and love towards their liberator, they cannot find words strong enough to express their disapprobation of the course which has been forced upon their country by an alien German king and political renegade.

The Bulgarian colony of Odessa has just telegraphed to M. Radoslavoff the following protest:—

We, Bulgarians living in Odessa, are greatly disturbed by the events of the last few days, which leave no room for doubt that the Government presided over by you has placed itself entirely at the service of the Germans, and is endeavouring to throw the nation into a new adventure.

We are strongly convinced that at the present moment of conflict between the nations the national and political interests of our country demand unity with the Powers of the Quadruple Entente, fighting for right, justice, and the principle of nationality; and we consider that Bulgarian policy directed against Russia and her Allies is a policy directed against the interests of Bulgaria herself and her future.

We know that our nation is to the depth of its soul filled with love for its Liberator, and also believes that its national aspirations can only be achieved through her, and not in alliance with her enemies, the Austrians and Germans, the direction you are forcing her.

Therefore we energetically protest against your German policy as an extremely dangerous game with the highest interests of the country, its feelings and sympathies, which policy may cause internal disorders, or intervention from outside, with damage to the political independence and integrity of the country.

Copies of this telegram were also sent to MM. Malinoff, Gueshoff, Daneff, and others.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

Subscribers to "THE NEAR EAST" who have left the Ottoman Dominions since the war will oblige by notifying the Manager of their new address as early as possible, so that the supply of the paper should not be unduly interrupted.

LITIGATION IN THE SUDAN.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

It has been previously observed that the Sudanese, in common with the majority of Eastern peoples, are by disposition very litigious. Not alone are the Civil Courts usually well occupied with the hearing of plaints—mainly of a very trivial nature—but the Mohammedan Courts are not infrequently congested, notwithstanding the large staff of officials, including the Grand Kadi, seventeen Naib Kadis, and many subordinate judges and inspectors, who attend almost daily throughout the year. In 1913 the Mohammedan Courts alone heard and adjudicated upon over 10,450 cases, an advance of 980 upon the number of suits entered and heard in 1912. In 1914 the Civil and Mohammedan Courts between them were engaged upon deciding 16,438 cases, a total which showed an increase of some 1,400 over that of the previous year, which amounted to 15,041. Strangely enough, this increase in the number of suits was unaccompanied by an advance in the amount of Court fees or lawyers' costs; in fact, the receipts among the former were but little affected, while the native gentlemen of the long robe suffered a reduction all round in their earnings. The shrinkage in the total amount of costs earned for the period mentioned was £E500, the figures, as returned by the Court officials, being £E4,364 for 1914, as against £E4,853 for 1913.

It would seem that the average value of the legal charges earned—excluding those relating to the levying of execution—and which hal already declined from 349 milliemes in 1912 to 280 milliemes in 1913, during the year of 1914 fell further to 233 milliemes per suit. This exceptionally favourable state of the litigation market—from the point of view of the litigants, *bien entendu*—not unnaturally led to an increased amount of law cases of all kinds, both the Civil and Religious Courts being fully employed. According to Mr. W. Sterry, the Chief Justice, there exists no great prospect of an increase in lawyers' fees until a greater amount of public confidence has been established. It must be further remembered that the completion of the land settlement last year throughout the greater part of the Sudan, and the absence of speculation in land, have tended to reduce litigation both in substance and value.

Recently a completely new set of rules and charges regulating the collection of Court fees and the scale of solicitors' and advocates' costs was promulgated, and a study of these assists one to understand more readily how the greater part of the people of the Sudan are enabled to indulge in the moderately cheap luxury of suing one another. Apart from the collection of Court fees—which latter compare very favourably with our own in regard to their reasonableness—the scale of solicitors' and advocates' charges are strictly limited in amount; no Sudanese litigant need dread the delivery of his legal adviser's "little bill," since he may know in advance almost to a piastre what that should be.

Thus, if the suit brought be in connection with a sum of money amounting to less than £E5, the lawyer cannot charge more than 20 p.t. (= about 4s.) for preparing the case; 15 p.t. (say, 3s.) for appearing at the trial (if the case be undefended), or 35 p.t. (say, 7s.) if it be defended. The new scale of costs introduced applies thereafter according to the value of the amount in dispute, so that the most voracious litigant becomes the most valuable client, and, obviously, it is no part of the solicitor's business to suggest moderation in the framing of the statement of claim. A claimant for an amount of anything up to £E50 must pay his legal adviser 100 p.t. (=£1 0s. 6d.) for preparing his case; 200 p.t. (say, £2 1s.) for pleading it, if it be undefended; and 500 p.t. (= £5 2s. 6d.) if it be defended. In the form of a "refresher"—if allowed—the suitor must hand over to his advocate a further fee of 300 p.t. (= £3 1s. 6d.). Whether or not an advocate is entitled to a "refresher" depends entirely upon the view of the Court.

The very poor litigant is considered, and his interests are carefully protected from injury. The rascally lawyer tout—so well known in the precincts of our own law courts—is in the Sudan deprived of any possibility of fattening upon the needs or the ignorance of the more humble suitor. The Court fees are framed so as to give the latter a chance of coming to the Fount of Justice to be heard with the same facilities as his more wealthy brother. The suitor for an amount under £E5 cannot be called upon for any lawyer's fees without a special order of the Court; the Government dues, on the other hand, amount to about 10 per cent. of the value of the amount mentioned in the suit.

Heavier suits bring in Court fees proportionately. Thus a litigant claiming an amount of £84 would have to pay in fees about £7 15s.; of £163, a little over £11 10s.; of £430, about £19 12s; and for a claim amounting to £1,350 the fees would total £34 10s. It will be seen, therefore, that the charges are carefully graduated. On the other hand, no matter how large a sum may be involved, there is a limit to the fees when the claim amounts to over £1,000. That fee limit is fixed at £E200 (= £205).

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THE WAR IN THE BALKANS.

The Enemy's Encircling Movement.

In last week's summary of the war we pointed out what we considered to be the most vital sectors of the Serbian east-west and north-south fronts. They were the Timok sector, where the Bulgarians were advancing to join forces with the Austro-Germans, and the Vrania-Uskub line, where the former were attempting to thrust in a wedge between north and south Serbia, thus rendering impossible the arrival of help to the Serbs from Salonika. In both these sectors the enemy have been partially, if not wholly, successful.

North-Eastern Serbia.

On Wednesday evening the German official communiqué stated that in Liubicevats, on the Danube, near Brza-Palanka (thirty-two miles north of the Bulgarian frontier, thirteen miles south-east of the Hungarian frontier) direct connection with the army of General Boyadjieff had been established by patrols of Austro-German officers. Thus will have been gained the first objective of the enemy's strategy, namely, the establishment of a passage from Berlin to Constantinople. The significance of this needs no emphasis, and even supposing the German claim to be fallacious, it is evident to all that it only sins in being premature. The Timok sector, henceforth, is merely of academic interest. The Serbs will have to fall back on the Morava line, abandoning Zaichar and Kniashevaz, whereas the enemy will advance from the north, north-east, and east until he controls, and is in a position to hold against all attacks, the Belgrade-Sofia line, the only practicable means of communication between Berlin and Constantinople, through Parachin and Nish. This can hardly be done yet, and certainly not until the Serbs have been driven lock, stock, and barrel out of the whole of Northern Serbia. The apparently slow advance of the Germans in the north may, apart from the heroic resistance offered them by the Serbs, be accounted for by Mackensen's desire not to move his main army up the Morava until his other armies are in a position to move forward simultaneously south-west from Orsova, south from Belgrade, Obrenovatz and Shabatz, and east through Ushitz from the Drina. In the meantime, another Austro-German advance from Vishegrad in a south-easterly direction through the old Sanjak of Novi Bazar is developing, and threatens Serbia's connection with Montenegro and Albania. It is difficult to determine how far Mackensen has developed his movement, owing to lack of authentic news. The Serbian report (October 24) says:

> On the northern front, after desperate fighting, the Serbian troops withdrew upon the following line—Right bank of the Mlava to Veliko Orachie, right bank of the Jasenitza (south of Semendrin, in the Morava valley). Other forces withdrew to the right bank of the Kubrchniza (south-west of Belgrade) and the right bank of the Turia (south of Belgrade).

As compared with this, the official enemy reports, issued on the 26th, claim the capture of Valievo in the west and of Racha, to the south of Palanka, in the Morava valley. If the latter is confirmed, the position of Kragujevatz is more than perilous, the enemy being within twenty miles of this, Serbia's only arsenal.

Central Serbia.

Taking this sector as reaching along the Bulgaro-Serbian line from the Nishava to the Bregalnitza rivers, we find, in the first place that the enemy claims to have invested Pirot on the Nish-Sofia line; but, even so, the advance on Nish from this direction offers tremendous natural difficulties. Further south, it appears almost certain that the enemy now command the Nish-Salonika line from near Leskovaz to near Veles, their greatest achievement during the past week having been the capture of Uskub last Friday. A mere glance at the map will suffice to show the importance of this town, to defend which the Serbs exerted themselves during three days with a heroism beyond all praise. With the Kustendil-Uskub road in Bulgarian possession, enemy troops (including Turkish soldiery) can be sent into the very heart of Macedonia and occupy a position from which only a strong Allied army can dislodge them; and, further, by making use of the Uskub-Mitroviza line through the Kachanak gorge and across the plains of Kossovo, they will eventually, *unless stopped by us*, join forces with the Austrian army advancing from Vishegrad in the direction of Novi Bazar. In other words, we are witnessing the slow development of the threatened encircling movement which has for object the total annihilation of Voivode Putnik's army. The Serbs, retreating from Uskub, seem to have fallen back to the north-west along the Mitroviza line according to one report, and, according to another, southwards along the Treska in the direction of Prilip, whence they were able to strengthen the Serbian attack on Veles.

In possession of the triangle Uskub-Egir Palanka-Kochana-Istip, the Bulgars immediately attacked Veles, and on Saturday succeeded in occupying that portion of the town lying on the left bank of the Vardar. Despatches, however, which reached London on Wednesday, report that the Serbs have dislodged the enemy, thrown him back on the Bregalnitza, and are following him to Istip. This successful counter-attack on the part of our brave Allies is believed to threaten the Bulgarian position at Uskub, and at the time of going to press it is even reported (unofficially) from Athens that the city has been recaptured.

Anglo-French Relief Expedition.

The whole situation in the southern central sector depends on the aid sent by us to the Serbs. We know from Government statements in Parliament that we have 13,000 men in Serbia, and that they are operating, together with the French (whose numbers have not been revealed), on the Serbo-Greek frontier. From French official communiqués we know that fighting against the Bulgars has taken place to the south of the Strumitza wedge, and that the enemy has been driven out of Valandovo—for the second time, presumably, because a week ago the same statement was published—and that he is retiring on Strumitza. It is to be presumed, therefore, that the Anglo-French expeditionary force, insufficiently strong for a big advance along the Vardar, is fighting its way slowly in the very south of Serbia, and has neither penetrated to any great distance into Bulgaria, nor been able to render effective aid to the Serbs fighting in the vicinity of Veles.

In conclusion, the bombardment by the Allies' Fleet of Dedeagatch, Makri, and Porto Lagos, Bulgarian ports in the Ægean, must be recorded. It was a highly successful operation, though apparently of no vital strategic importance. A report from Athens even states that transport along the Salonika-Constantinople line has not been interfered with, the vulnerable sections near the coast having been replaced by loop-lines further inland.

SERBIA DOOMED.

Mr. Ashmead-Bartlett, in his lecture on Wednesday, said that we had pledged ourselves to go to Serbia's assistance, and nothing could be more deplorable than a pledge given which was not kept. He believed that those who had made the pledge, with the best intentions in the world, felt they could ultimately keep it; but the strategic position was such that it would be impossible to save Serbia this year. The French had sent a certain number of divisions, and we had sent 13,000 men out there; but such a force could do nothing at all to stop the inevitable end. Serbia would be forced to go under. We could not save Serbia by pouring large masses of men into Salonika. The difficulties of operating there were enormous, and the single line of railway was already occupied by the enemy.

It would not be possible to send an army to Bulgaria this year. There were only three or four weeks in which operations would be possible now in Bulgaria, and we had not an army sufficiently well organised to attempt a serious attack now. There was, however, no reason why we should not hold Salonika and keep our troops in Greece. If we had thought out our position ahead, we should have had an army out there long ago, which would not only have stopped Bulgaria from coming in against us, but would have forced her to come in on our side.

It was an enormous advantage to act on the defensive. Before we could send any troops to Serbia which would have any decisive effect there, Serbia would be finished, and our enemies would be in possession of all the defensive positions which they ought to hold. It would be the greatest mistake to attack those positions.

ALLIED SUBJECTS IN SOFIA.

According to a message from Sofia to the *Neue Freie Presse*, the subjects of enemy Powers, and also Serbians, enjoy complete freedom in their movements. No one has been interned. The railway and electric-light companies, both of which are Belgian enterprises, have not been placed under Government control.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

A BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF RUSSIA.*

Mr. E. A. Brayley-Hodgetts has rendered yeoman service to his country by providing the Man in the Street with a bird's-eye view of the Russian Empire. Our great Ally's history, religious belief, and government are sketched with a master hand. There are illuminating chapters describing peasant and urban life; Russia's military organization receives extended notice; and her expansion south-eastwards is followed step by step. Mr. Brayley-Hodgetts' power of compression borders on the marvellous, and it has involved no diminution of interest. His pages are enlivened by many personal touches, revealing a close acquaintance with the land in which his youth was spent. He emphasizes a fact which has been brought into strong relief by the war now raging—that Russia's social and political diseases are one and all, the result of her ancient subservience to the cordially-hated German, which is now happily a thing of the past. Another fact which cannot be gainsaid is that a deep-seated racial sympathy unites Britons and Russians who really know each other. It has survived the ordeal of mutual misunderstandings, and is destined to ripen into an enduring friendship.

THE SURVEY OF THE HOLY LAND.†

Palestine possesses a mysterious charm for millions unnumbered. Christians and Jews venerate that little strip of the Mediterranean shore as the cradle of their religions; Moslems because it enshrines a holy place ranking after Mecca and Medina. For historians, Palestine is the ancient battleground of mighty empires; for archæologists it conceals relics of dead civilisations which may illustrate the origin of our own. The general desire for greater knowledge of that wondrous region materialised in 1804; and for sixty years sporadic attempts were made to explore its hidden treasures. In 1865 they crystallised into an organic movement whose Jubilee is fitly celebrated by an official summary of its operations.

The Palestine Exploration Fund was started under the patronage of Queen Victoria, and its original committee included a large proportion of the intellectual giants who cast undying lustre on her reign. At its inaugural meeting, the Archbishop of York defined the principles which should govern the work undertaken by the Fund. It would be guided by the light of science, without the heat of controversy, and be unbiassed by the dogma of any creed. The Fund's success is due to its punctual observance of these golden rules.

After a preliminary reconnaissance, excavations began in the purlieus of Solomon's Temple, which were completed, as far as Turkish bigotry would allow, in 1897. In 1868 an expedition was sent to the Desert of Exodus, which set all doubts at rest as to the geography of Mount Sinai, and followed the wanderings of Israel in its quest for the Promised Land. Western Palestine was thoroughly surveyed and mapped between 1872 and 1883. Two years later began a topographical survey of the country east of the River Jordan; and it was brought to a successful conclusion in 1886. Geological researches on a comprehensive scale were undertaken in 1883-4, when the future F. M. Earl Kitchener of Khartoum proved his mettle by splendid work in the Wady Araba. Western Palestine was surveyed between 1890 and 1911; and in the years following, the Fund's prolonged labour was crowned by a survey of the southern territory, which fortunately ended ere warfare called a halt to scientific research.

The Palestine Exploration Fund owes its financial success to Mr. Walter Morrison, sole survivor of the original committee, who has served for many years as its honorary treasurer. From first to last, upwards of £138,000 has been expended in surveying and mapping the Holy Land. It has produced an amount of solid achievement which proves that Germans have no monopoly of organizing power.

BOOK NOTES.

The current "Quarterly Statement" of the Palestine Exploration Fund is full of interest. Colonel Sir Charles Watson contributes a useful paper on "Measures of distance in Palestine," and Mr. E. J. Pilcher another on "The Shekel of the Sanctuary." Mr. Joseph Offord's "Archæological Notes" and the concluding portion of Dr. Max van Berchem's notes on the "Graffiti of the Cistern at Wady-el-Joz" will repay reading, and the instalment of "The Immovable East," by Philip J. Baldensperger, gives much detailed information concerning clothes and fashions. Perhaps the contribution most likely to prove of general interest is the first of a series of "Occasional Papers on the Modern Inhabitants of Palestine," of which the authorship is shared by Dr. E. W. G. Masterman and Prof. R. A. S. Macalister. This series, based on "material collected by an intelligent native Christian," bids fair to be of extreme value to all students of Oriental manners and customs. The "Notes and News" contain a statement of the policy of the society in face of the conditions brought about by the war and an appeal for support for its work.

Mr. Werner Laurie is adding Pierre Loti's "Jerusalem" to his uniform edition of that author's works. Mr. W. P. Baines is the translator.

Mr. Andrew Melrose has published this week "Russia, the Balkans, and the Dardanelles," by Granville Fortescue. The price is 6s. net.

Messrs. Methuen have published a cheap edition of Miss Norma Lorimer's "By the Waters of Egypt," which originally appeared six years ago.

"JUGOSLOVENSKI GLASNIK."*

The idea of Jugoslav unity, which manifested itself at different times in different Jugoslav regions, has had its permanent home for a long time in Serbia. When the great movement for the uniting of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes was born in Croatia in 1836 and was suppressed by the Austrian police in 1843, it was in the Serbian principality that it found a refuge. In 1844-45 the Croatian patriots found a hospitable welcome in Belgrade, and established there a review and a centre for the distribution of pamphlets issued for the purpose of spreading the idea of Jugoslav unity; and several eminent Serbian men of letters collaborated in the work. To say nothing of numerous other instances of the same spirit in Serbia, we may note that the best Serbian literary review, the *Srpski Knjizevni Glasnik* (founded in 1901), is simply a Jugoslav review in the widest sense of the expression.

Now, amidst the clash of war, a new review inspired by the same spirit, the *Jugoslovenski Glasnik** ("Southern Slav Courier"), has been founded at Nish, being edited by a committee of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes. The members of this committee are for the greater part young Jugoslav immigrants from Austria, who have fought in the ranks of the Serbian and Montenegrin armies, the editor of the review, M. Simitch, himself having been one of the fighting men. Among the collaborators, besides the litterateurs of Serbia, are Jugoslav writers who have also left their native soil and are now scattered in the chief cities of Europe. The Jugoslav Committee in London (president, Dr. Trumbic)—which has just given lively proof of its existence by the publication of the *Southern Slav Bulletin* and the "Southern Slav Library," which is now in course of preparation—is also taking a part in this Jugoslav movement at Nish; and we observe that Dr. Potocnjak, M. Marjanovitch, and Dr. Jedlovski, all members of the London committee, appear on the list of contributors to the new review.

The articles and notes of this review are all concerned exclusively with various phases of the Jugoslav question. They treat of Croatian aspirations, of the fate of Dalmatia, the aims and aspirations of the rising generation, the literary activities of the Jugoslav provinces, and so forth; and all with a view to the political union of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes. Thus, as the editors themselves express it, their programme aims at "the fulfilment of the ardent hopes of the Serbo-Croatian-Slovene people; that is to say, at their deliverance from Austrian dominance and their political and national union." The young review dwells with real enthusiasm on British sympathy with the Jugoslav cause, and refers to the widespread evidence of this feeling that is afforded by the British Press. We note amongst other features translations of a graceful appreciation of M. Mestrovitch, by Mr. James Bone, and of an interesting article by Mr. H. Wickham Steed, "The British and the War."

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The Caliphs' Last Heritage: A Short History of the Turkish Empire. By Lieut.-Colonel Sir Mark Sykes, Bart., M.P. (Macmillan. 20s. net.)

Indian Thought: Past and Present. By R. W. Frazer, LL.B., C.E., I.C.S. Illustrated. (T. Fisher Unwin. 10s. 6d. net.)

Eleftherios Venizelos: His Life and Work. By Dr. C. Kerofilas. With an Introduction by M. Take Jonescu. Translated by Beatrice Barstow. (John Murray. 3s. 6d. net.)

* "Glorious Russia: Its Life, People and Destiny." By E. A. Brayley-Hodgetts. (Bristol: J. W. Arrowsmith, Ltd. London: Simpkin, Marshall and Co., Ltd., 1915. 1s. net.).

† "Palestine Exploration Fund: Fifty Years' Work in the Holy Land." By Col. Sir C. M. Watson, K.C.B. Published by the Committee of the Fund, 2, Hinde Street, W., 1915. 3s. 6d.

* "Jugoslovenski Glasnik" (in Serbian). Edited by a committee of Serbs Croats and Slovenes. Nish, 1915. Nos. 1—3 (August 1 and 16, September 1).

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

Up to the time of writing this has been a week of wild rumours and reports that we cannot possibly regard as satisfactory. In the West, it is true, a great German effort, east of Rheims, has collapsed, and the Huns, instead of having a "decisive victory" to report, as they had hoped, have a most decided repulse to think over—and say nothing about. And reports from many quarters show that Germany is in serious straits at home, however desperately she may strive to conceal the fact from those neutral States whom she wishes to impress with her power and prosperity. But the news from the Near East is depressing, and there is no gainsaying the fact. The magnificent courage that the Serbians are showing is the one bright spot in a gloomy picture, and its very brightness only serves to make the surrounding blackness worse. For what do we see? Greece, seemingly hypnotized, astonishing the world by her failure to act promptly, and the Allied Powers still wasting time in words when action is—and has been for some time—so urgently needed.

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I have no doubt at all that the Greek people, who are nothing if not impulsive and warm-hearted, and who are not likely to forget the glorious pages of their past history, must be fuming furiously at being held in leash by counsels of prudence while their late Allies are being so badly hammered by their late (and old-standing) enemies. They are not likely to be deceived by the specious talk of the "need for recuperation" or the hair-splitting sophisms about the binding force of the treaty—*their* treaty—with Serbia. They know quite well where Honour calls them; and I believe they are ready to obey the call. But they are, as I have said above, hypnotized. And the hypnotic effect has been largely brought about by a skilful use of "words, words, words" by the German agents and the tools they have been able to procure, by one means or another, in Greece itself. Germany, in other words, is reaping the profit of the Press propaganda on which she has lavished her gold so freely in the Balkans, as elsewhere. Greece, and Roumania, too, to some extent, have been talked into a state of paralysis. They have been told so much about "strategy" and "politics" and the advantages of "sitting on the fence," and the risks of coming down from it on the wrong side have been so constantly, and so loudly, dinned into their ears, that they have been bemused by it all, and the national conscience in both countries has been benumbed.

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To a certain extent the Allies are suffering from the same causes. We, too, have heard so much about the need for acting "wisely" that we seem to be in some danger of forgetting to act rightly—or even to act at all. For, after all is said and done, Serbia is our ally, and Serbia is desperately in need of help. Can there be any question whatever about the course we ought to follow? When one sees a couple of bullies setting about a small boy it is hardly decent to take too long in deciding how to act—especially if the small boy happens to be a friend.

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Turning over the back numbers of THE NEAR EAST a few days ago I came across the following paragraph in the issue of April 2:—

> The Mayor of Sofia telegraphed his congratulations upon the fall of Przemysl to the Russian Commander-in-Chief, the Mayor of Petrograd, and the Bulgarian General Radko Dimitrieff.

This reads rather strangely just now, and I suspect that the worthy Mayor of Sofia hardly feels like telegraphing his congratulations to anyone. The Bulgarians must find it difficult to forget their old love even if they find it possible to get on with the new. Which still remains to be seen.

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The war has, unfortunately, accustomed us all to put a good deal of faith in the power of the big gun. But, even so, I rubbed my eyes on Tuesday morning when, in reading an account of the bombardment of Dedeagatch by the Allied Fleet, I came across the statement that "the Customs House, the great steam flour-mill, and the first bridge on the Anatolian railway line were entirely destroyed. . . ." Two hundred miles, or thereabouts, must certainly be in the neighbourhood of a record. And after this the German talk about bombarding Dover from Calais (when they get there) seems quite modest. But, then, alas, the report comes from Athens.

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In connection with this bombardment, by the way, the *Kölnische Zeitung*, in its eagerness to cement the new friendship with Bulgaria by what it fondly imagined would be taken as a tribute to Bulgarian valour, announced that "the Bulgarian batteries replied." M. Radoslavoff, on the other hand, refers to Dedeagatch as "an open place, possessing no means of resistance." It seems to be a case of "You pays your money and you takes your choice."

CORSAIR.

THE GALLIPOLI OPERATIONS.

On Wednesday evening, at Queen's Hall, Mr. E. Ashmead-Bartlett delivered a lecture on "The Operations in the Dardanelles."

He said that, in his opinion, we had embarked upon the expedition without any real knowledge of the Turkish Empire, having judged that the Turks were on their last legs after the Balkan War. He believed they still had 800,000 men under arms, though they had suffered great losses. Having described the early naval attacks, Mr. Bartlett turned to the Cape Helles landing. He thought we had no alternative to this landing, but to land troops at Anzac was a mistake. If the Australians had been put ashore at Cape Helles simultaneously with the 29th Division, the Naval Division, and the French, we should have had enough push behind the landing to capture Achi Baba, which, though it would not have been a decisive success, would have been useful for further operations.

After the attack on May 8, when we found that with the troops at our disposal progress was impossible, we should have reconsidered the whole position. Instead of that, we remained there, and new divisions were used up in various local attacks which merely encouraged the Turks. The operations on land were very much handicapped, as we could not get a proper concentration of artillery fire on certain sections of the enemy's trenches. Our men knew nothing of the ground, and the artillery was limited, and in the early days there was only a limited supply of munitions. During July the Cabinet decided to send out large reinforcements. That was essential, but it was more important—and it would have been possible at that time—to get Bulgaria on our side. We should have sent out a great mission to Bulgaria. There was a tremendous lot of bluff in dealing with the Balkan States. It was necessary to take a lot of trouble over them, to have great stage effects and stage management, and behind them a great deal of money. One week's wages spent in the right manner on the Bulgarians might have brought them in on our side, and the Greeks, too, and everyone else. If troops had been landed at Enos, it might have involved longer lines of communication, but it might also have had great effect upon Bulgaria. Everybody seemed to think that once we had got through the Narrows it would be possible to get right through to Constantinople. He did not believe that, for the Turks had fortified the whole channel right to Gallipoli and thence to the Sea of Marmora.

He had never believed that we had the smallest chance of success at Suvla Bay on account of the difficult country. Even had the landing succeeded we could not have held our positions. It failed because troops who had never been employed before in warfare were landed here. They did exceedingly well, but it was impossible to make highly-trained soldiers in a short period of time when there were not highly-trained officers to train them. Men were landed in a difficult country where troops got out of touch, and these new formations, not being accustomed to work without their officers, as our old Regular Army might have done, were at a loss what to do. Again, no arrangement had been made for the supply of water to the troops. It was supposed that they would be able to find water there. They did so, but the Turks had thrown dead bodies into the wells, and the water was not fit to drink. In addition to that so much secrecy had been observed that officers did not always know the objective they had to make for, and the men, having landed, were kept waiting for some time. It was after this reverse that the Bulgarian Attachés with the Turkish Army presented reports which changed the situation.

The Central Powers had the enormous advantage of holding the interior lines. We were always attacking them on the outer line of a great circle. Troops suffered when they were sent on expeditions. They were put in ships for two or three weeks, their discipline deteriorated, they had no opportunities for training together, and it was essential, when these expeditions were sent, that the men should be given time to settle down before they were used for important operations. In the Dardanelles we had used our troops too soon. At first that could not be helped, but if we could have kept the later forces together, and trained them on one of the islands, it would have given them a much better chance. We were firmly established where we were in the Dardanelles, but he did not think we could advance again.

THE CAPITULATIONS IN TURKEY.

A message from Constantinople states that the Turkish Chamber voted in favour of a law, which has already been temporarily in force since October, 1914, concerning the repeal of the Capitulations, and introducing a new jurisdiction respecting disputes between foreigners and Turkish subjects.

THE PUBLISHER would be obliged if Readers would inform him if they experience any difficulty in obtaining copies of the paper.

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NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Neutrals and the Armenians.

October 21.

Commander BELLAIRS asked the Secretary for Foreign Affairs, in view of the refusal of the German Government to express any disapproval to Turkey concerning the systematic and wholesale massacre of Christians which had taken place in Armenia, whether he could state if any action was being taken by any neutral Power to save the situation and to protect the great American and other missionary enterprises in Asiatic Turkey.

Lord R. CECIL: I do not know what steps the neutral Governments may have taken in the matter. The Vatican has made earnest and repeated appeals both to the Turkish Government and to the German and Austro-Hungarian Governments to bring pressure to bear upon the Turkish Government with the same object.

The Constantinople Embassy.

Replying to a question put by Mr. W. NICHOLSON regarding the British Embassy at Constantinople, Lord R. CECIL said:—The principle underlying the organization of his Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople, which was identical with that adopted by the other Embassies there, has been subjected to considerable misrepresentation. It has been the practice to attach to his Majesty's Ambassador a staff of permanent officials, recruited from the Levant Consular Service, who have expert knowledge of the Turkish language, and are in close and continuous relation with the Turkish Ministries. At the time of the outbreak of the war with Turkey there were three such permanent officials on Sir Louis Mallet's immediate staff, having respectively seventeen, fifteen, and ten years' experience of Turkey. The Embassy was moreover in constant touch with the officials of his Majesty's Consulate-General, who have spent their lives in Turkey, and the Ambassador was assisted by the usual staff of diplomatic secretaries, who deal with the current business, which is, of course, conducted entirely in the French and English languages. Of these secretaries, three out of four had passed examinations entitling them to a special allowance for a colloquial knowledge of the Turkish language. At the end of February, 1914, Mr. Fitzmaurice, the First Dragoman at the Embassy, had a serious and protracted illness, which rendered him entirely unable to return to his post for some ten months. His place was temporarily taken by Mr. Ryan, the Second Dragoman to his Majesty's Embassy, who was indicated for this position by his seniority in the service and by his exceptional experience and ability.

British Prisoners in Turkey.

Lord R. CECIL, replying to Mr. J. MASON, said that he had received no information to the effect that the delivery of parcels to British prisoners of war in Turkey had been stopped. Answering another question, Lord R. CECIL said that his attention had recently been drawn to a statement to the effect that British prisoners of war in Turkey are not allowed to send or receive letters exceeding four lines; and that he had requested the United States Ambassador to be good enough to inquire into the correctness of this statement. If it should turn out to be true, he would certainly do all in his power to secure the withdrawal of such a regulation. So far as he was aware no restrictions are imposed in respect of the correspondence of Turkish prisoners in this country other than those contained in the general regulations in force in respect of the correspondence of all prisoners of war and civilians interned in this country.

Replying to Mr. PRINGLE, who asked what arrangements had been made to transmit clothing to British prisoners of war, Mr. TENNANT said that the sending of clothing to the prisoners in the hands of the Turks was difficult, but a satisfactory arrangement had now been arrived at.

Egypt and the War.

Mr. GINNELL asked whether the General Officer Commanding the British Forces in Egypt at the outbreak of war had the authority of H.M. Government for the pledge he gave to the Egyptian people that, recognising the respect and veneration with which the Sultan of Turkey, in his religious capacity, was regarded by the Mohammedans of Egypt, Great Britain took upon herself the sole burden of the war in Egypt without calling upon the Egyptian people for aid; whether the approval of the Egyptian Legislative Assembly was afterwards obtained before the Egyptians were called upon to fight against the Turks; and, if the theory was that they were fighting for Egypt, would the Foreign Secretary explain why medals in reward of bravery were conferred upon Egyptian officers not by the Sultan of Egypt but by British authorities.

Sir E. GREY: The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative; that to the second part in the negative, as the Assembly was not sitting. As regards the last part, I have no information on the subject, which would appear to be of a military nature.

No Egyptians Deported.

Mr. GINNELL inquired of the Foreign Secretary the number of Egyptians deported, or invited without option of refusal to leave Egypt, since the war began, the number interned in Malta and other places of internment, the number required to leave Alexandria and Cairo and go to live in villages, and the number in prison in Egypt on political grounds.

Sir E. GREY: So far as I am aware, no Egyptians have as yet been deported from that country. On the other points dealt with in the question I have no information.

Egyptians in London.

Mr. GINNELL asked the Home Secretary if he would explain why Egyptians resident in London, who were informed by the Home Office last December that they had ceased to be enemy aliens, were now informed by the police authorities that they were enemy aliens; and whether he would definitely define their status here, and not have them subjected to more annoyance than was consistent with that status.

Sir J. SIMON: Ever since Egypt became a British Protectorate Egyptians have been in the position of alien friends, and have been treated as such. The Metropolitan Police took off the register of alien enemies all who were known to be Egyptians, but in the case upon which the question is based, and one or two others, the individuals were not previously identified as Egyptians, and had not taken any steps whatever to claim the status of Egyptians and to have their names removed from the register of alien enemies. As soon as they made their status known, their names were removed from the register. I understand none of them have been interned.

British Minister at Sofia.

Mr. KING asked what was the date on which Sir Henry Bax-Ironside left Sofia, and the date on which Mr. O'Beirne presented his credentials as his successor.

Sir E. GREY: Mr. O'Beirne was sent to Sofia on a special mission at the beginning of July to conduct the Legation during Sir H. Bax-Ironside's absence on leave. He was presented by Sir H. Bax-Ironside to the Bulgarian Prime Minister in that capacity on July 8, and Sir H. Bax-Ironside left Sofia next day. Letters of credence as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary on special mission were issued to Mr. O'Bierne under date of August 5, and he presented these letters to King Ferdinand on September 3.

The Offer of Cyprus.

October 26.

Sir P. MAGNUS asked the Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether he could give the House any information as to the conditional offer by the Government to cede the island of Cyprus to the kingdom of Greece.

Sir E. GREY: His Majesty's Government felt bound, in the very critical position in which their Serbian Allies were placed, to make every possible effort to obtain for them the only assistance which was immediately available. Accordingly they made it known that if Greece would give full and immediate support to Serbia against Bulgaria his Majesty's Government would be prepared to give Cyprus to Greece. As Greece has not seen her way to support Serbia, the condition on which the offer was made has not been fulfilled, and it has, therefore, lapsed.

Sir P. MAGNUS: Will the right hon. gentleman inform the House as to the reasons for giving wide publicity to this offer before the Government had ascertained whether Greece was or was not willing to accept it?

Sir E. GREY asked for notice of the question.

British Troops in Serbia.

October 27.

Mr. HUGH LAW asked the Under Secretary for War whether any British troops had yet left Salonika for the Serbian front.

Mr. TENNANT: The British force in Greece is co-operating with our French Allies on the Græco-Serbian frontier.

The Persian Gulf Forces.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, asked by SIR J. JARDINE as to the medical arrangements made for the benefit of the forces, British and Indian, employed in Mesopotamia and the Persian Gulf, replied:—Details of the medical arrangements are not available in this country, but there is a well-equipped general hospital at Busreh, and other hospitals have been established at various points in the sphere of operations, while connection with India is maintained by hospital ships. The G.O.C. recently reported that he had an adequate staff of nurses. The Government of India are well aware of the importance we attach to making the best arrangements possible for the treatment of the sick and wounded, and will, I am confident, take all the measures in their power to save life and prevent suffering.

WHITE HORSE WHISKY.

GREAT AGE AND BOUQUET.

By Appointment to

KING GEORGE.

H.M. KING OF SPAIN

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

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

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

BULGARIA AND ROUMANIA.

The Difficulties of the Foreign Office.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—It is difficult for students of the Eastern question to understand the surprise with which the public regards the attitude of Bulgaria in the present war. If we disregard the direction given to her political leanings by the pro-German bias of her ruler, and if we take into account events rather than tendencies, we find enough in these for our conclusions. The seizure, in 1908, by Bulgaria, while still a Turkish dependency, of the Orient Railway, or that part of it which runs through her territory, was the first occurrence marking a new movement in the Balkan Peninsula in this connection. The declaration of independence by the Principality quickly followed, and this escape from the yoke of Ottoman suzerainty was associated with the movement in Austria-Hungary whereby sovereign rights were declared by that Power over Bosnia and the Herzegovina. A junction of events was thus brought about, and the gradual centralization of diplomatic pressure on Serbia, which was the more immediate effect, has come more and more to show its bearing as embodying designs upon that State. The motive that led Bulgaria to seize the railway is identical with the object Austria-Hungary has throughout had to serve in the provocation of Serbia. The root explanation lies in the fact that the Orient Railway between the frontiers of Bulgaria and Hungary runs through Serbian territory, and control over that portion of it is required for the completion of German communications with the East. The independence of Serbia constituted an obstacle in the path of Austrian progress that rendered the removal or modification sooner or later inevitable, and in the face of the Austro-Bulgarian compact, the Serbian kingdom, as was seen and stated by THE NEAR EAST at the time, was destined to become the object of pressure on *two* frontiers.

The subsequent efforts of Russia to mitigate the effects of this working agreement between Austria-Hungary and Bulgaria did not avail. Despite the brilliant handling of the matter by M. Isvolsky, the agreement survived the taking over by Russia of Bulgaria's debt to Turkey; it survived the improved relations which Russia was then in a position to bring about between Serbia and Bulgaria, which culminated in a Balkan confederacy, rendering possible the combined attack on Turkey that followed; and it survived the historic bonds of confraternity and union which marked the meeting of the two Tsars at Tsarskoe Selo on the occasion of King Ferdinand's visit to Russia at that time.

The dominant idea in Bulgarian statecraft is the development of a "big Bulgaria." It overrides all else. The conception was realized under the Treaty of San Stefano, but it quickly dissolved under the Treaty of Berlin, and, if Bulgaria has now turned to Austria-Hungary instead of to Russia, the alteration does not denote a change of purpose, but only what she considers an adoption of more effective methods. It is no mere matter of expediency which has now determined her co-operation with the Central Powers. It is the pursuit of her national policy, apart from all ethical considerations, and the ground plan of this has been public property since she gained her independence, and it is developed now—not sooner and not later—because the organized attack on Serbia in the north, now begun, has struck the hour when, according to pre-arrangement, she was to emerge from her seclusion and co-operate in the south. In the face of this, it is idle to say that the Foreign Office was taken by surprise, or that diplomacy alone could have changed Bulgaria's purpose. What alone could have given a different turn to events was military success that prevented the attack on Serbia by the Central Powers; for, in that case, the hour that proclaimed Bulgaria's adhesion would never have struck at all, and Bulgaria would have remained fixed in her neutrality.

With regard to Roumania, the considerations which dictate national policy are entirely different. A policy of adventure is remote from the ambitions of the people. The aims their diplomacy have to serve were stated at the Berlin Congress, and, resting as they do upon fundamental grounds, they have remained constant since. At that assembly the Roumanian representatives, in the memorandum which they read, not only sought recognition of their country's independence, but invited special measures as a means of preserving it. Roumania, they said, desired to see the pacific disposition of her destinies assured, and, in consequence, she begged that the efforts she had made in the late war should be "crowned with an European gift" by the guarantee of her neutrality, and this in order that she might realize her sole ambition of being the faithful guardian of the freedom of the mouth of the Danube. And her reasons were founded upon the desire for peace within her own borders. It was the lament of Roumania, according to her representatives, that, though she knew how to fulfil her duties of gratitude to Russia, she retained the memory of the sacrifices she had imposed upon herself for the sake of the aggrandisement, the fortune, and the glory of that Power, and that she bore in mind how, from Peter the Great to their own day, she had been, alternatively and simultaneously, the basis of the military operations of Russia, the granary which nourished her armies, and the theatre for the most terrible conflicts. In face of the military conditions that now obtain in Europe, how could the Foreign Office alone expect to prevail over a national choice so well founded?—I am, etc.,

DOUGLAS M. GANE.

October 28, 1915.

GREAT BRITAIN AND THE BALKANS.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—Now that the prime importance of the Balkan States in the war is at last universally recognised, there are certain broad questions of policy which ought to be understood by the public, because in the Balkans, where the unexpected so often happens, they may well become once more of practical importance.

Two policies have been open to us from the very commencement of the war. Strong arguments could be advanced for each, provided only that it was clearly grasped and consistently pursued. One was the policy of revising the Treaty of Bucharest on the basis of nationality. It would have involved obvious difficulties, but would have avoided the immense military risk of Bulgarian hostility. It would have built up a solid wall between Germany and Turkey. To save space we may be allowed to refer to our book, "The War and the Balkans," published last April, in which this policy was fully explained. The other policy was to despair of Bulgaria, and attempt to form a really strong Serbo-Greco-Roumanian alliance against her. This would have avoided the risk of antagonising Greece and irritating Serbia, and might possibly have raised a strong barrier to the Austro-German advance. It would, on the other hand, have made Bulgarian hostility certain, and the Balkan *bloc* impossible, and would have discredited our claim to be fighting for nationality.

The Foreign Office has not adopted either policy. It went far enough (at the very last moment) in the direction of the former to offend Greece, but not nearly far enough to win Bulgaria. Its offer was deficient in two respects. It omitted to give guarantees in respect of Bulgaria's claims *vis-a-vis* Greece and Roumania, and as to the Serbian territory promised, it was qualified by certain conditions, which made its fulfilment appear doubtful. This made it impossible for our friends at Sofia who occupied a strong position in the Sobranje and in the country, and whose adherence to the cause of the Entente was admittedly sincere, to put forward a good case for intervention on our side. The net result was that we incurred Bulgarian hostility and failed to gain Greek support.

Recent events provide us with a lesson which it is vital that we should learn. A way must be found to remedy the inattention and half-heartedness which have been the root cause of our diplomatic failure in the Balkans.—We are, etc.,

NOEL BUXTON.
C. R. BUXTON.

2, Prince's Gate, S.W.
October 20, 1915.

QUO VADIS, BRITANNIA?

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—Somebody may ask the armed Britons going now to the Balkans, "Quo Vadis?" I would like to give answer to such a question.

1. You are going, brave Britons, to fight against the same enemy who crushed Belgium and killed by bombs so many babies in London, and, because of his pride and ambition, transformed the whole of Europe into a hell of fire and suffering. You must be victorious over this enemy of yours and of mankind, no matter where you will fight against him. He is encircled from every side, and he cannot breathe; but he is trying to find any door to catch the air. He is trying to come through the Balkans to appear in Asia. He smiles to India and Egypt. He threatens the whole of Asia and

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Africa. His plans are colossal. You are going, brave Britons, to stop this enemy on the Danube. You are told: "But it is too far to go over there!" Yes; but are not the Balkans nearer than Palestine? And if he is not stopped in the Balkans it will be almost impossible to stop him in Palestine.

2. You are going to hinder Germany's *Drang nach Osten*, the greatest peril for your magnificent Empire. If the Germans crush Serbia they will have the whole of the Balkans *nolens volens* included in their plans and ambitions. The Balkans will be for them by far more valuable than Poland, or Galicia, or Belgium. If they succeed in crushing Serbia there will be no more neutrals in the Balkans; *everybody will be your enemy except the dead and enslaved.* Serbia is waiting for you, desperately struggling against death and slavery. You will prevent the greatest peril, *Drang nach Osten*, and save the situation and help Serbia, and suggest respect to Serbia's neighbours and enemies only —only if you come *in time* and in the needed quantity.

3. You are going to help Serbia. Serbia once stopped the *Drang nach Osten*. But Serbia is now attacked not only by the invader from the North but by a ferocious enemy from the East. Be sure Serbia will do more than she can, but how could she resist with 300,000 men against 700,000? I know: Serbia is now a touchstone for England. Will England help Serbia or not? That is a double question; firstly, of the conscience and honour; secondly, of the interests. Is that not the same? Can there be any durable English interest which is against English conscience and honour?

Why did Providence make Great Britain great if not in order to impose upon her the duty to protect the little and oppressed ones? The greatness of Great Britain is now put to the test. The language: "I have to defend myself!" is a language suitable to Bulgars, Albanians, Magyars, and Kurds, and not a language of a nation like Great Britain, who is the guide of mankind in humanity and civilisation.

To think that Providence gave greatness to England only for England's sake is the same as to think that Providence gave the light and warmth to the sun for the sun's sake. What were the sun if it kept the light and warmth only for itself? A miserable, black spot in the universe.

You are going, brave Britons, to help Servia and hereby to justify the greatness of your country before God and history. That is a way of suffering you are going. But do not be afraid; that is the *only* way of honour, glory, and true greatness.

Nailed on her cross, Serbia—in the presence of the universe, of past and future—puts you this question: "Will you come and help me?" All the world, past and future, hears this question. That is a great temptation for you.

But be not indecisive. Now is the most sublime and at the same time the most tragic moment in British history.—I am, etc.,

NICHOLAS VELMIROVICH.

147, Cromwell Road, S.W., October 24.

THE BALKAN IMBROGLIO.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—I venture to think that your readers will agree with "Observer" in holding the Cabinet jointly responsible with the Foreign Office for the *impasse* into which Balkan affairs have drifted. But is he accurate in dating the decline of British prestige from 1908? It surely began a quarter of a century ago, when William II. resolved to make Turkey a bridge on the high road connecting Berlin with Bombay. The Teuton's Eastward thrust has since been pursued with utter absence of scruple, and unceasing persistence, Wilhelmstrasse the while posting its most efficient agents at Constantinople, and giving them heart-whole support. If Germany has become the virtual ruler of Turkey it is because her wire-pullers kept their eyes fixed on a distant goal, and adopted every conceivable means of reaching it. Contrast their sleuth-hound perserverance, their careful selection of human agency, with the drift and opportunism of the British Government. Our party system renders consistent foreign policy impossible. Combatants who are blinded by the heat and smoke of battle cannot look beyond the horizon of domestic affairs, or think Imperially, as becomes the rulers of a world-wide Empire. When the Eastern Question came before Parliament, it merely furnished war-cries for use at the hustings. An instance in point is Mr. Gladstone's "Bulgarian Atrocities" campaign; when it had served his purpose he straightway switched his vast energy from the Near East to Irish Home Rule.

But the Foreign Office must share the blame for our progressive loss of prestige in South-Eastern Europe. The Diplomatic Service is still a close preserve for the "classes," just as the Army was before Lord Cardwell abolished purchase. Attachés receive a nominal salary, and comparatively few of them are able to shun delights and lead laborious days in preparation for a thorny career. When they become Great Britain's representatives they are still accredited to the local sovereign, whose satellites they become, increasing the prestige of frail mortals who are rarely qualified to wield absolute power. It is exceptional to find a British ambassador or minister following the trend of popular movements, studying public opinion, or, indeed, promoting the interests of his fellow-countrymen. This attitude of aloofness was very marked in the Near East, a region which required our ablest diplomacy, but has not secured it—at least of recent years. Constantinople and Athens were unpopular in Whitehall, as being hot-beds of intrigue and the tomb of many a reputation, while the minor courts are abodes of boredom in the eyes of the average diplomat.

Now, it is a commonplace of psychology that men are apt to admire in others precisely those qualities which they are conscious of not possessing. Orientals, being fatalists and addicted to *Kief*, are worshippers of initiative, of moral and physical force. It was by dint of his overpowering personality that Lord Stratford de Redcliffe governed Turkey for a generation. William II. grasped this paradox. In 1898 he presumptuously stood forth as the friend of the titular "Khalif" and Protector of Islam. Had Lord Cromer taken the helm at Constantinople in that crucial year, I venture to think that Turkey and the Balkans would now be an impassable barrier against the Kaiser's ambition to rule the world from its ancient seat of empire.—I am, etc.,

October 26. SIGMA.

A LADY DOCTOR'S EXPERIENCES IN SERBIA.

Speaking before the Church League for Women's Suffrage at Caxton Hall on October 19, Dr. H. B. Hanson said that she arrived at Salonika in March last. The railway carriages in which the journey to the Greek frontier had to be performed smelt so strongly of formalin that it was almost impossible to breathe, and there was no light in the train, except for candles that the passengers took with them. Arrived at Kragujevatz, she found that one of the members of a Scotch unit that had gone out in January had just died, and the second night after her arrival she sat up all night with another, who also died of the disease. The whole country was plague-stricken. There was not room in the hospitals for the sick people; they had to sleep in the corridors. There were not enough beds; these were improvised from planks, but when a patient was delirious the planks were apt to be disarranged and fall. There was a complete absence of nursing; the patients were laid on the beds, and Austrian orderlies took round food; rice pudding and a kind of soup could be got, but most of the sick people had hard brown bread, hard-boiled eggs, pieces of chicken, and so forth handed to them. What the patient did not eat at the time he kept under his pillow. Visitors also came with food, and on one occasion a patient was found with a nice little sucking pig. The English doctors introduced a dietary of good bread and beaten-up eggs, but the change was not relished. Medicines were taken round in the same way as food, and enough was given to last a patient two or three days. This might happen when a man was almost delirious. The weather had been very cold, and there was a shortage of blankets. Some of the patients lay curled up for warmth under a single blanket, until, when at last they were able to stretch themselves, they had almost lost the use of their limbs. Of four hundred doctors who were in the country when the typhus epidemic disease broke out, about one hundred succumbed to the disease. The Serbians gave a very impressive funeral to the members of foreign hospital units who died out there. First walked a man with a cross, then a number of boys like acolytes, then priests in gorgeous robes, then the royal band playing weird music, then the chief men among the municipal authorities, and then the leading military people. The coffin was borne on a military car, and was followed by military attachés of French, English, Russian, and other nationalities.

PARCELS FOR MEDITERRANEAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

A notice has been issued by the Post Office warning the public that a large number of parcels are found to be undeliverable on arrival at the Dardanelles owing to insecure packing or illegible addresses. In view of the exceptional conditions of transit, involving several transhipments and exposure to weather, it is necessary that parcels for the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force should be very carefully packed. It is recommended that they should be as nearly round as possible, and well padded with shavings, crumpled paper, or similar protective material, and wrapped in waterproof paper. In addition, the following conditions should be complied with in all cases:—(1) The outer cover should be of strong linen, calico, canvas, or other textile, and must be securely sewn up. (2) The address must be written in bold letters on the covering in ink or indelible pencil, and not on a label, whether tied or pasted on. (3) Wooden or metal boxes with square corners should not be sent unless well padded, as such boxes are liable to damage other parcels in transit. (4) No perishable articles may be sent, and anything likely to become soft or sticky, such as chocolate or sweets, must be packed in tins well fastened down.

Parcels which do not comply with all these conditions are unlikely to reach their destination safely.

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Julian (Old Style).	Gregorian (New Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1915.	1915.		1333.	5676.
Oct.	Oct.		Julhijja.	Hesvan.
29	16	Friday	20	21
30	17	Saturday.....	21	22
31	18	Sunday	22	23
Nov.				
1	19	Monday	23	24
2	20	Tuesday	24	25
3	21	Wednesday	25	26
4	22	Thursday	26	27

To-day is the birthday of H.M. the Queen of Roumania, who was born in 1875.

Wednesday is the birthday of H.R.H. Prince Leopold of Belgium, Duke of Brabant.

Wednesday is the birthday of Mohammed V., Sultan of Turkey, who was born in 1844.

Under date of October 25, Reuter's Alexandria correspondent reports:—The marriage took place quietly yesterday afternoon of Samiha, daughter of the Sultan of Egypt, and Prince Ismail Daoud, Aide-de-Camp to the Sultan.

A telegram from Athens, received in London on Monday evening, reports that Prince George, the eldest son of King Constantine, has left for Salonika.

It is reported from Bucharest that Dr. Landolt, a celebrated French oculist, has been summoned to Roumania for the purpose of performing an operation on the eyes of Queen Elizabeth.

Lord Oranmore has left London for Ireland.

Lady Elcho has left London for Egypt.

General Sir C. C. Monro left London last Friday morning to take up his appointment as Commander-in-Chief of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force. He arrived at Salonika on Wednesday.

General Sir Ian Hamilton arrived in London last Friday evening, accompanied by his aide-de-camp, Colonel Pollen, and General Braithwaite, Chief of Staff.

Lieutenant-Colonel Leslie Wilson, M.P. (Reading), who is now in Egypt, has been suffering from a slight attack of dysentery, but is now convalescent.

Turkey, says the Washington correspondent of the *Morning Post*, has for more than a year been represented in Washington by a Chargé d'Affaires, Rustem Bey, the Ambassador, having been withdrawn by his Government on an intimation from the President that his usefulness had ended. Mr. Morgenthau, the American Ambassador at Constantinople, would have been withdrawn to mark American displeasure at the Turkish Government's affront in not appointing Rustem Bey's successor, but for the fact that Mr. Morgenthau at the present time is charged with the interests of nine nations, that his work has given great satisfaction to the State Department, and that to withdraw him and to place the Embassy in the hands of a Chargé d'Affaires would embarrass not only the United States, but all the other Governments for whom he is acting.

CAPTAIN ARTHUR CHARLES DAVIES, 6th BATTALION ROYAL WELSH FUSILIERS, Reported WOUNDED and MISSING on August 10 at the DARDANELLES.—Any INFORMATION will be gratefully received by his Wife, Mrs. Arthur Davies, Treffos, Menai Bridge, Anglesey.

TO OFFICERS leaving for War Zone Special Terms. ANY LANGUAGE under the sun TAUGHT, TRANSLATED, TYPEWRITTEN and DUPLICATED on machines in shortest periods.—Apply or write, The British Egyptian Syndicate, 90, Bishopsgate, E.C. Wire, "ABDELMALEK, London." 'Phone, 2947 London Wall.

News has been received at the Foreign Office from Sir Ralph Paget to the effect that Lady Paget and her hospital staff were remaining at Skoplje, which is now in the hands of the Bulgarians. It was not thought, the letter added, that the staff was in any danger, and it was considered likely that the hospital would either be declared international, as there are American and Dutch citizens on the staff, or the staff would be interned.

The Cairo correspondent of the *Times* reports (October 27):—

The High Commissioner presided at a great representative meeting at the Opera House last night in aid of the Red Cross movement. Extensive arrangements have been made in Cairo, and to judge from reports of the interest taken in the movement by Egyptians from the provinces "Our Day" in Egypt, which is fixed for October 30, promises to be most successful.

On Thursday, October 21, at Harlesden Wesleyan Church, the marriage took place of Mr. Thomas Millard, of the Cyprus Civil Service, to Miss Alice Booth, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Booth, of Harlesden. Mr. Millard, who is Assistant-Treasurer at Nicosia, was lately granted special leave of absence for the purpose of joining his Majesty's forces.

We have received from Mr. G. B. Alderson the sum of £4 on behalf of the Serbian Relief Fund.

Two of Mr. Alderson's sons, Roy and Reggie, are on the Western front and have been taking part in the recent fighting. Two sons-in-law of Mr. Alderson (who, with Mrs. Alderson, is staying in Switzerland) have seen active service at Gallipoli. One, Major Cecil Grimshaw, was unfortunately killed in action, while the other, Lieut. Walter Calthrop, R.N., is still out there.

The Rev. S. H. Semple, M.A., of the United Free Church of Scotland Jewish Mission, Tiberias, Palestine, has sailed for duty as a chaplain with the troops serving in the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

Mr. Alfred C. Silley has left Dedeagatch for Athens.

Sub-Lieutenant J. S. La Fontaine, R.N.V.R., who is under treatment at Haslar Hospital, Gosport, has been promoted to the rank of lieutenant. His condition is now satisfactory.

Mr. H. L. Andrews has arrived in London from Sofia. His address for the present is care of the Crédit Lyonnais, Lombard Street, E.C.

The death has taken place at Ouchy, Switzerland, of Madame Musurus Pasha, widow of the former Turkish Ambassador in London, and daughter of Sir John Antoniades, K.C.M.G., the Alexandria banker. Musurus Pasha was Ambassador to the Court of St. James's from 1903 until his death in 1907.

At a vestry meeting held at Bournabat, near Smyrna, several months prior to the declaration of war with Turkey, it was resolved that a brass memorial tablet should be placed in St. Mary Magdalene's, Bournabat, to the memory of the late Sir J. W. Whittall, Kt., who was a liberal benefactor of that church. Subscriptions were received from a number of members of the congregation, and the tablet was entrusted to Messrs. Gawthorp and Sons, 16, Long Acre, who have now completed the brass, which, for obvious reasons, cannot be dispatched to its destination. The wording of the tablet is as follows:—"To the memory of Sir J. W. Whittall, Kt., eldest son of James and Magdalene Whittall, born at Smyrna, December 5, 1838, died at Constantinople April 10, 1910. This tablet is erected by the congregation in grateful remembrance of his affectionate interest in the welfare of this community and of this church." St. Mary Magdalene, it may be noted, was built over half a century ago by the late Charlton Whittall, head of the well-known firm of C. Whittall and Co., and a member of the Hon. Levant Company.

Lieutenant-Colonel George Butler Stoney, D.S.O. (Egyptian Army), 1st King's Own Scottish Borderers, who was killed in Gallipoli on October 15, aged 38, was the eldest son of the late Major G. Ormonde Stoney, of the same regiment. He was educated at Haileybury and Sandhurst, and joined his regiment during the Tirah campaign, 1897-8 (medal with two clasps). In 1908 he was seconded for service with the Egyptian Army, but in April, 1915, was lent by them to act as a landing officer at the Dardanelles, where he went through the experience of the River Clyde landing. On May 17, though only a captain, he was sent up to take command of his regiment on the Peninsula, and for his "great coolness and good leading, holding together in a most praiseworthy manner the battalion, which had suffered greatly," he was awarded the D.S.O. He was promoted Lieutenant-Colonel in October, having had the command of the battalion for five months. He was a keen polo-player, and captained the regimental polo team in Cairo in 1907. When on leave he made his home with his brother, Mr. T. R. Stoney, at Wootton Court, Wootton, Kent.

Lieutenant V. G. Starkey, 7th Battalion King's Own (Yorkshire Light Infantry), who was killed in action on October 14, was appointed Professor of French and Romance Philology at University College, Southampton, in the spring of 1914. After leaving the University he was engaged for some years in teaching modern languages. He then went abroad to devote himself to the study of the Romance languages, specialising more particularly in Roumanian. Several important papers by him are in course of publication.

The death has taken place at Durrants, Shipley, Sussex, of Commander Arthur Lingham, R.N., retired, aged 62. During the Egyptian War, 1882, he was lieutenant in the Agincourt, and was awarded the Egyptian medal and the Khedive's bronze star.

Second-Lieutenant Cyril Spartali, of the Royal Berkshire Regiment, who was killed in action in France on October 13, was the younger son of the late D. M. Spartali and Mrs Ellice-Clark (née Ralli), of 2, Palace Court, and was thus a member of two well-known Greek families who have long been settled in this country. He was educated at Harrow and Cambridge, and at the outbreak of the war was engaged in India with the firm of Ralli Brothers. He came home invalided from an attack of typhoid fever, but as soon as convalescent joined the Inns of Court Officers' Training Corps. He obtained his commission in February last, and proceeded in August to France, where, being an excellent French scholar, he was very useful to his company on their arrival in France. He was the younger brother of Second Lieutenant M. Spartali, 2nd South Wales Borderers, who was killed in Gallipoli in June.

Captain Keith Maurice Levi (Australian Army Medical Corps), attached 2nd Battalion Hampshire Regiment, killed in the Suvla Bay attack, Dardanelles, was the younger son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Levi, of St. Kilda, Victoria, Australia. He took his medical degree at Melbourne University in 1914, and was appointed to the resident staff of the Perth Hospital, Western Australia. On the outbreak of war he at once offered his services to the Commonwealth military authorities, who gave him a captain's commission in the Australian Expeditionary Force, and he went to Egypt with the Light Horse reinforcements. On arrival he joined the staff of the 1st Australian General Hospital, Heliopolis, working later on the hospital transports between the Dardanelles and Alexandria, and finally he was attached as medical officer to the 2nd Hampshire Regiment. During the Suvla Bay action he worked at the dressing station within the fire zone night and day, and was killed while so engaged by a shell which fell on the station. Captain Levi was in his 25th year.

We regret to announce that Second Lieutenant the Hon. Ivo Alan Charteris, Grenadier Guards, youngest son of the Earl and Countess of Wemyss, was killed in action in France on the 17th inst.

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The engagement is announced of Mr. C. R. Skrimshire, M.A., formerly Headmaster of the English High School, Constantinople, and now Assistant Master at Wellington College, and Aileen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Lund, of 47, Putney Hill.

Lieutenant Gordon Sanderson, attached to the 2nd Battalion 2nd Gurkhas, was killed in France on October 13. He was the son of Mr. William Sanderson, of Field House, Settle, Yorkshire, and was educated at Oakham Grammar School. When war was declared he held the post of superintendent of the Archæological Survey, N.W. Provinces, India, and had previously been in the service of the P.W.D. in Egypt.

A correspondent writes from Alexandria, under date of October 10:—A number of American instructors and professors of the Syrian Protestant College, Beyrout, who had been on leave, arrived a couple of weeks ago in Egypt from America, and, after some negotiations with the Turkish authorities at Constantinople, carried on through the American Embassy, they have at last been granted special permission to proceed to Beyrout by the United States cruiser Chester.

A Constantinople telegram announces that Baron von Wangenheim, who had only recently returned to the Turkish capital, has died after a short illness.

Before going to Constantinople Baron von Wangenheim was for several years German Minister at Athens. He was appointed to Constantinople in May, 1912, and took up his duties in the following month. In July of this year, as he was suffering from a disease of the heart, he left Constantinople to go to Bad Nauheim. He spent some time in Sofia on his way, and doubtless, being an active servant of his Kaiser, turned the occasion to the profit of his country. Prince Hohenlohe was at the time appointed temporary Minister.

Baron Wangenheim was not nearly such a skilful diplomatist as Baron Marschall von Bieberstein, his predecessor at Constantinople; and it is probably true that he owed his appointment to the important position largely to the influence of the Queen of the Hellenes. But he was also high in the favour of the Kaiser, whom he usually attended on his visits to Corfu; and this fact undoubtedly stood him in good stead in his dealings with the Turkish officials. Moreover, it is certain that he had remarkable energy, and that he knew well how to impress the Oriental mind with a sense of his power and authority; while the funds placed at his disposal, which were apparently unlimited, played no small part in helping him to consolidate the position his predecessor had secured for Germany in the Turkish capital.

Prince Hohenlohe, who represented Germany in Constantinople during the illness of Baron von Wangenheim, the late German Ambassador, has been summoned by telegraph from Coburg to Berlin. Presumably he will now return to Constantinople.

On November 16, at 4 o'clock, at the Whitehall Rooms, Hotel Metropole, under the auspices of the Royal Colonial Institute, Mr. Roland N. Michell will lecture on "Cyprus To-day."

The first of the course of lectures on Austria-Hungary and the Southern Slavs that Dr. Seton-Watson is giving at the London School of Economics was delivered on Monday last to a large and interested audience. The subject dealt with was chiefly the history and political development of Hungary down to the date immediately preceding the present war.

Sir Edwin Pears lectured at the Y.M.C.A., Aldersgate Street, on Friday last week. The hall was crowded, and the audience listened most attentively while Sir Edwin told the story of the origin of Constantinople, the coming of the Turks into Asia Minor and then into Europe, and the part that the city has played in the world's history. The chair was occupied by Sir Charles James Tarring, who at one time presided over the British Supreme Consular Court at Constantinople.

The Queen of Roumania has been preparing for months to play a part in nursing the wounded should her services be needed, and her eldest daughter, Princess Elizabeth, is her eager helper (says the *Liverpool Post*). The suffering during the Balkan war with Turkey was the more appalling because some of it was avoidable, and avoidable evils, at least, Queen Marie is determined to remedy, although there is still much that is primitive in her adopted country which it is impossible for her to remedy. Visitors to gay and Parisian-looking Bucharest do not, at first sight, regard it as the capital of a primitive country, but so it is, and dainty, lovely Marie of Edinburgh, with her English upbringing, found it difficult enough to settle down comfortably when she arrived there, a bride of seventeen, nearly twenty-three years ago. The years have made little change, save in the capital and on the surface. Since the war shadow has grown nearer and nearer the Queen has contrived, however, to interest many of the more highly placed Roumanian women in nursing, and the country is a good deal better prepared to deal with wounded than was Serbia or Austria-Hungary, or even some Western countries at the beginning of the war. Princess Elizabeth, her daughter, is considered by many who have seen her to be the most beautiful princess in Europe—which is no marvel, seeing that father and mother are alike remarkably good-looking in their widely differing ways. There was talk at one time of an engagement between the Crown Prince Boris of Bulgaria, who was twenty-one in January, and Princess Elizabeth of Roumania, and the young son of Tsar Ferdinand is supposed to be madly in love with the daughter of his neighbour. But if troubles thicken, as they seem likely to do, the desire of his heart is likely to remain unrealised.

The congregation of the Greek Church at Melbourne has cabled to the Greek Government saying that it is their fervent wish that Greece should range herself with the Allies for the cause of Liberty and Justice.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, etc.

A telegram from Sofia received in Amsterdam states that Mr. Einstein, the special agent at the American Embassy at Constantinople, has been appointed Chargé d'Affaires at Sofia.

A Berlin telegram states that on Tuesday the Kaiser received the new Bulgarian Minister at Berlin, M. D. Rizoff, who presented his credentials.

A telegram from Constantiople viâ Berlin reports that Halil Bey on Monday informed the Chamber of his nomination as Minister for Foreign Affairs.

A Constantinople telegram received in Amsterdam, states that the Turkish Chamber has elected as its new President Hadji Avil, the deputy for Brusa, and formerly Vali of Adrianople, in place of Halil Bey, who has been made Minister for Foreign Affairs.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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

BIRTH.

RODOCANACHI.—On October 26, at 84, Gloucester Terrace, W., the wife of Peter Rodocanachi, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

MOIR—SHAW.—On October 23, 1915, at the British Legation, Teheran, Ian Hyacinth Moir, British Vice-Consul at Sultanabad, Persia, younger son of the late Thomas Moir, Registrar of Glasgow University, to Christina Fleming, only child of Dr. and Mrs. P. F. Shaw, of Mount Blair, Crosshill, Glasgow.

YOUNG—WHITE.—On October 18, at Mohammerah, Persian Gulf, by the Rev. H. N. Bridge, Chaplain to the Forces, Alfred Nicholson, only son of Mr. A. W. Young, of "Lloyds," and Eliot Place, Blackheath, to Doris Marjorie, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. W. White, of Leyland Road, Lee.

Under date of October 26, Reuter's Athens correspondent reports:—Belated mail advices from Constantinople state that a reign of terror exists there, and that Talaat Bey, the Minister of the Interior, has even ordered the arrest of Ahmed Riza Bey, the Senator, for having criticised the policy of the Government in the Senate. Ahmed Riza Bey was released twenty-four hours later, on the intervention of the Heir to the Throne.

WHERE TO STAY.

Cairo's Hotels de Luxe.

SHEPHEARD'S HOTEL.
Open all the year round.

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

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

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

UPPER EGYPT.

Luxor.
The Winter Palace. The Luxor Hotel.
The Karnak Hotel.

Assouan.
The Cataract Hotel. The Savoy Hotel.
The Grand Hotel.
Are the Finest on the Nile.

Alexandria.
MAJESTIC HOTEL.
Every modern comfort and luxury. Private apartments with bath-rooms attached & combined suites.
150 ROOMS AND SALOONS.
Hot and cold water in each bedroom. Large and luxurious dining rooms. American bar and restaurant stocked with best wines and liquors. Garden terrace. Verandah. Lift. Motor Car, Guides and Interpreters meet all trains and ships on arrival.
Moderate and Inclusive Terms

Alexandria.
WINDSOR HOTEL (*Facing the Sea on the New Quay*).
Most delightful and healthy situation of any Hotel in Alexandria. Electric Light throughout. Daily Concerts on Verandah. Meals served *al fresco*. French Cuisine and English Management.
Inclusive Terms from P.T. 50 (10s.) per day.
Special Terms to Government Officials, Commercial Travellers, and for long stays.
Proprietor and Manager—AUG. van MILLINGEN.

Bucharest, Roumania.
GRAND HOTEL DU BOULEVARD.
The Rendezvous Hotel of the Diplomatic World and Distinguished Visitors to Roumania.
Entirely renovated, with all Modern Comfort. Unrivalled Cuisine.
FAMOUS ROUMANIAN BAND.
Admirably situated in the very centre of the Town.
LUCIAN BERTOLA, Proprietor.

Cyprus.
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THE NEAR EAST.

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1915.

EXIT DIPLOMACY.

With Greece's rejection of the offer of Cyprus in return for full and immediate support rendered to Serbia the last, we may hope, has been heard for a little time of the crude and ill-starred efforts of the Allies' diplomacy in the Near East. It was the last door in the Balkan street left to Sir Edward Grey to knock at. He had been there before, and the door had only been quietly but firmly closed, in contradistinction to a more violent experience elsewhere. This time, however, Greece also has banged the door in the British Government's face, and if there is to be any more knocking at it, it will not betoken the approach of the polite but timorous mendicant. From the very outset of the war the halting diplomacy of the Entente Powers has failed to catch up with the situation in the Balkans. Some allowance can be made for the inevitable delay in bringing the policy of three Governments into line; but there can be no excuse for perpetuating until the fifteenth month of the war a condition of things which makes the prompt and decisive application of a policy once agreed upon virtually an impossibility. The initial difficulties of the Triple Entente in dealing with the Near East are admitted; the presence of identically the same difficulties at this stage implies incapacity or mismanagement. Now the situation is entirely beyond the reach of diplomacy, and the guns only can make their voices heard. Greece and Roumania for the moment must be left alone. This is not even the time to warn them of future pains and penalties. The business of the Allied Governments is with Bulgaria and the Austro-German forces invading Serbia. All other considerations must yield to the necessity of carrying relief to the Serbians. As to the chances which the Allied Governments still have of succouring this sorely tried people in time we cannot yet speak with certainty. A desperate attempt is being made by the Bulgarians on the east and south and the Austro-German forces in the north to surround the heroic Serbian army. The latter is fighting with a skill and determination which leaves room for the faint hope that it may yet defeat the enemy's intentions. But its position is precarious in the extreme. A French force, with British reinforcements, of wholly inadequate numbers, is advancing from the south; Allied fleets have bombarded Dedeagatch, and are reported to be effecting a landing at that port. It can only be a question of a few days before we know whether the intervention of the Entente Powers has been delayed too long to save Serbia from the worst fate.

It is something to the good that the Allied Governments have at last frankly accepted their responsibility in the matter and are prepared to put forth the maximum strength that can be spared from other theatres of the war. The Serbians, there is reason to believe, are not called upon to face an entirely unforeseen situation. They will have contemplated an overwhelming attack from the north and the possibility of their country being overrun by the enemy. We may expect, therefore, that they will not allow themselves to be cut off from their line of retreat. In the meantime, and however great their adversities, they will be buoyed up by a profound belief in the destiny of the Serbs, whether of the kingdom of Serbia or of Greater Serbia beyond, and by the knowledge that another small and gallant nation has had its whole territory overrun but remains unconquered and still a nation in being. Both the Germans and the Bulgarians could be relied upon to try to extirpate any Serbians who might be left behind in the country, by methods compared with which the record of Belgium would pale into insignificance. But even in this dire eventuality Europe would not have heard the last of the race, for there would still be Serbs to come again into their own when the war has reached its appointed end. If this point is emphasised now, it is not from any conviction that the enemy has yet taken the measure of the Serbians' powers of resistance. But it is necessary to combat the fatalistic theory that, as the Allied forces are probably too late to save the Serbians, they should take no steps to help them. Even if all were over from a military point of view, there would yet remain the residue for whom the country would have to be won back again. The duty of the Allies, therefore, is clear. It is to abandon mere diplomatic efforts to obtain support from Roumania and Greece, and to push forward their own forces into Serbia and Bulgaria from as many points as possible. The first turn of the tide in the Allies' favour may well have far-reaching results. Neither the Roumanians nor the Bulgarians are entirely satisfied with the present course of events. The former are isolated from the greater part of Europe while a state of war exists in Bulgaria; the Bulgarians may be eager enough to fight the Serbians, but will have little zest for finding themselves opposed to French, British, and possibly Russian troops. As for the Greeks, it must be inferred so long as the nation tolerates the action of King Constantine and the Zaimis Cabinet in repudiating the Serbian Alliance that both people and army shrink from war. Their help, therefore, cannot be counted upon until the military situation promises once more the maximum glory with the minimum risk.

Last February King Constantine was offered the opportunity of fighting against the Turks and securing a reversion of a large section of the Turkish heritage in Asia Minor. This time he was offered Cyprus if he would declare war against the Bulgarians. We are wholly opposed to both the bargains by means of which it was sought to secure the co-operation of Greece. With each our diplomacy sank to the German level of offering bribes. Instead of bearing in mind the principles for which we are at war and treating the Balkan Peninsula as a whole, explaining to the several States what they stood to gain individually and collectively by throwing in their lot with the Entente Powers, the latter elected to treat with them singly, discussing with each matters that intimately concerned the others, and encouraging each to believe that by means of bargaining it would benefit at the expense of one or more of the others. The distinction between the understandings arrived at between Italy and Serbia on the one hand and the Triple Entente on the other regarding the settlement after the war, and the offer to Greece of a considerable portion of Asia Minor, may not appear to be great. In the case of Cyprus, however, there is a very important difference between the two courses. Great Britain could never shut her eyes to the possibility that strict adherence to the principle of nationality would call for the transfer of Cyprus to Greece in the final settlement of the Near Eastern question. But if ever such a transfer were made, it would be under proper safeguards for the future of the island and the welfare of the Mohammedan minority. In the circumstances in which Cyprus was actually offered to Greece, Great Britain must have practically waived her claim to impose such safeguards. The folly of King Constantine's Government has prevented a great wrong being done to a people which for forty years has been encouraged to believe that it will always be able to count upon British protection against their Greek fellow-inhabitants. But Greece has refused Cyprus, and the offer has lapsed. It will, we trust, never be repeated under similar conditions. The Allied Powers must now rely on their own strength to save Serbia, or, if they should unhappily prove to be too late, to make good for her, as they intend to make good for Belgium.

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"WIRELESS" EXPERIENCES AT CONSTANTINOPLE.

By W. Gordon Campbell.

The wonders of wireless telegraphy offer a fascinating field of study and experiment to all persons interested in scientific matters, and as a receiving station can be fitted up at a very trifling cost, it is not surprising that so many amateurs have taken up wireless, either as a source of amusement or as a subject of serious investigation. Unfortunately, however, for wireless enthusiasts in England, the outbreak of war has imposed a "close time" until peace is restored, because this new power is too dangerous a weapon to be left in the hands of any but the naval and military authorities.

In this country the process of dismantling amateur stations was carried out in a courteous and orderly manner; but in Turkey, where my own lot has been cast for several years past, matters were managed in a very different way. Everyone who possessed even the most harmless toy apparatus was assumed to be a spy in communication with the enemy outside the Dardanelles, and ran the risk of being hanged by the Court-Martial, which rarely paid any attention to the evidence. The mere fact that the police made such an accusation was usually regarded as sufficient. My own wireless installation was by no means a toy but a fairly complete receiving station, with which I could hear all messages within a considerable area, and I suppose my doings were consequently regarded as all the more suspicious. In any case, I had some exciting experiences with the Turkish police before escaping from Constantinople, and at the request of the Editor I have agreed to relate some of my adventures, which may, perhaps, interest the readers of THE NEAR EAST, and particularly those of my co-refugees to whom I am personally known.

The main Turkish wireless station is situated at Ok Meidan, an eminence overlooking the Golden Horn, and its aerial masts form conspicuous objects as seen from the streets of Pera. This station was erected a few years ago by the Marconi Company, and as I was then officially connected with the Admiralty I had permission to visit it at any time. On one occasion I passed a whole night there while the Marconi engineers carried out some experiments and explained to me the mysteries of wireless telegraphy. The result of this was that I took up the subject as a most interesting study, and set up an experimental station at the house in which I lived in Pera. The instruments, with the exception of the telephone receiver, were of my own construction, and the whole original installation only involved an outlay of about one pound sterling for materials! Additions were afterwards made, and the instruments continued in use for over two years.

At that time there were no special regulations in Turkey as to the use of wireless telegraphy by private persons, and my experiments were not interfered with until October last year, shortly before Turkey joined in the present war, when the most drastic "laws" were introduced prohibiting the use of wireless. Then began my series of lively adventures with the police, which led to my escaping in haste to a healthier climate beyond the Turkish frontier. But before describing the last scenes of this drama, which narrowly escaped becoming a tragedy, I may relate some of my experiences while the installation was in full working order.

During the siege of Adrianople I used to hear the Ok Meidan station communicating at frequent intervals with that city, and I was told by the officer in charge that, although the Bulgarians had tried their utmost to "jam" these messages they never succeeded. Ok Meidan would change their wave-length at prearranged intervals, or would ostensibly call up one of the Turkish warships in the harbour while really transmitting a code message to the besieged army. Of course, it would have been hopeless for the Bulgarians at Adrianople to try to jam a message to a ship quite near the transmitting station; and in this way they were often prevented from interfering.

At nine o'clock every night Ok Meidan used to begin a long message to Adrianople. I was therefore somewhat surprised when one evening the Constantinople station remained silent. I at once surmised that the place had fallen. On meeting later on in the evening a high Turkish official whom I knew I casually remarked that I was sorrry to learn Adrianople had at last fallen. He looked astonished, and asked: "What do you know about it?" "Never mind," I continued, "is it true?" "Well," he said, "my information is secret, but if you give me your word of honour that you will not repeat what I tell you until to-morrow evening I will give you the information I have." On my giving him the necessary assurance he informed me that he had just read the official telegram announcing the fall a few hours previously, but that nothing would be allowed to appear in the newspapers until two days later. It was therefore rather amusing to read the numerous articles and telegrams in the next morning's papers declaring that Adrianople could hold out for two or three months longer.

At that time we had about twenty-five foreign warships in the Bosphorus, including the British ships Weymouth and Zealandia; and about 4,000 bluejackets had been landed from this fleet to protect the embassies and the Christians generally. At our own Embassy a wireless station had been established on the roof, and it kept in constant touch with the ships. Some of the British operators came to see my installation, and gave me many useful hints, but they were not permitted to send me any wireless messages. In the evening many of these warships sent wireless messages with their full power to various bases. The British communicated with Malta, the Russians with Sevastopol, the Italians with Spezzia or Coltano, and the Austrians with Pola. Sometimes several ships were transmitting at the same time, and there was then a regular pandemonium of sounds in my telephone receiver. It was not always possible to tune my apparatus so as to listen to one ship without interference from the others. A friend of mine used to refer to this playfully as the "Concert of Europe," but there was much more discord than harmony about the "music." The messages were, of course, in code or cipher, but occasionally the ships spoke with one another in plain or open language. The Turkish station rarely used code, and one could therefore overhear many interesting communications made to the fleet. Perhaps the Turks imagined that few, if any, foreigners knew the Turkish language and their adaptation of the Morse code sufficiently well to read their messages. I think, however, that the Russian warship could read these messages, because I remember that one evening the Turkish station issued an urgent communication to the fleet about the movements of Russian warships outside the Bosphorus. Immediately thereafter the Russian ship at Constantinople called up Sevastopol and sent a long message in cipher.

But perhaps my most interesting experience was in connection with the arrival of the Goeben and the Breslau at the Dardanelles after escaping the vigilance of the British Fleet.

About ten o'clock one evening I heard the s.s. Corcovado—a German Transatlantic liner, then taking

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refuge at Constantinople—calling for "A.G.O." These I knew to be the call-letters of the Goeben, which was then supposed to be at Messina, and I was naturally much surprised. I could not hear what the Goeben said, but the Corcovado's message was in "open" German, and related to the despatch of skilled workmen to the Dardanelles to execute certain repairs. A short time afterwards the Corcovado sent out a call for "D.G.L.," which, on reference to the Marconi list of call-letters, I found to correspond with the General of the Deutsche Ost-Afrika Linie—another big German liner. The Corcovado sent a message in German to the effect that things were then quiet at Constantinople, and that they thought it would be quite safe to do what the General proposed. Then followed a long message in code. I guessed from these messages that the General was not far away, and that she would attempt to escape into the Dardanelles. Sure enough, she turned up at Constantinople two days later, having succeeded in stealing through the British Fleet after disguising herself as much as possible.

After the arrival of the Goeben the Turkish station used to call her up every evening and exchange cordial messages in the French language. Later on the Goeben's call-letters were changed, but it was easy enough to recognise the high, penetrating note of her "Telefunken" apparatus. Turkey was still supposed to be neutral, but the wireless conversations clearly indicated what was going to happen. One night Ok Meidan politely tapped out, "Cher monsieur, avez vous des dépêches pour l'ambassade d'allemagne?" which clearly indicated that Ok Meidan was working as if it were a German station. A few days later Ok Meidan, for the first time, sent out messages in German, and at a higher speed than usual, showing that a German operator had been installed.

It would take too long to narrate other interesting experiences in "tapping the ether" at Constantinople and I must now pass on to the final scenes. Before doing so, however, I wish it to be clearly understood that what I have related above happened *before* the use of wireless was prohibited by the Turkish authorities, and that other amateurs, as well as many foreign ships in the harbour, could also hear the same messages. There was, therefore, no "spying"—secret or otherwise—as the ether oscillations were then free to everyone who could detect them; and, of course, as soon as such experiments were prohibited, my installation was dismantled.

A German in my neighbourhood, who had observed my aerial wires, reported me to the police, with the suggestion, I understand, that I was a dangerous spy. Accordingly one evening I received a visit from the Chief of Police for the Pera district and another officer. The former was most polite, but the latter interpolated some insulting remarks as to the fate awaiting me. They told me that I was suspected of communicating with the British fleet outside the Dardanelles! I pointed out the absurdity of this, as I had no transmitting apparatus whatever, and it would have required a powerful dynamo to provide the necessary power for such a distance. I further explained that I was not an electrician, but a lawyer, and that I merely spelt out wireless messages for my own amusement. Besides, I referred them to a high official at the Admiralty, who would vouch for me. This seemed to satisfy them at the time, and the only thing they insisted on was the handing over of my apparatus. At first I refused to do this without our Consul's consent, but on being assured that if I did so I should not be troubled again by the police, I gave way. They said everything would be handed back at the end of the war. The interview was quite pleasant, and the Chief of the Pera Police hoped I would call and have a coffee with him the next time I passed his station.

A few days later a new and still more drastic "law" was published, to the effect that any person still found to possess wireless apparatus would be taken before the Court-Martial and hanged right away as a spy, while anyone giving information leading to the discovery of such apparatus would receive a reward of £T100 (about £90 sterling).

My kind neighbour, the German, or some other *schwein* seems to have put the police again on my track, with the result that I received a further visit—this time from a new Chief of Police, who had replaced my former polite visitor. He entered my room with a companion, quite unannounced, and declared that I was reported still to have wireless apparatus there or elsewhere. This, of course, I denied, and invited them to make a search at once. They did so with great thoroughness, mounting on to the roof and poking into every corner; but they found nothing. Thereupon the Chief of Police dictated to his assistant a formal declaration that no apparatus had been found in my possession. They informed me, however, that they would make further inquiries about me, as they were not yet satisfied.

I felt pretty certain that the next step would be my arrest, and as the Court-Martial apparently assumed the guilt of everyone brought before it, I made up my mind to leave Turkey at once, if that was possible.

Next day I obtained the necessary papers, and duly registered my name with the police of my quarter. Fortune seemed to favour me in many ways that day, and early the following morning I proceeded to the railway station in Stambul in order to take the train for Dedeagatch, in Bulgaria. On the previous day no one had been allowed to leave, but, fortunately, the American Ambassador, Mr. Morgenthau, had obtained an assurance from Enver Pasha that on this particular morning everyone provided with the necessary papers would be allowed to go.

At last I secured a seat in the crowded train. I was still by no means out of the wood, because a telegram might at any moment interrupt my flight. Police travelled in every carriage, and passports were examined frequently during the journey. At last, however, we approached the Bulgarian frontier, and one can imagine the sigh of relief with which I recognised the fact that we were no longer in the land of the Turk.

I had not left Constantinople a moment too soon, for I afterwards learned that a few hours after my departure the police had again appeared, to effect my arrest. They were told that I had "just gone out," and that I would, no doubt, shortly return; and as my books and other belongings still remained undisturbed in my rooms, I suppose the police had no idea that I was then *en route* for the frontier.

NAVAL LOSSES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN.

In a written reply to a question put by Mr. King, who asked what were the total naval casualties resulting from the operations in the Mediterranean since the outbreak of the war, Mr. Macnamara, Secretary to the Admiralty, states:—

Exclusive of the Royal Naval Division, the casualties for which were included in the figures given in the reply made by my right hon. friend the Under-Secretary of State for War on the 14th instant, the figures up to the 20th instant are as follows:—

	Officers.	Men.
Killed	54	859
Wounded	56	524
Missing	9	80
Total	119	1,463

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Turk and Armenian: An American View.

The Independent (New York) of October 18 begins a brief but vigorous article upon the Armenian massacres with the statement: "The most extensive, the most atrocious, of religious massacres which the world has seen for centuries is now being perpetrated in Turkey." After summarising the situation, the writer goes on to ask: "What can we of the United States, who have given so much money and so many devoted lives for the regeneration of Turkey, do in this fearful emergency?" His answer is:—

We cannot reach Turkey with army or navy. Mightier armies than ours are now attacking and defending her. Indeed, Turkey is not her own. The munitions defending Constantinople come from Germany. The Turkish army is led by German officers. Germany's will rules at the Porte. Are we, then, to say that Germany is responsible for these massacres? Surely, surely, not directly. She could not have desired them. But she has been busy in the war, and it has not occurred to the War Office to forbid or prevent them. . . .

We appeal to Christian Germany to forbid Turkey utterly to exterminate Christianity in her Empire. We call upon every organ of public opinion in this country to join in this appeal. The public conscience of the world may not be listened to in Constantinople, but it must be heard at Berlin.

But the doom of Turkey must be near at hand. The world has endured the intolerable Turk to the end. Her crime cries to Heaven for punishment. Avenge, O Lord, thy slaughtered saints!

In Mesopotamia.

Writing in the *Evening Standard* (October 23), Mr. A. Wyatt Tilby examines the progress which we have made towards Baghdad, and in referring to our gains in this field of operation he remarks:—

The logic of events is making the German dream of domination in Persia and the Persian Gulf into a mockery.

It must be our business to see that what is won by arms is not lost by treaty. Our army has done brilliantly in the Euphrates Valley, and some day that story will be told. The story of our diplomacy in the Near and Middle East is less pleasant; it must not be repeated.

The Offer of Cyprus.

"It is not the cession of Cyprus," says the writer of the editorial notes in the *World*, but the very fact that the proposal has been made, which surprises us:

Are the people of this country so decadent that even with the aid of our Empire we cannot fight our own battles? Are we to revert to the system of which every reader of Gibbon knows the Roman Empire in its decline saw only too much? They bought off the Barbarian, and they paid people to fight their battles for them. . . . Where are we going to stop? Are we going to give Gibraltar to Spain to secure the assistance of the Spanish army? The Orkneys and Shetlands to Norway to secure Norwegian goodwill? Japan would, no doubt, like Australia, and even quite possibly we could win over the Turk with the cession of India. There are plenty of candidates for Egypt. Let us, however, retain Ceylon, because posterity would like some memento of our once great Empire.

We should like to know the name of the member of the Cabinet who first suggested this idea. . . Was there no one who, while realising that it was perhaps a clever diplomatic move, could appreciate the obvious deduction which would be drawn, namely, that we prefer to have someone to fight for us rather than fight ourselves. It may be said we have no choice. If so, one is sorry for the Government that placed us in such an invidious position. But is it true? We do not for a moment believe it. We do not believe that the manhood of this country has sunk to such an extent that a Greek soldier is preferred to a British infantryman. . . .

After the war, if so disposed, we could have given Cyprus to Greece, with grace and with a measure of dignified justice. . . . but to do this now under the stress of emergency, when apparently we have to go hat in hand and ask for aid because we are either not able or not willing to send a sufficient force ourselves, must make every decent-minded citizen squirm.

Some More Opinions.

The following paragraphs which we quote from leading journals concerning the bribe which Greece refused speak for themselves, and need no comment.

The *Morning Post* (October 22), in a leading article, describes the value of the island, and says:—

Now we propose to give it away in order to bribe Greece to fulfil her plain obligations in her own interests. We do not like the transaction. It is a very bad precedent, and might well encourage other Powers to ask a price for their neutrality or their support. When the British Empire is reduced to selling part of itself for the military support of Greece things might be considered as in a bad way. . . .

We have always been in a position strong enough to secure the co-operation of Greece without any promises except at the cost of our enemies; but as that strength seems to be in nerveless and incompetent hands, it has been thrown away. Being strong, we have acted as if we were weak, and are naturally taken at our own valuation.

The *Times* begins its leading article with the paragraph we quote:—

No clearer proof could be given of the desire of the British Government to act up to its professions in regard to a Balkan settlement in accordance with the principle of nationality than the news of its offer to cede the island of Cyprus to Greece on condition that Greece fulfil her obligations towards Serbia under the Greco-Serbian Treaty.

Should the reported rejection of the British offer prove to be absolute, and should the Hellenic people acquiesce in it, the Government of Great Britain and the Allies will at least have the advantage of knowing exactly where they stand, and what decisions are imposed upon them by the circumstances.

The *Daily Chronicle*, in a leading article, says:—

The offer is a splendid one, and if the Greek nation allows the Zaïmis Government to reject it, the world will have to revise its view of the seriousness of Hellenic aspirations. In the life of peoples as of individuals there come moments when those who "make the great refusal" commit an irreparable act.

We have continually said, and still say, that if the Allies want to make or keep friends in the Balkans they must show not only friendship but power there.

The *Daily Telegraph* says:—

The sooner we all recognise that purely chivalrous motives are not predominant in Balkan politics to-day the better. The cession of Cyprus, however, to the State to which most of its inhabitants are related by race and history clearly involves no departure from the principles upon which we have taken our stand from the beginning.

The *Daily Graphic* thinks that

The British Government has done a perfectly just thing in offering Cyprus to Greece as the price of her adhesion to the Quadruple Alliance. We are now at war with Turkey, and as a consequence of the war we have formally annexed Cyprus to the British Crown. It is therefore ours to give away, and the most obvious claimant for its possession is Greece.

The *Evening Standard* (October 21) also devotes a leading article to the question.

We object to bribes, and especially to useless bribes; and unquestionably the offer of Cyprus is a bribe. The only thing that distinguishes it from German bribes is that Germany offers other people's property and we offer our own. The future may reveal another difference, of course. Germany does get something in return for her bribes, and in this case we might easily pay the price without obtaining delivery of the goods. If the Greek Government coolly refuses to carry out its bargain with Serbia, how can we be sure it will carry out another? . . .

We object to the whole spirit of the transaction. This is our affair, and we ought to act and speak as strong people who know their friends—and also their enemies—instead of going, cap in hand, to a Government that has not only proved false, but is incapable of anything but falsity.

The *Liverpool Daily Post* remarks:—

English diplomatists have a reputation for being unfortunate in their deals in real estate. There was that Heligoland bargain, without which this war could not possibly have been fought, and the original Cyprus deal does not encourage us to undertake a second venture.

Gallipoli.

Mr. Sidney Low, writing in the *Sunday Pictorial* (October 24) considers the present situation in the Balkans to be one of very great gravity. After a comprehensive survey of the probable situation which would result from the present operations of Germany and Bulgaria if they are successfully carried through, he concludes:—

I suggest, therefore, that the wisest course would be to divert to Serbia the Anglo-French divisions now locked up at the beaches of Gallipoli. In the latter region there is plainly a deadlock, which may endure for months. We have lost nearly a hundred thousand men, and we are still only gaining ground by inches. We may cling to these bloodstained strands and gullies all through the winter, and by the spring be little nearer our objective. Long before that time the fate of Constantinople will be decided on the mainland.

The abandonment of the abortive Dardanelles expedition may be a misfortune; but disaster in Serbia would be a catastrophe which might decide the whole issue of the war in favour of our enemies.

The Bulgarians and their Betrayer.

In its issue of October 15 *La Nation Tchèque* addresses an eloquent and powerful appeal to the Bulgarian people, whom it invites, in effect, to dissociate themselves from the action, purely self-interested, of their King. Of that ruler the writer says well:—

Quelque pauvre d'esprit que soit le souverain qui consent à devenir l'instrument de Guillaume II, il n'est pas possible qu'il n'aperçoive pas l'inanité réelle de ses espérances. En réalité, il conduit volontairement son pays à l'abîme. Affaibli physiquement et moralement, hanté par la terreur de la mort et la peur d'une justice divine qui, si elle était égale à ses fautes, serait singulièrement cruelle, il est dominé par une double

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pensée; l'espoir de racheter son apostasie indirecte en favorisant la défaite de l'Orthodoxie, et le désir de se venger des Russes et des Serbes, à qui il attribue sans raison l'échec de ses plans fastueux. Allemand de goûts et de cœur, il n'a jamais eu aucune sympathie pour le peuple qu'il gouverne; en 1913, il l'a jeté, par la plus stupide des résolutions, dans une situation des plus difficiles et il lui a enlevé la gloire que lui avaient justement méritée le dévouement de ses fils et le génie d'un Radko Dmitrieff. Aujourd'hui, il le livre en pâture à l'ambition des Habsbourgs et le met à la remorque d'Enver-Pacha.

As to what befalls Ferdinand, the writer—like most men of honour—is quite indifferent. Nor does he pretend to think that there is any hope of converting the Coburger to honour:—

A quels sentiments essaierions-nous de nous adresser?—A son honneur?—Il nous traiterait de niais, et à juste titre.—A sa raison?—Il est aveuglé par la haine et la peur. Il ne nous reste qu'à l'abandonner à la Némésis qui l'attend. L'histoire byzantine connaît un empereur qui a mérité le surnom de Tueur de Bulgares. Ferdinand de Cobourg est plus ambitieux: le titre auquel il aspire est celui d'assassin de la Bulgarie.

But the Bulgarian people are invited to consider what gratitude they may expect from Austria and from Germany in the light of the past and the present. Let them, says the writer, reflect upon the condition of the Croats and Dalmatians, who have furnished the Dual Monarchy with its bravest and most faithful soldiers; upon the Serbs of the Banat, tricked and swindled; upon Sobieski, who saved Vienna from the Turks; upon their own recent history. And he goes on:—"Sur l'ordre d'un roi félon, d'un monarque étranger, combattront-ils contre les Orthodoxes qui, si longtemps les ont soutenus dans leurs souffrances et qui, sans compter, ont versé leur sang pour briser leurs chaînes? Le peuple bulgare a un ennemi, et il n'en a qu'un, c'est son roi. Qu'il secoue un joug indigne! Qu'il reprenne son rang au milieu des peuples slaves."

Articles to Note.

"Turkey Under Arms," by M. A. H., in the *Queen*, October 23.

"A House Divided: King and People in Bulgaria," by Percival Gibbon, in the *Daily Chronicle*, October 26.

"The Dardanelles from the Turkish Side," by Granville Fortescue, in the *World* (October 26).

"Elephant in the Sobat-Pibor District, Sudan," by G. H. K., in the *Field* (October 23).

"The Bulgarians," by Oliver Bainbridge, in the *Review of Reviews* (October).

"Cairo, 1915," by Stephen Graham, in *Country Life* (October 23).

Part 62 of "The Times History of the War" is the First Dardanelles Number. It contains a good map and many illustrations, and the letterpress is, of course, full of interest.

THROUGH ALBANIA TO SERBIA.

In the House of Lords on Tuesday, Lord St. Davids expressed his surprise that the Government should think that it was only possible to go to the help of Serbia through Greece. If that was so they could not have been very wide awake in the early stages of the war, when they ought to have taken every precaution. There was another way besides the way through Salonika—there should be a way through Durazzo. The route into Serbia from Durazzo was about the same distance as the route from Salonika, and the Government had had fifteen months during which they might have made necessary arrangements. There might have been a railway to the mountains, and in any case there might have been a good motor route. Plenty of sheds could have been built for military purposes at Durazzo. If the Government had made no preparations to protect the route through Albania to Serbia *via* Durazzo, they had not deserved well of the country.

Lord Curzon replying, said: "I am informed that the question of a road into Serbia from Durazzo, really almost impossible in the circumstances of the case, is one that has not escaped the attention of the Government."

The *Times'* Rome correspondent, wiring on Wednesday, reported that the question of an Allied expedition through Montenegro to Mitrovitza or through Albania to Prisrend is arousing a certain amount of discussion. In competent Balkan circles it is maintained that these routes are perfectly feasible for a moderate-sized expedition, and it is contended further that in Northern Serbia, owing to the nature of the country, the large numbers generally spoken of in conection with the Salonika expedition are unnecessary. The Albanian route along the line of the old Via Ignatia is practically impossible, even for field artillery, which would have to be sent by the longer route *via* Ipek or Novi Bazar. But here, too, the question of communications arises, for the new high roads which are under construction are not yet finished.

DIPLOMACY AND FORCE.

Tuesday's *Times* contained a long and interesting letter from Lord Cromer, under the heading of "Diplomacy and Force." The letter is largely concerned with the criticisms of this country's policy in the Near East, and with developments brought about by the fresh Austro-German attack on Serbia. In regard to the first of these points Lord Cromer writes:—

It has been freely stated that both the Foreign Office and its subordinate agents have shown great want of judgment in the conduct of Balkan affairs. It is not only possible, but highly probable, that mistakes may have been committed. I have no means for judging how far the charge of unskilfulness is justified. I conceive that most of the critics are in this respect no more favourably situated than myself. If, eventually, a full account of recent diplomatic transactions is laid before Parliament, the material on which to form an opinion will be available. Until this is done criticism must, to say the least, be based on a very imperfect knowledge of the facts. In the meanwhile, I may say that I greatly doubt whether the most skilful diplomacy would have materially altered the course of events. It is not unskilful diplomacy, but German military success against Russia, that has induced King Ferdinand to throw in his lot with Germany and King Constantine to ignore his treaty obligations to Serbia. Both of these rulers must have been to some extent influenced by their German connections. Both have been apparently waiting to see which was most likely to prove the winning side. Both have been sufficiently sure of their positions to ignore what are possibly the wishes and what are certainly the true interests of the people over whom they rule.

Regarding the German thrust in the Balkans, Lord Cromer writes:—

The Germans, having failed to accomplish all they wished, whether on the side of Russia or on that of France, are now endeavouring to carry out another portion of the programme laid down long before the war by Hasse and other Pan-Germanists, that is to say, they wish to establish a German Empire which will extend from the Persian Gulf to the Baltic. I doubt whether it is as yet fully realised in this country that recent events have, for the time being, entirely changed the character of the war. For the moment the importance of the European situation is diminished. The struggle has become more than ever one for supremacy in the East. Politicians of any of the Allied nations, and especially of Great Britain, who do not recognise that the centre of gravity of the war has been at least temporarily shifted will, I venture to think, be making a very great mistake.

The letter concludes with a word to the pessimists:—"In the meanwhile, as an antidote to excessive pessimism, it may be as well to remember that in the past the last word has generally remained with the nation which held the command of the sea and which was best able to bear the financial strain of war."

THE ARMENIAN MASSACRES.

On Monday evening a meeting was held in the Midland Hall, Manchester, in connection with the Manchester Armenian Relief Fund, at which Viscount Bryce, Mr. Aneurin Williams, M.P., and Bishop Welldon were the principal speakers.

Viscount Bryce said that great as had been the sufferings of Belgium, France, Poland, Serbia, and this country, he did not think there were any that could compare in magnitude and in all the circumstances of horror with those which had attended the massacres in Armenia. The Armenians were the most orderly part of the subjects of the Turks; they were well educated and accustomed to the refinements of civilisation as much as ourselves. The Turkish Government had made up its mind at the beginning of the war to destroy this whole people. There was no fanaticism about it; there had been no outbreaks of Moslem passion on the part of the people. The whole thing had come from the Government. The suggestion that the massacres were the result of actions by the Armenians themselves was absolutely baseless. It was an assault by the gang of unscrupulous ruffians who had got possession of the Turkish Empire.

Bishop Welldon said there was one Christian Power which could, if it would, put an end to those massacres. That Power was Germany. Among the many infamies gathering about that land nothing could be more dreadful before the Judgment Seat of God than that the German Empire was encouraging and enabling the Turkish Government to exterminate a Christian people. That was the charge he brought against Germany.

Dr. R. W. Seton-Watson delivered, on the Thursday of last week, the first of the course of addresses he is giving at King's College on the Balkan peoples. The lecture dealt chiefly with the geography of the Balkan peninsula and the distribution of its peoples. One interesting fact noted was that the villages in the Balkans usually lie off the main roads. The inhabitants have had the alternative of retiring to the mountains to starve or remaining along the main roads to be trampled beneath the feet of the armies that since the dawn of history have never ceased to march across the peninsula. Another fact was that the Jews of the Balkans did not come direct from Palestine. They are Sephardim Jews and came from Spain, seeking under the Turk a refuge from Christian persecution.

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showing the present addresses of English residents in Turkey, who have left the country in consequence of the war, or have been prevented from returning there. Readers from Turkey whose names are not given below will oblige by forwarding to the Managing Editor their present addresses for inclusion (free of charge) in the Directory, which is intended to be of assistance in bringing friends together. Changes in addresses should be notified as early as possible. The "Near East" accepts no responsibility for the correctness of the addresses given.

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SMITH, F. W., "Heathcote," Bexley, Kent.
SMITH, Mrs. H. Watson, 33, Oakeswell End, Wednesbury.
SMITH-LYTE, Mr. and Mrs. William, 30, Westbourne Terrace, Hyde Park, W. Tele., Paddington 7191.
SOFIANO, Mrs. Alexander, and sons, Rue Nikis, No. 11, Athens.
SPROWSON, Mr. and Mrs. William, and family, The Ferns, Harrow-on-the-Hill.
STELIANIDI, Mr. and Mrs. L. N., and family, Hotel Métropole, Athens.
STERLING, Rev. Canon and Mrs., 1, Norham Road, Monkseaton, Northumberland.
STREATER, Mr. and Mrs. Frank, British Consulate, Dedeagatch, Bulgaria.
STOCK, Mrs. H. W., and family, 13, Norland Sq., Holland Park, W. Tel., Park 3770.
STRONG, Miss K. M., Thorpe Hall, Peterborough.
SUMMERS, Mrs. H. C., and family, 34, Broadmead Road, Folkestone.
SUMMERS, Misses L. and M., Old Phaleron, Greece.
SWAN, Mr. and Mrs. T. Angus, 12, Ramshill Road, Scarborough.
SWAN, Mrs. Charles, 43, Lythoe Road, Finchley Road, N.W.
SYKES, Mrs. W. Norman, and family, 24, Osborne Road, Birkby, Huddersfield.

TALBOT, Miss, The Homestead, Basingstoke.
THEWLIS, Frank, 33, Randolph Crescent, Maida Vale.
THOMPSON, William A., Glenmore, Avenue Road, Falmouth.
THOMPSON, Mrs. Harold, Glenmore, Avenue Road, Falmouth.
THOMSON, Mrs., 124, King Henry's Road, South Hampstead, N.W.
THOMPSON, Miss C., c/o Dr. Thompson, The Quay, Bideford.
THOMPSON, Miss Gladys, 124, King Henry's Road, South Hampstead, N.W.
THOMPSON, Mrs. John, Villa Yasmin, Ramleh, Alexandria.
TRISTRAM, Mr. and Mrs. U. B., and family, 84, Worple Road, Wimbledon, S.W.
TUBINI, Mrs. T., 84, Worple Road, Wimbledon.
TUCKER, Thomas C., and family, 18, Odos Kehaya, New Phaleron, Greece.
TUCKER, Thomas J. V. Ferid, c/o A. H. Brace, Esq., 46, Goldshill Road, Handsworth.

VIDOVICH, Nicholas, and daughter, Hotel Centrale, Rue du Stade, No. 22, Athens.

WATT, Mr. and Mrs. A. B., Grand Hotel, Larnaca, Cyprus.
WEAKLY, E., C.M.G., Norfolk Hoter, Kensington, W
WEALE, W., Foreign Office, S.W.
WEALE, Miss Mary, 10, Upton Road, Slough.
WEALE, Miss Norah, Lydgate House, Hunstanton.
WERNDEL, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. G., Grand Hotel Bulgarie, Sofia.
WHEATLEY, Miss N., "Falklands," Birkdale.
WHITEHOUSE, Rev. Canon F. C., and family, 6, St. Andrew's Square, Surbiton.
WHITTALL, Hugh E. C., Royal Societies' Club, 63, St. James's Street, S.W.
WHITTALL, Reginald, and family, 60, Scarsdale Villas Kensington, W.
WHITTALL, W. H. J., 1, Princes Square, Bayswater, W.
WHITTALL, Lady, Athens.
WHITTALL, Kenny, 62, Princes Square, W.
WHITTALL, Edwin, and family, Hotel Minerva, Athens.
WHITTALL, Miss Enid, 84, Worple Road, Wimbledon.
WHITTALL, Miss Lucy, 60, Scarsdale Villas, South Kensington, S.W.
WHITTALL, Mrs. Jack, Hotel Minerva, Athens.
WILKINSON, J. W., and family, Chios, Greece.
WOODS, Mrs. Harold, Villa Yasmin, Ramleh, Alexandria.
WORTHAM, Mrs., 34, Cambridge Street, Hyde Park, W.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

The outlook in the Sudan is far from being pessimistic. In point of fact, it seems that, if there is one corner of the British Empire which is continuing the even tenor of its way, in spite of the war, it is the Sudan. Irrigation is being pushed forward in a normal fashion, and certain necessary reforms, enumerated elsewhere, have been introduced. There has been a considerable increase in the demand for cattle to supply troops engaged at Gallipoli and in Egypt, as our Sudan Correspondent pointed out, and there is hope of extending the trade further. It is not improbable that the export of live stock, cattle and sheep, will exceed the value of any other exports from the Sudan, and this notwithstanding the fact that the prices for gum ruled high with a big output, whilst there has been an unprecedented export of grain to the Red Sea littoral. Thus what was expected to be a bad and difficult year has turned out extremely well for the natives, who have been able to place all the chief products of the country on the market at a good price.

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While on the subject of the Sudan, it is curious to note that a trial is being made by the Government with South African coal for its railways. According to the *Financier*, a steamer laden with such coal has left Delagoa Bay for Port Sudan. Some change will, it appears, be necessary in the grates—the mode of firing being different, so the services of a South African railway locomotive inspector have been requisitioned for the purpose of supervising the necessary alterations. It is possible that, if the experiment succeeds, the use of South African coal may also be arranged on the Egyptian State Railways. Trials will accordingly be watched with great interest.

***

Some months ago I predicted that the Egyptian Delta Light Railways would greatly improve their traffic receipts as compared with those of the corresponding period (in periods of ten days) last year. I was not wrong. From the beginning of the war, and until the first anniversary of its commencement, the receipts of the Delta Light Railways decreased sensibly as compared with the corresponding pre-war period of 1913. But, as soon as the evil year—August, 1914-August, 1915—had passed, I predicted better results. From October 1 to October 10, 1914, the traffic receipts of the company amounted to £E4,093; from October 1 to October 10, 1915, they amounted to £E6,117, showing an increase of £E2,024, or more than 33⅓ per cent. This is most commendable, and we can be prepared, I think, for further valuable increases. Receipts are not likely, however, to come up to those of October, 1913, when they varied between £E8,000 and £E10,000 per period of ten days, but, nevertheless, they are making a bold bid.

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I am pleased to see that H.M. Vice-Consul at Alexandria, in his recent report, pays a glowing tribute to the British Chamber of Commerce of Egypt. He states that the Chamber now finds itself in a satisfactory financial position, and has achieved some good work during the year. "They have done their best to obtain greater protection to creditors in the mixed tribunals and a revision of the bankruptcy law. They have also been in communication with the Ministry of Finance with regard to the conditions ruling Government tenders, and the Ministry has seen its way to approving of several modifications desired by British manufacturers. Useful work has also been done in connection with the revision of the code of procedure in Egyptian courts, the use of misleading marks and trade descriptions, the increased duty on tobacco, the granting of preferential facilities to traders by the State railways, trading with enemy subjects, the reduced telegraphic facilities, the export trade in eggs, and the fraudulent imitation of liquors in Egypt." The record for 1914 is thus proved to be an exceptional one. May the Chamber be productive of still greater achievements, in favour of British trade, during the current financial year!

***

The fall of Prahova, and the defeat of the Serbs in the north-eastern corner of Serbia, is of more than usual interest, as it chiefly affects the Nish-Danube section of the Adriatic Railway. It will be remembered that our Special Correspondent in the Balkans in May, 1914, gave the following description of this new line:—"The sections and the state of work are at present as follows: The line from Prahova to Zaichar is being built by a French firm, and is to be finished by the end of this month; the Zaichar-Kniashevaz-Nish section is being built by the Serbian State, and is to be completed in two years." Evidently work on this section has been hurried, because our Nish correspondent, writing on October 7, said that the whole line from Nish to Prahova was likely to be in working order towards the beginning or middle of November, the last part of the work, the tunnel at Gremada, having been pierced. It is to be regretted that the enemy have arrived in time to open and exploit the line to the detriment of our brave Allies, and, further, to make use of the harbour works at Prahova.

***

Greece continues to be an enigma, the Royal oracle at Athens not having spoken—as the people wish him to speak. In the meantime, Greece is buying Cardiff coal in Wales, and we, it would appear, are selling it to her, and she is also making arrangements to buy grain in Bulgaria, if the following Reuter message from Amsterdam (October 26) is correct:—"According to a Sofia telegram from the Official Bulgarian News Agency, the Greek Government has instructed a Commission to proceed to Sofia to buy grain for the Government's account, and to discuss the question of its dispatch and delivery. The members of the Commission, it is added, have already arrived at Sofia." There is nothing, after all, like keeping up business appearances, even if treaties, unlike trade agreements, are scraps of paper.

***

Last week I criticised the circular issued by the directors of the Anglo-Egyptian oilfields, suggesting a possible (or eventual) call for more capital; incidentally I criticised the management of the company, and stated that the results of the negotiations between the directors and the Egyptian Government (everything seems to depend on these negotiations) would be eagerly awaited. In the meantime the *Financier* publishes the following apt remarks:—"Early last month" (it says) "when an interesting demand was reported for the 'B' shares and the price was advanced from 3s. 6d. to 6s. 3d., we deemed it pertinent to inquire where this interesting demand had its source. We were sceptical of the very moderate improvement in the production being sufficient to attract much attention in view of the statements that had been made in the report issued in June last regarding the experience in respect of both the Gemsah and Hurgada wells. We pointed out that the total production for 1914 was 101,911 tons, and forecasted that the current year would account for only about 30,000 tons, and we see no reason for revising this estimate. Expenses, it was apparent, could not show any reduction when it was borne in mind that an extension of the company's concessions was deemed necessary, and considerable further exploitation, boring and development were needful for the undertaking to be put on a possible permanent paying basis. It is not clear, from what has now been published, that hopes run high or that prospects will justify the directors in inviting the shareholders to provide further capital. The additional capital required, it is stated, might be £50,000 to £100,000, representing a contribution of 1s. to 2s. per share—a rather wide estimate."

***

I referred some weeks ago to the questionable action of Mr. Ford, head of the American Ford Motor Car Company, which has flooded the Near East and England with its cars. Mr. Ford, it appears, condemned the Allied Loan floated in America, and threatened bankers engaged in it with his dire wrath, forgetting that his millions have been largely accumulated in England, France, Russia, Belgium, Italy, and Serbia. Mr. Ford's action has not met with favour in his own native country. Mr. James Couzens has left the Ford Motor Company, of which he was one of the managing partners, as a protest against the action of his chief in denouncing the Anglo-French loan. Another car magnate, Mr. Charles W. Nash, president of the General Motors Company, has joined in the denunciation of Mr. Ford, and ridicules that gentleman's inconsistency in howling for peace while at the same time making millions of dollars profit out of the French and British Governments by manufacturing war cars for them at the Ford Company's Canadian works. As I said before, the action of Mr. Henry Ford must not be forgotten.

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In connection with the notice published recently in THE NEAR EAST of the tenders invited by the Egyptian Postal Administration for the supply of general stores, we have received a copy of the specification, which can be seen at THE NEAR EAST offices by firms interested. The closing date for offers is December 1. The stores required include:—Mail bags, boots, fuel, ready-made furniture, letter-boxes and accessories, hardware articles, electric lamps and accessories, electric fans, enamelled plates, safes, stamps and punches, special postal stationery, telltale watch requisites, lead seals, rolling-stock and accessories, flags, disinfectants, etc., etc.

COMMENTATOR.

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Alexandria Consular Report.

H.M. Vice-Consul at Alexandria publishes his annual report for 1914. The following are extracts from the report :—

During 1914 the total value of Egypt's imports was £E21,724,606, compared with £E27,865,195 in 1913 and £E25,907,759 in 1912. The value of exports was £E24,091,796 in 1914, as compared with £E31,662,065 in 1913, and £E34,574,321 in 1912.

1914 was an altogether abnormal year. A good cotton crop had been followed by a more prosperous period of trade than Egypt had experienced during the past few years. This is shown by the Customs returns, which for the first seven months displayed an increase both in exports and imports, the former showing an increase of £E1,789,993 over 1913 and the latter an increase of £E1,230,496. After the outbreak of war the extraordinary state of the world's finances and the doubts about the future had so deleterious an effect upon the volume of trade that the last five months of the year witnessed a shrinkage of imports to the value of over £E7,000,000, while exports show a decrease to the extent of more than £E9,000,000.

The only satisfactory point with regard to these figures from a British point of view was that the United Kingdom's share of exports and imports for these five months rose to 55.9 and 37.4 per cent. of the whole—a result largely due to the cessation of German and Austro-Hungarian competition.

Thanks to the economies effected by the Egyptian Government and the assistance rendered by the home Government's guarantee, confidence is being gradually restored, but it is impossible to anticipate a return to normal conditions for a long time to come.

Cotton Crop.

The cotton crop for the season 1914-15 is estimated at from 6,500,000 to 7,000,000 cantars as compared with 7,500,000 cantars for the season 1913-14—a considerably higher figure than was for long deemed possible. The decrease is almost entirely attributable to the damage effected by the attacks of ordinary boll and pink worms, which in some districts ruined two-thirds of the crop. Unless serious steps are taken to combat the evil, the outlook is threatening. A step in the right direction has probably been taken by a new law which decrees that all bolls still adhering to cotton plants must be removed and burned at least fifteen days before the date fixed in each district for the removal of the roots from the ground.

The quality of the crop suffered in most varieties, and the damage done would probably have been greater but for the fact that there had been an increased cultivation of the Sakellarides cotton, which matures early and escapes the worm to a greater extent than other varieties. It is unusually difficult to estimate the value to the grower of the cotton crop.

On the outbreak of European hostilities in August practically all transactions in the cotton market came to an abrupt termination for about six weeks. Some growers then sold a part of their crops at very low prices, but at this juncture the Finance Ministry obtained a guarantee of a sum up to £E5,000,000 which it might be necessary to borrow, and made arrangements with the National Bank of Egypt for the latter to make advances on favourable terms against cotton. They further introduced a scheme by which the Government were prepared to buy through the medium of four Alexandria cotton firms the crops of small cultivators.

These measures did very much to steady the market by giving a feeling of confidence. At the same time the demand for cotton greatly improved, Italy and Switzerland making extensive purchases. By the end of October and beginning of November the low prices tempted buyers in the United Kingdom, and America, too, began to purchase considerable quantities.

The result has been that the crop has moved off far more speedily than anyone ventured to anticipate. Prices have advanced, but, seeing that a considerable amount of cotton was sold early at poor prices, the present crop has been estimated as worth about £E18,000,000 or £E19,000,000 to the cultivators as compared with £E32,000,000 in the season 1913-14.

Irrigation.

Owing to the lowness of the Nile flood in 1913 large areas remained unwatered in 1914, causing a loss to revenue of more than £E500,000 in taxes, rents, etc. The rice area was much limited, and in some districts its cultivation was prohibited, while special measures had to be introduced to economize the water supply. The summer flood of 1914 was good, and there is now a sufficient supply to admit of the cultivation of rice, especially as the area devoted to cotton has now been diminished by the restrictions referred to above, while the low prices of cotton at the beginning of the season are likely to induce the farmer to revert to rice in cases where cotton had in recent years been substituted.

The construction of a dam on the White Nile has begun to supplement the supply from the Assouan dam and render it possible to transform lands now under flood to soil under perennial irrigation and facilitate the reclamation of salt lands. At the present time there is not always sufficient water for the irrigation of these lands.

The length of drains completed in Lower Egypt in 1914 as part of the big drainage scheme was considerable, but since the beginning of the war considerations of economy have necessitated the reduction and, in some cases, complete cessation of this work.

Agricultural Machinery.

Before the war Germany and Austria-Hungary supplied goods of agricultural utility and more particularly coal engines, which the fellah prefers to oil engines. For these engines cotton stalks are being largely used as fuel owing to the present high price of coal. It is possible that British manufacturers might do more in this trade, but it must not be forgotten that at the present time the whole of the Egyptian community is refraining, as far as possible, from any purchases that can possibly be avoided.

Finance.

One of the chief features in recent years which has prevented the country from recovering completely from the great financial crisis is the extent to which private indebtedness accumulated. It has long ago been demonstrated that the true remedy for this was retrenchment and abstention from fresh borrowing, and indications were not lacking that this policy was being adopted, but, in face of the situation created by the war, large reductions in expenditure are still necessary.

There are two hopeful signs on the other side. The first is the large increase of productivity, owing to the Government irrigation works and individual improvements. The second is the accumulation of hoarded gold in the country, which is estimated at about £20,000,000.

In Egypt debtors are greatly favoured by the existing state of the law, and they have taken full advantage of the moratorium to postpone their obligations. With reformed courts it is hoped that it will be possible to bring an end to this state of affairs.

Government Measures.

The crisis that occurred on the outbreak of war was met by the Government by emergency measures. A large addition was made to the currency by the issue of bank notes to the value of £6,000,000, while the gold reserve at the end of March reached 70 per cent. of the issue. At the critical moment Egyptian Treasury bills to the value of £2,350,000 were issued, but have been gradually withdrawn and replaced by gold in London. The use of paper currency has been accepted without difficulty, and may enable financiers in future to employ it to a larger extent than formerly, even in normal times. The proclamation of a moratorium enabled the banks, the best of which made little use of it in their own transactions, to tide over the critical period without much difficulty.

Revenues.

The serious fall in Government revenues, which is estimated at £2,500,000, is to be met by new taxation which cannot yet be specified, curtailment of new works and recourse to the reserve fund. There may possibly be a loan for the continuation of public works. The deficit for the financial year 1914-15 is £1,700,000, while the reserve fund on March 31, 1915, stood at about £3,400,000, or, allowing for the universal depreciation of securities, to about £2,600,000.

Alexandria Water Company.

Since reporting at this period last year, nothing of very great interest has happened; in fact, owing to the war and general lowering of house rents the balance-sheet will be affected somewhat by the consequent lowering of some of the water rates. There has been a large falling off in the water consumption of all Government and municipal departments also in the port where matters have practically been at a standstill since August. The decrease in the amount of water pumped is correspondingly marked; at the end of December the quantity was about 2,000,000 tons less than the previous year. Regarding the high-pressure installation at Minet-Bassal, there have been considerable extensions in the number of sprinklers installed, and several incipient cotton fires have been automatically extinguished by the sprinklers. One fire in the Customs enclosure last October took no less than 12,000 tons of water from the high-pressure installation in forty-five hours in addition to the water taken from the sea by the fire brigade.

Alexandria Municipality.

The outbreak of the war in August has affected very considerably the work done by the administration. Expenditure has to be cut down and the strictest economy exercised.

The construction of the Kaid Bey branch of the new breakwater is going on, about half has been completed.

The new commodious central fire station at Kom-el-Dick was completed in December.

Great progress has been made with the new Alexandria-Aboukir main road; about seven kiloms. inside the town limits will be completed in the spring of 1915 and another three and a-half kiloms. belonging to Behera province will be ready about the same time. The length of the Alexandria-Cairo road within the municipal limits was completed. Both these roads should become important arteries and facilitate greatly access to the surrounding agricultural country.

The total value of imports into Egypt and Alexandria from various parts of the British Empire during 1914 was as follows :—

	All Egypt. £E.		Alexandria £E.
British India	888,725	..	324,469
Australia & New Zealand	329,410	..	39,189
Far East possessions ..	58,493	..	8,497
African possessions	6,287	..	3

EXPORT NOTICE.

The Cunard Steamship Co., Limited, the Ellerman Lines, Limited, and Messrs. John Glynn and Son have issued the following important notice, dated October 21, viz. :—

"The Government have brought under our notice the necessity of our manifests being in complete accord with the bills of lading, and as shippers are frequently very late in rendering to us the necessary documents, which we may say must now go in the steamer's box before she sails, we request you to see that your bills of lading are handed to us two days prior to the steamer's sailing. It is also necessary if the goods are in transit to Switzerland or elsewhere that this should be clearly specified on the bills of lading. In the event of your not complying with our wishes in this respect, we give you notice that we cannot be held responsible for any delays or subsequent charges that may arise in consequence through the necessary papers not being supplied to us in time.

DELICIOUS COFFEE.
RED WHITE & BLUE
For Breakfast & after Dinner.
Wholesale, of Hanson's, London, England.

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Trade Notes.

Egypt.

H.M. Consul at Cairo reports that tenders are invited by the Egyptian Coast Guard Administration for the supply and delivery of the following stores required during the year 1916 :—(1) 4,030 metric tons of large, first class, Cardiff coal and 40 tons of best quality Newcastle coal. (2) 170 metric tons of petroleum. (3) 11 metric tons of benzine. Copies of the specifications and conditions of tender may be obtained from the Director-General, Coast Guard Administration, Cairo, by whom sealed tenders will be received up to noon on December 1. A provisional deposit equal to 2 per cent., or a bank guarantee of 10 per cent., of the value of the offer must accompany each tender. The tenderer must be a person residing in Egypt, or must have a representative in that country, and must give in his offer an address in Egypt at which notices may be served upon him. A copy of each of the specifications and conditions of tender may be consulted by United Kingdom exporters of the materials mentioned at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

H.M. Consul at Cairo reports that tenders are invited by the Egyptian War Office, for the supply and delivery of 10 tons of candles, suitable for storage and use in a tropical climate. Sealed tenders, marked "Tender for the supply of Candles," will be received by the Financial Secretary, War Office, Cairo, up to 11 a.m. on November 2. A sample of 2 lbs. of the candles (in the manufacturer's original wrapping) which it is proposed to supply must accompany each tender. A preliminary deposit of £E10, or a bank guarantee of 10 per cent. of the amount of the offer, is required to qualify any tender. Copies of the specification and form of tender may be obtained from the office of Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Broadway, Westminster, London, S.W. A copy of the specification and conditions of tender may be inspected by United Kingdom candle manufacturers at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

For particulars concerning the tenders invited by the Egyptian Postal Administration, see page 733.

Sudan.

A correspondent of the *Sudan Times* at Omdurman suggests the enactment of a new law or regulation, imposing a small tax or fee for the carrying of knives, daggers, spears, and other weapons of a similar nature. The tax may be considered as a modification of the firearm tax. The new regulation would have the double advantage of bringing in a more or less considerable income to the Government as well as limiting the number of persons who go about the streets carrying daggers and similar weapons. The principal motive for the suggestion is not merely financial but for the sake of public security. The free use of arms by all classes of the population is often the cause of much harm. Many an altercation which in Egypt would have culminated in a few blows or only violent curses, in the Sudan has a tragic end. The suggestion is a good one; though how to devise a way for ensuring the observance of any regulation enacted on this line, is not as easy as one might at first suppose.

Morocco.

H.M. Consul-General at Casablanca has forwarded a copy of the *Bulletin Officiel* of the Cherifian Government containing two Dahirs dated August 28, 1915, decreeing the above-mentioned reorganisation and accompanied by an "Exposé des Motifs" by the Resident-General. In this exposition of the motives prompting the reorganisation, the Resident-General points out that in view of the increasing development of European interests in Morocco and the still greater progress likely to arise in consequence of the Casablanca Exhibition, it is essential to co-ordinate the work of these Departments. The name of the new Department will be the "Direction de l'Agriculture, du Commerce et de la Colonisation de l'Empire Chérifian."

Greece.

H.M. Consul at Piræus reports that tenders are invited by the Greek Ministries of Interior, of Finances and of Communications, for the construction, maintenance and working, of the undertakings necessary for (1) the supply of water to Athens, Piræus, and their suburbs, by using the springs at Stymphalia or Melas; and (2) for the laying of a distributing system in Athens, Piræus and Neon Phalerum for water supply and sanitation. The estimated value of the contract is 56,000,000 drachmae (about £2,240,000). The specifications, plans, etc., may be consulted at the "Bureaux du service spécial pour l'alimentation d'eau et des égouts," Athens, where also copies may be made at the tenderer's expense. Sealed tenders will be received at the Ministry of Communications, Athens, up to 11 a.m. on December 17/30. A certificate of the deposit of 500,000 drachmae (about £20,000) with the Greek Treasury or the Greek National Bank is required to qualify any tender. A copy of the Greek Government Gazette of September 11/24, containing the conditions of tender (in French), may be consulted by United Kingdom contractors at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

With reference to the construction of the railway linking up the Piræus-Athens-Larissa line with the Oriental Railway, H.M. Consul at Piræus has forwarded a copy of the Greek Government Gazette (No. 316) of September 14/27, containing the text of an agreement, in the French language, made between the Greek Government and the United States Steel Products Company of New Jersey, U.S.A., concerning the supply of material for the above-mentioned railway which is being constructed from Papapouli to Topsin. This material includes rails, fishplates, fish bolts and washers for same, metal sleepers and chairs, bolts and washers for same. United Kingdom manufacturers of railway material may consult the above-mentioned Gazette at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

COAL FOR GREECE.

On the Cardiff Coal Exchange on Friday confirmation was forthcoming of a report that Greece was in the market for 50,000 tons of coal. It is understood that the Hellenic Government is negotiating through Greek merchants. It is proposed that the coal should be shipped in Greek vessels requisitioned at mobilisation. The circumstance is regarded as indicating developments in Greece favourable to the Entente.

Commenting on the above, the *Liverpool Journal of Commerce* says :—

The statement that the Greek Government were inquiring for 50,000 tons of Welsh coal has been construed in the lay Press as significant. It is not consistent with the policy of a well-informed nation like Greece to suddenly turn round at the eleventh hour for the wherewithal to move her Navy. Greece has been assembling supplies of American and British coals since the outbreak of war. In August of last year she actually imported over 14,000 tons of American coals from Hampton Roads, and since that date has been assembling supplies with that haste that characterises nations that might be suddenly embroiled in war. It was vitally essential to assemble grain and coal. Especially was this the case with coal, for Greece has had considerable difficulty in obtaining supplies of Welsh coals. Nevertheless it is known that large supplies of Welsh coal have been assembled at Piraeus. Permission of the authorities of course had to be obtained. It is not at all unlikely that the Greek Government will endeavour to obtain large quantities of Welsh coal, and permission to load will naturally only be given when our Government are assured that Greece will throw in her lot with those of the Allies. The present time is a most propitious one to obtain Welsh coals, inasmuch as supplies are abundant, and values have dropped to the extent of £1 per ton compared with the market prices a few months ago.

ALEXANDRIA PRIZE COURT.

S.S. "Lutzow" (ex Cargo).

On September 18, Judge Grain delivered the following judgment in the Alexandria Prize Court, concerning the cargo of the s.s. Lutzow.

Judgment.

The goods in this matter, three cases of woollen goods, were shipped by H. Vogelsang and Company, a German firm at Hamburg, on board the s.s. Lutzow for Tokio, via Yokohama, on or about July 13, 1914. The consignees were Messrs. Kaneko and Company, of Tokio, and the contract one of documents against acceptance. Messrs. Vogelsang and Company drew on the Deutsche Bank (London Agency) for the account of Messrs. Kaneko and Company, and, in the ordinary course, had not war broken out, the draft would have been accepted by the Deutsche Bank on or about August 1, 1914.

What did happen I had better state in the words of the Deutsche Bank themselves contained in a letter put in and dated July 15, 1915 :—

The draft for £130 10s. 5d. "came into our hands on August 1, 1914. Draft and documents were examined in the usual way, and when found in order the draft was marked for acceptance, *i.e.*, initialled for acceptance by the official who is responsible for this class of transaction. The acceptance formula was placed on the bill and signed by two officials on the same day, August 1. Under ordinary circumstances this acceptance would have been completed by delivery to the holders on the following working day, Tuesday, August 4. Owing to the fact, however, that the days following August 3 had been declared bank holidays, and that our bank had been closed by order of the British Government when war had broken out, delivery of the draft could not take place. Shortly afterwards we were granted a license by H.M. Government for certain transactions, but we were not allowed to complete the acceptance of any drafts which had been presented on August 1.

"We therefore had to cancel the acceptance formula and the signatures on the bills, but have no record of when this was done." And in another letter they say, "we were not permitted to complete the acceptance by handing over the bill to the holders."

It also appears from the correspondence that the Deutsche Bank somewhat foolishly parted with all the documents before the acceptances were complete, viz., on August 1, 1914, when they merely marked the bill for acceptance, on which date they forwarded all the documents to the Sumitomo Bank, who, in due course, remitted to the Deutsche Bank the necessary cover.

Mr. Booth urges that the property in these goods passed to the consignees Messrs. Kaneko and Company, when the bill was marked on the face of it as accepted. The bill is produced and bears on the face of it a stamp: "Accepted August 1, 1914. at the National Provincial Bank of England, Deutsche Bank (Berlin), London Agency, by sub-manager." This had been signed by two persons, but later the signatures and the stamped words have all been struck out in pen and ink.

I cannot accept Mr. Booth's view, because before the property can pass the acceptance must be completed. And the liability of the acceptor, though irrevocable when complete, and if this acceptance had been complete, would have passed the property. Nevertheless, it is not complete by the mere writing of a name, but upon the subsequent delivery of the bill, or upon communication to or according to the directions of the person entitled to the bill, that it has been accepted. In this particular case all had happened was that a name had been written on the bill, and as the claimants themselves say in one of their letters, "we were not permitted to complete the acceptance by handing over the bill to the holders," and so, as they state, they struck out and cancelled the stamped formula of acceptances and the signatures already stamped and written on the face of the bill.

Therefore, no complete acceptance having taken place, the property in the goods has not passed to the consignees, but remains in the consignors, the enemy firm of Vogelsang and Company, of Hamburg, and the order of the Court will be one for confiscation and sale.

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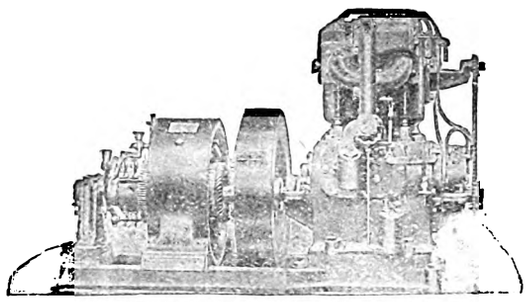

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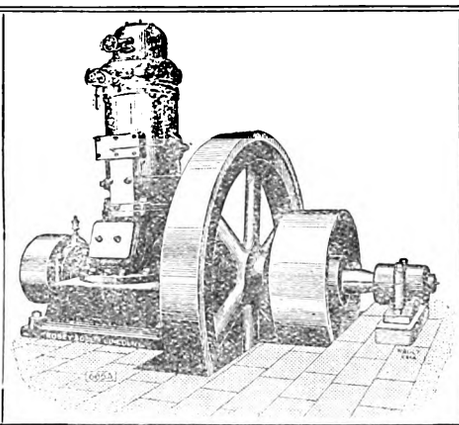

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Sudan Irrigation.

In connection with the recent alteration in the schedule attached to the Sudan Loan Act of 1913 (referred to in THE NEAR EAST of October 15), and bearing on irrigation works in the Sudan, the *Engineer* gives the following survey of reforms, etc., introduced in the Sudan Irrigation Department:—

Administrative Reforms.

Anterior to the beginning of 1914, control was centred in an Inspector-General, whose headquarters were at Khartoum, with outlying assistants—four in number—resident at the towns of Dongola, in the province of that name; Tokar, Red Sea Province; Malakal, Upper Nile Province; and Wad Medani, Blue Nile Province. Upon all important questions the Inspector-General consulted the Under-Secretary of State for Public Works in Egypt, and was held directly responsible under the latter's control. With the clearing up of a number of problems connected with the water supply of Egypt, as affected by the rivers in the Sudan, an Inspector-General at Khartoum became no longer necessary, and the inspectors at that centre—Khartoum for the White Nile Province, Sennar for the Blue Nile Province, Dongola and Tokar for the districts of Tokar and Kassala—were each separately made responsible to the Under-Secretary, who, in addition to his other duties, undertook to advise the Governor-General on irrigation matters; at the same time these inspectors acted upon instruction given to them by the Governors of the various provinces in which they were serving.

Work in the Gezira.

Notwithstanding the serious interruption to most of the carefully laid plans of the Government by the outbreak of war in Europe, and the extreme difficulty experienced in securing the necessary funds and the adequate amount of official supervision, no small amount of progress was made last year in connection with irrigation matters in the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan. On the Blue Nile—long before the trouble in Europe broke out or even threatened—for instance, the Gezira scheme was inaugurated by Lord Kitchener and the Governor-General, who visited the proposed site of the new barrage at Makwar, in the Sennar Province, and formally authorised its construction. Work was immediately put in hand, and a contract entered into for the construction of the main canal leading to the Gezira; this canal is designed to carry water for irrigating 200,000 feddans, roughly 200,000 acres. At the same time 1,000 convicts were sent from Egypt to assist in the construction works. Houses were built at Makwar, and all other arrangements made for a start with actual construction during the approaching winter. Then came the trouble in Europe, which, as indicated, put a practical stoppage to everything, the exception being in connection with the main canal, the contract for which had already been granted and entered upon. The delay now experienced in relation to the completion of the whole undertaking is of very great moment to the country, and is having, as may be understood, a serious effect upon its economic development; but no harm has been, or is being, done to the scheme itself, the delay sustained in the execution of which being but little injurious owing to the fact that the work had not advanced sufficiently to make any material difference to its successful completion at a somewhat later date. None the less the scheme is one which at the earliest possible moment should be urged forward to a speedy conclusion, in order to obtain full advantage from the money already expended upon it, entirely apart from its urgency as a necessary development scheme.

Staff.

The staff engaged for the Gezira canalisation scheme—in connection with the Egyptian Department represented in the Sudan—is divided into three sections, the Gezira scheme, the White Nile, and the Dongola. The first consists of a Director-General, Mr. L. N. Cooper, with headquarters at Alexandria, Egypt; an Inspector, Mr. R. J. Nisbet, also stationed at Alexandria; three Directors of Works, Messrs. E. O. F. Fulford, F. Newhouse, and F. L. F. Kelty, all of whom are stationed at Makwar; and four Assistant Directors, Messrs. R. H. Willan, R. G. Pritchard, J. A. Grant, and P. T. Rawlings, likewise engaged on the Makwar section. The White Nile division is in the hands of Mr. E. W. Buckley, Inspector; Mr. E. M. Tabor, Director of Works; Mr. M. McGillewie, and Mr. E. S. Waller, Assistant Director of Works. In the Dongola division are found Mr. G. Parker, Inspector; and Messrs. J. H. Greathead, R. B. Angus, and T. E. Hack as Assistant Director of Works. Of the seventeen officials mentioned, no fewer than ten were away on leave last month (September).

At the beginning of December Mr. Buckley, who is at present in Italy, is expected to arrive in the Sudan accompanied by a number of engineers to study further the projects, especially in connection with the Abyssinia border. It is estimated that this special mission will be occupied at least five months in gathering the necessary data and in preparing a report. Thereafter it is understood that Mr. E. W. Buckley will take up his position permanently in the Sudan as a servant of the Administration.

Kassala and Tokar.

In connection with other irrigation schemes in the Sudan, two of main importance are those destined to assist in the agricultural development of Kassala and Tokar; these will be proceeded with as soon as the necessary money can be procured. On the White Nile the main scheme considered is the construction of a dam to assist in the flood protection of, and the storing of summer water for, Egypt. In the Sudd region experimental work carried out by the Sudan dredging fleet has been brought to a temporary conclusion. Meanwhile some valuable knowledge has been obtained through these experiments of the conditions regulating the summer supply in the White Nile.

It is also intended to devote a substantial sum at the first opportunity to ameliorate further the existing conditions in the province of Dongola, in order to rescue the inhabitants from the state of extreme poverty into which they have, through no fault of their own, fallen. For the last three years the greater part of the province has been afflicted with a series of low flood Niles, with the result that the basin lands have been unable to obtain water at a level sufficiently high to flow into the feeder canals; so much has this been the case that the people have been face to face with famine.

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Dry Sprayers.

In previous notes we alluded to certain modern types of liquid spraying machines, and pointed out their applicability to vineyard, orchard, and garden work, as required by the agriculturists and farmers in the Near East. It has since been hinted by proprietors out there that modern dry sprayers are just as much wanted as liquid sprayers. Since the introduction of sulphate of copper and other liquids for spraying purposes several types of liquid sprayers have been introduced with more or less success; but for dry spraying the archaic and home-made sprayer is still in general use, and we are asked what kind of mechanical dry sprayers of English construction can be recommended. The question is not easily answered without particulars as to the kind of spraying for which the machine is required. A new type of dry sprayer, however, which we have seen at work seems to be suitable for general work, and can be recommended to small holders in the Near East. The machine is mounted on light but strongly made iron wheels, and can be fitted either with two or five nozzles, the former for the use of gardeners and small holders, and the latter for spraying as many rows of plants as the number of nozzles. The object of the designer of this sprayer was to produce a machine which would give ample blast without the use of a fan and bring its draught within the capacity of a small pony. Instead of a fan the makers use two cylinders and pistons, which run at a much lower speed than a fan, these giving a continuous and powerful blast and taking less power to drive. An agitator is provided, and the feed is so arranged that any quantity of powder can be sprayed. Roller bearings are used throughout, and the price of these machines is within the means of the average farmer in the East. There are, of course, several other types of such machines in the market, of various sizes, just as good, if not better than the above, the makers of which will find the Near East an excellent market if they approach the buyers, or, at least, inform them what they do and where to find them.

Motor Fuel Supplies.

Writing on the increased prices of petrol, *The Light Car* says:—"It is not very profitable to bemoan the rising cost of motoring. Lamentations achieve nothing, and the business in hand is to cast around for a remedy. At the present moment nothing can be achieved, but the eyes of the motoring community can be opened to the fact that after peace is declared there is no longer any necessity for us to rely on petrol magnates and oil trusts for the supply of our fuel. The British Empire is fully capable of producing all the fuel it needs, given intelligent and sympathetic State support instead of repression and restriction. Across Equatorial Africa are already spread thousands of acres of maize crops, capable of being developed into countless millions of acres if taken in hand by businesslike Governments and companies. From this maize all the alcohol necessary to supply the Empire can be produced, and when mixed in a 50 per cent. proportion with British benzole a spirit almost ideal for use in high-speed high-combustion engines is realizable."

Length of Egyptian Rails.

French and Egyptian railways lay rails 39 ft. 4 ins. long, says *Page's Weekly*, but 59 ft. rails are coming into common use. In England a usual length is now 45 ft. One or two railways use 48 ft. rails, while the London and North-Western uses 60 ft. rails. The Northern Railway of France is laying rails 78 ft. 9 in. long. In India and Australia, 36 ft. and 40 ft. rails are being laid in considerable quantities. In the United States long rails have not proved very successful, possibly because the usual type of permanent way is not so favourable to the use of long rails as of chair-supported rails, in conjunction with the wider extremes of temperature to be taken into account. Several lines have, it is stated, ordered considerable quantities of rails up to 60 ft. in length. In some instances these proved satisfactory, but with the poor roadbed conditions and lighter ballast of that time the 60 ft. rails were difficult to maintain, and most of them have since been shortened.

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Near East Markets.

THE SITUATION IN TURKEY.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, October 13.

The export trade from Turkey practically came to an end with the outbreak of hostilities. For a short time it was possible to make small shipments from Constantinople through Dedeagatch, and from Smyrna through Vurla, but both these outlets have for some time ceased to be available. Consequently for some months past there has been practically no trade done in Constantinople.

Mohair.

However, in the spring, Germany suddenly appeared as a buyer of mohair, and the stocks in Constantinople have gradually been bought up, until at the present time only 23,000 bales, mostly of inferior qualities, remain. Prices went up by leaps and bounds, and owing to the practical impossibility of bringing any of the new clip down from the interior through want of transport, as much as twenty-five piasters per oke was recently being asked for what little mohair of good quality was available in Constantinople. At the present time the only means of forwarding the article to Germany appears to be by parcels post, and the only way of bringing the wool down from the interior of Asia Minor is by the same process, in very small quantities. In the interior of Asia Minor the wool can be bought at very low prices, but there are no buyers in view of the impossibility of getting the stuff to Constantinople.

Opium.

Practically the only other article in which there has been any movement is opium, large sales of which have been made to Germany, but at the present time the market is rather quiet. The stock in Constantinople is 300 cases, and in the interior 67,000 cases. The latest quotation from Constantinople was 160 piasters per oke. There are some 150,200 cases of Turkish opium in Salonika and about eighty cases in Athens, but this is practically unsaleable for export, as they are liable to be seized in transport by the Allies.

Cereals.

With regard to the grain crops, the only two articles which are fairly plentiful are barley and wheat. The crop of the former would have been about 20 per cent. higher than that of last year, but owing to the absence of sufficient labourers, it is said there has been a good deal of wastage, and the crop may, therefore, be considered to be the same as in 1914. The wheat crop is estimated to be nearly 200,000 tons. Large sowings of maize were made, but owing to the absence of rains, the crop is practically a failure, and it is expected there will only be some 45,000 tons in the Ada Bazaar district, and this will be taken up for local consumption.

Linseed.

There are about 10,000 bags of linseed between Pandorma and Ismidt, for which ninety paras is paid for shipment to Germany. The bean crop is also a failure, being estimated at only about 1,000 tons, for which fifty-five paras per oke is being paid for local consumption. Millet is expected to yield only 2,000 sacks.

Canary Seed.

The crop of canary seed is only about 20,000 sacks, against an average crop of 100,000 sacks. Small quantities arrive at Rodosto and are sold at fifty-five paras per oke. There are practically no oats this year.

Nuts.

The nut crops in the Black Sea districts are about 130,000 cantars, against an average crop of 300,000 cantars, but it is said there are about 270,000 cantars remaining over from last year's crop. This article is, of course, very cheap, owing to the impossibility of shipment from Trebizonde and Kerassunde. Some time ago some shipments were made to Roumania, but now transport is not available.

PRODUCE REPORT.

London, October 28.

Currants.

The market is very firm, and the available supplies limited. Provincial is quoted 40s. to 41s.; Amalias, 41s. to 43s.; Gulf, 46s. to 48s.; and Vostizza, 48s. to 53s. The market in Greece is reported dearer.

Sultanas.

What is left of Smyrna fruit continues dearer. Greek sultanas command high prices, being of fine grade and in rather small supply. Parcels were sold at 95s. to 120s.

Figs.

Greek, Calamata, figs are in good demand, selling at 42s. to 46s. in bags.

Dates.

The market for new crop is firm, but generally quiet.

Seeds.

Linseed.—Owing to a strong inquiry for oil and still higher freights, the market has advanced 6d. London-Calcutta, in any position, is held for 62s. 6d. Bombay to Hull, Nov.-Dec., 63s. 6d. La Plata is not offered under 60s. Rapeseed is ruling firm, but quiet. Brown Cawnpore, pure basis, Oct.-Nov., 56s. 6d., and Guzerat ditto, 63s.

Cotton-seed is firm, but quiet. London-Egyptian, loading, is quoted at £11 8s. 9d. per ton.

Oils.

Linseed oil is very firm, and from 5s. to 10s. dearer, with buyers active. Spot pipes, £30 10s.; barrels and month, £31 5s.; Nov.-Dec., £31 10s.; Jan.-April, £32 5s.; May-Aug., £33 5s. Cotton oil is quiet. Crude spot, in pipes, £30 15s.; refined pale pipes, £33 10s.; and barrels, sweet, £37 to £39, as to make. Rape oil remains firm. Ordinary brown, naked spot, is quoted £36 to £37; English refined, barrels, £39 to £40.

Oilcakes.

Cotton Cakes.—Egyptians are still offered at £8 10s., ex ship, for Oct.-Nov. shipment, but without attracting attention. English makes are held at rather high prices, £8 17s. 6d. to £9 for Egyptian seed, and £8 15s. for Bombay.

Linseed Cakes.—In sympathy with other food stuffs, the market is improving, and there is a better demand at the increased prices. Best London is offered at £11 12s. 6d. to £11 15s. East Indian seed pures make £11 7s. 6d. to £11 10s.

Locust Beans.

There is again a scarcity, and only sparingly offered; £8 10s. for kibbled.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The announcement in *The Times* that the risk of King Ferdinand's still being on the Bulgarian Throne on June 30 next had been written at £5 5s. per cent. led on Wednesday to further numerous insurances of the same kind. After the risk had again been accepted at £5 5s. per cent., a rate of £7 7s. was paid, and finally £10 10s. was quoted.

At the request of the Bulgarian authorities, states an Athens telegram, the foreign Consuls have left Dedeagatch for the interior.

MARITIME COMMERCE OF BULGARIA.

The maritime commerce of Bulgaria and its merchant shipping have greatly increased since the modernising of the Black Sea ports of Varna and Burgas, and would have been increasing still more rapidly if King Ferdinand's ambitions had left his people free to develop the new territory on the Ægean in peace, says the *Economist*. Of the two Black Sea ports, now cut off from the outside world by the closing of the Dardanelles, Burgas, at the head of the Gulf of Burgas and some 120 miles N.W. of the entrance to the Bosphorus, is connected by railway with Philippopolis (some 180 miles), and has a considerable export trade, chiefly in grain, and a population of about 13,000. It has a quay nearly 2,000 feet long, with 25 feet of water alongside, and the building of two other quays of similar dimensions was in contemplation before the Balkan wars. According to Mr. Vice-Consul Heard's report of last year (Cd. 7048), the total number of steamships clearing from the port in the first nine months of 1912 (after which the gulf was blocked by Turkish warships) was 635, with a tonnage of 533,814. Of these, 41, with a tonnage of 101,840, were British, but only three, and those in ballast, cleared for ports in the United Kingdom, the remainder proceeding to Belgian, Russian, and Roumanian ports. Varna (which is reported to have already undergone a Russian bombardment) is some 40 miles north of Burgas; it has a population of 40,000, and enjoys one of the best anchorages in the Black Sea. Great improvements and extensions in the port were made in 1908 and 1909, and a line of quays extends from the sea towards Lake Devna, situated about a mile inland. Vessels can load alongside these in 27 feet of water, but the approaches, both there and at Burgas, are commanded by high ground, and it would be difficult to land troops at either place, while the entrances are doubtless mined. Varna is connected by rail with Rustchuk, on the Danube (one of the oldest lines in the region, and originally owned by an English company), and with Sofia (336 miles) by Shumla and Tirnova. The steamships clearing from it in 1912 numbered 807, with a tonnage of 685,079, of which 68, with a tonnage of 126,143, were British, none of these, however, proceeding to United Kingdom ports. Varna stood to lose heavily by the cession to Roumania of the Bulgarian Dobrudja, which had become one of the chief corn-growing districts of the kingdom, and whose exports were, on the average, one-fifth of the total from Bulgaria. This had checked the projects of extending the quays towards Lake Devna. Baltchik, about 20 miles north of Varna, passed to Roumania with the Dobrudja.

Bulgaria acquired two outlets to the Ægean as a result of her brilliant campaign against Turkey in 1912. The first of these, Dedeagatch (population, 4,000), about ten miles N.W. of Enos on the frontier set for Turkey by the Treaty of London, grew up on the trade in the valonia of the region, and was further developed by the opening of the Salonika-Constantinople junction railway in 1896; but the port is only an open roadstead, subject to heavy seas in southerly gales, during which steamers take refuge some twenty miles off under the lee of Samothrace. Probably the approaches are heavily mined, and the water is shallow inshore. The projects of harbour construction there had been disposed of by the Bulgarian acquisition, under the Treaty of London, of Porto Lagos, some forty miles west of Dedeagatch.

DATES.

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EGYPTIAN FINANCES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, Oct. 15.

The August figures of the State accounts just published reveal once again an improvement in the position. The revenue for the five months under review comes to £E5,930,455, and the expenditure to £E6,308,929, as against £E6,114,730 and £E7,540,786 respectively at the same date a year ago. The excess of expenditure over revenue, which stood at £E1,426,056 on August 31, 1914, has been reduced to £E378,474 this year, thanks to the improvement in the collections and a continued reduction in the outgoings.

The August receipts have proved exceedingly good. As indicated, the total is £E184,275 worse than at the same date last year, but the month's collections have been £E251,120 better than they were in August, 1914, and what is even more comforting, since at that date war conditions had set in, they are actually only £E10,000 less than those effected during August, 1913, when things were quite normal.

During the month practically every department showed an improvement, Direct Taxes increased by £E90,402, Customs by £E29,653, Tobacco by £E77,627, Legal Dues by £E19,842, Railways by £E39,578, and Post Office by £E3,806. Port Dues and Domains were the only items of decrease of any importance.

The chief reductions in expenditure during the five months were Public Instruction £E44,905, Irrigation £E336,945, War Office £E120,136, Railways £E375,660, Post Office £E32,596, Finance £E114,338, Drainage £E57,713, and Public Works £E103,460. The only increases were Civil List by £E20,079, and Pensions by £E15,223.

It is interesting to note that in the case of both the Post Office and the Telegraph Administration the revenue exceeds the expenditure, whereas this time last year the reverse was the case, whilst as regards the Railways, the excess of revenue over expenditure has been increased from £E52,388 to £E282,725. All this indicates that the most stringent supervision is being exercised, though it is to be feared that in the case of the Railways, for example, the necessity for limiting expenditure may lead in the end to more outlay in the future, since repairs and renewals will have been postponed, with consequent detriment to the rolling stock.

THE EGYPTIAN SITUATION.

The decision to remove the restriction on the cotton area in Egypt came as a complete surprise, said the *Observer* on Sunday. We have accordingly got into touch with authoritative people in Alexandria and elsewhere, and their opinions may be of interest to many readers, especially in Lancashire. The restriction was, it is admitted, a precautionary measure, but it was thought that once the decree limiting the area to one-third of every estate—*i.e.*, an agricultural legislative measure of this description—had been introduced advantage would have been taken of its existence to continue to restrain the fellaheen from putting, as they have done in the past, too large a portion of their holdings under cotton every year, and so counteract the deterioration which has set in and of which overcropping is one of the causes.

The motives which appear to have prompted the repeal, or rather the non-renewal, of the restriction are (1) the extreme difficulty of enforcing the law owing to the extraordinary number of extremely small holdings; (2) the fact that the fear of the cessation in the cotton demand which prompted the promulgation of the decree a year ago no longer exists.

The present position certainly supports the second motive. At the end of the agricultural year (August 31) the stock at Alexandria had only increased by 10 per cent., or 80,000 cantars, as compared with the previous year, and practically all that has arrived since then has been exported. The 1915 crop is not expected to exceed 5,000,000 cantars (as compared with 7,600,000 cantars in 1914 and 7,500,000 cantars in 1913), the diminution being due not only to reduction of 35 per cent. in area, but also to cotton pests, which have been very active; and it is anticipated that all this and a substantial part of the stock will be got rid of during the year, thus leaving the field all the freer for a large crop in 1916. But, whilst the market approves of the decision of the Council of Ministers, there is no doubt that the experts regret very much that the cultivators should have regained their liberty of action in what is, after all, a matter of vital importance to the country as a whole.

The British Government's decision to purchase cotton, if it becomes apparent that prices are drooping too much and such action is necessary to keep them up to the point when they become remunerative to the cultivator, has given great satisfaction, for it is tantamount to guaranteeing the sale of the entire crop at good prices. The market at present is excellent, and the fellaheen are getting more for their cotton than they have got for the past three years. Indeed, despite reduced crop, the amount realised on it will be just as much as in a normal year, while the country has produced more cereals, part of which it has exported and part of which has served to feed the inhabitants, and thus has brought about a reduction in flour and cereal imports. All said and done, Egypt has, by contrast with all other countries, derived very great benefit from the war, and has absolutely nothing to complain of. It is indeed just possible that, despite the removal of the restriction, the area may not return to the normal of 1,700,000 feddans, owing to the fact that many cultivators, having been forced by law to grow other products and having found a ready market for the resultant crops, may elect to continue to produce these commodities.

GOLD IN EGYPT.

Mr. Ginnell asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs on Wednesday in the House of Commons whether he would state the arrangements, if any, made to protect Egyptians from loss, in view of the refusal of the National Bank of Egypt to issue gold and the depreciation of paper money, so that a £5 note had to be paid for the value of £3.

Sir Edward Grey replied that, having regard to the fact that the exchange between this country and Egypt was in favour of Egypt, he did not understand how there could be any difficulty in carrying on legitimate trade.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK.

The directors of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited, recommend a dividend of 10s. per share, less income-tax, for the half-year to August 31, making, with the interim dividend of 5s. per share, 15 per cent. for the year. After providing in full for depreciation of securities and appropriating £20,000 for war contingencies and £5,000 bonus to staff, they carry forward £50,000. The date of the annual meeting is fixed for November 23.

The *Statist*, in its annual review of the banking world (October 23), refers to the above bank as follows:—

The Anglo-Egyptian Banking Company, Limited, was formed in July, 1864, and began operations on September 1 of that year. The first accounts were provisionally made up to February 28, 1865. The bank was formed with a capital of £2,000,000, of which £500,000 was paid up; but in the following year the paid-up amount was increased to £800,000. Business continued to progress on the whole, and in 1871 it was announced that, in consequence of the vast and rapid increase of the commerce of Egypt and the extension of agriculture in that country, new sources for the profitable employment of capital had been opened up, so that the board had arrived at the conclusion that it was necessary to increase the capital. It was therefore decided to double it by the issue of 40,000 shares of £20 each at £5 premium per share. Only half the number of shares were immediately issued, and it was not until the end of 1872 that the balance was placed; thereby the paid up amount was increased to £1,600,000.

An interesting little paragraph occurs in the report for the half-year ending August 31, 1880, where it states "the Bank's shares in the great Syndicate of Paris has been closed by the sale of the Suez Canal shares, which realized £224,000; and by taking over the Unified stock which formed the remainder of the security at market price of the day there resulted a profit of £92,758 6s. 7d." The bank had claims on the Egyptian Government amounting to about £300,000. These were settled in 1880 by the payment of 30 per cent. in cash and the balance in bonds and 5 per cent. preference stock at par; and it was added: "Henceforward Egypt will no doubt experience the advantage of the recent honourable adjustment of her pecuniary liabilities in the contentment of her population and in the increase of her commercial prosperity."

The next change in the affairs of the bank occurred in 1887, when it was reconstructed under its present title on a basis to admit of a return of capital. A sum of £10 per share was returned to the shareholders, thereby reducing the paid-up capital to £800,000; while in 1889 it was decided to return a further £400,000, or £5 per share, the report stating that the desirability of the operation must be evident from the accounts, "which show nearly £500,000 sterling lying in London at unremunerative rates," a position which it appeared to the board must constantly recur so long as the paid up capital remained at the old figure. Accordingly, the accounts for 1890 showed that the paid up capital had been reduced to £400,000, the subscribed amount being £1,200,000. The capital remained at this figure until 1904, when 20,000 additional shares were created, bringing the authorized amount to £1,500,000, and the paid up sum to £500,000, since when no further alteration has occurred.

NATIONAL BANK OF GREECE.

ESTABLISHED IN 1841.

CAPITAL - Dr. 20,000,000. RESERVES - Dr. 13,500,000.

Head Office: ATHENS.

BRANCHES.

Aegion, Agrinion, Almyros, Amalias, Amphissa, Arta, Atalante, Calamata, Calavryta, Céphalonia, Chalkis, Corfu, Corinth, Cythère, Dimitzana, Gythium, Ithaque, Janina, Karditza, Kyparissia, Lamia, Larissa, Lévadia, Mégalopoli, Messina, Missolonghi, Naupacta, Nauplia, Patras, Paxos, Piræus, Poros, Pylos, Pyrgos, St. Maure, Salonika, Santorin, Sparta, Syra, Thèbes, Trikkala, Tripoli, Volo, Zante.

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In 1895 there was no reserve fund, but since that time substantial allocations have been made, and by 1905 the reserve was equal to the paid up capital. By August, 1913, it reached a total of £680,000, and though it was possible to increase the fund at August 31 last, as already pointed out, it was preferred to increase the carry forward, and, consequently, the reserve fund still stands at £680,000, or £180,000 in excess of the paid up capital.

TABLE OF PROFITS.

Year ended Aug. 31.	Gross Profit.	Net Profit.	Dividend Amount.	Dividend Rate.	Reserve, Invest., Dprn., etc.	Carried Forward.
	£	£	£	%	£	£
1910	177,977	104,253	75,000	15	27,253	48,000
1911	190,649	114,905	75,000	15	37,905	50,000
1912	187,005	107,904	75,000	15	30,904	52,000
1913	188,453	108,027	75,000	15	33,026	52,000
1914	189,619	102,591	75,000	15	2,591	77,000

The proportion that the shown net profit bears to the paid up capital is 20.5 per cent.; to capital and reserve combined 8.7 per cent.; and to the total working resources, amounting to £5,461,757, 1.9 per cent.

A Reuter message from Cairo on Wednesday stated that bank notes to the value of £E5,000 have been extracted from a letter sent by the Cairo office of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank to its Zagazig branch. When the letter was opened at Zagazig it was found to contain only scraps of paper.

COMPANY RESULTS, &c.

ANGLO-ROUMANIAN.—Production of crude oil for week ending 16th inst., 244 tons.

ROUMANIAN CONSOLIDATED OILFIELDS.—Production week ending October 16, 2,540 tons. Moreni wells 30, 49 and 53 still flowing.

BURMAH OIL.—The directors have declared interim dividends on the first preference shares of 7 1-5d. per share, less income-tax; on the second preference shares of 6s. per share, less income-tax; and on the ordinary shares of 1s. 6d. per share, free of income-tax, payable November 2.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN OILFIELDS. — Gemsah, week, 178 tons (against 161 tons); Hurgada, week, 214 tons (against 240 tons).

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.—Receipts for the 10 days ended October 10 amounted to £E6,117, as against £E4,093 for the corresponding period of last year.

GREEK DEBT.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders issues the following information compiled from figures published by the International Financial Commission at Athens with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek Debt from January 1 to August 31, 1915 (New Style: January 14 to September 13, 1915) :—

—		Monopolies, Tobacco, Stamps, Stamped Paper, Naxos Emery.	Piræus Customs.
		Drachmæ.	Drachmæ.
Gross Receipts, Aug.,	1915	2,946,645	1,749,000
Do. do. do.	1914	2,765,870	1,454,530
Estimated Receipts for 8 months (Law of Control)		19,266,666	7,133,333
Actual Receipts, 8 months,	1915	24,174,147	16,097,887
Do. do. do.,	1914	25,045,689	18,809,703
Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 8 months	1915	+ 4,907,480	+ 8,964,553
	1914	+ 5,779,023	+11,676,370

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

THE ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK, LTD.
Notice is Hereby Given, that the TRANSFER BOOKS of this Company will be CLOSED from the 16th to the 30th November, both days inclusive.
By order of the Board,
GEO. H. SOUL, Secretary.
27 Clement's Lane, Lombard Street, E.C.

NATIONAL BANK OF ROUMANIA.

BALANCE-SHEET, SEPTEMBRE 12/25, 1915.

ASSETS.

Metallic reserve: Gold (specie)	172,667,655		
On deposit..	25,220,000		
Gold (bars) .	260,000		273,961,965
Foreign bills payable in gold.....	75,814,310		
Silver and other coins			417,186
Roumanian and foreign bills			204,369,815
Advances against Government securities		26,302,200	51,223,728
On current account		48,604,000	
Unused balance ..	23,682,472	24,921,528	
Loan of 15 millions to the State			11,273,958
Loan to Government on 3 per cent. Treasury Bonds (1914-15)			249,008,499
Bank's capital invested in Government stock			10,699,576
Reserve invested in Government stock			16,407,177
Reserve, depreciation of buildings, furniture and printing machinery			3,956,681
Premises			6,738,025
Furniture and printing machinery			1,111,153
General expenses			808,464
Government and other securities deposited			138,768,116
Three per Cent. Gold Treasury Bonds as security for loan to State			300,000,000
Securities held against advances or temporarily lodged			165,472,151
Current accounts			20,833,152
Security accounts			21,756,407
Sundry accounts			41,061,840
Total Lei			1,517,867,893

LIABILITIES.

Capital	12,000,000
Reserve	39,804,376
Reserve, depreciation of buildings, furniture and printing machinery	5,907,700
Notes in circulation	719,306,795
Profit and loss account	4,902,667
Interest and various earnings	3,235,185
Current accounts and drafts at sight	55,880,199
Securities, etc., held on account of customers	604,240,267
Sundry accounts	72,590,704
Total Lei	1,517,867,893

Bank Rate, 6 per cent.

THE PORT OF KAVALLA.

Kavalla, says a writer in the *Daily Telegraph*, is a town of importance. The Messageries Maritimes boats from Marseilles to Constantinople make it a port of call. The traveller approaching from the sea looks upon a bold headland, with a small harbour on either side. Above the busy quays rises a long line of Oriental domes, and above that again a bluff line of rock cutting the town in half; on the sides of this scarp you see terraces of white houses, studded with minarets. High over all stands a massive castle. As the steamer draws closer in you can make out a long aqueduct on two tiers of arches, which brings water to the city from Mount Pangæus. The mountain looms dark in the distance, and from it two sheer cliffs approach the sea.

The present population of the town is difficult to estimate. The provisional census of 1913 returns it at 45,000, but this is probably exaggerated. A large influx takes place during the summer months, when the tobacco harvest has to be dealt with and prepared for export. During the last complete year before the Balkan Wars more than 12,000,000 kilogrammes of tobacco, that is more than £3,000.000 worth, passed through the warehouses and quays of Kavalla. The economic importance of the place needs no further illustration.

The best of what we still call Turkish tobacco is grown in the district round Kavalla. The country consists of plain backed by hill and mountain, and both the level country and the lower slopes of the upland are well watered and of extreme fertility. Before the break-up of the Turkish dominions it was estimated that the tobacco of Eastern Macedonia brought the exchequer of Constantinople a direct revenue of more than £400,000 a year. The value of the crop exported was more than £4,720,000. Not all of this, of course, was grown in the "debatable land" around Kavalla. Even the frontier of the Treaty of Bucharest gave some of the tobacco area to Bulgaria. But by far the greater part has been in Greek hands, and the value of its possession is sufficiently obvious. Besides the predominant tobacco industry the district also produces some cotton and carries a large quantity of stock. If it is not incongruous to link history with these commercial details, we may note in conclusion that on these fertile plains of the tobacco country stood Philippi, with its memories of Mark Antony and Brutus, and the affectionate last Epistle of St. Paul. The city now is but a mass of ruin among the fields.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE	Mean Price. July 27.	Min. Price. Mar. 20.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	—	89½xd
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907..	82	—	—
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909..	80	—	66
City of Alexandria 5%, 1909 ..	99	—	90½
City of Constantinople 4% Bnds	96	—	—
Egypt, Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan ..	93½	87½	87½
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	85	85
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	88	78	78
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82½	73½	78⅝
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	80½	75	75½
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	52	53
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	52	53
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	45	45
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	40	41
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	52	52½
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	—	50
Do. 4 % Rails. Loan, 1902 ..	77	—	63
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	94	—	90
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	—	74
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	91	—	80
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £60p.	92	—	85
Servian 4 % Unified Bonds	67	—	—xd
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855..	103	97	—
Do. 4 %, 1891	94½	—	81xd
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	—	73xd
Do. 4 % Loan, 1902	82½	—	—
Do. 4 % Unified	79	—	54
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	65½	—	49
Do. 4 %, 1909	69	—	47⅛
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)..	4½	—	2
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	—	6½
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.	80	—	70
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red...	83	—	71
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	—	9⅝
Bank of Abyssinia	½	—	—
Bank of Athens	£2	—	1½
Bank of Roumania	8½	—	—
Eastern Bank	5	—	82/6
Imperial Bank of Persia	7½	—	6
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	—	—
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅞	—	3½
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	—	4½
National Bank of Egypt	13⅜	—	10⅞
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½% C.P.	8	—	nom.
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8½	—	5
Do. do. 5 % Debs., Red.	98	—	95
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I.	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88½	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17½	—	12
Do do. 6% Cum. Pref.	22	—	13⅛
Do. do. 4 % 1st Deb. ..	87	—	57
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb...	101	—	69
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	90	—	—
Do. do. 3 % Bonds..	61	—	—
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares) ..	1⅛	—	⅝
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	—	95
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt....	¼	—	—
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	—	2
Do. Do. Def.	¼	—	—
Béhéra Co.	8½	—	6
Do. Pref.	4½	—	3½
Daira Sanieh	2/2	—	2/6
Do. Def.	⅞	—	20/-
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	9/-	—	7/1½
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tst.	98	—	84½
Do and Foreign Trust ..	5/-	—	2/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	—	1
" " Founders	¼	—	—
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—	—
Do 5 % Debs. Red.	—	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	9⅜	—	7½
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	—	85
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	—	¼
Sidi Salem Co.	⅛	—	⅛
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	—	⅜
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	—	-/9
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	—	10⅜
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt..	97	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	—	100
Egyptian Hotels	1½	—	—
Do. 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—	—
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅛	—	1⅛
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	99½	—	95
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	⅛	—	14/9
Do. 5 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	96	—	95
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅛	—	9/-
Do. do. Prefs.	3⅜	—	2¾xd
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt. ..	90	—	88
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (*fr.*500)	£179½	—	£—
Upper Egypt Hotels	2½	—	—

OIL.	Price on July 30.	Oct. 20.
Anglo-Egyptian "B".....	⅜	3/-
Anglo-Persian	22/1½	⅛
European Oilfields	4/9	3/3
Roumanian.....	20/-	12/6

PARIS BOURSE.

	Jan. 4.	Oct. 20.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane ..	—	—
Canal de Suez	4050	—
Credit Foncier Egyptien	639	565
Turkish Unified 4%	61.50	—
Egyptian Unified 4%	87.75	—
Serbian, 1895	—	—

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